



Economic Commission for Africa
Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development
Eighth session
Kigali (hybrid) 3–5 March 2022

Item 6 (b) of the provisional agenda*

Plenary round-table panels on national and subnational actions and reviews to build forward better and accelerate delivery of sustainable development in Africa: voluntary subnational reviews and peer learning to bolster local action

Information and guidelines for the plenary round-table panel on voluntary subnational reviews

I. Date and time

1. The plenary round-table panel will be held on 4 March 2022 from 11 a.m. to 12.45 p.m.

II. Introduction

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 subnational levels, which are country-led and country-driven”.
3. Governments of subnational entities such as cities, towns, municipalities, counties and districts are uniquely placed to accelerate implementation of the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063: The Africa We Want, of the African Union, as well as to contribute to the recovery from the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) crisis and the timely achievement of the global and regional goals contained in the two agendas.
4. At the sixth session of the 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.
5. To increase the involvement of local governments in the pursuit of the goals, ECA and partners have supported local governments in conducting voluntary local reviews. In this regard, ECA and partners have developed regional guidelines for voluntary local reviews in Africa. These guidelines have been endorsed by localities and member States.

* ECA/RFSD/2022/1.



III. Objectives

6. The objectives of this round-table panel are:
 - (a) To showcase tools for voluntary local reviews, such as the regional guidelines for voluntary local reviews in Africa developed by ECA and partners;
 - (b) To highlight the contribution of voluntary local reviews to strengthening voluntary national reviews, recovering from the COVID-19 pandemic and bolstering action to better implement the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063;
 - (c) To exchange the experiences and good practices of cities and other subnational governments in conducting voluntary local reviews.

IV. Format

7. 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 involved in voluntary national reviews. A detailed list of panellists is presented in paragraph 9 below.

V. Guidelines

8. The following guidelines will apply to the plenary round-table panel:
 - (a) The Chair will introduce the round-table panel, the objective 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 some of the good practices and lessons learned in the voluntary local review and follow-up processes?
 - (ii) What are the priority needs to enhance uptake and effective use of the guidelines developed by ECA and partners for voluntary local reviews in Africa?
 - (iii) How have the reviews contributed to COVID-19 recovery efforts and efforts to focus attention on policies and programmes to accelerate implementation of the two agendas?
 - (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 responding to the COVID-19 crisis and in implementing the two agendas?
 - (v) In what ways have the COVID-19 pandemic, the lack of data and statistics and other challenges affected voluntary local reviews and their follow-up?
 - (vi) What measures and changes are needed to strengthen voluntary local reviews so that they better contribute to building forward better from the COVID-19 pandemic and accelerate delivery of sustainable development?
 - (vii) On 28 April 2022, the United Nations system will assess its implementation of the New Urban Agenda during a one-day high-level meeting. In what ways have voluntary local reviews

reinforced the implementation of the New Urban Agenda? How could that link be strengthened?

(viii) Voluntary local reviews have predominately reported on progress in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda at the local level. What opportunities do voluntary local reviews present to monitor performance in respect to other global and regional agendas, such as the New Urban Agenda and Agenda 2063?

(c) The moderator will catalyse an interactive discussion among the panellists. In doing so, the moderator will give representatives of the countries and localities conducting voluntary local reviews in 2022 the opportunity to pose questions to representatives of localities 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 the 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.

VI. Moderator and panellists

9. The moderator and panellists for the round-table panel discussion will be as follows:

Chair: Chair of the Bureau of the eighth session of the Forum

Moderator: Director a.i., Gender, Poverty and Social Policy Division, ECA, Edlam Abera Yemeru

Panellists:

- Director of International Relations, Department of Human Settlements, South Africa, Monika Glinzler
- Secretary-General, United Cities and Local Governments of Africa, Jean-Pierre Elong Mbassi
- Mayor of Kanifing Municipality, Gambia, Talib Ahmed Bensouda
- Representative of young people and representative of the national secretariat of the African Peer Review Mechanism, Namibia, Festus Hangula
- Director, Global Solutions Division, UN-Habitat, Raf Tuts
- Chief Housing Officer, Ministry of Local Government and Chieftainship, Lesotho, Kabelo Lethunya
