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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. Introduction

1. The following five meetings on the sub-themes of the Forum will be held in parallel:
 - (a) Parallel meeting on the sub-theme of quality education;
 - (b) Parallel meeting on the sub-theme of gender equality;
 - (c) Parallel meeting on the sub-theme of life below water;
 - (d) Parallel meeting on the sub-theme of life on land;
 - (e) Parallel meeting on the sub-theme of partnerships.

II. Date and time

2. The parallel meetings will be held on Friday, 4 March 2022, from 11.15 a.m. to 1 p.m.

III. Objectives

3. The objectives of the parallel meetings are:
 - (a) To review in depth and facilitate peer learning on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and Agenda 2063: The Africa We Want, of the African Union, with a special emphasis on the selected sub-themes;
 - (b) To identify, articulate and agree on key messages composed of policy options and other measures for building forward better and accelerating implementation of the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063.
4. The parallel meetings will be guided by the overarching goal of building forward better towards a green, inclusive and resilient recovery from the

* ECA/RFSD/2022/1.



coronavirus disease (COVID-19) crisis, with a view to delivering on the goals of the two agendas in a timely manner.

IV. Format

5. The Chair of the Forum will designate members of the Bureau to chair each of the parallel meetings. Representatives of the United Nations entities and regional organizations that were co-leads in drafting the sub-theme background reports will be selected to co-chair the respective parallel meetings and serve as moderators. Each of the five parallel meetings will:

- (a) Be led by a panel comprising selected senior policymakers and experts in the fields related to the sub-theme or persons who have an interest in those fields (see paras. 7–11 below);
- (b) Be informed by a presentation on the background report, including indicative key messages on the respective sub-theme;
- (c) Discuss and reach consensus on key messages on the sub-theme, which will inform the consolidated draft key messages to be adopted by the Regional Forum.

V. Guidelines

6. 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 discussion 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 of the two agendas. The presentation will last a maximum of seven minutes;

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

- (i) In which areas has progress been made? What have been the main success factors?
- (ii) In which areas is progress lagging the most?
- (iii) What are the major constraints and challenges facing the region in ensuring the timely realization of the goals that correspond to the sub-theme?
- (iv) What are the most urgent and impactful actions that can be taken by Governments, the private sector and their partners to scale up a green and inclusive recovery from the COVID-19 crisis and accelerate implementation of the two agendas?

(d) The moderator will catalyse an interactive dialogue among the panellists, with a focus on the above-mentioned questions. The objective is to identify concrete policy actions and measures to build forward better from the COVID-19 crisis and accelerate the achievement of 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 the key questions

listed above and the context of building forward better from the COVID-19 crisis and accelerating implementation of the two agendas;

(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 the COVID-19 crisis and accelerate implementation of the two agendas;

(g) The moderator will then yield to the Chair, who will conclude the meeting.

VI. Chair, Co-Chair/moderator and panellists for the parallel meetings

7. The Chair, Co-Chair/moderator and panellists of the parallel meeting on the sub-theme of quality education will be as follows:

Venue: Room MH1

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

Co-Chair/moderator: Assistant Director-General for Education, United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, Stefania Giannini

Panellists:

- Representative of Libya
- Representative of Namibia
- Representative of Mauritius
- Commissioner for Education, Science, Technology and Innovation, African Union Commission, Mohamed Belhocine
- United Nations Resident Coordinator, Morocco, Sylvia Lopez-Ekra
- Representative of young people, Cameroon, Blandine Angele Messa
- Microsoft Corporation, Middle East and Africa, Alexa Joyce

8. The Chair, Co-Chair/moderator and panellists of the parallel meeting on the sub-theme of gender equality will be as follows:

Venue: Room MH

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

Co-Chair and moderator: Minister of Gender and Family Promotion, Rwanda, Jeannette Bayisenge

Moderator: Representative of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) to Ethiopia, the African Union and the Economic Commission for Africa, Letty Chiwara

Opening remarks:

- Director, Representation Office of the United Nations Population Fund to the African Union and the Economic Commission for Africa, Mabingué Ngom
- Acting Director, Gender, Poverty and Social Policy Division, Economic Commission for Africa, Edlam Abera Yemeru

Presenters:

