



Economic Commission for Africa
Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development
Third session
Addis Ababa, 17–19 May 2017

Provisional annotated agenda

I. Opening of the session

1. The opening meeting will be moderated by Fatima Denton, Director of the Special Initiatives Division of the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), and presided over by the Chair of the Bureau of the 2016 Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development (Egypt). The latter will then be invited by the moderator to make opening remarks, followed by Abdalla Hamdok, Executive Secretary a.i., ECA; representative of the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs; representative of the African Development Bank; representative of the African Union Commission; and representative of the Government of Ethiopia.

II. High-level panel on the challenges and opportunities in achieving inclusive growth and prosperity for all

2. The purpose of the panel meeting is to set the tone for the deliberations of the Forum by flagging the key issues pertaining to the theme of the conference and suggesting options for addressing them. During the meeting, high-profile policymakers from different backgrounds, representing the sectors covered by the sub-themes of the session, will engage in an interactive panel discussion and share their views on the challenges and opportunities to achieving inclusive growth and prosperity for all. To allow room for contributions from the floor, each panel member will speak for only seven minutes. Detailed guidelines for the meeting will be provided.

III. Organizational matters

3. Under this item, the composition of the Bureau for the 2017 session of the Africa Regional Forum for Sustainable Development will be announced, following consultations between the heads of delegation. The Bureau will comprise five members – one chair, three vice-chairs and one rapporteur – elected on geographical representation.

4. The Forum will then be invited to consider and adopt the provisional agenda and programme of work, subject to such amendments as deemed necessary.

IV. Progress in the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals and Agenda 2063 goals

5. Under this item, the Forum will be given an overview of the progress achieved in implementing the Sustainable Development Goals and goals of Agenda 2063 and further actions required to accelerate that implementation, with emphasis on the Sustainable Development Goals selected for the 2017 meeting of the high-level political forum on sustainable development.

6. The meeting will have two presentations followed by general discussions; the first presentation will be on the African report on the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals and Agenda 2063; and the second on the report on the support for the implementation of the two agendas furnished by ECA and the African Union Commission.

V. Round table on peer learning and the exchange of experience and lessons learned in the implementation of the two agendas

7. The round-table meeting is designed to facilitate learning by showcasing solutions and exchanging experience and lessons learned, with a view to advancing implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals and the goals of Agenda 2063. The meeting will be led by a panel comprising selected senior experts and policymakers from Governments of the 2016 and 2017 Voluntary National Review countries and other African countries which are front-runners in the implementation of Agenda 2063, representatives of major groups and of the donor community. To allow room for contributions from the floor, each panel member will speak for only seven minutes. The panellists will share their views, experiences and lessons learned and will highlight solutions and suggested actions to enhance implementation of the two agendas. Outcomes of the various pre-session meetings, including the workshop for Voluntary National Review countries, and major groups and other stakeholder workshops, will be highlighted during this round table.

VI. Parallel panel meetings on the sub-themes of the session

8. The aim of the parallel panel meetings is to conduct 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 the parallel meetings will have before them a report and proposed key messages on the respective thematic area. The thematic areas for the discussions in the parallel meetings will be:

- (a) Eradicating all forms of poverty in Africa;
- (b) Ending hunger and achieving food security in Africa;
- (c) Ensuring healthy lives and promoting well-being for all;
- (d) Promoting gender equality and empowerment of women and girls;
- (e) Building resilient infrastructure and promoting inclusive and sustainable industrialization and innovation;
- (f) Conservation and sustainable use of the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development.

9. Participation in the parallel panel meetings will be open to all participants of the Forum. Participants will therefore be invited to join any of the six parallel panel meetings, which will each focus on one of the thematic areas listed above. 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 starting their discussions, each group will designate a rapporteur who will report back to the Forum in plenary.

10. 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. To allow room for contributions from the floor, each panel member will speak for only seven minutes;

(c) A general discussion will then follow, with a view to reaching agreement on key issues and an improved list of key messages on the thematic areas.

11. At the end of the meeting, each panel should submit a report on the issues discussed, policies and actions suggested, and key messages.

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

12. 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 fine-tuning the key messages.

VIII. Consideration and adoption of key messages

13. Under this item, the Forum will consider the key messages updated by the secretariat under guidance by the chairs of the parallel panel meetings and will adopt the key messages as the collective input by the Africa region to the 2017 meeting of the high-level political forum on sustainable development.

IX. Theme, dates and venue of the 2018 session of the Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development

14. The secretariat will present proposals on the theme, dates and venue of the next session of the Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development for consideration by the participants. The Forum will deliberate and seek to reach agreement on the proposals.

X. Other matters

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

XI. Closing of the session

16. The Chair of the Bureau of the 2017 session of the Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development will summarize the main outcomes of the deliberations, followed by brief closing remarks by Mr. Hamdok. The Chair of the Bureau will then conclude proceedings and declare the 2017 session of the Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development closed.
