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Eleventh session

Kampala (hybrid), 9–11 April 2025

Item 5 of the provisional agenda*

High-level panel 2: Scaling sustainable, inclusive, science-based, evidence-based and data-driven solutions to dramatically increase economic growth, boost job creation and accelerate implementation of the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063

Information and guidelines for high-level panel 2

I. Date, time and venue

1. The second high-level panel will be held on Wednesday, 9 April 2025, from 4.30 to 6 p.m., in Rwenzori Hall A and B. Participants will discuss scaling sustainable, inclusive, science-based, evidence-based and data-driven solutions to dramatically increase economic growth, boost job creation and accelerate implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and Agenda 2063: The Africa We Want, of the African Union.

II. Introduction

2. With only five years remaining until 2030, the deadline for achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, swifter progress is needed. At the global level, only 16 per cent of the targets under the Goals are on track to be met by 2030, with the remaining 84 per cent showing limited progress or, in some cases, regression.¹ The situation is worse still in Africa, where, at the current rate of progress, only 10 of the 144 measurable targets under the Goals will be achieved by 2030, with up to 106 targets requiring accelerated action and another 28 showing signs of regression.² The average gross domestic product growth rate per year for Africa has been about 3 per cent since 2019, well below the 7 per cent target needed to achieve Goal 8.³ Such slow progress has translated into the prevalence of the serious socioeconomic and environmental ills that the Goals are designed to cure, including rising levels of unemployment, poverty, inequality and food insecurity.

3. In addition, in 2024, the African Union adopted the second 10-year implementation plan (2024–2033) of Agenda 2063 and has designated that period the decade of acceleration of Agenda 2063. In the light of the launch of the plan, the initiatives used to implement the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063 need to be better integrated.

* ECA/RFSD/2025/1.

¹ Jeffrey D. Sachs, Guillaume Lafortune and Grayson Fuller, *Sustainable Development Report 2024: The SDGs and the UN Summit of the Future* (Dublin, Dublin University Press, 2024).

² Adivhaho Ramaite and Alize le Roux, “Accelerate, extend or abandon? Africa’s SDG dilemma”, Institute for Security Studies, 12 September 2024.

³ Statistics Times, “List of continents by GDP”, Economy database. Available at <https://statisticstimes.com/economy/continents-by-gdp.php> (accessed on 27 November 2024).



4. African States and their development partners therefore need to increase the pace and scale of implementation of the two agendas. Such an increase will be built on identifying, promoting, investing in and implementing solutions that have been proved to work. That is why the eleventh session of the Forum is being held under the theme “Driving job creation and economic growth through sustainable, inclusive, science-based and evidence-based solutions for implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and Agenda 2063: The Africa We Want, of the African Union”.

III. Objectives

5. The objectives of the panel discussion are:

(a) To critically reflect on, identify and present sustainable, inclusive, science-based and evidence-based solutions that can dramatically increase the pace and scale of job creation, economic growth and implementation of the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063;

(b) To identify and articulate the targeted roles of Governments, entities of the United Nations system, the African Union Commission and other intergovernmental organizations, private sector companies, young people and civil society organizations as stakeholders in the design of evidence-based and science-based solutions for implementation of the two agendas, and in supporting and effecting the adoption of such solutions;

(c) To identify the investments and success factors that are needed in order for solutions to have a real impact when implemented.

IV. Guidelines

6. The Chair will outline the objectives of the high-level panel and introduce the moderator, presenter, panel members and discussants, all of whom are listed in section V.

7. The Chair will then hand over to the moderator.

8. The moderator will:

(a) Invite [position], [organization], [name] [to be determined] to present the highlights of the *2025 Africa Sustainable Development Report*,⁴ with a focus on inclusive, science-based, evidence-based and data-driven solutions to dramatically increase economic growth, job creation and the pace and scale of implementation of the two agendas;

(b) Invite the panellists, in groups of two or three as indicated in paragraph 10, to speak for no longer than three minutes each, in response to one or more of the questions listed in paragraph 9 or to questions from the floor;

(c) Following the statements from each group of panellists, foster a dialogue on the topics that were raised, by inviting questions and comments from the selected discussants and from the floor;

(d) At the end of the dialogue, invite [position], [organization], [name] [to be determined] to share reflections on the key messages arising from the dialogue during the high-level panel discussion;

(e) Hand over to the Chair, who will conclude the discussion.

⁴ African Union and others, *Africa Sustainable Development Report, 2025* (forthcoming).

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

(a) In your experience, which approaches and solutions being implemented by Governments, United Nations entities or private sector companies have been proved to have an impact in driving economic growth, boosting job creation or accelerating implementation of the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063?

(b) Which specific, practical measures have been taken or are required to advance and scale up, over the next five years, the solutions that have been proved to have an impact?

(c) What do you see as the measures that Governments, the African Union, United Nations entities, private sector companies, young people or other stakeholders need to take most urgently to enable the adoption and scaling up of solutions to drive implementation of the two agendas?

(d) What are the major and priority financial needs, technical needs, institutional needs and statistical capacity-development needs that must be met in order to boost solutions to drive economic growth, job creation and accelerated implementation of the two agendas?

(e) Which partnerships should be strengthened or forged to foster economic growth and job creation, while also accelerating implementation of the two agendas?

(f) What are the risks and threats to the successful implementation of the two agendas and what practical solutions exist to address those risks and threats?

V. Chair, moderator and panellists

10. The Chair, moderator, presenter, panellists and discussants will be as follows:

Chair: Chair of the Bureau

Moderator: Director, Eastern and Southern Africa, Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS, Anne Githuku-Shongwe

Presenter: [position], [organization], [name] [to be determined]

Panellists:

Dialogue Group 1

- Former Prime Minister, Ethiopia, Hailemariam Desalegn (to be confirmed)
- Minister for Local Government, Uganda, Raphael Magezi (to be confirmed)
- [position], [organization], [name] [to be determined]

Dialogue Group 2

- Resident Coordinator for Mauritius and Seychelles, Lisa Singh
- Chairperson of the Board, Zambia Statistics Agency, Oliver Chinganya
- Deputy Governor, Bank of Uganda, Augustus Nuwagaba (to be confirmed)

Discussants:

- Xxxxx [position], [organization], [name] [to be determined]
- Xxxxx [position], [organization], [name] [to be determined]

- XXXXX [position], [organization], [name] [to be determined]

General discussion

Reflection on key messages: XXXXX [position], [organization], [name]
[to be determined]
