

**Economic and Social Council**

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

Item 2 (b) of the provisional agenda\*  
**Organizational matters: adoption of the agenda  
and programme of work**

**Annotated provisional agenda****1. Opening of the session**

1. The opening of the twelfth session of the Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development will be moderated by a renowned media personality, with support from the Director of the Climate Change, Food Security and Natural Resources Division of the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA). The outgoing Chair of the Bureau of the eleventh session of the Forum will preside.

2. Statements will be delivered by the following: the Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa; the outgoing Chair of the Bureau; the President of the Economic and Social Council and Permanent Representative of Nepal to the United Nations; the President of the General Assembly; a representative of the African Development Bank; a representative of the African Union Commission; and the Secretary-General or the Deputy Secretary-General. The Prime Minister of Ethiopia will open the session.

**2. Organizational matters****(a) Election of the Bureau****Documentation**

Function and composition of the Bureau of the Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development (ECA/RFSD/2026/INF/7)

3. The outgoing Chair of the Bureau will conduct the election of the members of the Bureau for the twelfth session of the Forum.

4. Before the elections, the secretariat will be invited to provide a brief overview of the role and history of the Bureau. The incoming Bureau will comprise five members (the Chair, three Vice-Chairs and the Rapporteur), who will be elected on the basis of equitable geographical representation.

5. Following the elections, consultations among the heads of delegation will take place to determine which specific members of ECA will represent their respective subregions, and the composition of the incoming Bureau will be announced.

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



6. The newly elected Bureau members will be invited to assume their seats at the podium.

**(b) Adoption of the agenda and programme of work**

**Documentation**

Provisional agenda (ECA/RFSD/2026/1/Rev.1)

Annotated provisional agenda (ECA/RFSD/2026/2/Rev.1)

Draft programme of work (ECA/RFSD/2026/3/Rev.1)

7. The Forum will be invited to consider and adopt the agenda and the programme of work, subject to any amendments deemed necessary.

**3. High-level panel 1: Scaling up transformative and coordinated actions for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and Agenda 2063: The Africa We Want, of the African Union**

**Documentation**

Turning the tide: transformative and coordinated actions for the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063 – concept note (ECA/RFSD/2026/4)

Summary of the report on African progress towards achieving the goals of the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063 (ECA/RFSD/2026/10)

Information and guidelines for high-level panel 1 (ECA/RFSD/2026/INF/1)

8. This panel is expected to develop specific transformative actions to accelerate the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063, with a focus on the selected goals and strategic objectives of the second 10-year implementation plan (2024–2033) of Agenda 2063.<sup>1</sup> Through this prism, panellists will also highlight and discuss pertinent issues and actions arising from the fifty-eighth session of the Conference of African Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development, the 2026 Africa Business Forum and the 2026 Africa Development Impact Forum.

9. Presenters, panellists and discussants will include representatives of ECA, the African Union Commission, resident coordinator offices, ministries responsible for the selected Sustainable Development Goals, development partners, the private sector and civil society organizations. Given the importance of accurate data and statistics in evidence-based policymaking, representatives of the statistical community, including heads of statistical agencies, will also be members of the panel.

10. Panel discussions will be informed by a keynote address on transformative action and a presentation on the highlights of the summary of the 2026 report on African progress towards achieving the goals of the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063.

11. On the basis of selected questions posed by the moderator, the panellists will engage in an interactive discussion. Following the dialogue among the panellists, the moderator will invite members of the audience to pose follow-up questions and to make other relevant contributions from the floor.

12. The panel dialogue will conclude with the reflections of a designated resource person on the main messages from the panellists and the discussion.

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<sup>1</sup> African Union, *Decade of Accelerated Implementation: Second Ten-Year Implementation Plan, 2024–2033* (Addis Ababa, 2024).

