



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

Brazzaville (online) 1–4 March 2021

Item 6 (b) of the provisional agenda*

Plenary round-table panels on strengthening implementation of the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063 at the national and subnational levels: voluntary national and local reviews of progress made, tools, approaches, lessons learned and the way forward to accelerate implementation

Voluntary local reviews and responding to the COVID-19 crisis

I. Date and time

1. The plenary round-table panel will be held on 2 March 2021 from 4.15 p.m. to 6.00 p.m.

II. Introduction and objective

2. In the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, Member States of the United Nations were encouraged to "conduct regular and inclusive reviews of progress at the national and sub-national levels which are country-led and country-driven".

3. City, municipal, district and other subnational governments are uniquely placed to accelerate the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and Agenda 2063: The Africa We Want, and to contribute to recovery from the COVID-19 crisis and the timely achievement of the global and regional goals contained therein. At the sixth session of Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development, participants called for the expanded engagement of localities in voluntary local reviews and for strengthened support for subnational governments. To increase the involvement of local governments in the pursuit of the goals, ECA and partners have supporting local governments, including those of the cities of Accra, Brazzaville, Harare, Victoria Falls and Yaoundé, and the Ngora District in Uganda, in conducting voluntary local reviews.

4. The objective of this round-table panel is to showcase and exchange the experiences of city and other subnational local governments in respect of voluntary local reviews and the contribution of such reviews to implementing the two agendas at the local level, strengthening voluntary national reviews and

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



bolstering action to better implement the two agendas in the context of the COVID-19 crisis.

III. Format

5. The discussion will be led by a panel comprising selected policymakers and senior experts from cities and other subnational entities that are conducting voluntary local reviews, and from countries that are involved in the voluntary national reviews. The detailed list of panellists 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;

(b) The moderator will invite each panellist to address (in no more than five minutes) one or more of the following questions:

(i) What are the lessons that have been learned from the voluntary local review process?

(ii) How have the reviews contributed to efforts to better localize the two agendas?

(iii) How have voluntary local reviews in your country strengthened the commitment to policy and programme reform, with a view to bolstering local implementation and reporting on the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063?

(iv) Drawing on the voluntary local reviews that your locality or country has conducted, what are some of the policies and practices that have been successful in implementing the two agendas and adapting them to local communities?

(v) What challenges have you experienced in conducting voluntary local reviews and what support could partners at the national, regional and global levels provide to the reviews and the follow-up thereto?

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

(vii) What are ways and opportunities to improve voluntary local reviews and related reporting, to support recovery from the COVID-19 crisis and to speed up implementation of the two agendas?

(c) The moderator will help to foster an interactive dialogue among the panellists. In doing so, the moderator will give representatives of the countries taking part in voluntary local reviews in 2021 the opportunity to pose questions to representatives of countries that have previously 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 the recommendations made. The moderator will then yield to the Chair, who will conclude the round-table panel discussion.

V. Moderator and panellists

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

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

Moderator: Ms. Thokozile Ruzvidzo, Director, Gender, Poverty and Social Policy Division, ECA

Panellists:

- Minister responsible for local governance/devolution
 - Mayor/local government representative
 - Mayor/local government representative
 - Mr. Ambrose Onoria, Commissioner, Ngora District, Uganda
 - Mr. Dmitry Pozhidaev, Global Advisor for Local Government Finance, United Nations Capital Development Fund
 - Mr. Oumar Sylla, Chief, Regional Office for Africa, UN-Habitat
 - Mr. Jean-Pierre Mbassi, Secretary General, United Cities and Local Governments of Africa
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