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Statutory issues

**Progress report of the fourth session of the Africa
Regional Forum on Sustainable Development, held in
Dakar from 2 to 4 May 2018**

I. Introduction

1. The present report contains information on the organization of and follow-up on the outcomes of the fourth session of the Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development. The information contained in the report covers the main activities, the results achieved, follow-up activities, lessons learned and the way forward, as well as planning for the fifth session of the Forum.
2. The present report is being submitted to the Committee of Experts of the Conference of African Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development of the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) in order to inform it of the progress achieved in the work of the Regional Forum. The Committee is invited to share its perspectives on the issues, lessons learned and recommendations contained herein. The Committee is also invited to provide guidance on opportunities and recommendations on the work of the Regional Forum, strengthen regional and national-level follow-up, and review the implementation of activities aimed at the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals and the goals contained in Agenda 2063: The Africa We Want, with a view to stepping up the pace and scale of implementation.
3. The Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development is organized pursuant to General Assembly resolution 67/290 and the resolutions of the joint annual meetings of the African Union Specialized Technical Committee on Finance, Monetary Affairs, Economic Planning and Integration, and the Conference of African Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development of ECA; and the 2018 Conference of African Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development.
4. The Regional Forum is convened annually by ECA in collaboration with the African Union Commission, the African Development Bank and the United Nations system. The overall goal of the Regional Forum is to advance the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the goals set out in Agenda 2063 of the African Union by providing a multi-stakeholder platform for follow-up and review of the progress made, strengthening learning

*E/ECA/COE/38/1/Rev.1.

and advocating effective policy measures and actions to effectively implement the goals of the two agendas.

II. Organization and results of the fourth session of the Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development

5. The fourth session of the Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development was held in Dakar from 2 to 4 May 2018. It was convened by ECA, together with the Government of Senegal and in collaboration with the African Union Commission, the African Development Bank, the Office of the Special Adviser on Africa, the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat, the United Nations Environment Programme, the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Population Fund, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the United Nations Human Settlements Programme and the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction.

A. Objectives, attendance and main activities of the Regional Forum

6. The fourth session of the Regional Forum was held in preparation for the 2018 high-level political forum on sustainable development. The overall objective of the Forum was to conduct a regional follow-up and review of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063 and to facilitate learning, including sharing experiences and lessons learned, and to advance their implementation.

7. With a focus on the Sustainable Development Goals selected for the 2018 high-level political forum and the corresponding goals of the first 10-year implementation plan of Agenda 2063, the specific objectives of the Regional Forum were to:

(a) Carry out a regional follow-up to and review of the implementation of the two agendas and tackle the challenges and opportunities associated with their implementation;

(b) Provide a platform for peer learning and the sharing of experiences, good practices and lessons learned, with a view to accelerating the implementation of the two agendas;

(c) Discuss and agree upon the priorities and recommendations of Africa in the form of key messages as the region's collective input to the 2018 high-level political forum on sustainable development.

8. The Regional Forum was attended by 457 participants, comprising high-level representatives of 40 ECA member States, intergovernmental bodies, major groups¹ and other stakeholders, bodies and specialized agencies of the United Nations system, and other international organizations. The proceedings of the Forum were guided by its elected Bureau.²

1. Focus of the Regional Forum

9. The theme of the fourth session of the Regional Forum was "Transformation towards sustainable and resilient societies", in line with that of the 2018 high-level political forum on sustainable development. An in-depth review of selected Sustainable Development Goals was carried out during the

¹ The term "major groups" refers to the following: groups and associations of women, children and young people; indigenous peoples; non-governmental organizations; local authorities; workers and trade unions; business and industry; scientific and technological community; and farmers.

² Chair: Senegal; First Vice-Chair: Lesotho; Second Vice-Chair: Cameroon; Third Vice-Chair: Mauritania; and Rapporteur: Uganda.

high-level political forum, along with Goal 17 and the corresponding goals contained in Agenda 2063, under the following sub-themes aligned with selected Sustainable Development Goals:

- (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 the partnership for sustainable development.

