

**Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development**  
*Marrakech, Morocco; 16-18 April 2019*

**Side Event: Sustainable Development in Africa four years on: prospects and emerging issues**

**Introduction:** The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and Agenda 2063 for the transformation of African economies are two overarching development visions of high importance to the continent. The two agendas are inspirational and promise to galvanise African countries, civil society, development partners and the private sector to act together and mobilise resources for inclusive growth and transformation. The ECA, AfDB, AUC and UNDP-RBA are mandated to prepare annual progress reports on the continent's performance in respect of the two agendas and underscore issues for attention. So far three reports (2016, 2017 and 2018) have been completed and the fourth (2019) is in progress.

- The *2018 Africa Sustainable Development Report: Towards a Transformed and Resilient Continent* was aligned to the theme of the 2018 High Level Political Forum "*Transformation towards sustainable and resilient societies*" and focused on five goals of the 2030 Agenda (related goals of Agenda 2063): 6 - Clean water and sanitation; 7 - Affordable and clean energy; 11 - Sustainable cities & communities; 12 - Responsible consumption and production; and 15 - Life on land. It also examined trends in Science Technology and Innovation (STI) (Goal 17).
- The 2017 report was themed "*Eradicating poverty and promoting prosperity in a changing world*" and focused on six goals of the 2030 Agenda (and related Agenda 2063 goals): 1 - No Poverty; 2 - Zero Hunger; 3 - Good Health and Well-Being; 5 - Gender Equality; 9 - Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure; and 14 - Life Below Water. It also underscored data issues for adequate reporting.
- The 2016 report - *MDGs to Agenda 2063/SDGs Transition Report* reviewed Africa's performance on the MDGs at closure, underscored the importance of strong institutional arrangements and coordination mechanisms to underpin sustainable development efforts in Africa.

**Proposed panellists:** representatives of National Planning Authorities in Africa, private sector practitioners, civil society, the AfDB, AUC, ECA and UNDP-RBA and the World Bank will be invited to participate in the panel discussion. The event will be organised in the form of a panel discussion to generate dialogue on sustainable development issues in Africa. It will underscore progress thus far, issues and challenges as well as how to strengthen partnerships for the way forward and addressing gaps.

**Focus of the event** is to create greater awareness of policy makers, partners and civil society the process of progress reporting on the two agendas, issues arising and the need to increased engagement.

**Contribution:** The planned Side Event will contribute to increased understanding of trends and issues in sustainable development in Africa. It will strengthen engagement with policy makers on the findings and emerging issues from the progress reports and help to generate new ideas on how to deepen background analysis and incorporating national information in the continental annual report. Innovative approaches to dissemination, use of the findings and recommendations of the reports in policy formulation will be identified. To achieve traction, policy makers need to rally development partners, the private sector, civil society and communities to align their strategies in support of Africa's sustainable development ambitions.

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