



Economic Commission for Africa
Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development
Ninth session
Niamey (hybrid), 28 February–2 March 2023

Annotated provisional agenda

1. Opening of the session

1. The opening of the ninth session of the Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development will be co-moderated by the Director of the Technology, Climate Change and Natural Resources Management Division of the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), Jean-Paul Adam. The outgoing Chair of the Bureau of the eighth session of the Regional Forum, the representative of Rwanda, will preside.

2. Statements will be delivered by the following: the Acting Executive Secretary of ECA, Antonio Pedro; the outgoing Chair of the Bureau of the Regional Forum; a representative of the African Development Bank; a representative of the African Union Commission; the President of the Economic and Social Council, Lachezara Stoeva; and the Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations, Amina Mohammed. The President of the Niger, Mohamed Bazoum, will open the session and deliver the keynote address.

2. High-level panel 1: From Africa to the 2023 high-level political forum on sustainable development and the Sustainable Development Goals Summit: priorities to address multiple crises and accelerate implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and Agenda 2063: The Africa We Want, of the African Union

Documentation

ECA/RFSD/2023/4

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 – concept note

ECA/RFSD/2023/10

Summary of the report on African progress towards achieving the goals of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and Agenda 2063: The Africa We Want, of the African Union

ECA/RFSD/2023/INF/4

Information and guidelines for high-level panel 1



3. High-level panel 1 will set the tone for, and provide high-level policy perspectives and guidance on, the regional priorities of Africa that are to be conveyed at the high-level political forum on sustainable development in July 2023 and the Sustainable Development Goals Summit in September 2023. The panel dialogue will focus on priority measures, including investments needed to accelerate and realize an inclusive and green recovery from the overlapping crises, which include the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, climate change, biodiversity loss, the war in Ukraine and the unfolding debt distress in Africa, alongside the integrated and full implementation of the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063.

4. The panel will have a chair and moderator, along with high-level policymakers, scientists, practitioners and eminent persons. The panel discussions will be informed by a keynote address on the implementation of Agenda 2063 and its second 10-year implementation plan, and a presentation of the highlights of the *2023 Africa Sustainable Development Report* (forthcoming).

5. Based on selected questions posed by the moderator, the panellists will engage in an interactive discussion. Following the dialogue among the panellists, the moderator will invite members of the audience to pose follow-up questions and to make other relevant contributions from the floor.

3. Organizational matters

(a) Election of the Bureau

6. The outgoing Chair of the Bureau will conduct the election of the members of the Bureau for the ninth session of the Regional Forum. Before the elections, the Chair will invite the secretariat to provide a brief overview of the role and history of the Bureau. The incoming Bureau will comprise five members (the Chair, three Vice-Chairs and the Rapporteur), who will be elected on the basis of equitable geographic representation. Following the elections, consultations among the heads of delegations will take place to determine which specific member States will represent their respective subregions, and the composition of the incoming Bureau will be announced. The newly elected Bureau members will be invited to assume their seats at the podium.

(b) Adoption of the agenda and programme of work

Documentation

ECA/RFSD/2023/1 Provisional agenda

ECA/RFSD/2023/2 Annotated provisional agenda

ECA/RFSD/2023/3 Provisional programme of work

7. The Regional Forum will be invited to consider and adopt the agenda and the programme of work, subject to any amendments deemed necessary.

4. 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

Documentation

ECA/RFSD/2023/4

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 – concept note

ECA/RFSD/2023/INF/6

Information and guidelines for high-level panel 2

8. High-level panel 2 will provide a platform to follow up on and take into account the outcomes of the twenty-seventh session 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 other regional and global process that have significant bearing on the recovery from the various crises and on the achievement of the goals of the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063. The high-level panel will focus on examining the level of funding needed and will provide high-level policy perspectives and guidance on effective measures, including innovate ways to mobilize financing, to implement an inclusive green recovery, to achieve just transitions and to accelerate the fulfillment of the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063.

9. The high-level panel will have a chair and moderator, along with high-level policymakers and experts in the areas of finance, climate change, biodiversity, the debt crisis and the two agendas, among other areas.

