



Economic and Social Council

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Economic Commission for Africa
Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development
Sixth session

Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe, 24–27 February 2020

Item 3(b) of the provisional agenda*

Organizational matters: adoption of the agenda and programme of work

Annotated provisional agenda

1. Opening of the session

1. The opening of the sixth session of the Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development will be moderated by the Director of the African Centre for Statistics of the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA). The outgoing Chair of the Bureau of the Regional Forum, the representative of Morocco, will preside.

2. Statements will be delivered by the following: the Executive Secretary of ECA; the outgoing Chair of the Bureau of the Regional Forum; a representative of the African Development Bank; a representative of the African Union Commission; and the President of the Economic and Social Council. The President of the Republic of Zimbabwe will open the session and deliver the keynote address.

2. High-level panel on accelerators to deliver a transformed and prosperous Africa through the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063 within the decade 2020–2030

Documentation

ECA/RFSD/2020/2

ECA/RFSD/2020/11

3. The high-level panel will set the tone for the Regional Forum. The objective of the panel is to give high-level guidance and generate innovative and transformative actions and workable solutions that will contribute to dramatically stepping up the overall implementation of the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063 to achieve the set goals within the set time frame.

4. The panel will have a chair and moderator and will be comprised of high-profile policymakers and practitioners from various backgrounds that relate to the theme and sub-themes of the Regional Forum and focus of the dialogue, and who possess vast knowledge of and experience with the two agendas. Based on selected questions posed by the moderator, the panellists will engage

* ECA/RFSD/2020/1/Rev.1.



in an interactive discussion. Following the dialogue among panellists, the moderator will invite questions and other contributions from the floor.

3. Organizational matters

(a) Election of the Bureau

5. The outgoing Chair of the Bureau will conduct elections of the Bureau for the sixth session of the Regional Forum. The Chair will invite the secretariat to provide a brief overview before the election of the Bureau, including the history and role of the Regional Forum. The incoming Bureau will comprise five members: the Chair, three Vice-Chairs and the Rapporteur, elected on the basis of equitable geographical representation. Following the elections, consultations among the heads of delegation will take place and the composition of the incoming Bureau for the sixth session of the Regional Forum will be announced. The newly elected Bureau members will be invited to assume their seats at the podium.

(b) Adoption of the agenda and programme of work

Documentation

Provisional agenda	(ECA/RFSD/2020/1/Rev.1)
Annotated provisional agenda	(E/ECA/RFSD/2020/4)
Draft programme of work	(ECA/RFSD/2020/3)

6. The Regional Forum will be invited to consider and adopt the agenda and programme of work, subject to any amendments deemed necessary.

4. Progress report on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063 at the regional and subregional levels

Documentation

ECA/RFSD/2020/6

7. The focus of agenda item 4 is the support provided and the progress made on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063 at the regional and subregional levels. Presentations by the secretariat will be followed by discussions on two topics:

(a) Highlights of the Africa sustainable development report 2020: Progress, achievements and measures to scale up implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the goals identified in Agenda 2063;

(b) Overview of the support provided by United Nations entities and the African Union Commission to implement the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063.

8. Before opening the floor for discussion, the Chair will invite representatives of the five subregions to contribute perspectives on support for, follow up on and the implementation and review of the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063.

5. Plenary round-table panels

Documentation

ECA/RFSD/2020/15

ECA/RFSD/2020/14

9. There will be two plenary round tables as follows:

(a) Voluntary national reviews and peer learning on implementation, follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063;

10. This round-table is designed to facilitate learning by highlighting solutions and good practices and exchanging experiences and lessons learned in voluntary national reviews and the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063. The round table will be led by a panel comprised of selected senior experts and policymakers from among the countries involved in the voluntary national reviews in 2018, 2019 and 2020, together with other countries in Africa that are front-runners in the implementation of Agenda 2063. Major groups and the donor community will also have representatives on the panel. Each panel member will speak for no more than seven minutes in order to ensure that time is available for contributions from the floor. It is anticipated that the panellists will outline compelling solutions; share their views, experiences and lessons learned; and identify actions and other measures to enhance the implementation of the two agendas.

(b) Voluntary national reviews, voluntary local reviews and peer learning on implementation, follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063

11. The second round table is designed to showcase and exchange experiences from voluntary local reviews and their contribution to voluntary national reviews and better implementation of the two agendas. The round table will be led by a panel comprised of selected senior experts and policymakers from cities and subnational entities that are conducting voluntary local reviews and the countries involved in the voluntary national reviews in 2018, 2019 and 2020.