10. The Regional Forum was held against the backdrop of African countries coming together in March 2018 to launch the African Continental Free Trade Area, which is central to the realization of the Sustainable Development Goals and the aspirations and corresponding goals contained in Agenda 2063. The agreement will give momentum to regional integration and catalyse joint and concerted efforts to tackle a wide range of issues that are critical to placing the people of Africa on a path to becoming a sustainable and resilient society. It will contribute to insulating the region from the shocks associated with huge fluctuations (mostly degrading) in the prices of African global exports, thereby stabilizing revenue for most countries on the continent. It will help to strengthen regional infrastructure, including by boosting energy supply. Forest and biodiversity conservation will benefit through the strengthening of regional approaches and cross-border initiatives to combat criminal activity such as poaching and the illicit trade in wildlife.

2. Side events

11. Several side events were held on the margins of the Regional Forum. Those events enriched the deliberations of the main meetings of the Forum.

12. Among those events was the workshop on the topic of strengthening integrated voluntary national review and reporting of the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063, which was organized by ECA, the African Union Commission, the Office of the Special Adviser on Africa and the United Nations Development Programme. The overall objective of the workshop was to strengthen the capacity of member States with regard to such a review and reporting in support of the implementation of those agendas. In that regard, the workshop facilitated peer learning and sharing of experiences, including on progress and main challenges and lessons emerging from the review process, and promoted the integrated implementation and review of the agendas. The workshop was also aimed at strengthening the policies and institutions of Governments and mobilizing multi-stakeholder support and partnerships for the implementation of activities aimed at the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals and the goals contained in Agenda 2063.

13. Prior to the Forum, a preparatory and capacity development workshop was held for major groups and other stakeholders in Africa. The objectives of the workshop were as follows:

- (a) Update major groups and other stakeholders on the follow-up and review process of the Sustainable Development Goals and Agenda 2063;
- (b) Promote mutual learning through the exchange of experiences, lessons learned and promising approaches and practices in the implementation and tracking of progress made towards the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals and the goals contained in Agenda 2063, with a special emphasis on selected Goals for the 2018 high-level political forum on sustainable development;

(c) Promote dialogue and consensus among the major groups and other stakeholders on their perspectives to advance the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063.

3. Main meetings and activities

14. The main meetings of the Regional Forum included the official opening, a high-level dialogue, round tables, and parallel and plenary meetings.

15. The Prime Minister of Senegal, Mahammed Boun Abdallah Dionne, officiated at the opening of the Forum, which was also addressed by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for West Africa and the Sahel, Mohammed Ibn Chambas, the United Nations Resident Coordinator for Senegal, Priya Gajraj, and the Chair of the outgoing Bureau of the Forum and representative of the Government of Togo, Gervais Meatchi Tchaou.

16. The main meetings that were held after the opening of the Forum featured a high-level policy dialogue on the theme of the Forum, followed by plenary presentations and discussions on the progress made at the regional and subregional levels towards the achievement of the selected goals. In addition, there was a peer learning round table, during which participants shared solutions, good practices and lessons learned from voluntary national reviews and in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063. Through parallel meetings on sub-themes, participants conducted an in-depth review of the progress made towards the achievement of the selected goals and proposed the key messages that were adopted by the Forum.

17. Those activities allowed the participants of the Regional Forum to assess progress, reflect on bottlenecks and challenges, and share and explore more solutions to achieve the goals, build resilience and realize lasting structural transformation and sustainable development in the region.

