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Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development

Fourth session

Dakar, 2–4 May 2018

Item 2 of the provisional agenda*

High-level panel on innovations, solutions and opportunities

to achieve the transformation towards sustainable and resilient societies in Africa

Theme: Transformation towards sustainable and resilient societies

Concept note

I. Background

1. Across the globe, the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which forms the global development framework around 17 Sustainable Development Goals, began in January 2016. In Africa, the 2030 Agenda is being implemented concurrently and in an integrated manner with the First 10-year Implementation Plan of Agenda 2063, a 50-year strategic framework for socioeconomic transformation in Africa, which is aimed at accelerating the implementation initiatives for growth and sustainable development. The 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063 are mutually reinforcing and together are focusing attention on and framing efforts at national, subregional and national levels in pursuit of inclusive and sustainable structural transformation and sustainable development in Africa.

2. The review of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda is at global, regional, subregional and national levels, while the Agenda 2063 is being reviewed at national, subregional and regional levels. The follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda is the mandate of the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development, which was established by the General Assembly in its resolution 67/290.¹ The Forum provides political leadership, guidance and recommendations for the follow-up and review of progress in the implementation of sustainable development commitments, and is expected to enhance the integration of the three dimensions of sustainable development: economic, social and environmental, in a holistic and cross-sectoral manner at all levels. Through its resolution 70/1,² the General Assembly reiterated that the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development, under the auspices of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council, would have the central role of overseeing the follow-up and review of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda at the global level. As part of its mandate, the Forum facilitates global sharing of experiences, including successes, challenges and lessons

* ECA/RFSD/2018/1

¹ Resolution on the format and organizational aspects of the high-level political forum on sustainable development.

² Resolution entitled “Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”.

learned. It meets annually under the auspices of the Economic and Social Council for eight days, in a session that includes a three-day ministerial segment, and every four years at the level of Heads of State and Government under the auspices of the General Assembly, for two days. To date, four sessions of the Forum have been held since its inaugural meeting, which took place on 24 September 2013.

3. Another crucial dimension of the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development follow-up and review process of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda is the regional forums for sustainable development, which are convened annually by the five regional commissions, and the voluntary national reviews. The regional forums serve as an important mechanism, not only for tracking progress in implementation at the regional level, but also for keeping all the stakeholders mobilized and engaged to strengthen their commitment to concerted action, and to garner international support for efforts to translate the Sustainable Development Goals into measurable and shared prosperity that benefits the planet and its people. In line with the primacy of member States in implementing the 2030 Agenda, the annual voluntary national reviews are vital and integral tools that inform the work of the Forum during its sessions under the auspices of Economic and Social Council. The voluntary national reviews facilitate the sharing of experiences, successes, challenges and lessons learned; promote the strengthening of policies and institutional frameworks; and help in marshalling multi-stakeholder support and partnerships to accelerate the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

4. The General Assembly decided in its resolution 70/299 the themes and the sets of the Sustainable Development Goals to be reviewed by the sessions of the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development convened under the auspices of Economic and Social Council during 2018 and 2019 (table). In the resolution, it was decided that the Forum “without prejudice to the integrated, indivisible and interlinked nature of the Sustainable Development Goals, shall discuss a set of goals and their interlinkages, including, if appropriate, with other goals, at each session representing the three dimensions of sustainable development, with a view to facilitating an in-depth review of progress made on all goals over the course of a four-year cycle, with means of implementation, including with respect to Goal 17, reviewed annually”.

