



**Economic and
Social Council**

**African
Union**



**United Nations
Sustainable
Development Group**

E/ECA/RCM/20/1/Add.1/Rev.2

Distr.: General

15 March 2019

Original: English

**Economic Commission for Africa
Regional Coordination Mechanism for Africa**
Twentieth Session
Third Meeting organized jointly with the Africa
regional United Nations Sustainable Development
Group secretariat
Marrakech, Morocco, 23 and 24 March 2019

African Union

Provisional annotated agenda

1.	<p>Opening of the session</p> <p>Opening remarks</p> <p>The facilitator of the opening session, Ahunna Eziakonwa, Assistant Secretary General and Director of UNDP Regional Bureau for Africa and Chair of the Africa Regional United Nations Sustainable Development Group, will provide an overview of the twentieth session of the Regional Coordination Mechanism for Africa (RCM-Africa), then introduce the opening speakers. Vera Songwe, United Nations Under-Secretary-General and Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) will deliver welcoming remarks, to be followed by a Statement from H.E. Ambassador Kwesi Quartey, Deputy Chairperson of the African Union Commission. Amina J. Mohammed, Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations will deliver the opening address.</p>
2.	<p>Presentation and adoption of the agenda and programme of work</p> <p>Under the co-Chairs: Amina J. Mohammed and H. E. Ambassador Kwesi Quartey, Deputy Chairperson of the African Union Commission, will invite participants to consider and adopt the provisional agenda and programme of work, subject to such amendment as is deemed necessary.</p>
3.	<p>High-level panel discussion on strengthening the Regional Coordination Mechanism for Africa and its subregional coordination mechanisms in the context of the African Union and United Nations reforms</p> <p>Twenty years since it became operational, RCM-Africa is at a crossroads. At the eleventh extraordinary session of the African Union, held in Addis in November 2018, the Assembly made major decisions regarding institutional reforms of the African Union. Meanwhile, through its successive reform programmes, the United Nations has been working to create a more coherent, effective and efficient support and delivery mechanism. The Secretary-General, in a report delivered in June 2017, proposed key actions and recommendations to reposition the United Nations development system to deliver on the 2030 Agenda. Among other key provisions, the General Assembly, in its resolution 72/279 on repositioning of the United Nations development system in the context of the quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system,</p>

	<p>reaffirmed the role and functions of the United Nations Sustainable Development Group at the regional level, including the regional commissions of the United Nations and the regional teams of the United Nations development system, and underlined the need to make them fit for purpose in supporting the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. In the resolution, the General Assembly also emphasized the need to address gaps and overlaps at the regional level and endorsed a phased approach to revamping the United Nations development system at the regional level. The panel will deliberate on ways to strengthen RCM-Africa and African regional United Nations Sustainable Development Group teams in the context of the African Union and United Nations reforms to effectively respond to the priorities of the African Union and its organs at regional and subregional levels.</p>
4.	<p>High-level panel discussions on the theme of the session</p> <p>The high-level panel discussions on the theme of the session will be guided by an issues paper. They are comprised of four plenary sessions to discuss various aspects of the theme. Each session will be co-chaired by a principal of an African Union organ and a principal of a United Nations organization. The panellists will comprise principals of the two entities and principals of civil society or the private sector. The co-chairs will invite the principals of the African Union organs to speak first to be followed by a principal of civil society or private sector, and then a principal of United Nations organizations. Following the interventions of the panellists, the co-chairs will open the floor for general discussion.</p> <p><i>(a) Addressing the root causes of refugees and internally displaced persons</i></p> <p>The drivers of the refugee and internally displaced persons situation in Africa are well documented. They include conflict fuelled by poverty and political, social and economic inequalities between groups, persecution, other human rights abuse and food insecurity. This is exacerbated by climate change, which threatens the already precarious food security of vulnerable refugees, internally displaced persons and their host communities across the continent. The panel will deliberate on how countries, with the support of their development partners, can address the root causes at local, national, regional and global levels in a sustainable manner.</p> <p><i>(b) Upscaling durable solutions, including addressing the forced displacement-development nexus</i></p> <p>In coming up with durable solutions to address the desperate situation of refugees, returnees and internally displaced persons, the efforts of the African Union and humanitarian organizations, such as the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), are laudable, and appreciable progress has been made in that regard. Given the magnitude of the challenges, however, it would be fitting to investigate how the solutions being applied could be upscaled and outscaled to deepen and widen the support. It would also be beneficial to explore other viable solutions that could be applied to further alleviate the situation. Furthermore, increasing recognition of the forced displacement-development nexus warrants an investigation into solutions that address the nexus, and the role of all relevant stakeholders in applying them from local levels to global.</p> <p><i>(c) Coordinating the work under the compacts on migration, and on refugees</i></p> <p>While it is understood that migrants and refugees fall into two distinct categories in terms of the drivers and legal instruments governing their treatment, there are commonalities in their circumstances arising from movement from their country or area of origin to destination countries or areas within the same country, in the case of internally displaced persons. The phenomenon of mixed movements in the case of migrants and refugees is increasingly being observed. It is instructive that the two recent global compacts for migration and on refugees stemmed from the same declaration –</p>

