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Item 5 (a) of the provisional agenda*

**Plenary round-table panels: voluntary national reviews
and peer learning on implementation, follow-up and review
of the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063**

Information and guidelines for the plenary round-table panel on voluntary national reviews and peer learning on implementation, follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063

I. Date and time

1. The plenary round-table panel will be held on 25 February 2020 from 2.30 to 4 p.m.

II. Objective

2. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development encourages member States to “conduct regular and inclusive reviews of progress at the national and subnational levels which are country-led and country-driven”. Since 2016, 35 African countries have conducted voluntary national reviews. Sixteen African countries will present their voluntary national reviews at the high-level political forum on sustainable development in July 2020.
3. The round-table panel is being conducted in the context of accelerating the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063, with a particular focus on the role of voluntary national reviews.
4. Specifically, the round-table panel discussion is designed to facilitate learning by highlighting solutions and good practices and exchanging experiences and lessons learned in voluntary national reviews to step up the pace and scale of implementation of the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063.

III. Format

5. The round-table panel will be led by a panel comprised of selected senior policymakers and experts from the countries involved in the voluntary national reviews in 2018, 2019 and 2020, as well as other countries in Africa that are front-runners in the implementation of Agenda 2063. Major groups and the

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



donor community will also have representatives on the panel. The detailed list is presented in paragraph 7 below.

IV. Guidelines

6. The following guidelines will apply to the plenary round-table panel:
- (a) The Chair will introduce the round-table panel, the objective as stated above and the panel members. The Chair will then yield to the moderator, who will guide the dialogue among the panellists and the other participants in the Forum;
 - (b) The moderator will invite or request each panellist to address (in no more than five minutes), one or more of the following questions:
 - (i) What are the lessons learned from the voluntary national review process?
 - (ii) How have voluntary national reviews contributed to improving the implementation and reporting of the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063 in your country?
 - (iii) What are some of the good practices in conducting effective voluntary national reviews?
 - (iv) What challenges have you experienced in conducting voluntary national reviews?
 - (v) Who are the key stakeholders in the voluntary national reviews and what role did or should they play in the process, including follow-up of the voluntary national reviews?
 - (vi) What are ways and opportunities to improve voluntary national reviews and reporting and to speed up implementation?
 - (c) The moderator will help foster an interactive dialogue among the panellists. In doing so, the moderator will give representatives of the countries taking part in the voluntary national reviews in 2020 the opportunity to pose questions to representatives of countries that have already participated in the review process;
 - (d) The moderator will then invite questions and other contributions from the floor;
 - (e) At the end of the dialogue, the moderator will provide a summary of the key policy messages, including recommendations made. The moderator will then yield to the Chair, who will conclude the round-table panel.

V. Moderator and panellists

7. The moderator and panellists of the round-table panel will be as follows:

Moderator:

United Nations Development Programme Resident Representative,
Zimbabwe, Georges van Montfort

Panellists:

- Director General, Coordination and Monitoring of the Sustainable Development Goals, Ministry of Planning and Development, Benin, Magloire Augustin Aguessy
- Senior Sector Expert, Department of Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation, South Africa, Lusanda Batala

- Senior Economist, Ministry of Finance, Trade, Investment and Economic Planning, Seychelles, Sheena Cheryl Sonia Saldanha
 - United Nations Resident Coordinator, Cabo Verde, Ana Graça
 - Member, Pan-African Parliament and Parliament of Uganda, Jacqueline Amongin
 - President, National Business Council, Zimbabwe, Langton Mabhanga
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