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Regional Coordination Mechanism

Special session

Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe, 24 February 2020

Guidelines for the dialogue and breakout groups

I. Introduction

1. The special session of the Regional Coordination Mechanism for Africa is scheduled to take place at the Elephant Hills Resort in Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe, on 24 February 2020. The event will be held back-to-back with the sixth session of the Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development, which will take place from 25 to 27 February 2020 at the same venue, on the theme “2020–2030: a decade to deliver a transformed and prosperous Africa through the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063”.
2. The main objective of the session is to deliberate on accelerating the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals and the Agenda 2063 goals in the context of the United Nations decade of action. In this context, the session will also provide a platform for rich exchanges on the African Union theme for 2020: “Silencing the guns: creating conducive conditions for Africa’s development”. As a flagship project of Agenda 2063, “Silencing the guns by 2020” was adopted by the African Union Heads of State and Government as a vision that underscores the fact that conflict is one of the biggest challenges to the implementation of Agenda 2063. Without peace and security, there can be no development.
3. The session will include a dialogue between the African Union and the United Nations on leveraging the decade of action in realizing the Sustainable Development Goals and implementing Agenda 2063; breakout group sessions on the 2020 African Union theme and on the Sustainable Development Goal gateway; and a parallel special session on young people and the decade of action.

II. Format of the dialogue

4. The dialogue will be held on 24 February from 2.50 to 4 p.m.
5. Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations and Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), Vera Songwe, will moderate the session. The session will be interactive and will provide an opportunity for the Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations to engage in dialogue with the African Union and other stakeholders on leveraging the decade of action in



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accelerating the realization of the 2030 Agenda and implementing Agenda 2063.

6. The moderator will make opening remarks of about 3 minutes, then invite the Deputy Secretary-General to make an intervention of 7 minutes. The moderator will then invite the Deputy Chairperson of the African Union Commission to provide a 7-minute response. Thereafter, the moderator will invite Under-Secretary-General and Special Representative of the Secretary-General to the African Union and Head of the United Nations Office to the African Union, Hanna Serwaa Tetteh; Commissioner for Social Affairs, African Union Commission, Amira Elfadil Mohammed Elfadil; and Minister for National Development and Planning, Zambia, Alexander Chiteme, to make interventions of 5 minutes each. She will then invite comments from a representative of the private sector and a representative of civil society, each of whom will be allocated 5 minutes.

7. The member State will highlight success stories and challenges:

- Progress towards domestication and realization of the Sustainable Development Goals and implementation of Agenda 2063. Opportunities and challenges at the national level.
- Creating more opportunities for collaboration between Governments, policymakers and institutions towards domestication and implementation of the two agendas.
- Support to Governments.

8. The private sector representative will address entrepreneurship as a key driver of the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063, with a focus on:

- The role of the private sector in driving realization of the Sustainable Development Goals and implementation of Agenda 2063.
- Building skills for the future: gaps and opportunities.

9. The civil society representative will discuss pathways to development:

- The role of civil society in advocacy and mobilization and other development partners.
- Priority areas of action.

10. Following the speakers' interventions, the moderator will summarize the key issues, recommendations and policy messages in 5 minutes.

III. Guidelines for role players

A. Guidelines for the moderator

11. The moderator will facilitate the dialogue to ensure the smooth running of the discussions. In particular, she will:

- Make short introductory remarks
- Introduce the speakers
- Ensure that the speakers adhere to the allotted time
- Summarize the key issues, recommendations and policy messages at the end of the session.

B. Guidelines for the speakers

12. The Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations and the Deputy Chairperson of the African Union Commission will:

- Articulate the perspectives of their organizations on the topic of the dialogue
- Articulate policy messages to guide the integrated implementation of the two Agendas in the context of the decade of action

C. Guidelines for the rapporteurs

13. The rapporteurs will provide a report in soft copy and will include the following information at the beginning of the report:

- Title of the dialogue topic
- Location and time
- Name of the moderator, title and organization
- Names of the speakers, titles and organizations

14. The reports should contain the following:

- Summary of the main points made by the speakers
- Key recommendations and policy messages
- Summary provided by the moderator

IV. Breakout groups

15. The breakout group session will be held on 24 February from 4.15 to 5.25 p.m.

16. Two breakout groups will be constituted to deliberate in depth on topics relevant to leveraging the decade of action in realizing the Sustainable Development Goals and implementing Agenda 2063 in Africa.

A. The groups will be organized as follows:

- African Union theme for 2020: “Silencing the guns: creating conducive conditions for Africa’s development” (cluster 9 of the Regional Coordination Mechanism for Africa to lead);
- The Sustainable Development Goal gateway (ECA and the United Nations Population Fund to lead);

17. Please refer to the annotated agenda for a description of the issues that will inform the discussions in each group.

B. Each group will nominate:

- A moderator or chairperson to facilitate the work of the group
- A rapporteur to take notes and present the report of the breakout group

C. Reports of breakout groups

18. Each group will prepare a written submission (electronic/soft format) of the main outcomes of group's deliberations. The report should contain the following:

- Summary of the main discussion points
- Key issues and recommendations
- Summary provided by the moderator

D. Breakout group reports to plenary

19. The co-chairs will invite the breakout groups to report back to the plenary session. Each group will present its report for discussion at plenary. Each presentation will last no more than 10 minutes.

E. Role of moderators

20. The moderators will facilitate the deliberations in their respective groups and ensure that interventions are relevant to the discussion topic. In particular, the moderator will:

- Introduce the topic of the breakout group
- Ensure that the speakers adhere to the allotted time
- Summarize the key issues and recommendations at the end of the session

F. Role of rapporteurs

21. Each rapporteur will provide a report in soft copy and will include the following information at the beginning of the report:

- Title of the breakout session
- Location and time
- Name of the moderator, title and organization
- Name of the rapporteur, title and organization

22. A parallel special session on young people and African youth engagement for the decade of action and delivery for sustainable development: UN@75 – The future is now, will be held during the breakout group session. Cluster 5 of the Regional Coordination Mechanism for Africa will lead on the part of the Mechanism.
