



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

Niamey (hybrid), 28 February 2 March 2023

Item 4 of the provisional agenda*

High-level panel 2: From the twenty-seventh session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and beyond: financing to achieve inclusive recovery and just transitions and to accelerate implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and Agenda 2063: The Africa We Want, of the African Union.**Information and guidelines for high-level panel 2****I. Date, time and venue**

1. The second high-level panel dialogue will be held on 28 February 2023, from 2.30 to 4 p.m., in the Plenary Hall.

II. Background and introduction

2. The ninth session of the Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development is being held a few months after the twenty-seventh session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity.

3. Climate change is the main factor undermining progress in the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals in Africa, since it has serious negative effects on key economic sectors and several of the Goals. Recent analyses show that climate change already causes losses of \$7–15 billion a year in gross domestic product – a figure that is set to rise to \$45–50 billion a year by 2040.¹ Another factor impeding progress is the high rate of loss of forests and biodiversity due to the widespread degradation of land and marine ecosystems. If ecosystem services were to collapse, it is estimated that, by 2030, Africa would experience a relative contraction in real gross domestic product of 9.7 per cent a year, or about \$358 billion.²

4. Climate change and biodiversity crises have been compounded by the overlapping effects of the coronavirus disease crisis, the growing debt distress among African countries and the war in Ukraine. Together, these crises threaten to severely set back progress towards attaining regional and global goals.

* ECA/RFSD/2023/1.

¹ ECA, 2022, <https://intranet.uneca.org/ecanews/african-economic-conference-opens-strong-call-adaptation-measures-tackle-%E2%80%9Cooming-climate>.

² Justin Andrew Johnson and others, *The Economic Case for Nature: A Global Earth-economy Model to Assess Development Policy Pathways*, (Washington, D.C., World Bank, 2021).



5. For the goals of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and Agenda 2063: The Africa We Want, of the African Union to be achieved, such bottlenecks need to be addressed decisively and progress needs to be ramped up dramatically. Closing the woefully large financing gap for positive action on climate and nature and implementation of the Goals is key to achieving an inclusive green recovery from the crises, just transitions, and faster implementation of the two agendas.

6. The current session of the Forum offers a unique opportunity to follow-up on and take forward the outcomes of the twenty-seventh session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, including innovative and other financing initiatives developed in the lead-up to the two events and agreed upon at those events and as part of subsequent processes. It is against this backdrop that the second high-level panel is being held as part of the ninth session of the Forum.

III. Objective

7. The panel will provide high-level perspectives and set out priority actions to boost the mobilization of finance to achieve an inclusive green recovery and just transitions and to accelerate implementation of the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063.

IV. Guidelines

8. The Chair will outline the aforementioned objectives of the high-level panel and introduce the moderator and panel members listed in section V. The Chair will then yield to the moderator, who will guide the discussion among the panellists and other Forum participants.

9. The moderator will:

(a) Request that the panellists focus their statements on:

(i) Good practices and innovative ways of mobilizing finance to address the various crises, in particular given the looming debt distress among many African countries;

(ii) Priority actions and capacity-development needs to scale up innovative sources of finance that are suited to the African context;

(b) Invite each panellist to speak for no longer than 4 minutes on one or more of the key questions listed in paragraph 10, below;

(c) Foster an interactive discussion among the panellists on key issues, actions and solutions that emerge from the remarks made by the panellists;

(d) Following the panel discussion, invite questions and other comments from the floor on the topics under discussion;

(e) At the end of the dialogue, summarize the key policy messages, including recommendations made;

(f) Yield to the Chair, who will conclude the discussion.

10. During the discussion, the moderator will invite the panellists to address one or more of the following questions:

(i) What are the challenges and how can Africa best position itself to move forward and benefit from global climate and green finance initiatives, including those agreed upon at the twenty-seventh session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the fifteenth meeting of the

Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, and under other international processes?

(ii) What are some of the African-led finance initiatives? How can those initiatives be made more fit for purpose and how can they be scaled up to address the various crises and accelerate implementation of the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063?

(iii) How can the international community help to address the unique financing challenges faced by African countries, in particular to provide Africa with adequate, affordable and predictable green financing?

(iv) What role should the private sector play and how can the private sector be better mobilized and engaged to mobilize financing for a green recovery and just transitions for Africa and to accelerate implementation of the two agendas?

(v) What support should the United Nations system and other development partners provide to dramatically scale up financing for the green recovery and accelerated implementation of the two agendas?

V. Chair, moderator and panellists

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

Venue: Plenary Hall (Xxxxx)

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

Moderator: Xxxxx

Panellists:

- Minister for Finance, Egypt, Mohamed Maait
 - Minister for Water, Forests and Environment, Gabon, Lee White
 - Vice-President, World Bank, Jorge Familiar
 - Under-Secretary-General and Special Adviser on Africa, United Nations, Cristina Duarte
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