**4. High-level panel 2: Unlocking finance for climate resilience and sustainable development in Africa: building on the outcomes of the Fourth International Conference on Financing for Development and the thirtieth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change**

**Documentation**

Turning the tide: transformative and coordinated actions for the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063 – concept note (ECA/RFSD/2026/4)

Information and guidelines for high-level panel 2 (ECA/RFSD/2026/INF/2)

13. This panel is expected to develop specific transformative actions to unlock financing for climate resilience and sustainable development in Africa.

14. Panellists are expected to include representatives of ministries, including ministries responsible for finance and climate resilience, presidents of regional banks, managers of pension funds, entities of the United Nations system, development partners, the private sector and young people. Given the importance of accurate data and statistics in evidence-based financing, representatives of the statistical community, including heads of statistical agencies, will also be members of the panel.

15. Panel discussions will be informed by a keynote address on the vision for the thirty-second session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and by the outcomes of the Fourth International Conference on Financing for Development and the thirtieth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.

16. The panel will also highlight and discuss pertinent issues and actions arising from the fifty-eighth session of the Conference of Ministers, the 2026 Africa Business Forum and the 2026 Africa Development Impact Forum.

17. On the basis of selected questions posed by the moderator, the panellists will engage in an interactive discussion. Following the dialogue among the panellists, the moderator will invite members of the audience to pose follow-up questions and to make other relevant contributions from the floor.

18. The panel dialogue will conclude with the reflections of a designated resource person on the main messages from the panellists and the discussion.

**5. High-level panel 3: Achieving full employment and decent work for all, poverty reduction and social protection in Africa: taking forward the outcomes of the Second World Summit for Social Development**

**Documentation**

Turning the tide: transformative and coordinated actions for the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063 – concept note (ECA/RFSD/2026/4)

Information and guidelines for high-level panel 3 (ECA/RFSD/2026/INF/3)

19. This panel is expected to develop specific transformative actions to drive full employment and decent work for all, poverty reduction and social protection in Africa.

20. The deliberations will be informed by the outcome of the Second World Summit for Social Development.

21. The panel will also highlight and discuss pertinent issues and actions arising from the fifty-eighth session of the Conference of Ministers, the 2026 Africa Business Forum and the 2026 Africa Development Impact Forum.

22. Panellists are expected to include representatives of ministries, including those responsible for economic and social affairs, the African Union Commission, United Nations entities, development partners, the private sector and young people. Given the importance of accurate data and statistics in evidence-based financing, representatives of the statistical community, including heads of statistical agencies, will also be members of the panel.

23. On the basis of selected questions posed by the moderator, the panellists will engage in an interactive discussion. Following the dialogue among the panellists, the moderator will invite members of the audience to pose follow-up questions and to make other relevant contributions from the floor.

24. The panel dialogue will conclude with the reflections of a designated resource person on the main messages from the panellists and the discussion.

## **6. 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**

### **Documentation**

Turning the tide: transformative and coordinated actions for the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063 – concept note (ECA/RFSD/2026/4)

Information and guidelines for high-level round-table panel 1 (ECA/RFSD/2026/INF/4)

25. This round-table panel is designed to facilitate peer-to-peer learning and to improve the quality of evidence-based voluntary national and local reviews. It will focus on utilizing these reviews as catalysts for transformative and coordinated actions to achieve the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063.

26. To achieve its objective, the panel is expected to highlight best practices in conducting evidence-based voluntary national and local reviews, and in using those reviews for the reform of national, sectoral and local implementation frameworks for the two agendas.

27. To this end, panellists will share their insights on specific actions taken to link voluntary national and local reviews with reforms of national and local development plans and financing frameworks.

28. In addition, the panel discussion will serve as an opportunity to highlight the outcomes of the preliminary event on voluntary national and local reviews.

29. The discussion will be led by a panel comprising selected policymakers and senior experts from the countries and locations that were involved in the voluntary national and local reviews conducted in previous years and in 2026, and from other countries in Africa that are leading the way in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063. The panel will also include representatives of United Nations entities, the African Union Commission, development partners, the statistical community, young people and the private sector.

30. On the basis of selected questions posed by the moderator, the panellists will engage in an interactive discussion. Following the dialogue among the panellists, the moderator will invite members of the audience to pose follow-up questions and to make other relevant contributions from the floor.

