



## Economic Commission for Africa

United Nations Conference Centre in Addis Ababa | Conference Room 2\*  
11 and 12 June 2026

**WEDNESDAY, 10 JUNE**

Registration

**THURSDAY, 11 JUNE**

8–8.45 a.m.	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Arrival</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Coffee break, speed networking, and engagement with enterprises and think tanks</p>
8.45–9.30 a.m.	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Opening of the Forum</b></p> <p><b>Master of Ceremonies:</b> Economic Affairs Officer, Sustainable Development and Integrated Planning Section, Macroeconomics, Finance, Governance and Planning Division, Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), Oyebanke Abejirin</p> <p><b>Speakers:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Secretary-General, Pan-African Youth Union, Wiisichong Bening Ahmed</li> <li>• Head of Youth Employment and Skills, African Centre for Economic Transformation, Mona Iddrisu</li> <li>• Executive President, Policy Center for the New South, Karim El Aynaoui (online)</li> <li>• Commissioner for Economic Development, Trade, Tourism, Industry and Minerals, African Union Commission, Francisca Tatchouop Belobe (online)</li> <li>• Executive Secretary of ECA, Claver Gatete</li> <li>• Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations, Amina Mohammed (video recording)</li> </ul>
9.30–10.30 a.m.	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Youth dialogue on the global financial architecture</b></p> <p><b>Master of Ceremonies:</b> Economic Affairs Officer, Sustainable Development and Integrated Planning Section, Macroeconomics, Finance, Governance and Planning Division, Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), Oyebanke Abejirin</p> <p><b>Setting the scene:</b> Presentation on the global finance architecture by the Deputy Executive Secretary (Programme) and Chief Economist of ECA, Hanan Morsy</p>

\* All sessions will be held in Conference Room 2 unless stated otherwise.



A.26-00470 (E)

	<p><b>Moderator:</b> Vice President, Pan-African Youth Union, Pamela Audrey Derom</p> <p><b>Interactive discussion with members of the Young Economists Network:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Majorie Jennifer Kayodé Mongbo (Benin), Cheikh Anta Diop University (Senegal)</li> <li>• Agathe Koumis Ngagni, University of Douala (Cameroon)</li> <li>• Estelle Désirée Monessone, University of Ngaoundéré (Cameroon)</li> <li>• Akissi Irénée Kouassi Kadi, Félix Houphouët-Boigny University (Côte d’Ivoire)</li> <li>• Deborah Umba, Protestant University in the Congo (Democratic Republic of the Congo)</li> <li>• Tefera Taw, University of Gondar (Ethiopia)</li> <li>• Mengesha Yayo, Addis Ababa University (Ethiopia)</li> <li>• Evans Kirui, Kenyatta University (Kenya)</li> <li>• Abdou Fall, Cheikh Anta Diop University (Senegal)</li> <li>• Hafsia Leghrissi, National Agronomic Institute of Tunisia (Tunisia)</li> </ul>
<b>10.30–11 a.m.</b>	<b>Opening of the knowledge fair, group photo and coffee break (Exhibition Concourse)</b>
<b>11 a.m.–12.30 p.m.</b>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Policy and strategy hackathon</b></p> <p><b>Master of Ceremonies:</b> Economic Affairs Officer, Sustainable Development and Integrated Planning Section, Macroeconomics, Finance, Governance and Planning Division, Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), Oyebanke Abejirin</p> <p><b>Moderator:</b> Head of Youth Employment and Skills, African Centre for Economic Transformation, Mona Iddrisu</p> <p><b>Judges:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Director of the Strategic Planning, Oversight and Results Division, ECA, Said Adejumobi</li> <li>• Joint Managing Director and Partner, Pemandu Associates, Aida Azmi</li> <li>• Director, Regional Service Centre for Africa, United Nations Development Programme, Matthias Naab</li> <li>• Special Representative to the African Union and ECA, United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women, Doris Mpoumou</li> <li>• Economist, Regional Office for Africa, International Labour Organization, Andrew Allieu</li> <li>• Representative to Ethiopia and Director, Liaison Office to the African Union and ECA, United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, Rita Bissoonauth</li> </ul>

