



**Economic Commission for Africa  
Regional Coordination Mechanism for Africa**  
Eighteenth session

**African Union**

First joint meeting of the Regional Coordination Mechanism  
for Africa and the United Nations Development Group  
Dakar, 25 and 26 March 2017

## **Provisional annotated agenda**

### **1. Opening of the session**

1. Statements will be delivered by:

Ms. Francine Muyumba, President, Pan-African Youth

Mr. Abdoulaye Mar Dieye, Assistant Secretary-General, Chair of the regional  
United Nations Development Group team, Director of the Regional Bureau for  
Africa, United Nations Development Programme

Mr. Abdalla Hamdok, Acting Executive Secretary, Economic Commission for  
Africa

Mr. Thomas Kwesi Quartey, Deputy Chairperson, African Union Commission

### **2. Adoption of the agenda and the programme of work**

2. With Mr. Hamdok and Mr. Quartey as co-chairs, the Regional Coordination  
Mechanism for Africa (RCM-Africa) coordinators will be invited to consider and  
adopt the provisional agenda and programme of work, subject to such amendments  
as are deemed necessary.

### **3. First plenary session: United Nations system support for harnessing the demographic dividend through investments in youth**

3. The young people of Africa represent a significant asset for the continent's  
sustainable growth if that asset can be properly harnessed. Declines in infant mortality  
and longer life expectancy are contributing to an increase both in the overall  
population and, more important, in the share of the population that is of working age.  
Africa needs to capitalize on its working-age population, which is rising when much  
of the workforce in the rest of the world is on the decline. Harnessing the demographic  
dividend requires maintaining a working-age population which is greater than the  
population which depends on it. Achieving this balance requires sustainable job  
creation programmes, and also effective family planning programmes and women's

empowerment. Since 2012, significant progress has been achieved in providing access to family planning throughout Africa. Africa still has the highest rate of adolescent pregnancy in the world, however; complications related to childbirth also remain a key cause of death for girls between the ages of 15 and 19.

4. The panel of speakers and participants will address the theme in the light of Agenda 2063 and its first ten-year implementation plan, along with the Sustainable Development Goals. The discussion will provide a platform for the United Nations and the African Union to articulate and build consensus on how the United Nations can provide support to the African Union in attaining its goal of harnessing the demographic dividend through investments in youth.

#### **4. Second plenary session: Enablers for employment and entrepreneurship**

5. The low level of education among African youth is an important factor behind the under-employment of the continent's young people, as specific technical skills are needed in the fast-changing work environment. Many African countries have successfully increased access to basic education, but not enough attention is being paid to quality education. Basic education provides the general cognitive and other skills that are needed for further learning. In developing education and training policy, consideration should be given to how best to strengthen the quality of education, reduce dropouts and repetition, and translate class attendance into valuable learning.

6. In addition, young people face multiple constraints, including lack of access to credit, insufficient skills and lack of experience in job-seeking or starting a business. African governments have a major role to play in the design of appropriate and effective programmes to tackle the challenges faced by the youthful populations, with special attention to the specific challenges faced by young women as a consequence of economic, social and cultural factors. In this session the speakers and participants will address these and other key elements.

#### **5. Third plenary session: Migration and youth in the context of Agenda 2063 and the 2030 Agenda**

7. Currently, the free movement of people and migration of young people are major issues on both the regional and the global agenda. Young people in Africa are exposed to various risks and vulnerabilities, prompting them to migrate to places with better employment opportunities. African countries need to enhance existing programmes for youth, so as to overcome the constraints on youth employment, capitalizing on best practices around the world. This requires the introduction of new youth programmes or reform of existing such programmes with the inclusion of measures to address the multiple constraints that young people face, such as access to credit and the need for better information and access to employment networks. Additional challenges faced by female migrant workers will also be addressed during this session.

#### **6. Fourth plenary session: Governance, rights and youth empowerment**

8. Africa's demographic transition will potentially help to boost future economic growth and shared prosperity and elevate the continent to the status of a truly global player. To reap the demographic dividend, African countries need to embark on sound economic, social, political and corporate governance policies to support the accompanying demographic transition, which in turn will lead to the creation of productive jobs for these new workers and consequently higher and sustainable growth. In line with Agenda 2063, the African Union has declared 2016 as the year

of human rights with a focus on women's rights. The panel will reflect on both the progress made and the remaining challenges in the area of the promotion and protection of youth rights, and the need to ensure that young people have a voice and are able to participate, as a foundation for sustainable development.

**7. Fifth plenary session: Strengthening RCM-Africa for the effective harnessing of the demographic dividend through investments in youth**

9. The purpose of the session is to report on the achievement of both RCM-Africa and the subregional coordination mechanisms, and in general on the strengthening of collaboration in the United Nations system, including the United Nations Development Group (UNDG), in support of the priorities of the African Union and its priority programmes. The session will begin with a reporting session on the work of RCM-Africa and the subregional coordination mechanisms over the course of 2016. The reports will include the report of the RCM-Africa secretariat, the report of the thematic clusters and the report of the subregional coordination mechanisms.

10. Furthermore, linkages to the following areas of work will be considered and discussed:

- (a) Culture as a priority for Africa: Agenda 2063 and Agenda 2030. African Union-United Nations progress report of RCM-Africa;
- (b) Update on the implementation of Agenda 2063 and the 2030 Agenda;
- (c) Discussion on the ten-year capacity-building programme (TYCBP) and the transition to the Programme for Africa's Integration and Development Agenda (PAIDA);
- (d) Adoption of the African Union-United Nations joint programme for 2017-2018;
- (e) Introduction of the monitoring and evaluation platform for Africa's development within the context of the renewed United Nations- African Union partnership;
- (f) Update on the Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development for follow-up to and review of Agenda 2063 and the 2030 Agenda;
- (g) Culture as a priority for Africa: Agenda 2063 and Agenda 2030

**8. Other matters**

11. Participants may raise other matters not covered under the items mentioned above.

**9. Presentation and adoption of the draft report**

12. The RCM-Africa secretariat will present the draft report. The participants will be invited to consider and adopt the report, subject to such amendments as are deemed necessary.

## **10. Closure of the meeting**

13. The session will be closed by:

Mr. Abdalla Hamdok, Acting Executive Secretary, Economic Commission for Africa

Mr. Thomas Kwesi Quartey, Deputy Chairperson, African Union Commission

Ms. Amina Mohammed, United Nations Deputy Secretary-General.