Table

High-Level Political Forum themes and focus on the Sustainable Development Goals up to 2019

<i>Year</i>	<i>Theme</i>	<i>Focus Sustainable Development Goals</i>
2018	“Transformation towards sustainable and resilient societies”	Goal 6: Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all Goal 7: Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all Goal 11: Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable Goal 12: Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns Goal 15: Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss
2019	“Empowering people and ensuring inclusiveness and equality”	Goal 4: Ensure inclusive and quality education and promote lifelong learning for all Goal 8: Promote inclusive and sustainable economic growth, employment and decent work for all Goal 10: Reduce inequality within and among countries Goal 13: Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts Goal 16: Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels

5. The 2018 Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development will be held under the 2018 High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development theme: “Transformation towards sustainable and resilient societies”. Sustained, inclusive economic growth is possible with appropriate policies implemented to create and share wealth and address inequalities. The theme is timely as Africa aims to redouble its effort to translate rapid economic growth into sustained and inclusive development, through such interventions as putting in place development strategies that foster economic diversification and job creation and help to reduce inequality and boost access to basic services.³ For Africa, strengthening productive capacities for inclusive growth requires a careful balance between economic diversification in order to achieve substantial and broad-based economic development, and human well-being and environmental stewardship and management of natural resources.⁴

II. The Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development

6. The Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development follows up on and reviews the implementation of the 2030 Agenda in Africa, and provides inputs to the annual sessions of High-Level Political Forum. The Regional Forums are strategically placed to link the national and global discourse and serve as multi-stakeholder platforms to promote the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. Those Forums were set up following the General Assembly resolutions 67/290, 70/1 and 70/299 in which it acknowledged the importance of the regional dimensions of sustainable development; invited the regional commissions to contribute to the work of the High-Level Political Forum, including through annual regional meetings; and encouraged member States to identify the most suitable regional forum, as a further means to contribute to the follow-up and review at the High-level Political Forum.

7. The Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development was established in pursuant to the above resolutions. It is operating according to resolutions 930 (XLVIII) and 939 (XLIX) of the Joint Annual Meetings of the African Union Specialized Technical Committee on Finance, Monetary Affairs, Economic Planning and Integration and the Economic Commission for Africa Conference of African Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development, held in 2015 and 2016. In resolution 939 (XLIX), the Conference of Ministers, requested the Economic Commission for Africa, in collaboration with the African Union Commission, the African Development Bank (AfDB) and other partners, to convene on an annual basis the Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development for follow-up to and review of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development, Agenda 2063 and the 2030 Agenda.

A. Organization and focus of the 2018 Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development

8. The Economic Commission for Africa jointly with the African Union Commission and AfDB and in collaboration with other United Nations agencies are organizing the 2018 Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development in preparation for the 2018 High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development. The Regional Forum will be organized under the theme of the

³ Economic Commission for Africa, African Union Commission and African Development Bank, *Africa Regional Report on the Sustainable Development Goals* (Addis Ababa, ECA, 2015).

⁴ See TD/B/594, available at http://unctad.org/meetings/en/SessionalDocuments/tdb59d4_en.pdf.

2018 High-level Political Forum, “Transformation towards sustainable and resilient societies”.

9. The theme and focus Sustainable Development Goals of the High-level Political Forum in 2018, as shown in the table, are of great relevance to Africa. As outlined below, the selected Goals correspond with the region’s persistent challenges and, thus, progress towards achieving them would underpin and drive success of Africa in realizing a sustainable economic structural transformation and sustainable development. In that respect, it is no coincidence that the selected Sustainable Development Goals also match the priority areas of Africa, which have received heightened policy focus and are in the forefront of strategic planning and programming at national and regional levels.

Goal 6: Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all

10. The high level of poverty in Africa is of great and urgent concern. A large proportion of the population lacks access to clean water and sanitation. Clean water and sanitation are vital for human health, social dignity, healthy ecosystems and productive livelihoods. Lack of clean water, poor sanitation and hygiene are leading causes of child mortality; more than 2,000 children die daily from diarrhoeal diseases.⁵ Globally, about 2.4 billion people do not use improved sanitation, and 663 million do not have access to improved water sources.⁶ Africa accounts for slightly more than 40 per cent of the people without access to safe drinking water. Regarding sanitation, there are stark disparities between urban and rural areas, and among countries. The population without sanitation access live primarily in Asia (more than 1 billion people), and in Africa (close to 700 million people).⁷