	<p><b>Contestants:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sadiki Rwema, Africa Works (Rwanda)</li> <li>• Kreshan Sooklall, integrated industrial ecosystem model (Ethiopia)</li> <li>• Solomon Boakye, Credify (Ghana)</li> <li>• Christian Njilou Ntieche, IT KOLA (Cameroon)</li> <li>• Luc Nebnoma Ouedraogo, green and inclusive employment creation (Burkina Faso)</li> <li>• Evah Nyambura Muthoni, Kenyan solar energy workforce and climate resilience (Kenya)</li> <li>• Nandi Mkwanazi, agribusiness trade corridor pilot (South Africa)</li> <li>• Tomfei Simliwa, integrated agro-industrial ecosystems (Togo)</li> <li>• Mardochée Ahadi Ntamusimwa, decentralized productive transformation framework (Democratic Republic of the Congo)</li> </ul>
12.30–1.30 p.m.	<b>Lunch</b>
	<b>Afternoon sessions</b>
1.30–2.45 p.m.	<p><b>Session A: Thematic solution session on promoting high-growth youth entrepreneurship</b></p> <p><b>Master of Ceremonies:</b> Economic Affairs Officer, Sustainable Development and Integrated Planning Section, Macroeconomics, Finance, Governance and Planning Division, Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), Oyebanke Abejirin</p> <p><b>Moderator:</b> Director of the Socioeconomic Development Division, ECA, Zuzana Schwidrowski</p> <p><b>Keynote speaker:</b> Minister of Women and Social Affairs of Ethiopia, Ergogie Tesfaye</p> <p><b>Panellists:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Founder and Managing Director of Lersha, Abrhame Endrias Buttais</li> <li>• Representative, Ministry of Innovation and Technology of Ethiopia, Selamyhun Adefris Haile</li> <li>• Manager of Corporate Strategy, African Export-Import Bank, Thierry Kangoye (online)</li> <li>• Chief Financial Economist and Coordinator, Enable Youth Programme, African Development Bank, Edson Mpyisi (online)</li> <li>• Founder and President, Ethiopian Youth Entrepreneurs Association, Samiya Godu</li> <li>• Co-founder and Chief Executive Officer, Arai Consultancy, Raysso Ismail</li> <li>• Economic Affairs Officer, Social Policy Section, Socioeconomic Development Division, ECA, Jane Muthumbi</li> </ul>
2.45–4 p.m.	<p><b>Session B: Thematic solution session on artificial intelligence and jobs in Africa: opportunity or disruption?</b></p> <p><b>Master of Ceremonies:</b> Economic Affairs Officer, Sustainable Development and Integrated Planning Section, Macroeconomics, Finance, Governance and Planning Division, Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), Oyebanke Abejirin</p>

