



Economic Commission for Africa
Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development
Twelfth session
Addis Ababa (hybrid), 28–30 April 2026

Item 2 (a) of the provisional agenda*
Organizational matters: election of the Bureau

Function and composition of the Bureau of the Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development

I. Overview of the Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development

1. The Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development is an annual, intergovernmental, multi-stakeholder platform organized jointly by the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) and one of its members that has volunteered to host the Forum, in collaboration with the African Union Commission, the African Development Bank and various entities of the United Nations system. It brings together ministers, senior officials, experts and practitioners from members of ECA, the private sector, civil society, academic institutions and United Nations entities.
2. The overall objective of the Regional Forum is to follow up on and review the progress made towards the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the aspirations, goals and targets of Agenda 2063: The Africa We Want, of the African Union. It is also intended to facilitate peer learning and identify and promote transformative solutions and action to accelerate the implementation of the two agendas.

II. Function of the Bureau of the Forum

3. The proceedings and work of the Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development are overseen and guided by the Bureau. The main functions of the Bureau, which is supported by the secretariat of ECA, are:
 - (a) To steer in-session deliberations of the Forum and, in so doing, ensure the active and inclusive participation of all stakeholders and the adoption of the session's outcomes (key messages and declaration);
 - (b) To follow up on the implementation of the outcomes of the sessions of the Forum and report on progress made in that regard during subsequent sessions of the Forum;
 - (c) To present and advocate the outcomes of the sessions of the Forum at the high-level political forum on sustainable development and at other global, regional, subregional and national conferences or meetings.

* ECA/RFSD/2026/1/Rev.1.



III. Composition of the Bureau of the Forum

4. The Bureau of the Forum comprises five positions: the Chair, three Vice-Chairs and the Rapporteur. Members of ECA are elected to the Bureau on the basis of equitable geographical representation and rotation. The structure of the Bureau of the Forum mirrors that of the Bureau of the Committee on Sustainable Development (which, at its sixth session, was renamed the Committee on Food Security and Sustainable Development), which was charged with similar responsibilities.

5. The history of the membership in the Bureau of each session of the Forum and its predecessor is presented in table 1 in the annex. A consolidated view of the number of times that the subregions have held the various positions in the Bureau is set out in table 2 in the annex. A detailed presentation of the number of times that the members of ECA and subregions have been represented in each of the positions of the Bureau is provided in table 3 in the annex.

IV. Composition of the Bureau of the twelfth session

6. By tradition, the subregion of the outgoing Chair is designated as Rapporteur of the incoming Bureau, and the other subregions move up one step on the ladder of Bureau positions. In addition, the hosting subregion is traditionally designated as Chair of the Bureau, except when the meeting is hosted at the headquarters of the secretariat. Given that the twelfth session of the Forum is being convened at the headquarters, the composition of the Bureau for the twelfth session is proposed as follows:

Chair:	Southern Africa
First Vice-Chair:	Central Africa
Second Vice-Chair:	West Africa
Third Vice-Chair:	North Africa
Rapporteur:	East Africa

7. The analyses in tables 2 and 3 of the annex may be used as a guide for selecting members of ECA for positions in the Bureau of the twelfth session. Members are encouraged to elect countries represented at the twelfth session that have not previously served in the Bureau (13 countries)¹ or that have served in the Bureau less frequently than other countries.

¹ *Central Africa*: Central African Republic, Equatorial Guinea, Sao Tome and Principe; *East Africa*: Comoros, Djibouti, Eritrea, Madagascar; *North Africa*: Libya; *Southern Africa*: Eswatini, Mozambique; *West Africa*: Guinea-Bissau, Mali, Sierra Leone.