11. The region has a massive infrastructure gap, estimated at more than \$100 billion annually. This concerns electricity, water, transport and information and communications technology, the poor state of which slows the region’s economic growth by two percentage points annually and reduces productivity by as much as 40 per cent. To achieve the Sustainable Development Goals and particularly those related to infrastructure (Goals 6,7, 11 and 12), transformational actions that redirect investment flows within and across sectors must be taken. Unfortunately, to date, the rural-urban gap and divide on water and sanitation provision in Africa is still prevalent amid rapid urbanization. This is a reflection of the still centralized and monocentric development strategies being implemented. As the economies of Africa expand, rising demand for public goods and services is inevitable. Failure to provide the necessary supply of public goods and services, such as improved water and sanitation, will also undermine progress in achieving other Sustainable Development Goals.

12. Investing in infrastructure, including through redirecting public investment is essential to provide clean water, energy for all, expand sustainable cities, strengthen market infrastructure and market-based mechanisms, and boost market access to facilitate export-led growth for value-added products. A transformed economy would also need infrastructure for innovation and technology development, which includes both hard and soft science, innovation and technology infrastructure. As noted in General Assembly resolution 70/1, African countries also need to “build dynamic, sustainable, innovative and people-centred economies, promoting youth employment and women’s economic empowerment, in particular, and decent work for all”. Improved human well-being and social equity are inevitable outcomes of this process, particularly when emphasis is placed on improving human welfare, and creating

⁵ United Nations Children’s Fund, “Children dying daily because of unsafe water supplies and poor sanitation, UNICEF says, 22 March 2013. Available at https://www.unicef.org/media/media_68359.html.

⁶ See <https://www.unicef.org/wash/>.

⁷ See www.who.int/water_sanitation_health/monitoring/jmp-2015-key-facts/en/.

employment opportunities for all, and intensifying the investments that build productive capacities, including human capital and skills.

Goal 7: Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all

13. Despite its considerable renewable energy potential and diverse sources of energy, the region is energy insecure. More than 75 per cent of the African population is without electricity and 81 per cent depend on solid traditional biomass fuels for cooking. Only about 25 per cent of the population in Africa other than in North Africa has access to electricity, versus about 50 per cent in South Asia and more than 80 per cent in Latin America, the Middle East and North Africa.⁸ The unmet demand for energy has further resulted in high dependence on unsustainably harvested traditional biomass energy in the form of charcoal and firewood as cooking fuels, with associated environmental and health problems. Low energy supplies to key sectors of the economy, such as agriculture and industry, is also affecting outputs and growth. Africa will need to add 250GW of installed capacity by 2030, a 150 per cent increase from current capacity, to meet its growing demand.⁹

14. Africa accounts for 5.7 per cent of the world's energy consumption, the lowest in the world, even though it has an extensive technical potential for renewable energy power generation, with its vast solar, biomass, and wind resources. The continent's hydropower and geothermal power remain almost untapped with a mere 7 per cent of the hydropower and 0.6 per cent of the geothermal energy potential being exploited. Accordingly, the main concern of Africa is to extend access to sustainable energy, taking into account the opportunities offered by the large energy potential of its own resource endowments in terms of growth, social and economic development and improved quality of life.

Goal 11: Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable

15. The region is urbanizing rapidly, amid a demographic shift. Although this is viewed as being positive in terms of increased potential for economic growth, the rate and scale of urbanization is reshaping not only the demographic profile but also economic, environmental and social outcomes of the continent. By 2035, about 50 per cent of the population of Africa will be living in urban areas, presenting considerable demands for employment, services and infrastructure, including for the supply of water, energy, housing, road and rail transport.¹⁰ A demographic shift predicated on a population boom is a key challenge, as it is projected that by 2050, the population of Africa will reach two billion of which more than one sixth of it will be the working age population. Africa will also continue to experience high rates of population growth, most of which is expected to be led by the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ethiopia, Nigeria, Uganda and the United Republic of Tanzania. Between 2017 and 2050, the populations of 26 African countries are projected to expand to at least double their current size.¹¹ Among developing regions, Africa (excluding North Africa) is estimated to have the highest prevalence of urban slum dwellers, which is expected to double to about 400 million by 2020¹².

