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

Brazzaville (online) 1–4 March 2021

Item 2 of the provisional agenda\*

**High-level panel on transformative action and investment to build forward better from the COVID-19 crisis towards a resilient and green Africa to achieve the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063****Information and guidelines for the high-level panel on the theme of the seventh session of the Regional Forum****I. Background and introduction**

1. The Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development is an intergovernmental platform convened annually by the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), in collaboration with the African Union Commission, the African Development Bank and United Nations system entities, to review progress, share experiences and lessons learned and build consensus on policy options and actions, which will take the form of key messages to accelerate the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and Agenda 2063: The Africa We Want. Accordingly, the Regional Forum serves as an important mechanism to ensure integrated monitoring and evaluation of the impact of the implementation of the two agendas and to support countries in unlocking bottlenecks in implementation, as stipulated in the African Union-United Nations Framework for the Implementation of Agenda 2063 and the 2030 Agenda.

2. The seventh session of the Regional Forum will be convened under the theme “Building forward better towards a resilient and green Africa to achieve the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063”. This theme is aligned with that of the 2021 session high-level political forum on sustainable development, namely “Sustainable and resilient recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic that promotes the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development: building an inclusive and effective path for the achievement of the 2030 Agenda in the context of the decade of action and delivery for sustainable development”. The Regional Forum will undertake an in-depth review of efforts to achieve nine selected Sustainable Development Goals (1, 2, 3, 8, 10, 12, 13, 16 and 17) and the corresponding goals of Agenda 2063.

3. The 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 tackle the COVID-19 crisis and to accelerate

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



implementation of the two agendas at different levels. The key messages adopted at the Regional Forum will also serve as Africa's collective input to the 2021 high-level political forum, to be held in New York from 6 to 15 July 2021.

## **II. Objective**

4. The objective of the high-level panel discussion is to provide high-level guidance and generate innovative and transformative actions and workable solutions that will contribute to efforts to build forward better from the COVID-19 crisis and towards a resilient and green Africa to achieve the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063.

## **III. Format**

5. The high-level panel discussion will be an interactive dialogue among high-level policymakers and eminent persons focused on the theme of the Regional Forum.

6. The panel will have a chair and moderator, along with high-profile policymakers and eminent persons who come from backgrounds that are relevant to the theme and sub-themes of the Regional Forum and who possess vast knowledge of and experience with the two agendas. Based on selected questions posed by the moderator, the panellists will engage in an interactive discussion. Following that discussion, the moderator will invite members of the audience to pose follow-up questions and to make other relevant contributions from the floor.

## **IV. Guidelines**

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

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

8. The Chair will:

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

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

9. The moderator will:

- (a) Explain the format of the dialogue;
- (b) Invite each panellist to speak on one or more of the key questions listed in paragraph 12 below. The moderator will request the panellists to focus on innovative and transformative actions and workable solutions that will contribute to building forward better from the COVID-19 crisis, towards a resilient and green Africa to achieve the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063;
- (c) Help to foster an interactive dialogue among the panellists on key issues, actions and solutions emerging from the interventions of the panellists;
- (d) Following the 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

10. 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 build forward better from the COVID-19 crisis while accelerating progress to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals and the goals of Agenda 2063?

(b) What are some examples of innovative and transformative actions that should be promoted as models to dramatically increase the pace and scale of recovery from the COVID-19 crisis and the implementation of the two agendas?

(c) What measures and approaches should countries and the international community take to make sure that adequate financial resources are mobilized, effectively allocated and utilized to build forward better from COVID-19 crisis and towards a resilient and green Africa to achieve the goals of the two agendas?

(d) What actions are needed by countries and partners to support innovation and the dissemination of technologies to build back better from the COVID-19 crisis towards a resilient and green Africa?

(e) What short and medium-term actions are needed for countries to capitalize on and harness regional trade to build back better from the COVID-19 crisis towards a resilient and green Africa and to achieve the goals under the two agendas?

(f) What should be the role of various actors at the national, regional and global levels in building forward better from the COVID-19 crisis and ensuring a resilient and green Africa?

## V. Schedule

11. The high-level panel dialogue will be held on 1 March 2021 from 4.00–5:30 p.m.

## VI. Chair, moderator and panellists

12. The Chair, moderator and high-level panellists will be as follows:

**Chair:** Representative of the Government of the Congo

**Moderator:** TBC

### High-level panellists

- Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations and Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa, Vera Songwe
- Representative of the African Union Commission
- Minister (TBC)
- Minister (TBC)
- Civil society/youth/private-sector representative