	<p><b>Moderator:</b> Director of the Technology, Innovation, Connectivity and Infrastructure Division, ECA, Robert Lisinge</p> <p><b>Panellists:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Co-founder and General Partner, DFS Lab, Jake Kendall</li> <li>• Adviser to the Minister of Posts, Telecommunications and the Digital Economy of the Congo, and Coordinator of the African Centre for Research in Artificial Intelligence, Eric Armel N'Doumba</li> <li>• Founder of Mizizi Africa, Mwendu Mugambi</li> <li>• Data Policy Adviser, Office to the African Union, German Agency for International Cooperation, Abraham Kuuku Sam</li> <li>• Policy and Impact Coordinator, “Future of Development Programme, Oxford Martin School, Tamiwe Kayuni</li> <li>• G20 Policy Officer, Department of Economic Development, Trade, Tourism, Industry and Minerals, African Union Commission, Camilla Talam</li> </ul>
<p><b>4–5.15 p.m.</b></p>	<p><b>Session C: Thematic solution session on unlocking regional value chains within the African Continental Free Trade Area to empower youth-led enterprises in Africa</b></p> <p><b>Master of Ceremonies:</b> Economic Affairs Officer, Sustainable Development and Integrated Planning Section, Macroeconomics, Finance, Governance and Planning Division, Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), Oyebanke Abejirin</p> <p><b>Moderator:</b> Acting Director of the Regional Integration and Trade Division, ECA. Melaku Desta</p> <p><b>Panellists:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Founder, Wingy General Dealers, Tasha Chitika</li> <li>• Chief Executive Officer, Thumeza, Gugulethu Siso</li> <li>• Founder and Chief Executive Officer, Kabana Design, Semhal Guesh Berhe</li> <li>• President, African Women in Business, Shiphra Chisha</li> <li>• Business Development Manager, AeTrade Group, Fetene Aragaw</li> <li>• Economist, Regional Office for Africa, International Labour Organization, Andrew Allieu</li> <li>• Policy and Programme Officer for Trade and Economic Integration, Delegation of the European Commission to the African Union and ECA, Emmanuel Soubiran</li> </ul>
<p><b>5.15–5.30 p.m.</b></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Coffee break</b></p>
<p><b>5.30–6 p.m.</b></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Impact Talk: Explaining the Pact for the Future to young people</b></p> <p><b>Chair:</b> Partnership &amp; Resources Director, PAN-AFRICAN YOUTH UNION (PYU), Kaoutar MOUDAR</p>

	<b>Speaker:</b> Regional Communications and Advocacy Officer for Africa, United Nations, Marline Emmely Bos
<b>6–8 p.m.</b>	<b>Cocktail and networking (Banquet Hall)</b>
<b>FRIDAY, 12 JUNE</b>	
<b>8–8.30 a.m.</b>	<b>Arrival, and visit to the knowledge fair</b> Coffee break, speed networking, and engagement with enterprises and think tanks
	<b>Morning sessions</b>
<b>8.30–9.45 a.m.</b>	<p><b>Session D: Thematic solution session on skills development, education and work preparedness in Africa</b></p> <p><b>Master of Ceremonies:</b> Economic Affairs Officer, Sustainable Development and Integrated Planning Section, Macroeconomics, Finance, Governance and Planning Division, Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), Oyebanke Abejirin</p> <p><b>Moderator:</b> Co-founder and Chief Executive Officer, Arai Consultancy, Raysso Ismail</p> <p><b>Panellists:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Head of Youth Employment and Skills, African Centre for Economic Transformation, Mona Iddrisu</li> <li>• Adviser, Ministry of Women and Social Affairs of Ethiopia, Debebe Barud</li> <li>• Chief Executive Officer of iCUBEFARM, Yolanda Asumu</li> <li>• Technical and vocational education and training beneficiary, Carolyn Kuubetersuur</li> <li>• Senior Education Economist, African Development Bank, Aggrey Ndombi</li> <li>• Manager, Education and Skills Development Division, African Development Bank, Hendrina Doroba (online);</li> <li>• Representative, Ministry of Urban and Infrastructure of Ethiopia, Yared Teshome</li> </ul>
<b>9.45–11 a.m.</b>	<p><b>Session E: Thematic solution session on green industrialization and critical minerals</b></p> <p><b>Master of Ceremonies:</b> Economic Affairs Officer, Sustainable Development and Integrated Planning Section, Macroeconomics, Finance, Governance and Planning Division, Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), Oyebanke Abejirin</p> <p><b>Moderator:</b> Economic Affairs Officer, Natural Resources and Food Systems Section, Climate, Food Security and Natural Resources Division, ECA, Marit Kitaw</p> <p><b>Panellists:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Co-founder of Growth Teams, Chema Triki</li> <li>• Chief Executive Office and Technical Director at Integrated Geoscience Solutions, David Khoza</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Founder of Granvile Energy, Tabi Tabi</li> <li>• Founder and Managing Director of Afrivolt, Deshan Naidoo</li> </ul>
<b>11–11.15 a.m.</b>	<b>Coffee break</b>
<b>11.15 a.m.–12.30 p.m.</b>	<p><b>Session F: Thematic solution session on industries of the future: transformative and labour-intensive sectors</b></p> <p><b>Master of Ceremonies:</b> Economic Affairs Officer, Sustainable Development and Integrated Planning Section, Macroeconomics, Finance, Governance and Planning Division, Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), Oyebanke Abejirin</p> <p><b>Moderator:</b> Non-resident Senior Fellow in Global Economy and Development, Africa Growth Initiative, Brookings Institution, Ahmadou Aly Mbaye</p> <p><b>Panellists:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Economist, Regional Office for Africa, International Labour Organization, Andrew Allieu</li> <li>• Former Senior Special Adviser on Industrialization to the President of the African Development Bank, Banji Oyelaran-Oyeyinka</li> <li>• Founder of AthenaFundX, Angie Madara (online)</li> <li>• Chief, Regional Integration and Economic Diversification Section, Regional Integration and Trade Division, ECA, Laura Páez Heredia</li> </ul>
<b>12.30–1.30 p.m.</b>	<p><b>Simulation Roundtable</b></p> <p><b>Master of Ceremonies:</b> Economic Affairs Officer, Sustainable Development and Integrated Planning Section, Macroeconomics, Finance, Governance and Planning Division, Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), Oyebanke Abejirin</p> <p><b>Moderator:</b> Director of the African Institute for Economic Development and Planning, ECA, Karima Bounemra</p> <p><b>Panellists:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Adviser to the Minister of Posts, Telecommunications and the Digital Economy of the Congo, and Coordinator of the African Centre for Research in Artificial Intelligence, Eric Armel N'Doumba</li> <li>• Co-founder of Growth Teams, Chema Triki</li> <li>• Joint Managing Director and Partner, Pemandu Associates, Aida Azmi</li> <li>• Former Senior Special Adviser on Industrialization to the President of the African Development Bank, Banji Oyelaran-Oyeyinka</li> </ul>
<b>1.30–2.30 p.m.</b>	<p><b>Impact Talk: Creative industries – fashion in Africa</b></p> <p><b>Chair:</b> Director of the African Institute for Economic Development and Planning, ECA, Karima Bounemra</p>

