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**Economic Commission for Africa  
Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development  
Ninth session****Preparatory and capacity-development workshop for major groups and other stakeholders in the African region for the ninth session of the Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development**

Niamey (hybrid), 27 February 2023

**Concept note****I. Introduction and rationale**

1. To achieve the goals of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, it is essential to engage major groups and other stakeholders. They complement the efforts of member States to achieve the goals by strengthening inclusion, promoting accountability, transparency and responsiveness, building capacity, sharing knowledge and enhancing participation in and ownership of sustainable development processes by diverse communities at the local, subnational, national and regional levels.
2. Major groups and other relevant stakeholders are also called upon to report on their contribution to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda as part of regular reviews undertaken at the high-level political forum on sustainable development. Furthermore, citizens of African countries, civil society organizations and other groups are engaged in implementing, monitoring and evaluating Agenda 2063: The Africa We Want, of the African Union, which is being implemented in coordination with the 2030 Agenda.
3. Major groups and other stakeholders must enhance their knowledge of processes and procedures for engagement so that their contributions to the successful implementation of the two agendas are meaningful and useful. They need access to information to fully understand their roles and the platforms that can be used to engage effectively with one another, Governments and other development partners.
4. The Economic Commission for Africa, in collaboration with the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat and the Africa Regional Mechanism for Major Groups and Other Stakeholders, has been organizing workshops to strengthen the capacity of major groups and other stakeholders to articulate their input to the follow-up and review of progress in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda at the regional and global levels. Major groups and other stakeholders have been actively engaged in the Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development through capacity-development workshops.



5. The ninth session of the Regional Forum will take place in an increasingly challenging global environment. African economies are still recovering from the impact of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, the devastating effects of climate change on the continent are worsening, and a war in Europe has caused spikes in energy and food commodity prices, with vulnerable countries and communities being the hardest hit. These challenges further undermine the efforts of African countries to achieve the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063, which is particularly important as we mark the midway point for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the end of the first 10-year implementation plan of Agenda 2063.

6. Against this backdrop, the Economic Commission for Africa and the Africa Regional Mechanism for Major Groups and Other Stakeholders are organizing a preparatory and capacity-development workshop for major groups and other stakeholders in Africa. The workshop will take place in a hybrid format during the ninth session of the Regional Forum, to be held in Niamey, from 28 February to 2 March 2023.

7. The theme of the ninth session of the Regional Forum is “Accelerating the inclusive and green recovery from multiple crises and the integrated and full implementation of the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063”. The Regional Forum will review in detail Sustainable Development Goals 6 (clean water and sanitation), 7 (affordable and clean energy), 9 (industry, innovation and infrastructure), 11 (sustainable cities and communities) and 17 (partnerships for the Goals).

8. The ninth session of the Regional Forum is, therefore, designed to be an action-oriented forum for member States and other stakeholders to consider and propose concrete and practical solutions to accelerate the recovery from the many crises facing the continent and the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063 in the region.

## **II. Objectives**

9. The workshop will be held on 27 February 2023 before the start of the main session of the Regional Forum. The objectives of the workshop are as follows:

(a) To brief major groups and other stakeholders on the progress towards achieving the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063 in Africa;

(b) To highlight and share the contributions of major groups and other stakeholders to the recovery from the multiple crises facing the continent and the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063;

(c) To produce key messages from major groups and other stakeholders on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, with a particular focus on the five selected Sustainable Development Goals, to form part of the collective African input to the 2023 meeting of the high-level political forum on sustainable development.

## **III. Expected outcomes**

10. The workshop is expected to lead to the following outcomes:

(a) Increased understanding and capacity of major groups and other stakeholders to implement, monitor and review progress towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals and the aspirations, goals and targets of Agenda 2063;

(b) A greater understanding of the efforts by major groups and other stakeholders to recover from the multiple crises and implement the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063 in Africa;

(c) Enhanced cooperation between major groups and other stakeholders and between them and other stakeholders, including national, subregional and regional policymakers, practitioners and experts and United Nations entities.

#### **IV. Expected outputs**

11. The workshop will generate the following outputs, which will be disseminated widely:

(a) A summary of key messages from major groups and other stakeholders to be delivered during the ninth session of the Regional Forum;

(b) A summary report on the workshop.

#### **V. Key documents**

12. The documents for the workshop will include the following:

(a) The present concept note and the programme of work for the workshop;

(b) The concept note and the programme of work for the ninth session of the Regional Forum;

(c) Background papers on the sub-themes of the ninth session of the Regional Forum.

#### **VI. Participation**

13. The workshop will be attended by representatives of nine categories of major groups: women, children and young people, Indigenous Peoples, non-governmental organizations, local authorities, workers and trade unions, business and industry, the scientific and technological community, and farmers. Other stakeholder groups will attend, including local communities, volunteer groups and foundations, migrants and their families, older persons and persons with disabilities. Representatives of Governments and development partners will also be invited to attend.

#### **VII. Working languages**

14. The workshop will be conducted in French and English with simultaneous interpretation in both languages.

#### **VIII. Venue and date**

15. The workshop will be held in Niamey on 27 February 2023 in a hybrid format.

## **IX. Contact**

16. Enquiries concerning the organization of the preparatory and capacity-development workshop should be directed to:

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