⁸ Economic Commission for Africa, African Union Commission and African Development Bank, *Africa Regional Report on the Sustainable Development Goals* (Addis Ababa, ECA, 2015).

⁹ International Renewable Energy Agency, *Prospects for the African Power Sector: Scenarios and Strategies for Africa Project* (Abu Dhabi, IRENA, 2012).

¹⁰ Economic Commission for Africa, African Union Commission and African Development Bank, *Africa Regional Report on the Sustainable Development Goals* (Addis Ababa, ECA, 2015).

¹¹ United Nations, *Department of Economic and Social Affairs, World Population Prospects; The 2017 Revision*.

¹² See <http://www.un.org/waterforlifedecade/africa.shtml>.

16. With already fragile economic bases and institutional systems, and capacities, rapid urbanization and infrastructure gaps render African countries incapable of sustaining economic growth on account of weak linkages, high levels of informality, increasing inequalities, growing environmental damage and vulnerability to climate change. Unless resolved, those impediments will undermine the continents' ability to tap the urban potential to meet the Sustainable Development Goals targets. The urbanization trend has the potential to catalyse economic resurgence if combined with industrialization and infrastructure development policies that are responsive to structural economic weaknesses, and in line with most of the related Sustainable Development Goals targets. For example, given its low industrial base, Africa has the opportunity to advance green industrialization by leapfrogging green technologies as part of an industrial development strategy that responds to sustainable development challenges, including climate change. However, policymakers need to provide the necessary enablers through better intersectoral linkages and agglomerations, while at the same time barriers, such as dysfunctional municipal and land administration systems and infrastructure and financing deficits, must be dealt with. It is also critical to note that urbanization is not merely rural-to-urban migration; it also implies the creation or emergence of new cities. Those new annexes or expansions of the urban space would benefit from a spatial planning process that corresponds to a "one-map-policy".

Goal 12: Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns

17. As the middle class in Africa and urban consumption is increasing, and as patterns of consumption are changing, demand for manufactured and processed goods are also rising, presenting a major opportunity for industrialization, but a challenge for sustainable consumption and production. It is for that reason that sustainable consumption and production must be at the centre of the economic and demographic transformation, with the focus being on more efficient, better informed and less resource-intensive consumption and production. This transformation must also foster job creation and equitable growth and development to meet basic needs and improve the quality of life of the continent's increasing population.

18. At the same time, as production and consumption in one country can have a negative impact on other countries, policies are needed to ensure that cross-border exchanges do not undermine the continent's efforts to attain sustainable growth. One example would be policies to avoid the dumping of waste or polluting products resulting from international trade. Greening the industrial sector through investment in resource-efficient and cleaner production technologies could also contribute to efforts to achieve other Sustainable Development Goals, such as sustainable cities and communities (Goal 11), conservation of natural resources (such as water (Goal 6) and energy (Goal 7)), control of environmental pollution through reduced chemical consumption, and improved environmental compliance, which further help to improve occupational health and safety (Goal 3), and create more jobs (Goal 8).

Goal 15: Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss

19. African countries need to intensify efforts aimed at realizing the forest cover target through sustainable forest and land use management, as part of inclusive green growth initiatives. Investment in sustainable forest management in natural forests has multiple benefits for production, the economy and ecology, and sociocultural aspects in different areas, such as the community, watershed or landscape, and at national and global levels. Land degradation is a barrier to sustainable development. About 40 per cent of the world's degraded land occurs in areas with the highest incidence of poverty. About 795 million

people are estimated to be chronically undernourished, often as a direct consequence of land degradation, declining soil fertility, unsustainable water use, drought and loss of biodiversity.