B. Key results of the fourth session of the Regional Forum

18. The key results of the fourth session of the Regional Forum were the following:

(a) *Agreement and adoption of policy options in the form of key messages to advance the implementation of activities aimed at the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals and the corresponding goals contained in Agenda 2063.* Participants of the Regional Forum adopted key messages (available at www.uneca.org/arfsd2018) on its theme and sub-themes that considered the challenges, progress and actions required to step up the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063. Those messages constituted African regional input to the 2018 high-level political forum, to be used for policy dialogue, policymaking and towards the implementation of the goals set out in both agendas at national, regional and global levels. The key messages are contained in annex I to the present report;

(b) *Increased peer learning on policies and practices to implement and conduct voluntary national reviews on the implementation of activities aimed at the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals and the goals contained in Agenda 2063.* The Forum featured an increased space for dialogue and the sharing of experiences, good practices and lessons learned in designing and implementing national frameworks and voluntary national reviews on the two agendas. Key inputs included a round table on peer learning and the workshop on integrated follow-up of the two agendas;

(c) *Production of policy reports on the various sub-themes of the Forum.* The partnership in the organization of the Regional Forum also led to the production of policy papers (available at www.uneca.org/arfsd2018) on the sub-themes of the Forum. The papers covered the significance of the sub-theme to the development of Africa, highlighting the progress, challenges, gaps and options for scaling up the implementation of actions to achieve the targets set

under the theme. The policy reports supported advocacy and informed deliberations on the key messages on the following sub-themes: clean water and sanitation; affordable and clean energy; sustainable cities and communities; responsible consumption and production; life on land; and strengthening the means of implementation and the partnership for sustainable development.

III. Follow-up to the fourth session of the Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development

19. As a follow-up to the fourth session of the Regional Forum, ECA actively participated in many activities, aimed primarily at ensuring a strong African voice at the 2018 high-level political forum on sustainable development, which was held in New York from 9 to 18 July 2018. The objective was to provide support to member States to advocate and highlight African concerns and priorities during the deliberations and in the outcomes of the high-level political forum. The key follow-up activities included:

(a) Submission and presentation of the key African messages at the 2018 high-level political forum on sustainable development

20. The key messages adopted by the Regional Forum were submitted to the Department of Economic and Social Affairs as the African regional inputs to the 2018 high-level political forum on sustainable development. Subsequently, the Chair of the 2018 Regional Forum and the Minister of Environment and Sustainable Development of Senegal, Mame Thierno Dieng, presented the key messages during the high-level segment of the political forum. The presentation provided the Chair with an opportunity to stress the dual responsibility of Africa to harmonize and implement the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063. Moreover, the key messages formed the basis for the Africa Group's position for the general debate on the implementation of activities aimed at the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals during the same high-level political forum. Through those avenues, the key messages contributed to increased articulation of African priorities during the deliberations and in the ministerial declaration of the 2018 high-level political forum.

(b) Participation in the thematic session to review the implementation of activities aimed at the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, focusing on lessons from the region

21. The thematic session featured the Executive Secretary of ECA, Executive Secretaries of other regional commissions and selected discussants. The session enabled the participants to have an interactive dialogue with member States and other actors on regional perspectives, main trends, approaches and challenges in the implementation of activities aimed at the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. With regard to Africa, the following issues and options to address them were highlighted: continued high levels of extreme poverty in Africa; inequality; the inherent vulnerability of Africa to the impacts of climate change; high rates of degradation and depletion of land, water, forests and biodiversity resources; the rapidly growing population of Africa; and the fast pace of urbanization.

(c) Participation in the sessions on voluntary national reviews at the 2018 high-level political forum on sustainable development

22. Voluntary national reviews are provided for in the 2030 Agenda as a mechanism for facilitating the sharing of experiences, successes, challenges and lessons learned; promoting the strengthening of policies and institutional frameworks; and assisting in marshalling multi-stakeholder support and partnerships to accelerate the achievement of the Goals. During the ministerial segment of the 2018 high-level political forum, 46 countries (10 from Africa)³

³ The 10 African countries were: Benin, Cabo Verde, Egypt (second time), Guinea, Mali, Namibia, Niger, Senegal, Sudan and Togo (third time).

presented their voluntary national reviews. Since 2016, 19 out of 54 African countries have taken part in voluntary national reviews. In 2019, 18 African countries will conduct reviews and present their reports at the 2019 high-level political forum, leaving 18 African countries yet to take part in the reviews. The detailed listing of countries according to their participation in reviews is provided in annex II to the present report.

