



Economic and Social Council

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

**Preparatory and capacity-development workshop
for major groups and other stakeholders in Africa**

Addis Ababa (hybrid), 22 April 2024

Concept note

I. Introduction and rationale

1. To achieve the Sustainable Development Goals of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, it is essential to engage major groups and other stakeholders. They complement the efforts of African 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, national, subregional and continental 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 on and review of progress made 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 tenth session of the Regional Forum will be held in an increasingly challenging global environment. African economies are being affected by multiple crises, with vulnerable countries and communities being hit the hardest. In 2024, countries around the world and their partners are past the



midway point in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, and yet their progress on most Sustainable Development Goals is off-track. Therefore, achieving the Goals by the set deadline of 2030 is contingent upon stepping up implementation through ambitious and bold solutions and action. For Africa, integrated implementation of the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063 is essential. Thus, it is crucial to identify solutions and take action to rescue the Goals while at the same time ensuring the effective realization of the second 10-year plan for the implementation of Agenda 2063.

6. In addition, the Regional Forum will be held in the lead-up to the Summit of the Future, to be held in September 2024. The Forum and the workshop for major groups and other stakeholders present a timely opportunity to mobilize these stakeholders, generate their input to and ensure their effective engagement in the Summit.

7. 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 be conducted in a hybrid format as a preliminary event to the tenth session of the Regional Forum, to be held in Addis Ababa from 23 to 25 April 2024.

8. The theme of the tenth session of the Regional Forum is “Reinforcing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and Agenda 2063: The Africa We Want, of the African Union and eradicating poverty in times of multiple crises: the effective delivery of sustainable, resilient and innovative solutions”. The Forum will review in detail Sustainable Development Goals 1 (no poverty), 2 (zero hunger), 13 (climate action), 16 (peace, justice and strong institutions) and 17 (partnerships for the Goals) and the corresponding goals of Agenda 2063.

9. The tenth session of the Regional Forum is, therefore, designed to be an action-oriented forum for African 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

10. The workshop will be held on 22 April 2024, 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 made towards implementing the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063 in Africa;

(b) To highlight and share the contributions of major groups and other stakeholders to the efforts to rescue the Sustainable Development Goals and carry out the second 10-year plan for the implementation of 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 2024 meeting of the high-level political forum on sustainable development and the Summit of the Future.

III. Expected outcomes

11. 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) Greater understanding of and more partnerships in support of the efforts by major groups and other stakeholders to simultaneously rescue the Goals, carry out the second 10-year plan for the implementation of Agenda 2063 and recover from the multiple crises;

(c) Enhanced cooperation among major groups and other stakeholders, in conjunction with additional stakeholders, including national, subregional and regional policymakers, practitioners and experts and United Nations entities;

(d) Articulation of the priorities of the major groups and other stakeholders for rescuing the Goals and realizing the second 10-year implementation plan, to be shared at the tenth session of the Regional Forum, the 2024 meeting of the high-level political forum on sustainable development and the Summit of the Future.

IV. Expected outputs

12. 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 tenth session of the Regional Forum;

(b) A summary report on the workshop.

V. Main documents

13. 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 tenth session of the Regional Forum;

(c) Background reports on the five sub-themes of the tenth session of the Forum.

VI. Participation

14. 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 members of parliament, 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

15. The workshop will be conducted in English and French, with simultaneous interpretation available in both languages.

VIII. Venue and date

16. The workshop will be held in Addis Ababa on 22 April 2024 in a hybrid format.

IX. Contact

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

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