



Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
19 December 2022

Original: English

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

Niamey (hybrid), 28 February–2 March 2023

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 Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development

I. Date and time

1. The parallel meetings will be held on Wednesday, 1 March 2023, from 2.30 to 4.30 p.m.

II. Introduction

2. The ninth session of the Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development is being held under the theme “Accelerating the inclusive and green recovery from multiple crises and the integrated and full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and Agenda 2063: The Africa We Want, of the African Union”.
3. One of the key objectives of the Forum is to conduct a regional follow-up to and review of the implementation of five selected Sustainable Development Goals: Goal 6 (clean water and sanitation), Goal 7 (affordable and clean energy), Goal 9 (industry, innovation and infrastructure), Goal 11 (sustainable cities and communities) and Goal 17 (partnerships for the Goals) and the corresponding goals of Agenda 2063.
4. Accordingly, the following five meetings on the sub-themes of the Forum will be held in parallel:
 - (a) Parallel meeting on the sub-theme of clean water and sanitation;
 - (b) Parallel meeting on the sub-theme of affordable and clean energy;
 - (c) Parallel meeting on the sub-theme of industry, innovation and infrastructure;
 - (d) Parallel meeting on the sub-theme of sustainable cities and communities;
 - (e) Parallel meeting on the sub-theme of partnerships.

^{*} ECA/RFSD/2023/1.



III. Objectives

5. The objectives of the parallel meetings are as follows:
 - (a) To review in depth and facilitate peer learning on the implementation of the selected Goals, their linkages with other Goals and the effects that the various crises have had on the attainment of the Goals;
 - (b) To identify, articulate and agree on key messages composed of policy options and other measures to accelerate an inclusive green recovery from the various crises and the implementation of the selected Goals, in particular, the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063 in general;
 - (c) To provide recommendations to the 2023 high-level political forum on sustainable development and the Sustainable Development Goals Summit to garner international support to address the priorities of Africa.

IV. Guidelines

6. The Chair of the Forum will designate members of the Bureau to chair each parallel meeting.
7. Representatives of the United Nations entities and regional organizations that are co-leads in preparing the sub-theme background reports will be selected both to co-chair the parallel meetings and to serve as moderators.
8. Each of the five parallel meetings will be led by a panel formed of selected senior policymakers and experts in fields related to the sub-theme or persons who have an interest in those fields (see section V). The meetings will be informed by a presentation on the background report that will include indicative key messages on the sub-theme. Participants will discuss and reach a consensus on those key messages, which will inform the consolidated draft key messages to be adopted by the Regional Forum.
9. The Chair of each parallel meeting will:
 - (a) Outline the objectives of the parallel meeting (see section II) and introduce the Co-Chair/moderator and the members of the round-table panel;
 - (b) Invite and yield to the Co-Chair/moderator, who will guide the discussion among the panellists and the other participants;
 - (c) Close the round-table discussion at the end of the panel session.
10. The Co-Chair/moderator will:
 - (a) Call upon the representative of the secretariat or authors of the background report on the sub-theme to give a presentation on the report that lasts for no longer than seven minutes, with emphasis on the progress made, the implications of the crises, emerging opportunities and the action required to accelerate the recovery and implementation of the two agendas;
 - (b) Invite each panellist to speak for no longer than five minutes, focusing on one or more of the following questions:
 - (i) What progress has been made since the last review of the selected Goal (6, 7, 9, 11 or 17) and what have been the implications of the crises for the implementation of the selected Goal, related Goals and the goals of Agenda 2063?
 - (ii) What are good practices and success factors in the implementation of the selected Goal?
 - (iii) In which areas is progress lagging the most?
 - (iv) What are the major constraints and challenges that the region faces in recovering from the crises and ensuring the timely attainment of the Goals?

(v) What are the most urgent and impactful actions that Governments, the private sector and their partners can take to speed up the recovery and implementation of the two agendas?

(vi) What do you recommend that the 2023 high-level political forum on sustainable development and the Sustainable Development Goals Summit should adopt as priorities for Africa to strengthen, follow-up and review, and advance the implementation of the Goals?

(c) The Co-Chair/moderator will also catalyse an interactive discussion among the panellists, with a focus on the above-mentioned questions, to identify concrete policy actions and measures to speed up the green recovery and the implementation of the two agendas;

(d) The Co-Chair/moderator will invite questions and other contributions from the floor and ensure that interventions are focused on the key questions listed above;

(e) At the end of the discussion, the Co-Chair/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 coronavirus disease crisis and accelerate implementation of the two agendas;

(f) The Co-Chair/moderator will yield to the Chair, who will conclude the meeting.

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

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

Venue: Room Xxxxx

Chair: Chair of the Bureau of the ninth session of the Forum

Co-Chair/moderator: Xxxxx

Rapporteurs:

- Xxxxx
- Xxxxx
- Xxxxx

Panellists:

- Xxxxx

12. The Chair, Co-Chair/moderator and panellists of the parallel meeting on the sub-theme of affordable and clean energy will be as follows:

Venue: Room Xxxxx

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

Co-Chair/moderator: Xxxxx

Rapporteurs:

- Xxxxx
- Xxxxx
- Xxxxx

Panellists:

- Xxxxx

13. The Chair, Co-Chair/moderator and panellists of the parallel meeting on the sub-theme of industry, innovation and infrastructure will be as follows:

Venue: Room Xxxxx

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

Co-Chair/moderator: Xxxxx

Rapporteurs:

- Xxxxx
- Xxxxx
- Xxxxx

Panellists:

- Xxxxx

14. The Chair, Co-Chair/moderator and panellists of the parallel meeting on the sub-theme of sustainable cities and communities will be as follows:

Venue: Room Xxxxx

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

Co-Chair/moderator: Xxxxx

Rapporteurs:

- Xxxxx
- Xxxxx
- Xxxxx

Panellists:

- Xxxxx

- Xxxxx
- Xxxxx
- Xxxxx
- Xxxxx
- Xxxxx
- Xxxxx

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

Venue: Room Xxxxx

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

Co-Chair/moderator: Xxxxx

Rapporteurs:

- Xxxxx
- Xxxxx
- Xxxxx

Panellists:

- Xxxxx
 - Xxxxx
 - Xxxxx
 - Xxxxx
 - Xxxxx
 - Xxxxx
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