



Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
13 January 2021

Original: English

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

Brazzaville (online), 1–4 March 2021

Item 7 of the provisional agenda*

**Parallel meetings for an in-depth review of progress
made and peer learning on the sub-themes of the
Regional Forum**

Information and guidelines for the parallel meetings on the sub-themes of the Regional Forum

I. Date and time

1. The parallel meetings will be held on Wednesday, 3 March 2021 from 9 a.m. to 1.15 p.m.

II. Objective

2. The objectives of the parallel meetings are to hold in-depth reviews and discussions and to facilitate peer learning on the implementation of the two agendas, with an emphasis on the selected Sustainable Development Goals, and responding to the COVID-19 crisis. In addition, each parallel meeting will identify and articulate possible policy options and other measures for building forward better alongside accelerated implementation of the two agendas.

III. Format

3. The Chair of the Forum will designate members of the Bureau to chair each of the parallel meetings. Representatives of the United Nations entities that were co-leads in drafting the sub-theme background reports will be selected to co-chair the respective parallel meetings. Each of the nine parallel meetings will:

- (a) Be led by a panel comprising selected senior policymakers and experts in the fields related to the sub-theme, or who have an interest therein (see paras. 5–13 below);

- (b) Be informed by a presentation on the background report, including indicative key messages on the respective sub-theme;

* ECA/RFSD/2021/1/Rev.1.



(c) Identify and agree on key messages related to the sub-theme, which will inform the drafting of the key messages to be adopted by the Regional Forum.

IV. Guidelines

4. The following guidelines will apply to the parallel meetings:

(a) The Chair will introduce the round-table panel, the meeting objective (stated above) and the panel members. The Chair will then yield to the Co-Chair/moderator, who will guide the dialogue among the panellists and the other participants in the parallel meeting;

(b) The moderator will call upon the representative of the secretariat or authors of the background report on the sub-theme to present the sub-theme, with an emphasis on emerging opportunities and actions to accelerate implementation. The presentation will last a maximum of seven minutes;

(c) The moderator will then invite each panellist to speak for no more than five minutes, focusing on one or more of the following:

(i) Notable progress and good practices in the implementation of the selected Sustainable Development Goal and corresponding goals of Agenda 2063;

(ii) Implications of progress made or lack thereof in the attainments of other goals;

(iii) Highlights of efforts, practices and approaches towards realizing inclusiveness and actualizing the principle of leaving no one behind;

(iv) Key challenges, constraints and emerging issues, especially COVID-19, and their implications for implementation and achievement of the goals;

(v) Concrete opportunities and transformative or game-changing actions, partnerships and other measures for a resilient and green recovery from COVID-19, to enable African countries to build forward better and dramatically accelerate implementation;

(d) The moderator will help to foster an interactive dialogue among the panellists with a focus on the above issues. The objective is to distil concrete policy actions and measures to build forward better from the COVID-19 crisis and achieve the goals of the two agendas by 2030;

(e) The moderator will then invite questions and other contributions from the floor and ensure that interventions are focused on building forward better from the COVID-19 crisis and accelerating implementation;

(f) At the end of the dialogue, the moderator will provide a summary of the key policy messages, including recommendations made to enable member States and partners to build forward better from COVID-19 crisis and accelerate implementation;

(g) The moderator will then yield to the Chair, who will conclude the round-table panel.

V. Chair, Co-Chair and panellists for the parallel meetings

5. The Chair, Co-Chair and panellists of the parallel meeting on the sub-theme of *no poverty* will be as follows:

Chair: Member of the Bureau of the seventh session of the Regional Forum

Co-Chair: Selected representative of the African Union Commission/regional economic communities/the United Nations

Panellists:

- Minister/senior policymaker or expert
- Minister/senior policymaker or expert
- Representative of United Nations entities
- Representative of the African Union Commission/regional economic communities/the African Development Bank
- Representative of the private sector/civil society/young people/development partners

