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Item 5 (b) of the provisional agenda\*

**Plenary round-table panels: voluntary national reviews, voluntary local 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, voluntary local 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 4.15 to 6 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 sub-national 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 2030 Agenda recognizes the critical role that local authorities have in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. City, municipal, district and regional governments are uniquely placed to accelerate the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063 and contribute to timely achievement of the global and regional goals contained therein. To strengthen localization of the goals, five localities (the cities of Accra, Harare, Victoria Falls and Yaoundé, and the Ngora District in Uganda) have embarked on voluntary local reviews.
4. 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 and linkages between voluntary national reviews and voluntary local reviews.
5. 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 local reviews, how these local

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



reviews can strengthen national reviews and how, together, they can contribute to accelerating implementation of the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063.

6. This round-table panel 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 panel discussion is also intended to inspire other localities to conduct voluntary local reviews.

### **III. Format**

7. The round table will be led by a panel comprised of selected senior policymakers and experts from cities and subnational entities that are conducting voluntary local reviews and from the countries involved in the voluntary national reviews in 2018, 2019 and 2020. The detailed list is presented in paragraph 9 below.

### **IV. Guidelines**

8. The following guidelines will apply to the plenary round-table panel:

(a) The Chair will introduce the round-table panel, including 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 local reviews?

(ii) What are some of the good practices in conducting effective voluntary local reviews?

(iii) How can voluntary local reviews strengthen voluntary national reviews and localization and implementation of the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063?

(iv) What challenges have you experienced in conducting voluntary local reviews?

(v) Who are the key stakeholders in the voluntary local reviews and what role did or should they play in the process, including follow-up of the outcomes of the voluntary local reviews?

(vi) What are ways and opportunities to improve voluntary local 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 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

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

**Moderator:**

United Nations Resident Coordinator, Zimbabwe, Maria Ribeiro

**Panellists:**

- Minister of Local Government, Zimbabwe, July Moyo
  - Mayor of Quelimane Municipality, Mozambique, Manuel de Araujo
  - Representative of the Accra Metropolitan Assembly, Ghana, Moses Quarshie
  - Representative of the Ngora District Local Government, Uganda, Priscilla Asio
  - Senior Human Settlements Officer, Regional Office for Africa, United Nations Human Settlements Programme, Thomas Chiramba
  - Vice-President for the Southern Africa region of United Cities and Local Governments of Africa and President of the Botswana Association of Local Authorities, Mmachakga Moruakgomo
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