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

Item 4 of the provisional agenda\*  
**High-level panel 2: The race to 2030 and beyond: leveraging  
the Summit of the Future to get back on track towards the  
achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals**

## **Information and guidelines for high-level panel 2**

### **I. Date, time and venue**

1. The second high-level panel dialogue will be held on Tuesday, 23 April 2024, from 2.30 to 4 p.m., in the United Nations Conference Centre, Banquet Hall.

### **II. Background and introduction**

2. The tenth session of the Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development is well timed in the context of the Summit of the Future, which will be convened by the Secretary-General in September 2024. The Summit is intended to accelerate countries' efforts to meet their existing international commitments and to take concrete steps to respond to current and future challenges, as well as those that are emerging or may yet be over the horizon. It will bring together Heads of State and Government, among other stakeholders, to draw up an outcome document entitled "A Pact for the Future"<sup>1</sup> covering: sustainable development and financing for development; international peace and security; science, technology and innovation and digital cooperation; youth and future generations; and transforming global governance, as well as gender equality.

3. The Forum is therefore well placed to leverage the unique occasion that the Summit offers to address current, emerging and future challenges and opportunities in the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals and overall sustainable development that constitute a priority for African countries.

4. It is against this backdrop that the second high-level panel is being held as part of the tenth session of the Forum.

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

<sup>1</sup> See General Assembly resolution 76/307.



### III. Objectives

5. The objectives of the panel are:
  - (a) To advocate and mobilize wider and effective engagement in the Summit of the Future by members of the Economic Commission for Africa and other stakeholders;
  - (b) To generate African priorities to contribute to the deliberations during the lead-up to and at the Summit, and to the outcome document of the Summit.

### IV. Guidelines

6. The Chair will outline the aforementioned objectives of the high-level panel and introduce the Deputy Secretary-General, Amina Mohammed, and the Under-Secretary-General for Policy, Guy Ryder, along with the moderator of the panel, the journalist Hannane Ferdjani, and the panel members listed in section V.
7. The Chair will invite the Deputy Secretary-General to deliver the opening statement.
8. Following the opening statement by the Deputy Secretary-General, the Chair will yield to the moderator, who will guide the address by the guest speaker, the statements by the panellists and the dialogue with Forum participants.
9. The moderator will:
  - (a) Invite the Under-Secretary-General for Policy to deliver his address to set the tone and spark discussion on the Summit of the Future and its expected outcomes;
  - (b) Invite the panellists, in groups of two as indicated in paragraph 11, to speak for no longer than three minutes each, on one or more of the questions listed in paragraph 10;
  - (c) Following statements by the panellists in a given group, invite questions and other comments from the floor on the topics that were raised by those panellists;
  - (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 three questions:
  - (a) How can members of the Economic Commission for Africa and other stakeholders engage with and take advantage of the Summit of the Future to invigorate efforts at all levels to address current and future crises, achieve the Sustainable Development Goals and advance sustainable development beyond 2030?
  - (b) What are some of the current and foreseeable issues and challenges for Africa with regard to:
    - (i) Accelerating implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals and regional development frameworks;
    - (ii) Realizing adequate financing for development;
    - (iii) Ensuring peace, stability and security;

- (iv) Maximizing the benefits of science, technology, innovation and digital cooperation for all;
  - (v) Meeting the needs of young people and future generations;
  - (vi) Global governance?
- (c) What should participants in the Summit of the Future identify as priorities for Africa with regard to the five elements of “A Pact for the Future”,<sup>2</sup> namely:
- (i) Sustainable development and financing for development;
  - (ii) International peace and security;
  - (iii) Science, technology and innovation and digital cooperation;
  - (iv) Youth and future generations;
  - (v) Transforming global governance?

## V. Chair, moderator and panellists

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

**Chair:** Chair of the Bureau

**Opening Statement:** Deputy Secretary-General, Amina Mohammed

**Moderator:** Journalist, Hannane Ferdjani

**Guest speaker:** Under-Secretary-General for Policy, Guy Ryder

**Panellists:**

**Dialogue group 1:**

- Permanent Representative of Namibia to the United Nations, and Co-Facilitator, Summit of the Future, Neville Gertze
- Minister of Higher Education and Scientific Research, Mauritania, Niang Mamoudou

**Dialogue group 2:**

- Commissioner for Economic Development, Trade, Tourism, Industry and Minerals, African Union Commission, Albert Muchanga [*to be confirmed*]
- Special Coordinator for Development in the Sahel, Abdoulaye Mar Dieye

**Dialogue group 3:**

- Chair, Expert Mechanism on the Right to Development, Human Rights Council, Isabelle Durant
- Co-Chair, Steering Committee, Africa Regional Mechanism for Major Groups and Other Stakeholders, Martin Tsounkeu

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<sup>2</sup> See A/77/49 (Vol. III), decision 77/568.