23. The following are some of the issues that emerged from the session:

(a) Although Africa will have the largest number of countries attending the 2019 high-level political forum, compared with other regions, Africa still has the highest proportion of countries yet to participate in voluntary national reviews. Many more countries will need to participate at the 2020 high-level political forum;

(b) Progress in the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals in many African countries is still slow;

(c) Overall, there is a need to support countries to deal with challenges and to capitalize on opportunities identified in their voluntary national review reports, in order to advance the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063;

(d) Engaging multiple stakeholders to implement and track the progress of the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063 is crucial to ensuring national ownership and inclusive participation; therefore, adequate mechanisms need to be developed to ensure wide policy dialogue and consultations;

(e) Most voluntary national reviews in the region do not integrate Agenda 2063 into the 2030 Agenda, yet the latter underscores important aspects for the realization of the Sustainable Development Goals in the African context;

(f) There is a strong need to boost private sector and civil society capacities and their engagement in the implementation of activities aimed at the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals;

(g) There is a need to develop enhanced methods for data collection, disaggregation, and use for establishing baseline monitoring; and support policy development and facilitate evaluation for strengthening analysis, accountability, learning and stakeholder engagement for the implementation of activities aimed at the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals;

(h) There is a need to accelerate the pace with which countries can have access to innovative financing solutions for the implementation of activities aimed at the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals and the goals contained in Agenda 2063, as is the requirement to minimize dependency on official development assistance;

(i) Countries need to adopt a strong resilience framework to effectively tackle vulnerability to macroeconomic shocks and hazards (climate change and natural catastrophe) to prevent the loss of development gains;

(j) Countries need to develop infrastructure in the face of rapid population growth, urbanization and in order to leverage the benefits of the African Continental Free Trade Area.

(d) High-level meeting on implementing activities aimed at the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals and goals contained in Agenda 2063: sharing of experiences and the way forward after the Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development and the voluntary national reviews

24. The high-level meeting was organized by ECA and its Institute for Economic Development and Planning, Office of the Special Adviser on Africa, the United Nations Development Programme and the African Union Commission.

25. The objectives of the meeting were as follows:

(a) Disseminate and advocate for the implementation of the policy recommendations that were outlined in the key messages agreed upon at the fourth session of the Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development;

(b) Create a platform for South-South networking and encourage the sharing of good practices and challenges as well as the promotion of engagement with all stakeholders;

(c) Create a platform for development partners to communicate their ongoing interventions and share tools to support member States achieve the Sustainable Development Goals and the goals contained in Agenda 2063.

26. Other objectives of the meeting were as follows:

(a) Highlight the challenges, in terms of vertical and horizontal coordination, faced by the national coordination mechanisms in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063, and in the preparation of the voluntary national reviews;

(b) Facilitate the sharing of experiences, lessons learned and best practices on the joint and integrated implementation of both agendas, including related key challenges and innovative and creative solutions;

(c) Strengthen voluntary national review presentations at the high-level policy forum and encourage an increase in the participation of African member States in the review process;

(d) Identify training and capacity gaps that need to be tackled in order to achieve those objectives.

