

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

Fourth session

Dakar, 2–4 May 2018

Item 3 of the provisional agenda***Organizational matters:****(b) Adoption of the agenda and programme of work****Provisional annotated agenda****1. Opening of the session**

1. The opening of the fourth session of the Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development will be moderated by the Director of the Special Initiatives Division of the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), Fatima Denton. The outgoing Chair of the Bureau of the Regional Forum, the representative of Togo, will preside. Statements will be delivered by the following; the Executive Secretary of ECA, Vera Songwe, who will also speak on behalf of the United Nations partner agencies of the 2018 Regional Forum; the outgoing Chair of the Bureau of the Regional Forum; the United Nations resident coordinator in Senegal; a representative of the African Development Bank; and the Chairperson of the African Union Commission. The President of Senegal will deliver the opening statement.

2. High-level panel on transformation towards sustainable and resilient societies: action, solutions and the role of technology

2. In reviewing progress, the main goal of the Regional Forum is to highlight and advance initiatives and solutions to implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the ambitions outlined in Agenda 2063. High-level policymakers will articulate their perspectives on tackling regional and national challenges, scaling up initiatives and solutions, including good practices, and capitalizing on the region's comparative advantages to achieve the transformation towards sustainable and resilient societies in Africa. The panel comprises high-profile policymakers from various backgrounds who represent the sectors covered by the subthemes of the Regional Forum. Panel members will engage in an interactive discussion and highlight innovative approaches, solutions and opportunities that member States should harness to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals. Each panel member will speak for no more than seven minutes in order to ensure that time is available for contributions from the floor. Detailed guidelines for the panel will be provided.

3. The provisional list of panellists is as follows: (TBD).

* ECA/RFSD/2018/1

3. Organizational matters**(a) Overview and election of the Bureau**

4. The outgoing Chair of the Bureau will conduct elections of the Bureau for the fourth session of the Regional Forum. The Chair will invite the secretariat to provide a brief overview before the election of the Bureau, including the history and role of the Regional Forum. The incoming Bureau will comprise five members, namely, one Chair, three Vice-Chairs and one Rapporteur, elected on the basis of equitable geographical representation. Following the elections, consultations among the heads of delegation will take place and the composition of the incoming Bureau for the fourth session of the Regional Forum will be announced. The newly elected Bureau members will be invited to assume their seats at the podium.

(b) Adoption of the agenda and programme of work

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

4. Implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and Agenda 2063: support and progress made at regional and subregional levels

6. The focus of this agenda item is on the support for and progress on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063 at regional and subregional levels. Presentations by the secretariat will be followed by discussions on two topics:

- (a) Overview of the progress made in implementing the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063 and further action required to accelerate progress, with an emphasis on the Sustainable Development Goals to be discussed at the 2018 meeting of the high-level political forum on sustainable development;
- (b) Overview provided by representatives of ECA and the African Union Commission on support for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063.

7. Before opening the floor for discussion, the Chair will invite representatives of the five subregions to contribute perspectives on support for, follow-up on and the implementation and review of the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063.

5. Round table on peer learning, focusing on solutions, good practices and lessons learned in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063

8. The round table is designed to facilitate learning by showcasing solutions and good practices and exchanging experiences and lessons learned, with a view to advancing implementation of the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063. The round table will be led by a panel comprising selected senior experts and policymakers from the Governments of countries among those involved in the voluntary national review in 2016, 2017 and 2018 and other African countries that are front runners in the implementation of Agenda 2063. Major groups and the donor community will also have representatives on the panel. Each panel member will speak for no more than seven minutes in order to ensure that time is available for contributions from the floor. It is anticipated that the panellists will outline compelling solutions, share their views, experiences and lessons learned and identify actions and other measures to enhance the implementation of the two agendas. Among the matters to be highlighted during the round table are the outcomes of various pre-session meetings, including the pre-event for

voluntary national review and Agenda 2063 front runner countries, and the outcomes of other pre-event meetings of major groups and stakeholders.

6. Parallel panel meetings on the subthemes of the session

9. The aim of the parallel panel meetings is to hold in-depth discussions on the selected thematic areas, with the aim of strengthening the most relevant key messages, agreeing on those that should be dropped and identifying additional messages as necessary. Participants in these meetings will have before them a report and proposed key messages on the relevant thematic area. The thematic areas for discussion are the following:

- (a) Clean water and sanitation;
- (b) Affordable and clean energy;
- (c) Sustainable cities and communities;
- (d) Responsible consumption and production;
- (e) Life on land;
- (f) Strengthening the means of implementation and partnership for sustainable development.

10. Participation in the parallel panel meetings will be open to all participants of the Regional Forum. They will therefore be invited to join any of the panel meetings. The chairs of the panel meetings will be designated by the Chair of the Bureau. The panellists at each meeting will comprise representatives of selected countries, regional and subregional organizations and United Nations agencies. Before beginning their discussions, each group will designate a rapporteur who will be entrusted with reporting back to the Regional Forum in plenary.

11. At each parallel meeting:

- (a) The secretariat will give a short presentation of no more than five minutes highlighting the status of implementation, emerging challenges and opportunities and proposed key messages on the given thematic area;
- (b) A panel discussion will be conducted after the presentation. Each panel member will speak for no more than seven minutes in order to ensure that time is available for contributions from the floor;
- (c) A general discussion will follow, with a view to reaching agreement on key issues and an improved list of key messages on the thematic areas.

12. At the end of every panel meeting, each panel should submit a report on the issues discussed, policies and actions suggested and revised key messages adopted by the panel for consideration by the plenary.

7. Presentations and discussions of outcomes and proposed key messages, including policy recommendations emanating from the parallel panel meetings

13. Under this item, the rapporteurs of each parallel panel meeting will present to the plenary, in no more than five minutes, a short report of the panel discussions highlighting the conclusions and agreed set of key messages emanating from their discussions. Each group presentation will be followed by a brief discussion, with a view to improving the key messages.

8. Consideration and adoption of key messages

14. The Regional Forum will consider the key messages updated by the secretariat under the guidance of the chairs of the parallel panel meetings and will adopt the key messages as the collective input by the Africa region to the 2018 meeting of the high-level political forum on sustainable development.

9. Theme, dates and venue of the fifth session of the Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development, in 2019

15. The secretariat will present proposals on the theme, dates and venue of the fifth session of the Regional Forum for consideration by the participants. The Regional Forum will deliberate and seek to reach agreement on the proposals.

10. Other matters

16. Under this agenda item, the Regional Forum may wish to consider any other matters that may be brought to its attention.

11. Closing of the session

17. The Chair of the Bureau of the fourth session of the Regional Forum will summarize the main outcomes of the deliberations. Closing remarks by the Executive Secretary of ECA will follow. The Chair will then conclude proceedings and declare the fourth session closed.