10. Based on selected questions posed by the moderator, the panellists will engage in an interactive discussion. Following the dialogue among the panellists, the moderator will invite members of the audience to pose follow-up questions and to make other relevant contributions from the floor.

5. Plenary round-table panels on national and subnational actions and reviews to speed up and scale up implementation in Africa

Documentation

ECA/RFSD/2023/INF/1

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

ECA/RFSD/2023/INF/3

Information and guidelines for the plenary round-table panel on voluntary subnational reviews and peer learning to bolster local action

(a) Voluntary national reviews and peer learning to strengthen country-level interventions

11. This round-table panel is designed to facilitate learning and strengthen practice in conducting and following up on voluntary national reviews of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063. To achieve this objective, the panel is expected to highlight solutions and good practices, and exchange experiences and lessons learned in voluntary national reviews. Panellists will also share insights relating to the challenges of conducting such reviews in the face of multiple crises and the role of the reviews in informing plans and programmes for recovery and the accelerated implementation of the two agendas.

12. The panel discussion will provide an opportunity to highlight the outcomes of the pre-event on voluntary national and local reviews.

13. The discussion will be led by a panel comprising selected policymakers and senior experts from the countries involved in voluntary national reviews in

previous years and 2023, and from other countries in Africa that are front-runners in the implementation of Agenda 2063. Representatives of young people and the private sector will be part of the panel.

14. It is anticipated that the panellists will share their views, experiences and lessons learned; outline compelling solutions; and identify actions and other measures to improve the conduct of future voluntary national reviews, including following up and implementing the outcomes and lessons learned from previous voluntary national reviews.

(b) Voluntary subnational reviews and peer learning to bolster local action

15. This round-table panel is designed to share progress and achievements, good practices and challenges in conducting voluntary local reviews in Africa by cities and other subnational governments. In addition, in the context of accelerating recovery from multiple crises and the implementation of the two agendas, the panel will highlight the role of voluntary local reviews, along with the need and the measures to scale up such reviews and to strengthen the linkages among voluntary local reviews and voluntary national reviews.

16. 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 that are involved in voluntary national reviews.

6. Plenary round-table panel on rethinking data availability and data systems in Africa to address multiple shocks and accelerate implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and Agenda 2063: The Africa We Want, of the African Union

Documentation

ECA/RFSD/2023/INF/2

Information and guidelines for the plenary round-table panel on data and statistics

17. This round-table panel will underscore the importance and challenges of boosting the generation, dissemination and use of high-quality data and statistics for the design, monitoring and reporting on timely and effective interventions to respond to current and future shocks and to accelerate implementation of the two agendas. The panel will examine the transformation that is required of the African data ecosystem to meet the huge demand for such statistics and address the overlapping challenges, in particular the COVID-19 crisis, climate change and biodiversity loss, the war in Ukraine and growing debt stress in Africa.

7. Parallel meetings for an in-depth review of progress made and peer learning on the sub-themes of the Regional Forum

Documentation

ECA/RFSD/2023/INF/5

Information and guidelines for the parallel meetings on the sub-themes of the Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development

ECA/RFSD/2023/5

Background report on Sustainable Development Goal 6 – clean water and sanitation

ECA/RFSD/2023/6

Achieving Sustainable Development Goal 7 – affordable and clean energy – in Africa

ECA/RFSD/2023/7

Progress, challenges, opportunities and priority actions to accelerate the achievement of Sustainable Development Goal 9

ECA/RFSD/2023/8

Background report on sustainable cities and communities, in reference to Sustainable Development Goal 11

ECA/RFSD/2023/9

Accelerating innovative multi-stakeholder partnerships to advance solutions for an inclusive and green recovery, the Sustainable Development Goals, and Agenda 2063: The Africa We Want, of the African Union

- (a) **Clean water and sanitation**
- (b) **Affordable and clean energy**
- (c) **Industry, innovation and infrastructure**
- (d) **Sustainable cities and communities**
- (e) **Partnerships**

18. Five meetings on the sub-themes of the Forum will be held in parallel. The aim of the parallel meetings is to review in depth and facilitate peer learning on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063, with a special emphasis on the selected sub-themes. The review will be held in the context of accelerating the inclusive and green recovery from multiple crises and the integrated and full implementation of the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063. Accordingly, panellists and participants in each parallel meeting will identify, articulate and agree on a set of key messages that offer policy options and other measures for an accelerated recovery from crises and the implementation of the two agendas.