20. The sustainable management and the restoration of terrestrial resources are vital to enhance agricultural productivity, especially for small-scale food producers. It ensures sustainable food production, resilient agricultural practices and the efficient use of natural resources thereby contributing to human well-being.¹³ Incidentally, over the years, there has been an observed divergence between the rural population share (relatively high as in most countries, it exceeds 50 per cent) and the agricultural value-added share of GDP (declining to below 30 per cent). This implies that a relatively large proportion of the total population (rural dwellers) is sharing a smaller proportion of national income. Those population groups rely on land-based ecosystems for their survival, hence the need to critically assess the role of land in tackling the challenge of poverty and inequality.

B. Objective and sub-themes of the 2018 Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development

Objective

21. The overall objective of the 2018 Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development is to conduct a regional follow-up and review of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063 and facilitate learning, including sharing experiences and lessons learned to advance their implementation.

22. With a particular focus on the selected Sustainable Development Goals for the 2018 High-level Political Forum and the corresponding goals of the First 10-year Implementation Plan of Agenda 2063, the specific objectives of the Regional Forum are to:

- (a) Carry out a regional follow-up to and review of the implementation of the two agendas and address challenges and opportunities associated with the implementation;
- (b) Provide a platform for peer learning and sharing experiences, good practices and lessons learned to accelerate implementation of the two agendas;
- (c) Deliberate and agree on the priorities and recommendations of Africa in the form of key messages as the region's collective input to the 2018 High-level Political Forum session.

Sub-themes

23. The activities of the Regional Forum will be conducted based on the following sub-themes, which have been crafted around the focus Sustainable Development Goals for the 2018 High-level Political Forum:

- (a) Clean water and sanitation;
- (b) Affordable and clean energy;
- (c) Sustainable cities and communities;
- (d) Responsible consumption and production;
- (e) Life on land.

24. Among the critical issues for discussion under each sub-theme are major trends and progress in implementation, including early results and promising

¹³ United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, *A Natural Fix: A Joined-up Approach to Delivering the Global Goals for Sustainable Development* (Bonn, Germany, UNCCD, 2016, pp. 4-5).

approaches and practices that could be scaled up and out scaled to achieve set targets; emerging issues, challenges and opportunities to enhance implementation; delivering on the means of implementation; the role and status of data and statistics to track progress and to inform necessary policies and other measures to advance implementation; and strategic policy recommendations and measures to accelerate the implementation and achieve the goal and set targets.

C. Format of the Regional Forum

25. The Forum will comprise pre-Forum meetings and main sessions as follows:

1. Pre-Forum meetings and events

26. As the Regional Forum is an open space for exchange of cutting edge ideas, experiences and lessons learned in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063, it will be preceded by the pre-events organized for various stakeholders whose outcomes will feed into the deliberations during the Forum.

2. Main session of the Regional Forum

27. The meeting will comprise the following main session:

(a) Opening of the Forum: The Chair of the 2017 Africa Regional Forum for Sustainable Development will deliver short remarks and preside over the opening of the event. The Executive Secretary of ECA will deliver the welcome statement on behalf of the United Nations family, followed by statements from high-level representatives of AfDB and the African Union Commission. An Official of the host country will officially open the 2018 Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development.

(b) High-level panel on the theme “Challenges and opportunities in transforming towards sustainable and resilient societies”: This session will feature interactive discussions by a high-level panel comprised of ministers and other senior dignitaries. Among the panellists will be ministers of the 2017 and 2018 High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development voluntary national review countries. The representation will take into account sectors related to the focus goals for the 2018 High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development and meeting sub-themes.