6. The Chair, Co-Chair and panellists of the parallel meeting on the sub-theme of *zero hunger* will be as follows:

Chair: Member of the Bureau of the seventh session of the Regional Forum

Co-Chair: Selected representative of the African Union Commission/regional economic communities/the United Nations

Panellists:

- Minister/senior policymaker or expert
- Minister/senior policymaker or expert
- Representative of United Nations entities
- Representative of the African Union Commission/regional economic communities/the African Development Bank
- Representative of the private sector/civil society/young people/development partners

7. The Chair, Co-Chair and panellists of the parallel meeting on the sub-theme of *good health and well-being* will be as follows:

Chair: Member of the Bureau of the seventh session of the Regional Forum

Co-Chair: Selected representative of the African Union Commission/regional economic communities/the United Nations

Panellists:

- Minister/senior policymaker or expert
- Minister/senior policymaker or expert
- Representative of United Nations entities
- Representative of the African Union Commission/regional economic communities/the African Development Bank
- Representative of the private sector/civil society/young people/development partners

8. The Chair, Co-Chair and panellists of the parallel meeting on the sub-theme of *decent work and economic growth* will be as follows:

Chair: Member of the Bureau of the seventh session of the Regional Forum

Co-Chair: Selected representative of the African Union Commission/regional economic communities/the United Nations

Panellists:

- Minister/senior policymaker or expert
- Minister/senior policymaker or expert
- Representative of United Nations entities
- Representative of the African Union Commission/regional economic communities/the African Development Bank
- Representative of the private sector/civil society/young people/development partners

9. The Chair, Co-Chair and panellists of the parallel meeting on the sub-theme of *reduced inequalities* will be as follows:

Chair: Member of the Bureau of the seventh session of the Regional Forum

Co-Chair: Selected representative of the African Union Commission/regional economic communities/the United Nations

Panellists:

- Minister/senior policymaker or expert
- Minister/senior policymaker or expert
- Representative of United Nations entities
- Representative of the African Union Commission/regional economic communities/the African Development Bank
- Representative of the private sector/civil society/young people/development partners

10. The Chair, Co-Chair and panellists of the parallel meeting on the sub-theme of *responsible consumption and production* will be as follows:

Chair: Member of the Bureau of the seventh session of the Regional Forum

Co-Chair: Selected representative of the African Union Commission/regional economic communities/the United Nations

Panellists:

- Minister/senior policymaker or expert
- Minister/senior policymaker or expert
- Representative of United Nations entities
- Representative of the African Union Commission/regional economic communities/the African Development Bank
- Representative of the private sector/ civil society/young people/development partners

11. The Chair, Co-Chair and panellists of the parallel meeting on the sub-theme of *climate action* will be as follows:

Chair: Member of the Bureau of the seventh session of the Regional Forum

Co-Chair: Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Disaster Risk Reduction, and head of United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction, Mami Mizutori

Panellists:

- Minister/senior policymaker or expert
- Minister/senior policymaker or expert
- Representative of United Nations entities
- Representative of the African Union Commission/regional economic communities/the African Development Bank
- Representative of the private sector/civil society/young people/development partners

12. The Chair, Co-Chair and panellists of the parallel meeting on the sub-theme of *peace, justice and strong institutions* will be as follows:

Chair: Member of the Bureau of the seventh session of the Regional Forum

Co-Chair: Selected representative of the African Union Commission/regional economic communities/the United Nations

Panellists:

- Minister/senior policymaker or expert
- Minister/senior policymaker or expert
- Representative of United Nations entities
- Representative of the African Union Commission/regional economic communities/the African Development Bank
- Representative of the private sector/civil society/young people/development partners

13. The Chair, Co-Chair and panellists of the parallel meeting on the sub-theme of *partnerships* will be as follows:

Chair: Member of the Bureau of the seventh session of the Regional Forum

Co-Chair: Selected representative of the African Union Commission/regional economic communities/the United Nations

Panellists:

- Minister/senior policymaker or expert
- Minister/senior policymaker or expert
- Representative of United Nations entities
- Representative of the African Union Commission/regional economic communities/the African Development Bank
- Representative of the private sector/civil society/young people/development partners