6. Plenary round-table panels and parallel meetings on in-depth review, peer learning and dialogue on the sub-theme of the Regional Forum

Documentation

ECA/RFSD/2020/9

ECA/RFSD/2020/5

ECA/RFSD/2020/12

ECA/RFSD/2020/8

ECA/RFSD/2020/7

ECA/RFSD/2020/10

ECA/RFSD/2020/13

12. There will be the following plenary round-table panels and parallel meetings:

(a) Plenary round table on the sub-theme of people;

(b) Plenary round table on the sub-theme of partnerships and realizing the means of implementation to deliver the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063 in the decade 2020–2030;

(c) Parallel meeting on the sub-theme of prosperity;

(d) Parallel meeting on the sub-theme of the planet;

(e) Parallel meeting on the sub-theme of peace.

13. The aim of the parallel meetings is to hold an in-depth review and discussions, and to facilitate peer learning on implementation. In addition, each of the parallel meetings will identify, articulate and agree on key messages containing transformative actions to accelerate progress to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals under the sub-themes.

14. Participation in the parallel meetings will be open to all participants of the Regional Forum. They will therefore be invited to join any of the parallel meetings.

15. The parallel meetings will be co-chaired by a designated representative of the Bureau and one representative from the African Union Commission, the African Development Bank or the United Nations Regional Directors.

16. The discussants at each meeting will be comprised of representatives of selected countries, regional and subregional organizations and agencies of the United Nations system. Before beginning their discussions, each parallel meeting will designate a rapporteur who will report to the Regional Forum in plenary.

17. At each parallel meeting, the order of business will be as follows:

(a) The secretariat will give a short presentation of no more than five minutes, highlighting the status of implementation, challenges, opportunities, interlinkages among the goals and emerging actions and levers to accelerate progress towards the achievement of Goals under each sub-theme;

(b) A panel discussion will be conducted after the presentation. Each discussant will speak for no more than seven minutes in order to ensure that time is available for contributions from the floor;

(c) A general discussion will follow, with a view to reaching agreement on key issues and a list of key messages on the sub-theme.

18. At the end, each parallel meeting will produce and submit a report on the issues discussed, and key messages including policies and accelerative actions adopted by the parallel meeting. This report will be the basis for the key messages and presentations to the plenary.

7. Outcomes and proposed key messages, including policy recommendations from the parallel meetings

19. Under agenda item 7, the rapporteurs of each parallel meeting will provide a five-minute presentation to the plenary on the panel discussions, highlighting the conclusions and agreed set of key messages arising from their discussions. Each presentation will be followed by a brief discussion, with a view to improving the key messages.

8. Presentations and discussions

Documentation

ECA/STIF/2020/1

ECA/RFSD/2020/WG/1

(a) 2020 Africa Science, Technology and Innovation Forum

20. During this segment, the outcome of the second Africa Science and Technology Forum will be presented and discussed.

(b) Presentation by the major groups and other stakeholders

21. Under this sub-item, a presentation will be followed by discussions on the outcomes of the preparatory and capacity development workshop for major groups and other stakeholders in the African region.

(c) Support from the United Nations development system to implement the 2030 Agenda, and Agenda 2063

22. This sub-item will feature a presentation and discussions on plans by the United Nations system to take forward the outcomes of the Regional Forum and support member States, regional economic communities and the African Union to deliver the Sustainable Development Goals, and the goals of Agenda 2063 and other priorities of the African Union.

9. Consideration and adoption of key messages

23. For the consideration of the sixth session of the Regional Forum, the Rapporteur of the Bureau will present the key messages updated by the secretariat under the guidance of the chairs of the parallel meetings. The key messages represent the collective input by the Africa region to the 2020 meeting of the high-level political forum on sustainable development.

10. Theme, dates and venue of the seventh session of the Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development

24. The secretariat will present proposals on the theme, dates and venue of the seventh session of the Regional Forum for consideration by the participants.

11. Other matters

25. The Regional Forum may wish to consider any other matters brought to its attention.

12. Closing of the session

26. The Chair of the Bureau of the sixth session of the Regional Forum will summarize the main outcomes of the deliberations. Closing remarks by the Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa will follow. The Chair will then conclude proceedings and declare the sixth session closed.