27. The key issues raised and recommendations made during the high-level meeting were as follows:

(a) Given the capacity and resource constraints in Africa, the implementation of and progress made in reporting on the many internationally agreed initiatives, including the two agendas, still pose as challenge;

(b) The importance of raising awareness among member States about the integration and harmonization of both agendas was stressed;

(c) Member States should strengthen technical collaboration with the United Nations system, the African Union Commission and other partners, as well as customize for the national context support tools for economic and social policies towards structural transformation and the implementation of the two agendas;

(d) Member States should take advantage of the accessible toolkits provided by the United Nations system that are needed for the localization and integration of the two agendas into national development plans;

(e) Coordination between Governments and stakeholders, including the private sector, civil society and development partners, should be encouraged in order to implement the two agendas alongside national development plans;

(f) Member States emphasized that the United Nations system should adopt a proactive approach to ensuring that all member States gain access at the same time to all the tools available to facilitate the implementation of both agendas. There is need to build the capacity of member States in this regard;

(g) Coordination between partners and the national statistical offices of member States should be strengthened, in order to ensure the generation of reliable, timely data for accurate reporting on both agendas and other development initiatives;

(h) Member States asked for more time to discuss and share experiences during the high-level political forum. In that regard, they reiterated the importance of having an Africa Day event at the forum. The event should be centred on a thematic issue and specific recommendations should be made.

The event could provide assistance on how to monitor the implementation of activities aimed at the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.

(e) **High-level round table co-hosted by the Chair of the Group of 77 and the regional commissions on technology and innovation for sustainable development: regional experiences to promote the employment of young people and address inequality**

28. The high-level round-table discussion was chaired by the Minister of Planning, Monitoring and Administrative Reform of Egypt and the Chair of the Group of 77; and with the participation of ministers from various regions and the Executive Secretaries of the regional commissions. The round table provided a platform for the sharing of diverse national experiences and ongoing regional efforts that are aimed at harnessing technology and innovation in support of inclusive economic growth and sustainable development, with a focus on tackling inequalities and generating employment opportunities, especially for young people.

29. The round table provided a better understanding of the current landscape of national and regional initiatives, best practices and solutions that are aimed at leveraging the ongoing technological revolution in support of inclusive economic growth, employment generation, sustainable development and the engagement of young people. In particular, the Executive Secretaries of the regional commissions shared their experiences on technology and innovation for sustainable development and highlighted the importance of the regional approach to achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.

IV. Lessons learned and the way forward

30. The following key lessons and the proposed way forward were highlighted:

(a) The Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development should serve as a catalyst for specific action to accelerate the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063. For that reason, it is necessary to expand opportunities within the Regional Forum for peer learning on the design and implementation of policies and programmes aimed at the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals and the contained goals in Agenda 2063. Such peer learning could be facilitated by evidence-based country or thematic case studies.

(b) It is important to strengthen advocacy and support member States to follow-up and implement the relevant outcomes of the Regional Forum, voluntary national reviews and the high-level political forum. In that regard, attention is called to the relevant issues, lessons learned and recommendations highlighted in the present report.

(c) In order to provide strong and holistic support to countries, ECA and partners should adopt strategic support frameworks that embrace the alignment of the national development frameworks with the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063 and support the preparation of, reporting and follow-up on the voluntary national reviews.

V. Plans for the fifth session of the Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development

31. The theme of the fifth session of the Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development will be “Empowering people and ensuring inclusiveness and equality”. The session will feature an in-depth review of Sustainable Development Goal 4, on quality education; Goal 8, on decent work and economic growth; Goal 10, on reduced inequalities; Goal 13, on climate action; Goal 16, on peace, justice and strong institutions; and the corresponding

goals contained in Agenda 2063. The Forum will also undertake an in-depth review of Goal 17, on partnerships for the Goals, in order to address challenges and strengthen partnerships to develop capacity, make use of science and technologies and mobilize and scale up finance to implement the Goals.