Annex

Table 1
Membership of the Bureau of the Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development, the Committee on Sustainable Development and the Committee on Food Security and Sustainable Development, 1999–2025

<i>Meeting or session</i>	<i>Dates and venue</i>	<i>Bureau members</i>	<i>Corresponding subregions</i>
First meeting of the Committee on Sustainable Development	25–29 January 1999, Addis Ababa	Chair: United Republic of Tanzania First Vice-Chair: Côte d'Ivoire Second Vice-Chair: South Africa Rapporteur: Cameroon	Chair: East Africa First Vice-Chair: West Africa Second Vice-Chair: Southern Africa Third Vice-Chair: North Africa ^a Rapporteur: Central Africa
Second meeting of the Committee on Sustainable Development	26–29 November 2001, Addis Ababa	Chair: Zambia First Vice-Chair: Chad Second Vice-Chair: Burkina Faso Third Vice-Chair: Tunisia Rapporteur: Uganda	Chair: Southern Africa First Vice-Chair: Central Africa Second Vice-Chair: West Africa Third Vice-Chair: North Africa Rapporteur: East Africa
Third meeting of the Committee on Sustainable Development	7–10 October 2003, Addis Ababa	Chair: Egypt First Vice-Chair: South Africa Second Vice-Chair: Ethiopia Third Vice-Chair: Congo Rapporteur: Ghana	Chair: North Africa First Vice-Chair: Southern Africa Second Vice-Chair: East Africa Third Vice-Chair: Central Africa Rapporteur: West Africa
Fourth meeting of the Committee on Sustainable Development	24–28 October 2005, Addis Ababa	Chair: Nigeria First Vice-Chair: Congo Second Vice-Chair: Algeria Third Vice-Chair: South Africa Rapporteur: United Republic of Tanzania	Chair: West Africa First Vice-Chair: Central Africa Second Vice-Chair: North Africa Third Vice-Chair: Southern Africa Rapporteur: East Africa
Fifth meeting of the Committee on Sustainable Development	22–25 October 2007, Addis Ababa	Chair: Kenya First Vice-Chair: Namibia Second Vice-Chair: Democratic Republic of the Congo Third Vice-Chair: Sudan Rapporteur: Senegal	Chair: East Africa First Vice-Chair: Southern Africa Second Vice-Chair: Central Africa Third Vice-Chair: North Africa Rapporteur: West Africa
Sixth session of the Committee on Food Security and Sustainable Development	27–30 October 2009, Addis Ababa	Chair: South Africa First Vice-Chair: Democratic Republic of the Congo Second Vice-Chair: Morocco Third Vice-Chair: Gambia Rapporteur: Mauritius	Chair: Southern Africa First Vice-Chair: Central Africa Second Vice-Chair: North Africa Third Vice-Chair: West Africa Rapporteur: East Africa
Seventh session of the Committee on Food Security and Sustainable Development	20–23 October 2011, Addis Ababa	Chair: Congo First Vice-Chair: Somalia Second Vice-Chair: Botswana Third Vice-Chair: Benin Rapporteur: Sudan	Chair: Central Africa First Vice-Chair: East Africa Second Vice-Chair: Southern Africa Third Vice-Chair: West Africa Rapporteur: North Africa
Eighth session of the Committee on Food Security and Sustainable Development	19–21 November 2012, Addis Ababa	Chair: Congo First Vice-Chair: Egypt Second Vice-Chair: Liberia Third Vice-Chair: Uganda Rapporteur: Malawi	Chair: Central Africa First Vice-Chair: North Africa Second Vice-Chair: West Africa Third Vice-Chair: East Africa Rapporteur: Southern Africa