19. The parallel meetings will be open to all participants in the Regional Forum, who may join any of the parallel meetings.

- (f) **Reports on the parallel meetings**

20. Under this sub item, member State representatives give five-minute presentations on each of the parallel meetings to the plenary, highlighting the conclusions and agreed set of key messages arising from their discussions. Each presentation will be followed by a brief discussion, with a view to fine-tuning the proposed key messages.

- 8. Plenary round-table panel on leveraging science, technology, innovation and digital transformation for accelerated recovery and implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and Agenda 2063: The Africa We Want, of the African Union**

21. This round-table panel will focus on the importance and application of, and showcase initiatives and lessons learned in leveraging, the enabling and transformative power of science, technology, innovation and digitalization to achieve an accelerated recovery and the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063.

22. Deliberations during this round-table panel will capitalize on the outcomes of the following events that will precede the Regional Forum: the fifth African Science, Technology and Innovation Forum; a coding camp for African girls; a hackathon on digital technology for climate change; and a science, technology and innovation bootcamp for young people.

9. Presentations and discussions on acceleration actions and partnerships for 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

23. This agenda item will feature the following presentations followed by a general discussion.

(a) United Nations development system support to tackle multiple crises and accelerate implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and Agenda 2063: The Africa We Want, of the African Union

24. This sub-item will feature a presentation and discussion on the role of, and ongoing and planned interventions by, entities of the United Nations development system, including through opportunity and issue-based coalitions, to support member States, regional economic communities and the African Union Commission in accelerating the inclusive and green recovery from multiple crises and the integrated and full implementation of the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063.

(b) Presentation by major groups and other stakeholders on tackling multiple shocks and accelerating implementation

25. Under this sub-item, a presentation that highlights the outcomes of the preparatory and capacity-development workshop for major groups and other stakeholders in the African region will be followed by a discussion featuring perspectives from civil society, the private sector and academia on measures to ensure a green, inclusive and resilient recovery from the COVID-19 crisis, with a view to achieve the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063.

(c) Presentation on follow-up on and implementation of the outcomes of the Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development

26. Under this sub-item, the secretariat of the Regional Forum will give a presentation and invite a discussion on past and forthcoming activities to implement the outcomes of the Regional Forum and to drive the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063.

(d) Presentation of commitments and actions to accelerate delivery of sustainable development

27. The aim of this sub-item is to showcase, inspire and scale up transformative actions to accelerate progress in the achievement of the goals of the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063, in line with the decade of action and delivery on sustainable development, the report of the Secretary-General entitled “Our Common Agenda”, and the second 10-year implementation plan of Agenda 2063. Under this sub-item, member States, major groups, United Nations system entities and other development partners will be invited to present their commitments and actions to accelerate the achievement of the goals of the two agendas.

10. Consideration and adoption of key messages and the Niamey declaration on 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

Documentation

ECA/RFSD/2023/L.1

Draft summary report and key messages of the ninth session of the Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development

28. For the consideration of participants in the ninth session of the Regional Forum, the Rapporteur of the Bureau will present the key messages of the Forum and the Niamey declaration on accelerating the inclusive and green recovery from multiple crises and the integrated and full implementation of the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063. The key messages and the declaration will represent the collective African input to the 2023 meeting of the high-level political forum on sustainable development and the Sustainable Development Goals Summit.

11. Theme, dates and venue of the tenth session of the Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development

29. The secretariat will present proposals on the theme, dates and venue of the tenth session of the Regional Forum for consideration by the participants.

12. Other matters

30. The Regional Forum may wish to consider any other matters that are brought to its attention.

13. Closing of the session

31. The Chair of the Bureau of the ninth session of the Regional Forum will summarize the main outcomes of the deliberations. Closing remarks will follow by Deputy Executive Secretary (Programme) and Chief Economist of ECA, Hanan Morsy. The Chair will then conclude the proceedings and declare the ninth session closed.