



## Economic and Social Council

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**Economic Commission for Africa**  
**Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development**  
Fifth session  
Marrakech, Morocco, 16–18 April 2019  
Item 3 (b) of the provisional agenda\*  
**Organizational matters: Adoption of the agenda**  
**and programme of work**

### **Annotated provisional agenda**

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

1. The opening of the fifth session of the Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development will be moderated by the Director of the Technology, Climate Change and Natural Resources Management Division of the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), Oliver Chinganya. The outgoing Chair of the Bureau of the Regional Forum, the representative of Senegal, will preside.
2. Statements will be delivered by the following: the Executive Secretary of ECA, Vera Songwe; the outgoing Chair of the Bureau of the Regional Forum; the United Nations resident coordinator in Morocco; a representative of the African Development Bank; a representative of the African Union Commission; and the President of the Economic and Social Council. The Head of the Government of Morocco, Saad Dine El Otmani will open the session and deliver the keynote address.

#### **2. High-level panel on empowering people and ensuring inclusiveness and equality: stepping up action to deliver the commitments contained in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in Africa**

3. The high-level panel will set the tone for the Forum. The panel is intended to generate innovative and action-oriented policy measures on the theme of the Forum, which will contribute to stepping up the overall implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and Agenda 2063: The Africa We Want so that their Goals are achieved within the set time frame. High-level policymakers will therefore articulate their perspectives on regional and national challenges and opportunities. They will also present and discuss transformative initiatives and solutions, including good practices, with a view to empowering people, ensuring inclusiveness and equality, and achieving the Goals in Africa. The panel comprises high-profile policymakers whose backgrounds relate to the theme and sub-themes of the Regional Forum and who have vast knowledge of and experience on the two agendas. Panel members will engage in an interactive discussion and highlight innovative and transformative approaches and actions, solutions and opportunities that member States should harness to achieve the Goals. Each panel member will speak for no more than seven minutes

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\* ECA/RFSD/2019/1.

in order to ensure that time is available for contributions from the floor. Detailed guidelines for the panel will be provided.

### **3. Organizational matters**

#### **(a) Election of the Bureau**

4. The outgoing Chair of the Bureau will conduct elections of the Bureau for the fifth 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: the Chair, three Vice-Chairs and the 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 fifth 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. Support provided and progress made at the regional and subregional levels on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063: The Africa We Want**

6. The focus of agenda item 4 is the support provided and the progress made on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063 at the 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 2019 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 panel on voluntary national reviews and peer learning on implementation, follow-up and review 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 in voluntary national reviews and the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063. The round table will be led by a panel comprising selected senior experts and policymakers from among the countries involved in the voluntary national reviews in 2018 and 2019, as well as other countries in Africa that are front runners in the implementation of Agenda 2063. A representative of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations will provide global experiences. 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 reviews, and the pre-event for major groups and stakeholders.

## **6. Parallel panel meetings for in-depth review, peer-learning and dialogue on the sub-themes of the Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development**

9. The aim of the parallel panel meetings is to hold an in-depth review and discussions and to facilitate peer learning on implementation, with a view to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals under the focus sub-themes. In so doing, each of the parallel meetings will strengthen the most relevant of the draft key messages, agree on those that should be dropped and identify additional messages as necessary. Participants in those meetings will have before them a report and proposed key messages on the relevant sub-theme. The sub-themes for discussion are the following:

- (a) Ensuring inclusive and equitable quality education;
- (b) Promoting decent work and inclusive economic growth;
- (c) Ensuring reduced inequalities;
- (d) Scaling-up climate action;
- (e) Ensuring peace, justice and strong institutions;
- (f) Strengthening the means of implementation and the 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 panel meetings will be co-chaired by a designated representative of the Bureau and one representative from the African Union Commission, the African Development Bank or the United Nations Regional Directors. The panellists at each meeting will comprise representatives of selected countries, regional and subregional organizations and agencies of the United Nations system. 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, the order of business will be as follows:

- (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 comments and inputs by the plenary.

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

13. Under agenda item 7, 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 2019 meeting of the high-level political forum on sustainable development.

## **9. Theme, dates and venue of the sixth session of the Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development**

15. The secretariat will present proposals on the theme, dates and venue of the sixth 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 agenda item 10, 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 fifth 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 fifth session closed.

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