<i>Meeting or session</i>	<i>Dates and venue</i>	<i>Bureau members</i>	<i>Corresponding subregions</i>
Ninth session of the Committee on Sustainable Development and the first session of the Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development	16–18 June 2015, Addis Ababa	Chair: Senegal First Vice-Chair: Sudan Second Vice-Chair: Gabon Third Vice-Chair: Kenya Rapporteur: Malawi	Chair: West Africa First Vice-Chair: North Africa Second Vice-Chair: Central Africa Third Vice-Chair: East Africa Rapporteur: Southern Africa
Second session of the Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development	17–19 May 2016, Cairo	Chair: Egypt First Vice-Chair: Liberia Second Vice-Chair: South Sudan Third Vice-Chair: Zambia Rapporteur: Burundi	Chair: North Africa First Vice-Chair: West Africa Second Vice-Chair: East Africa Third Vice-Chair: Southern Africa Rapporteur: Central Africa
Third session of the Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development	17–19 May 2017, Addis Ababa	Chair: Togo First Vice-Chair: Seychelles Second Vice-Chair: Zimbabwe Third Vice-Chair: Congo Rapporteur: Algeria	Chair: West Africa First Vice-Chair: East Africa Second Vice-Chair: Southern Africa Third Vice-Chair: Central Africa Rapporteur: North Africa
Fourth session of the Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development	2–4 May 2018, Dakar	Chair: Senegal First Vice-Chair: Lesotho Second Vice-Chair: Cameroon Third Vice-Chair: Mauritania Rapporteur: Uganda	Chair: West Africa First Vice-Chair: Southern Africa Second Vice-Chair: Central Africa Third Vice-Chair: North Africa Rapporteur: East Africa
Fifth session of the Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development	16–18 April 2019, Marrakech, Morocco	Chair: Morocco First Vice-Chair: Angola Second Vice-Chair: Chad Third Vice-Chair: Uganda Rapporteur: Guinea	Chair: North Africa First Vice-Chair: Southern Africa Second Vice-Chair: Central Africa Third Vice-Chair: East Africa Rapporteur: West Africa
Sixth session of the Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development	24–27 February 2020, Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe	Chair: Zimbabwe First Vice-Chair: Democratic Republic of the Congo Second Vice-Chair: Uganda Third Vice-Chair: Liberia Rapporteur: Morocco	Chair: Southern Africa First Vice-Chair: Central Africa Second Vice-Chair: East Africa Third Vice-Chair: West Africa Rapporteur: North Africa
Seventh session of the Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development	1–4 March 2021, Brazzaville	Chair: Congo First Vice-Chair: Kenya Second Vice-Chair: Niger Third Vice-Chair: Algeria Rapporteur: Zimbabwe	Chair: Central Africa First Vice-Chair: East Africa Second Vice-Chair: West Africa Third Vice-Chair: North Africa Rapporteur: Southern Africa
Eighth session of the Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development	3–5 March 2022, Kigali	Chair: Rwanda First Vice-Chair: Cabo Verde Second Vice-Chair: Morocco Third Vice-Chair: Namibia Rapporteur: Congo	Chair: East Africa First Vice-Chair: West Africa Second Vice-Chair: North Africa Third Vice-Chair: Southern Africa Rapporteur: Central Africa
Ninth session of the Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development	28 February–2 March 2023, Niamey	Chair: Niger First Vice-Chair: Morocco Second Vice-Chair: Namibia Third Vice-Chair: Chad Rapporteur: Ethiopia	Chair: West Africa First Vice-Chair: North Africa Second Vice-Chair: Southern Africa Third Vice-Chair: Central Africa Rapporteur: East Africa
Tenth session of the Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development	23–25 April 2024, Addis Ababa	Chair: Mauritania First Vice-Chair: Namibia Second Vice-Chair: Chad Third Vice-Chair: Uganda Rapporteur: Niger	Chair: North Africa First Vice-Chair: Southern Africa Second Vice-Chair: Central Africa Third Vice-Chair: East Africa Rapporteur: West Africa

<i>Meeting or session</i>	<i>Dates and venue</i>	<i>Bureau members</i>	<i>Corresponding subregions</i>
Eleventh session of the Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development	9–11 April 2025, Kampala	Chair: Uganda First Vice-Chair: Mauritius Second Vice-Chair: Cameroon Third Vice-Chair: Gambia Rapporteur: Mauritania	Chair: East Africa First Vice-Chair: Southern Africa Second Vice-Chair: Central Africa Third Vice-Chair: West Africa Rapporteur: North Africa

^a This figure reflects the addition to the total for North Africa for the position of Third Vice-Chair, the assumed representation by a North African country in the role of Third Vice-Chair at the first meeting of the Committee on Sustainable Development.

Table 2

Representation of the subregions in the Bureau of the Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development, the Committee on Sustainable Development and the Committee on Food Security and Sustainable Development, 1999–2025

<i>Position in the Bureau</i>	<i>Number of times position held</i>					<i>Total</i>
	<i>Central Africa</i>	<i>East Africa</i>	<i>North Africa</i>	<i>Southern Africa</i>	<i>West Africa</i>	
Chair	3	4	4	3	5	19
First Vice-Chair	4	3	3	6	3	19
Second Vice-Chair	6	3	3	4	3	19
Third Vice-Chair	3	4	5 ^a	3	4	19
Rapporteur	2	5	4	4	4	19
Total	18	19	19	20	19	95

^a This figure reflects the addition to the total for North Africa for the position of Third Vice-Chair the assumed representation by a North African country in the role of Third Vice-Chair at the first meeting of the Committee on Sustainable Development.

