



# Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General

2 April 2026

Original: English

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**Economic Commission for Africa****Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development**

Twelfth session

Addis Ababa (hybrid), 28–30 April 2026

Item 6 of the provisional agenda\*

**Plenary high-level round-table panel 1: Evidence-based voluntary national and local reviews to drive transformative and coordinated actions for the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063**

## Information and guidelines for high-level round-table panel 1

### I. Date, time and venue

1. The first plenary high-level round-table panel will be held on Wednesday, 29 April 2026, from 9 to 10.30 a.m. in the Plenary Hall.

### II. 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 19 African States<sup>1</sup> 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 2026. Voluntary local reviews assist localities in charting progress and planning for sustainable development at the local level. African localities have been very proactive in undertaking these reviews, with over 40 completed and more than 40 more under way across the region.

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

<sup>1</sup> Algeria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cabo Verde, Cameroon, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Egypt, Gabon, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Liberia, Malawi, Mozambique, Rwanda, Senegal, Somalia, Togo, Tunisia and United Republic of Tanzania.



### III. Objectives

5. The main objective of the 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;
  - (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) Identify means to link national and local reviews with concrete road maps for the implementation of the two agendas, with a view to making progress towards the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals and the goals of Agenda 2063;
  - (d) 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 round-table panel; introduce the moderator and panel members listed in section V; and hand over to the moderator, who will guide the discussion among the panellists and other participants.
8. The moderator will invite each panellist to speak for no longer than seven minutes on one or more of the questions listed in paragraph 9 and foster an interactive discussion among the panellists on important issues, actions and solutions that emerge from the remarks made by the panellists. Following the panel discussion, the moderator will invite questions and other comments from the floor on the topics under discussion. At the end of the discussion, the moderator will invite a speaker to share reflections on the key policy messages, including recommendations made, and will hand over to the Chair, who will conclude the discussion.
9. 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 specific actions would you recommend to ensure that evidence-based voluntary national reviews and voluntary local reviews are conducted, and to ensure that these reviews are used to drive transformative and coordinated action for the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063?
  - (c) What development priorities have you identified that are crucial to ensuring broad-based, inclusive and sustainable development at the local and national levels?
  - (d) What were some salient outcomes of the regional preparatory workshop on voluntary national and local reviews held prior to the panel?

## V. Chair, moderator and panellists

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

**Chair:** Chair of the Bureau

**Moderator:** Deputy Executive Secretary (Programme Support),  
Economic Commission for Africa, Mama Keita

**Panellists:**

- Mayor of Addis Ababa, Adanech Abiebie
- Representative of Cameroon
- Representative of Mozambique
- Chief Executive Officer, African Peer Review Mechanism, Marie-Antoinette Rose Quatre
- Mayor of a city conducting a local review
- Minister of a country conducting a national review

**General discussion**

**Reflection on key messages:** Director, Regional Office for Africa,  
United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat), Oumar Sylla

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