32. The outcomes of the fifth session of the Regional Forum will feed into the 2019 high-level political forum on sustainable development, convened under the auspices of the Economic and Social Council. The forum, which will be held in New York from 9 to 18 July 2019, will focus on the same theme and Sustainable Development Goals as the fifth session of the Regional Forum. The outcomes of the fifth session of the Regional Forum will also be used for policy advocacy, formulation and implementation at the regional and national levels. The first high-level political forum under the auspices of the General Assembly (Sustainable Development Goal Summit) will also be held in 2019, in New York on 24 and 25 September 2019. The Regional Forum therefore offers an opportunity for Africa to articulate its inputs to the Sustainable Development Goal Summit. Such inputs will include African specificities in the implementation of activities aimed at the achievement of the Goals, the gaps identified and tools needed to accelerate implementation.

33. The Regional Forum will be organized by ECA together with the Government of Morocco, the host country, in collaboration with the African Union Commission, the African Development Bank and agencies of the United Nations system. It will be held in Marrakech from 16 to 18 April 2019.

34. The Regional Forum will be attended by all 54 member States of the African Union in the region. The representatives of the member States will be high-level policymakers and experts from ministries and agencies in charge of economic and development planning, finance, environment and natural resources, social affairs and science and technology. Other participants will include representatives of major groups and other stakeholders, including civil society, business and industry organizations, academia and research institutions; the African Union Commission; the African Development Bank; New Partnership for Africa's Development; regional economic communities; agencies of the United Nations system and other international agencies and organizations; and development partners.

35. Member States, regional and subregional organizations, major groups and other stakeholders, bodies and specialized agencies of the United Nations system and other development partners are called upon to participate in the fifth session of the Regional Forum, including by organizing and holding side events to support the deliberations during the Forum.

Annex I

Key messages of the fourth session of the Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development

1. The following contains some of the key messages on the theme and sub-themes that were agreed upon and adopted at the fourth session of the Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development.

A. Transformation towards sustainable and resilient societies

2. Resilient structural transformation in Africa, in line with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and Agenda 2063: The Africa We Want, requires integrated national frameworks, including sectoral strategies and approaches that mainstream and prioritize inclusion, protection against climate change, disaster risk reduction and the value of natural capital.

3. The momentum to ensure climate change adaptation and mitigation should be increased alongside the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.

4. Effective and inclusive land use and spatial planning and management policies, backed by commensurate legislation and governance mechanisms, are essential to ensuring that the evolving urban form of growing cities in Africa is sustainable and resilient.

5. African countries need to fast-track national ratification of the agreement establishing the African Continental Free Trade Area in order to pave the way for its coming into force and its implementation. The agreement will serve to boost domestic resource mobilization, achieve the global and regional goals, and contribute to inclusive and resilient societies in the region.

B. Clean water and sanitation

6. African countries need to invest more in providing potable water access points in urban and rural communities, and in improving sanitation facilities, in order to reduce open defecation and ensure appropriate waste management.

7. Ensuring the conservation and integrity of water catchment ecosystems is central to maintaining the stability of the hydrological cycle and crucial to guaranteeing the steady stream flow in transboundary water resources. African countries need to strengthen collaboration and sharing of experiences to ensure integrated and sustainable water resources management.

8. Governments should prioritize investment in sanitation and hygiene, including initiatives that keep girls in school such as providing access to sanitation facilities for better menstrual hygiene management.

9. The effective inclusion of young people, women, people living with disabilities, indigenous communities and all marginalized groups in decision-making is essential to the achievement of access to water and sanitation for all.

C. Affordable and clean energy

10. Given the policies that are currently in place, it is unlikely that access to affordable and clean energy for all will be achieved in Africa by 2030. Governments should therefore hasten and facilitate investment in diversified and secure clean energy technologies to ensure access to energy.

11. Although a few countries have made significant progress with the process of electrification, less progress has been made with respect to clean

cooking and increasing the share of modern renewables in the overall energy supply.

12. Countries should promote national investments in strengthening the grid for greater efficiency, increasing the penetration of variable renewable power and promoting cross-border connectivity to accelerate access to electricity.