	<b>Speaker:</b> Fashion designer and Goodwill Ambassador, United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, Alphadi
<b>2.30–3.15 p.m.</b>	<b>Lunch</b>
<b>3.15–4.30 p.m.</b>	<p><b>Session G: Thematic solution session on the creative industry and job creation</b></p> <p><b>Master of Ceremonies:</b> Economic Affairs Officer, Sustainable Development and Integrated Planning Section, Macroeconomics, Finance, Governance and Planning Division, Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), Oyebanke Abejirin</p> <p><b>Moderators:</b> Director of the Subregional Office for Eastern Africa, ECA, Andrew Mold Chief of the Communications and Media Relations Section, Mercy Wambui</p> <p><b>Panellists:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Music entrepreneur and founding member of <i>Sauti Sol</i>, Polycarp Otieno</li> <li>• Rwandan singer, Bolingo Paccy</li> <li>• Founder and Chief Executive Officer of Ikojn, Christine Njoki</li> <li>• Founder and Chief Executive Officer of Twaweza Communications, Kimani Njogu</li> <li>• Chief, Trade and Creative Economy Section, United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, Marisa Henderson (online)</li> </ul>
<b>4.30–5 p.m.</b>	<p><b>From conversations to commitments: wrap-up and implementation clock launch</b></p> <p>Deputy Executive Secretary (Programme Support) of ECA, Mama Keita</p>
<b>5–5.30 p.m.</b>	<p><b>Closing remarks</b></p> <p>Executive Secretary of ECA, Claver Gatete</p>