- Independent consultant, Jacinta Muteshi
- Executive Director, Pan African Climate Justice Alliance, Mithika Mwenda

Panellists:

- Minister responsible for the Advancement of Gender Equality, the Protection of Women, the Family and Children, Central African Republic, Marguerite Ramadan
- Deputy Special Representative for the United Nations Multidimensional Mission in the Central African Republic and Resident Coordinator, Denise Brown
- Acting Director, Women, Gender and Youth Directorate, African Union Commission, Prudence Ngwenya
- Climate and gender justice expert, Mela Chiponda
- African Union Youth Envoy, Chido Mpemba

9. The Chair, Co-Chair/moderator and panellists of the parallel meeting on the sub-theme of life below water will be as follows:

Venue: Room AD10

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

Co-chair: Chief Scientist, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, Ismahane Elouafi

Moderator: Director, Technology, Climate Change and Natural Resources Management Division, Economic Commission for Africa, Jean-Paul Adam

Panellists:

- Commissioner for Rural Economy and Agriculture, African Union Commission, Josefa Leonel Correia Sacko
- Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance, Cabo Verde, Olavo Correa
- Minister of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment, South Africa, Barbara Dallas Creecy (to be confirmed)
- Minister for Fisheries and the Blue Economy, Madagascar, Paubert Mahatante (to be confirmed)
- Subregional Coordinator and Representative of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations to the Economic Commission for Africa and the African Union, Chimimba David Phiri
- Regional Director for Eastern and Southern Africa, International Union for Conservation of Nature, Luther Bois Anukur
- Chief Climate and Policy Office, African Development Bank, James Kinyangi (to be confirmed)
- Youth representative, Ocean Hub Africa, Herland Cerveaux

10. The Chair, Co-Chair/moderator and panellists of the parallel meeting on the sub-theme of life on land will be as follows:

Venue: Room MH2 and 3

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

Co-Chair and moderator: Assistant Director-General and Regional Representative for Africa, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, Abebe Haile-Gabriel

Presenter: Environmental Affairs Officer, Economic Commission for Africa, Charles Akol

Rapporteurs:

- Policy and partnerships specialist, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, Victoria Mwirichia
- Environmental Outreach Support Officer, Liaison Office of the United Nations Environment Programme to the Economic Commission for Africa, the African Union Commission and Ethiopia, Fredrika Sweno
- Others (to be determined)

Panellists:

- Minister of Energy Transition and Sustainable Development, Morocco, Leila Benali
- Minister of Agriculture, Liberia, Jeanine Cooper
- Acting Director, Knowledge Management and Programme Evaluation, African Union Development Agency, Martin Bwalya
- Head, Subregional Office for West Africa, United Nations Environment Programme, Angèle Luh-Sy
- Founder and Managing Director, Climate Smart Agriculture Youth Network Global, Divine Ntiokam
- Founder and Managing Director, Ignite Investment, Meseret Warner

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

Venue: Room AD12

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

Co-Chair and moderator: Head of Economic Integration and Regional Cooperation, Economic Affairs Department, African Union Commission, Jean-Dénis Gabikini

Presenter: Head, E-learning and Knowledge Management Division, African Institute for Economic Development and Planning, Economic Commission for Africa, Thierry Amoussougbo

Rapporteurs:

- Research Officer, African Institute for Economic Development and Planning, Economic Commission for Africa, Flavia Domingas Mendes Ba
- Programme Management Officer, African Institute for Economic Development and Planning, Economic Commission for Africa, Aminata Diop

Panellists:

- Senior Economist, Sustainable Development Goals Center for Africa, Enock Nyorekwa Twinoburyo
- President, Gender and Governance Action Platform, Nathalie Pilhes

- Lead researcher and project manager, Economic Recovery Project, University of Oxford, Brian O’Callaghan
 - United Nations Resident Coordinator, Ghana, Charles Abani
 - Director, Global Migration Data Analysis Centre, International Organization for Migration, Frank Laczko
 - Senior Programme Management Officer, Office of the Special Adviser on Africa, Talla Kebe
 - Regional Coordinator, Global Network of Civil Society Organisations for Disaster Reduction, Adessou Kossivi
 - Chief Executive Officer, Development Reimagined, Hannah Ryder
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