



Economic Commission for Africa
Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development
Tenth session
Addis Ababa (hybrid), 23–25 April 2024

Item 2 of the provisional agenda*

**High-level panel 1: Stepping up ambition and innovative solutions
to eradicate poverty and reinforce the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable
Development and Agenda 2063: The Africa We Want, of the African Union**

Information and guidelines for high-level panel 1

I. Date, time and venue

1. The first high-level panel dialogue will be held on Tuesday, 23 April 2024, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., in the Banquet Hall of the United Nations Conference Centre in Addis Ababa.

II. Background and introduction

2. This high-level panel has been organized in the context of the theme of the tenth session of the Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development, “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”.

3. Although the world is now past the midpoint in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, most countries are not on track to attain the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030. Getting back on track to attain the Goals by that deadline is contingent on stepping up implementation of the 2030 Agenda through ambitious and bold action and solutions. For Africa, integrated implementation of the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063 is essential.

4. Governments need to seize the moment and use the second half of the 2030 Agenda period as a window of opportunity to rescue the Sustainable Development Goals through bold, innovative and transformational actions that are aligned with the ambition and timelines of the 2030 Agenda, Agenda 2063, the Paris Agreement and other global and regional frameworks.

5. The tenth session of the Forum is an opportunity to address shortcomings and capitalize on emerging opportunities to ensure the robust, accelerated and timely implementation of the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063, with a special focus on the second 10-year plan for the implementation of the latter.

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



6. It is against this backdrop that the first high-level panel discussion is being held.

III. Objective

7. The objective of this high-level panel is to set the tone for the Forum by identifying and discussing high-level priorities and innovative solutions, ambitious actions and investments to eradicate poverty and reinforce the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063.

IV. Guidelines

8. The Chair will present the objective of the high-level panel and introduce the moderator, keynote speaker, presenter and panellists listed in section V.

9. The Chair will then yield to the moderator, who will guide the discussion among the panellists and other Forum participants.

10. The moderator will:

(a) Invite the Deputy Chairperson of the African Union Commission, Monique Nsanzabaganwa, to deliver a 15-minute keynote address on the second 10-year implementation plan of Agenda 2063;

(b) Invite the Deputy Executive Secretary (Programme) and Chief Economist of the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), Hanan Morsy, to make a 10-minute presentation on the highlights of the *2024 Africa Sustainable Development Report*, focusing on innovative and transformative actions for integrated and accelerated implementation of the two agendas;

(c) Invite each panellist to speak for no longer than three minutes on one or more of the questions listed in paragraph 11;

(d) Request that the panellists focus their statements on priorities and innovative solutions and ambitious actions and investments to eradicate poverty and reinforce the two agendas;

(e) Help to foster an interactive discussion among the panellists on major issues, actions and solutions emerging from the remarks made by the panellists;

(f) Following the panel discussion, invite questions and other comments from the floor on the topics that were raised;

(g) At the end of the discussion, summarize the main policy messages and recommendations that emerged;

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

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

(a) What are the innovative and ambitious actions and solutions that will enable Africa to deliver on both the plan to rescue the Sustainable Development Goals and on the second 10-year plan for the implementation of Agenda 2063?

(b) What ambitious global, regional and national initiatives and policy actions are needed to realize the commitment made at the 2023 Sustainable Development Goals Summit to mobilize adequate finance and advance transformational initiatives to achieve the Goals?

(c) In the context of Africa, what are the ambitious actions and innovative solutions needed to tackle climate change, growing national debt,

conflict and other challenges, to accelerate implementation of the two agendas and to achieve robust, resilient and inclusive economic growth?

(d) What support should the United Nations system and other development partners provide to accelerate implementation at scale?

V. Chair, moderator, keynote speaker, presenter and panellists

12. The Chair, moderator, keynote speaker, presenter and high-level panellists will be as follows:

Chair: Chair of the outgoing Bureau

Moderator: Journalist, Hannane Ferdjani

Keynote speaker: Deputy Chairperson, African Union Commission, Monique Nsanzabaganwa

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

Panellists:

- Executive Secretary, Economic Commission for Africa, Claver Gatete
- Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on Africa, Cristina Duarte
- Chief Executive Officer, African Union Development Agency, Nardos Bekele-Thomas
- Head, Public Debt Management Office, Ministry of Finance, Economic Development and Investment Promotion, Zimbabwe, Andrew Bvumbe, representing the Chair of the Bureau of the Conference of African Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development for the fifty-sixth session of the Economic Commission for Africa,
- Executive Director, Pan African Climate Justice Alliance, Mithika Mwenda
- Group President and Managing Director, Eastern and Southern African Trade and Development Bank, Admassu Tadesse