



Economic Commission for Africa
Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development
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Item 6 of the provisional agenda*

Plenary round-table panel on voluntary national and local reviews and actions to reinforce institutions, policies, plans and budgets to speed up and scale up integrated implementation of the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063

Information and guidelines for the plenary round-table panel on voluntary national and local reviews and actions to reinforce institutions, policies, plans and budgets to speed up and scale up integrated implementation of the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063

I. Date, time and venue

1. The plenary round-table panel will be held on Wednesday, 24 April 2024, from 9 to 10.30 a.m., in the Banquet Hall of the United Nations Conference Centre.

II. Background and introduction

2. Voluntary national reviews are crucial for assessing the progress made in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and Agenda 2063: The Africa We Want, of the African Union, identifying challenges and good practices, and promoting effective policies, programmes and other interventions to drive implementation.

3. The slow pace of implementation of the two agendas has heightened the need for evidence-based voluntary national reviews that engender strong multi-stakeholder engagement, are linked to local-level interventions and impact, and can reinforce institutions, policies, plans and budgets to speed up and scale up integrated implementation of the two agendas. In this connection, local reviews have gained momentum, with a view to strengthening voluntary national reviews, deepening localization of the two agendas and bolstering local implementation.

4. A total of 15 African States¹ are currently engaged in the voluntary national review process in preparation for the high-level political forum on sustainable development, to be held in July 2024. Once the current cycle of

* ECA/RFSD/2024/1/Rev.3.

¹ Chad, Congo, Eritrea, Equatorial Guinea, Guinea, Libya, Kenya, Mauritania, Mauritius, Namibia, Sierra Leone, South Africa, South Sudan, Uganda and Zimbabwe.



voluntary national reviews is complete, Africa will have achieved universal coverage of voluntary national reviews, with all 54 African States having conducted at least one review.

III. Objectives

5. The main objective of this panel is to facilitate learning and strengthen practice in conducting and following up on voluntary national and local reviews in order to advance the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063.
6. The specific objectives are to:
 - (a) Share good practices, challenges and lessons learned in voluntary national and local reviews, in the context of multiple crises;
 - (b) Share insights about the linkages between voluntary national and local reviews and how to strengthen these reviews to reinforce institutions, policies, plans and budgets to speed up and scale up integrated implementation of the two agendas;
 - (c) Provide an opportunity to highlight the outcomes of the pre-event on voluntary national and local reviews.

IV. Guidelines

7. The Chair will outline the aforementioned objectives of the high-level panel and introduce the moderator and panel members listed in section V.
8. 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) Invite each panellist to speak for no longer than four minutes on one or more of the questions listed in paragraph 10;
 - (b) Foster an interactive discussion among the panellists on important issues, actions and solutions that emerge from the remarks made by the panellists;
 - (c) Following the panel discussion, invite questions and other comments from the floor on the topics under discussion;
 - (d) At the end of the dialogue, summarize the main policy messages, including recommendations made;
 - (e) 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 four questions:
 - (a) What were some of the good practices, lessons learned and challenges encountered in voluntary national or local reviews?
 - (b) What recommendations would you make to strengthen voluntary national or local reviews, with a view to reinforcing institutions, policies, plans and budgets to speed up and scale up integrated implementation of the two agendas?
 - (c) What do you recommend that participants in the Summit of the Future should adopt as priorities for Africa with regard to addressing the challenges encountered and strengthening voluntary national or local reviews?
 - (d) What were some salient outcomes of the regional preparatory workshop on voluntary national and local reviews held prior to this panel?

V. Chair, moderator and panellists

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

Chair: Chair of the Bureau

Moderator: Deputy Executive Secretary (Programme) and Chief Economist, ECA, Hanan Morsy

Panellists:

- Secretary of State, Ministry of Economy, Planning and International Cooperation, Chad, Santa Ndem Ngoidi
 - Permanent Secretary, Office of the Prime Minister of Uganda, Dunstan Balaba
 - Mayor of Banjul, Rohey Malick Lowe
 - Youth Champion, African Youth Sustainable Development Goals Summit, Olivia Tutu
 - Chief Executive Officer, African Peer Review Mechanism secretariat, Eddy Maloka
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