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**Economic Commission for Africa**  
**Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development**  
Sixth session  
Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe, 24-27 February 2020

Item 2 of the provisional agenda\*

**High-level panel on accelerators to deliver a transformed and prosperous Africa through the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063 within the decade 2020–2030****Information and guidelines for the high-level panel on accelerators to deliver a transformed and prosperous Africa through the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063 within the decade 2020–2030****I. Background and introduction**

1. The Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development is an intergovernmental and multi-stakeholder platform convened annually by the Economic Commission for Africa in collaboration with the African Union Commission, the African Development Bank and the United Nations system to review progress, share experiences and lessons learned and build a consensus on recommendations in the form of key messages to accelerate the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and Agenda 2063: The Africa We Want. The Forum is therefore important in bolstering multi-stakeholder engagement and synergies and promotes concerted efforts to implement and achieve the development goals of the two mutually reinforcing agendas. Five sessions of the Forum have been held since 2015.

2. The sixth session of the Forum is being held at the Elephant Hills Hotel and Resort in Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe, from 24 to 27 February 2020. The thrust, format and expected outcome of the Forum will be informed by, among other considerations, the evidence that, in spite of the great efforts over the past four years, countries and partners are off-track to achieve the goals within the set time frame. Time and urgency are therefore of the essence to adopt and set in motion accelerated and transformative actions to step up the pace and scale of implementation towards achieving the goals within the coming decade.

3. The decade 2020–2030 presents a unique opportunity and a window of hope to dramatically speed up the pace and expand the scale of implementation to deliver the regional and global goals. The sixth session of the Forum is therefore designed to be an action-oriented one. As such, it is intended for member States and other stakeholders to explore, gain insight into, share and agree on sets of concrete and workable solutions and actions that will enable member States to achieve the goals of the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063 within the set time frame. In so doing, the Forum will contribute to fulfilling

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the pledge of Heads of State and Government at the Sustainable Development Goals Summit in 2019 to make the coming decade one of action and delivery.

4. The theme of the Forum is “2020-2030: A decade to deliver a transformed and prosperous Africa through the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063”. Its theme is well aligned with that of the 2020 high-level political forum on sustainable development, namely “Accelerated action and transformative pathways: realizing the decade of action and delivery for sustainable development”. Both themes recognize the need to rally countries and partners to take urgent and transformative actions to deliver, in the coming decade, the promise of a transformed world that is on an inclusive, resilient and sustainable path.

5. A major expected outcome of the Regional Forum is a clear articulation of and consensus on the priorities, policy options and recommendations of Africa in the form of key messages, to accelerate implementation at different levels and as the region’s collective input to the 2020 high-level political forum on sustainable development, to be held from 7 to 16 July 2020 in New York.

## **II. Objective**

6. The high-level panel dialogue is being conducted as one of the key segments for setting the tone for and realizing the objectives of the sixth session of the Forum, with attention being paid to the need to invigorate momentum to achieve the regional and global goals within the decade 2020-2030.

7. The objective of the dialogue is to give high-level guidance on and generate innovative and transformative actions and workable solutions that will contribute to dramatically stepping up the overall implementation of the two agendas to achieve the set goals within the set time frame.

8. The dialogue is therefore designed to articulate and stimulate discourse on transformative initiatives, actions and solutions for Africa to meet the goals of the two agendas by 2030.

## **III. Format**

9. The panel will comprise high-profile policymakers and practitioners who come from various backgrounds that relate to the theme and sub-themes of the Forum and the focus of the dialogue, and who possess vast knowledge of and experience with the two agendas. Panel members will engage in an interactive discussion and present innovative and transformative actions and workable solutions that will contribute to dramatically stepping up the overall implementation of the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063.

## **IV. Guidelines**

10. The guidelines for the high-level panel dialogue are as follows:

### **A. Role of the Chair**

11. The Chair will:

- (a) Introduce the high-level panel dialogue, including the objective as stated above;
- (b) Introduce the panel members;
- (c) Introduce and yield to the moderator, who will guide the dialogue.

## **B. Role of the moderator**

12. The moderator will:
- (a) Explain the format of the dialogue;
  - (b) Invite or request each panellist to speak or intervene on the key questions listed in paragraph 15 below. In doing so, the moderator will emphasize that the panellists should focus on innovative and transformative solutions and actions that will enable member States and partners to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals and the corresponding goals of Agenda 2063 by 2030;
  - (c) Help foster an interactive dialogue among the panellists on key issues, actions and solutions emerging from interventions by the panellists;
  - (d) Following interactive dialogue among the panellists, invite questions and other contributions from the floor on the questions under discussion;
  - (e) At the end of dialogue, provide a summary of the key policy messages, including recommendations made;
  - (f) Yield to the Chair, who will conclude the dialogue.

## **C. Questions for dialogue**

13. During the dialogue, panellists will be invited to address the following questions:
- (a) What could be the main entry points and drivers for Africa to accelerate implementation across multiple Sustainable Development Goals?
  - (b) What will it take for the Sustainable Development Goals in the 2030 Agenda and the goals set in Agenda 2063 to be met in the decade 2020-2030?
  - (c) What are some examples of transformative and accelerative actions that can drastically increase the pace and scale of implementation?
  - (d) What should be the role of various actors at the national, regional and global levels in accelerating the pace and scale of implementation?
  - (e) What measures and approaches should countries and the international community take to make sure that adequate financial resources are mobilized, effectively allocated and utilized in the achievement of the development goals of both agendas?
  - (f) What actions are needed and how can countries support innovation and the dissemination of technologies that contribute to the objectives of the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063?
  - (g) What short- and medium-term actions are needed for countries to capitalize on and harness regional trade to drive implementation of the two agendas?

## V. Schedule

14. The high-level panel dialogue will be held on 25 February 2020 from 3 to 4.30 p.m. The order of business will be as follows:

- (a) Introduction by the Chair;
- (b) Interventions by and interaction among the panellists based on questions posed by the moderator;
- (c) Interventions and discussions from the floor;
- (d) Summary of the key policy messages, including recommendations by the moderator;
- (e) Conclusion and closing of the high-level panel dialogue by the Chair.

## VI. Chair, moderator and panellists

15. The Chair, moderator and high-level panellists are as follows:

**Chair:**

Representative of the Government of Zimbabwe

**Moderator:**

Jimmy Ocitti

**High-level panellists:**

- United Nations Under-Secretary-General and Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa, Vera Songwe
- Minister of Environment of Angola, Paula Cristina Domingos Francisco Coelho
- Minister of Economy, Planning and Regional Development of Cameroon, Alamine Ousmane Mey
- Minister of National Development and Planning of Zambia, Alexander Chiteme
- Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs, African Cooperation and Moroccans Living Abroad, responsible for Moroccans living abroad, and Chair of the outgoing Bureau of the fifth session of the Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development, Nezha El Ouafi
- Director General of the Sustainable Development Goals Center for Africa, Belay Begashaw