Table 3

Representation of members of the Economic Commission for Africa and subregions in the Bureau of the Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development and its predecessors, 1999–2025

	<i>Number of times position held</i>					<i>Total</i>
	<i>Chair</i>	<i>First Vice-Chair</i>	<i>Second Vice-Chair</i>	<i>Third Vice-Chair</i>	<i>Rapporteur</i>	
Central Africa						
Cameroon	–	–	2	–	1	3
Central African Republic	–	–	–	–	–	–
Chad	–	1	2	1	–	4
Congo	3	1	–	2	1	7
Democratic Republic of the Congo	–	2	1	–	–	3
Equatorial Guinea	–	–	–	–	–	–
Gabon	–	–	1	–	–	1
Sao Tome and Principe	–	–	–	–	–	–
Subtotal	3	4	6	3	2	18
East Africa						
Burundi	–	–	–	–	1	1
Comoros	–	–	–	–	–	–
Djibouti	–	–	–	–	–	–
Eritrea	–	–	–	–	–	–
Ethiopia	–	–	1	–	1	2
Kenya	1	1	–	1	–	3
Madagascar	–	–	–	–	–	–
Rwanda	1	–	–	–	–	1

	<i>Number of times position held</i>						<i>Total</i>
	<i>Chair</i>	<i>First Vice-Chair</i>	<i>Second Vice-Chair</i>	<i>Third Vice-Chair</i>	<i>Rapporteur</i>		
Seychelles	–	1	–	–	–	1	
Somalia	–	1	–	–	–	1	
South Sudan	–	–	1	–	–	1	
United Republic of Tanzania	1	–	–	–	1	2	
Uganda	1	–	1	3	2	7	
Subtotal	4	3	3	4	5	19	
North Africa							
Algeria	–	–	1	1	1	3	
Egypt	2	1	–	–	–	3	
Libya	–	–	–	–	–	–	
Mauritania	1	–	–	1	1	3	
Morocco	1	1	2	–	1	5	
Sudan	–	1	–	1	1	3	
Tunisia	–	–	–	1	–	1	
Subtotal	4	3	3	5^a	4	19	
Southern Africa							
Angola	–	1	–	–	–	1	
Botswana	–	–	1	–	–	1	
Eswatini	–	–	–	–	–	–	
Lesotho	–	1	–	–	–	1	
Malawi	–	–	–	–	2	2	
Mauritius	–	1	–	–	1	2	
Mozambique	–	–	–	–	–	–	
Namibia	–	2	1	1	–	4	
South Africa	1	1	1	1	–	4	
Zambia	1	–	–	1	–	2	
Zimbabwe	1	–	1	–	1	3	
Subtotal	3	6	4	3	4	20	
West Africa							
Benin	–	–	–	1	–	1	
Burkina Faso	–	–	1	–	–	1	
Cabo Verde	–	1	–	–	–	1	
Côte d'Ivoire	–	1	–	–	–	1	
Gambia	–	–	–	2	–	2	
Ghana	–	–	–	–	1	1	
Guinea	–	–	–	–	1	1	
Guinea-Bissau	–	–	–	–	–	–	
Liberia	–	1	1	1	–	3	
Mali	–	–	–	–	–	–	
Niger	1	–	1	–	1	3	
Nigeria	1	–	–	–	–	1	
Senegal	2	–	–	–	1	3	
Sierra Leone	–	–	–	–	–	–	
Togo	1	–	–	–	–	1	
Subtotal	5	3	3	4	4	19	
Total	19	19	19	19	19	95	

^a This figure reflects the addition to the total for North Africa for the position of Third Vice-Chair, the assumed representation by a North African country in the role of Third Vice-Chair at the first meeting of the Committee on Sustainable Development.