(c) Overview of the progress report on the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063: This session will include a presentation of the report of ECA and the African Union Commission. With emphasis on 2018 High-level Political Forum focused Sustainable Development Goals and related agenda 2063 goals, the presentation will include a snapshot of progress in implementing the two agendas, existing and emerging challenges and policy recommendations to increase the pace, scale and the quality of outcomes. During this session, highlights will also be provided on the support extended by ECA and the African Union Commission to the implementation of the two Agendas.

(d) Round-table panel on learning and experience sharing: The panel will comprise selected senior experts and policymakers from the 2017 and 2018 High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development voluntary national review countries that are front-runners in implementing Agenda 2063, major groups and representatives of the donor community. The panellists will share their perspectives, experiences, lessons learned and highlight actions to enhance implementation of the two agendas. Outcomes of the various pre-forum meetings will be highlighted during the panel.

(e) Parallel panel sessions on the sub-themes of the Forum: Under this session, there will be six parallel panel sessions based on the sub-themes of the

Regional Forum. Panel members shall include: country representatives, major groups, the African Union Commission, AfDB, ECA and other United Nations organizations according to their areas of interest and comparative advantage. The parallel sessions will review in detail the implementation progress on each sub-theme, and agree on key messages on the respective sub-themes to be presented to the plenary.

(f) Report back to plenary from the breakout groups: The parallel panel sessions will report back to the plenary. The presentations will highlight the key messages from the respective panel sessions.

(g) Consideration and adoption of key messages: During this session, the Regional Forum will consider, refine and adopt the key messages to be submitted to the 2018 High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development as the regional inputs of Africa.

D. Expected outputs

28. The meeting will generate the following outputs, which will be disseminated widely:

(a) The agreed collective inputs of Africa to the 2018 High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development, including policy options, in the form of key messages on the theme and sub-themes of the 2018 Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development;

(b) Policy papers on the sub-themes of the Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development;

(c) A report on the deliberations of the Forum, including on salient issues and priorities and recommendations pertaining to the theme of 2018 Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development.

E. Expected outcomes

29. The 2018 Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development is expected to lead to:

(a) Enhanced capacity of member States, major groups and other stakeholders in designing and implementing policies and strategies to accelerate the pace of implementation and ensure effective follow-up to and review of the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063;

(b) A clear articulation of, and an agreement on the collective inputs of Africa in the form of key messages to the 2018 High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development. The key messages will include regional priorities, policy options and recommendations pertaining to the theme and sub-themes of the Forum.

F. Documentation

30. The documents for the meeting include:

Pre-session documentation:

(a) This concept note;

(b) Africa regional report on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063;

(c) Report on ECA and African Union support to the implementation, follow-up and review of the two agendas;

(d) Reports covering the sub-themes of the meeting;

(e) Reports and outcome documents of relevant past meetings and events.

In-session documentation:

(a) Draft key messages of the 2018 Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development for input to the 2018 High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development;

(b) Draft summary report on the meeting deliberations, including on salient issues, priorities and recommendations pertaining to the theme of the 2018 Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development.

Post-session documentation:

(a) Agreed key messages of the 2018 Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development to the 2018 High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development;

(b) Final report on the meeting deliberations, including on salient issues, priorities and recommendations pertaining to the theme of the 2018 Regional Forum.

G. Participants

31. The following are expected to attend:

(a) All 54 member States of ECA (high-level experts from ministries and agencies in charge of economic planning, finance, environment and social affairs, mining and mineral resources, and science and technology);

(b) Representatives of major groups and other stakeholders, including civil society, business and industry organizations, academia, and research institutions;

(c) The African Union Commission;

(d) The African Development Bank;

(e) The NEPAD Planning and Coordinating Agency;

(f) Regional economic communities;

(g) United Nations and other international agencies and organizations;

(h) Development partners.

H. Working Languages

32. The meeting will be conducted in English and French with simultaneous interpretation in both languages.

I. Dates and Venue

33. The 2018 Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development will be held in Dakar from 2 to 4 May 2018.

J. Contacts

34. Enquiries on the organization of the Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development should be directed to:

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