31. The panel dialogue will conclude with the reflections of a designated resource person on the main messages from the panellists and the discussion.

## **7. Plenary high-level round-table panel 2: Driving ambitious and integrated actions for the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063: leveraging the roles of the United Nations system, young people, the private sector, civil society and volunteers**

### **Documentation**

Turning the tide: transformative and coordinated actions for the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063 – concept note (ECA/RFSD/2026/4)

Information and guidelines for high-level round-table panel 2 (ECA/RFSD/2026/INF/5)

32. This round-table panel is designed to highlight the critical role of concrete transformative actions and aims to secure stronger engagement in their delivery. It will identify and develop the specific steps that are currently being taken in this direction, while recommending how United Nations entities, young people, the private sector, and civil society and voluntary organizations can expand and accelerate the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063.

33. The discussion will be led by a panel comprising selected policymakers and senior experts drawn from United Nations entities and from representatives of development partners, young people, the private sector, and civil society and voluntary organizations. The panel will also include representatives of the statistical community.

34. The panel and discussion will analyse issues and actions arising from the following preliminary events: a meeting of the Regional Collaborative Platform for Africa, a youth forum, a private sector forum, a capacity-building and preparatory meeting for major groups and other stakeholders, and a forum on voluntarism.

35. The panel dialogue will conclude with the reflections of a designated resource person on the main messages from the panellists and the discussion.

## **8. High-level parallel meetings to review in depth and showcase progress made and to facilitate peer-to-peer learning in connection with the sub-themes of the Forum**

### **Documentation**

Turning the tide: transformative and coordinated actions for the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063 – concept note (ECA/RFSD/2026/4)

Information and guidelines for the high-level parallel meetings on the sub-themes of the Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development (ECA/RFSD/2026/INF/6)

Background report on the sub-theme of clean water and sanitation: assuring sustainable water availability and safe sanitation systems to achieve the goals of the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063 (ECA/RFSD/2026/5)

Background report on the sub-theme of affordable and clean energy (ECA/RFSD/2026/6)

Background report on the sub-theme of industry, innovation and infrastructure (ECA/RFSD/2026/7)

Background report on the sub-theme of sustainable cities and communities (ECA/RFSD/2026/8)

Background report on the sub-theme of partnerships for the goals of the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063 (ECA/RFSD/2026/9)

- (a) **Clean water and sanitation: assuring sustainable water availability and safe sanitation systems to achieve the goals of the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063**
- (b) **Affordable and clean energy**
- (c) **Industry, innovation and infrastructure**
- (d) **Sustainable cities and communities**
- (e) **Partnerships for the goals of the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063**

36. Five meetings on the sub-themes of the Forum will be held in parallel. During the meetings, participants will undertake an in-depth review of progress made towards achieving the goals of the two agendas that correspond to the five sub-themes of the Forum. They will also showcase examples of best practices, strengthen learning and advocate the replication of transformative and coordinated policy solutions and actions to accelerate the realization of the two agendas.

37. The panellists in the parallel meetings will include representatives of ministries responsible for the specific goals, the African Union Commission, United Nations entities, development partners, the private sector, young people and civil society organizations.

38. Participants in the Forum may join any of the parallel meetings, which will be open to all those in attendance.

39. During each parallel meeting, panellists and participants will collaboratively identify, develop and agree on a set of key messages. These messages will be used to set out the ambitious and transformative actions needed. The messages will also contain the actions that should be scaled up to accelerate the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063.

40. In addition to the documents listed above, the parallel meetings will also be informed by the outcomes of the Sustainable Development Goal impact labs and an opening statement by the relevant Commissioner of the African Union Commission for each meeting.

41. During each parallel meeting, participants will designate a representative of the members of ECA to present the outcomes of the meeting, including the key messages.

(f) **Reports on the parallel meetings**

42. Under this sub-item, representatives of members of ECA will give five-minute presentations to the plenary on each of the parallel meetings, highlighting the conclusions and agreed set of key messages arising from their deliberations. Each presentation will be followed by a brief discussion, with a view to enriching and fine-tuning the proposed key messages.