13. In order to achieve sustainability, countries should put in place and implement policies and regulatory frameworks to ensure that deployed energy technologies meet high standards and are fit for purpose, and that energy project developers fulfil their corporate social responsibilities.

D. Sustainable cities and communities

14. Urbanization is a multidimensional enabler of the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063; as a result, it plays a role in the achievement of many other Sustainable Development Goals.

15. More efforts need to be undertaken to ensure that urbanization is integrated into national development planning from a strategic and multisectoral perspective that is linked to socioeconomic and sector priorities, including creating decent jobs and harnessing rural-urban linkages.

16. Urbanization policies, strategies and investments that take climate change and disaster risk into account, including national and local development strategies and plans that take disaster risk into consideration, are critical to the creation of inclusive, sustainable, safe and resilient cities and human settlements.

17. Major efforts should be made to enhance the process of decentralization undertaken in many African countries by increasing access to national resources and enhancing the potential of resource generation at the local and city levels.

E. Responsible consumption and production

18. Member States should strengthen the implementation of their sustainable consumption and production strategies, especially with regard to resource efficiency and cleaner production, sustainable lifestyles, resource-efficient cities, sustainable public procurement and sustainable tourism.

19. The safeguarding and implementation of responsible management of natural resources in Africa, on which most growth is predicated, should remain a priority.

20. There is a need to accelerate the implementation of the Bamako Convention on the Ban of the Import into Africa and the Control of Transboundary Movements and Management of Hazardous Wastes within Africa.

21. Governments should develop and implement programmes for skills development at all levels of education that support sustainable consumption and production and green industrialization.

F. Life on land

22. Funding, capacity development and technology support linked to achieving on-the-ground outcomes need to be scaled up in order to implement national biodiversity strategies and action plans, land degradation neutrality targets, and national plans and programmes for sustainable forest management.

23. Tools and processes for integrating the sustainable use and management of natural capital into strategic regional, subregional and national development policies and other frameworks need to be strengthened and implemented.

24. Rights and access to land resources and participative approaches to the management of land, freshwater, forests and biodiversity need to be strengthened to, among other objectives, ensure equitable benefit-sharing and that no one is left behind.

25. High-level political commitment should be enhanced to generate momentum to accelerate the achievement of ecosystem-related targets and the development of a new and ambitious post-2020 global biodiversity framework.

G. Strengthening the means of implementation and revitalizing the partnership for sustainable development

26. It is important for Africa that the global community effectively address the issue of illicit financial flows and the negative consequences that arise from them. It is estimated that \$100 billion leaves the continent in illicit financial flows annually.

27. National statistical offices, supported by development partners, need to strengthen their data and statistical systems to support the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063 in a harmonized and integrated manner.

28. A multi-stakeholder Africa forum on science and technology innovation for the Sustainable Development Goals should be held in the margins of the Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development in order to identify and address African science and technology innovation needs and prepare for the annual global-level multi-stakeholder forum on the same topic.

29. Revitalizing the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development can only be fully achieved if supported by the specific policies and actions outlined in the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development.

Annex II

Participation of countries in Africa in voluntary national reviews at the high-level political forum

2016	2017	2018	2019	<i>African countries yet to participate in the voluntary national review</i>
Egypt Madagascar Morocco Sierra Leone Togo Uganda	Benin Botswana Ethiopia Kenya Nigeria Togo Zimbabwe	Benin Cabo Verde Egypt Guinea Mali Namibia Niger Senegal Sudan Togo	Algeria Burkina Faso Cameroon Central African Republic Chad Congo Côte d'Ivoire Eritrea Eswatini Ghana Lesotho Mauritania Mauritius Rwanda Sierra Leone South Africa Tunisia United Republic of Tanzania	Angola Burundi Comoros Democratic Republic of the Congo Djibouti Equatorial Guinea Gabon Gambia Guinea-Bissau Liberia Libya Malawi Mozambique Sao Tome and Principe Seychelles Somalia South Sudan Zambia