**9. Plenary high-level round-table panel 3: Harnessing science, innovation and frontier technologies to scale up transformative and coordinated actions for the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063**

**Documentation**

Turning the tide: transformative and coordinated actions for the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063 – concept note (ECA/RFSD/2026/4)

43. This round-table panel will address the critical role of science, innovation and frontier technologies in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals and the goals of Agenda 2063.

44. In particular, the panel will identify specific transformative and coordinated actions to accelerate the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063.

45. In identifying the transformative actions, panellists will highlight and discuss pertinent issues and actions arising from the following events: the eighth African Science, Technology and Innovation Forum, the fifty-eighth session of the Conference of Ministers, the 2026 Africa Business Forum and the 2026 Africa Development Impact Forum.

46. The panel dialogue will conclude with the reflections of a designated resource person on the main messages from the panellists and the discussion highlighting specific, transformative and coordinated actions for the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063.

**10. Plenary high-level round-table panel 4: Sustaining the gains made in relation to the 2030 Agenda: African considerations on shaping the post-2030 United Nations framework for sustainable development**

**Documentation**

Turning the tide: transformative and coordinated actions for the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063 – concept note (ECA/RFSD/2026/4)

Information and guidelines for high-level round-table panel 4 (ECA/RFSD/2026/INF/9)

47. In the Pact for the Future, adopted at the Summit for the Future in 2024, the high-level political forum, under the auspices of the General Assembly, was invited to consider in September 2027 how to advance sustainable development by 2030 and beyond, as a priority and at the centre of the work of States Members of the United Nations.

48. This round-table panel is, therefore, expected to seek, highlight and discuss initial views, perspectives and priorities of Africa on the implementation of post-2030 sustainable development efforts.

49. The panellists are expected to include representatives of ministries, the African Union Commission, United Nations entities, development partners, the private sector, young people and civil society organizations.

50. The panel dialogue will conclude with the reflections of a designated resource person on the main messages concerning the priorities for post-2030 sustainable development from the panellists and the discussion.

## **11. Consideration and adoption of key messages and the declaration on the theme of the Forum**

### **Documentation**

Twelfth session of the Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development: summary and key messages (ECA/RFSD/2026/L.1)

Draft Addis Ababa declaration on turning the tide: transformative and coordinated actions for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and Agenda 2063: The Africa We Want, of the African Union (ECA/RFSD/2026/L.2)

51. For the consideration of participants in the twelfth session of the Forum, the Rapporteur of the Bureau will present the draft of the key messages of the Forum and the Addis Ababa declaration on turning the tide: transformative and coordinated actions for the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063.

52. The key messages and the declaration will represent the collective African input to the 2026 meeting of the high-level political forum on sustainable development and the 2026 United Nations Water Conference. The outcome documents of the twelfth session of the Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development will also inform the 2026 Africa Urban Forum and the thirteenth session of the World Urban Forum.

## **12. Theme, dates and venue of the thirteenth session of the Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development**

53. The secretariat will present proposals on the theme, dates and venue of the thirteenth session of the Forum for consideration by the participants. The theme will be aligned with that of the 2027 meeting of the high-level political forum on sustainable development: “Scaling up just transitions to achieving sustainable development, poverty eradication and the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda and its Sustainable Development Goals”. Accordingly, pursuant to General Assembly resolution 78/285, the Forum will, at its thirteenth session, focus on Goals 4, 10, 12, 15 and 17.

## **13. Other matters**

54. The Forum may wish to consider any other matters that are brought to its attention.

## **14. Closing of the session**

55. The Chair of the Bureau of the twelfth session of the Forum will summarize the main outcomes of the deliberations. Closing remarks will follow, given by the Deputy Executive Secretary (Programme) and Chief Economist of ECA and the Resident Coordinator for Ethiopia. The Chair will then conclude the proceedings and declare the twelfth session closed.