	<p>the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants of September 2016. In that regard, the need to implement the two compacts in a complementary fashion to ensure that no one is left behind, cannot be overemphasized. The panel will deliberate on how to coordinate the implementation of the two instruments to avoid creating protection gaps and at the same time ensure that interventions are efficient and effective.</p> <p><i>(d) Support of the Regional Coordination Mechanism for Africa to the African Union agenda on refugees, returnees and internally displaced persons</i></p> <p>An important objective of the Regional Coordination Mechanism-Africa (RCM-Africa) sessions mirroring the African Union themes is to explore how the Mechanism can support the implementation of the continental body's agenda on the thematic area. With regard to the present theme, cluster 6 of the Mechanism, which deals with humanitarian matters and disaster risk management, and is co-coordinated by the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA) and the African Union Commission Department of Political Affairs, is expected to take the lead role in implementing the agenda. The theme is cross-cutting in that it entails several areas covered by other clusters, such as cluster 9 on governance, peace and security, and those that deal with economic, social and environmental matters. In that regard, it is important to deliberate on how participating agencies of RCM-Africa will organize their activities associated with the theme with a view to providing the support required to achieve concrete results in the most efficient manner.</p>
5.	<p>United Nations-African Union progress report of the Regional Coordination Mechanism for Africa and its subregional coordination mechanisms</p> <p>The RCM-Africa joint secretariat will present a progress report on the implementation of its workplan of the Mechanism and its subregional mechanisms. In the presentation, achievements and challenges, actions taken to strengthen the Mechanism and collaboration with the Africa regional United Nations Sustainable Development Group teams for Eastern and Southern, and West and Central Africa will be highlighted.</p>
6.	<p>Aligning the work of the Regional Coordination Mechanism for Africa with the Joint United Nations-African Union Framework for an Enhanced Partnership in Peace and Security and the African Union-United Nations Framework for the Implementation of Agenda 2063 and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development</p> <p>During the session, participants will be apprised of progress made in aligning the work of RCM-Africa and the Africa regional United Nations Sustainable Development Group teams with the Joint United Nations-African Union Framework for an Enhanced Partnership in Peace and Security and the Framework for the Implementation of Agenda 2063 and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, as recommended during the nineteenth session of RCM-Africa.</p>
7.	<p>Consideration and adoption of the African Union-United Nations revised 2019 workplan for the Regional Coordination Mechanism for Africa</p> <p>The African Union-United Nations revised 2019-2020 workplan for RCM-Africa will be presented for consideration and adoption. The revision was necessitated by guidance received from the African Union Commission regarding the new strategic priorities of the African Union and the recommendation on alignment with the joint African Union-United Nations frameworks.</p>

8.	<p>Update on the Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development in preparation for the 2019 High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development</p> <p>The purpose of this session is to report on the ongoing preparations for the Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development, the outcomes of which will represent the region's collective input to the 2019 High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development. The aim is to garner the active participation of RCM-Africa and the Africa regional United Nations Sustainable Development Group in the forum.</p>
9.	<p>Other matters</p> <p>The session may wish to consider any other matters not covered in the items mentioned above.</p>
10.	<p>Consideration and adoption of the report of the twentieth session of the Regional Coordination Mechanism for Africa and the Third Joint Meeting of the Regional Coordination Mechanism and the Africa regional United Nations Sustainable Development Group</p> <p>The RCM-Africa joint secretariat will present the draft session report. The participants may wish to make comments and note observations about the draft, which will be recorded. The participants will be invited to consider and adopt the report based on the understanding that the agreed amendments will be reflected in the final version to be circulated to all delegates at the earliest possible time after the session.</p>
11.	<p>Closing of the session</p> <p>Closing remarks</p> <p>The session will hear closing remarks from Ahunna Eziakonwa, Assistant Secretary General and Chair of the Africa Regional United Nations Sustainable Development Group; Vera Songwe, United Nations Under-Secretary-General and Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa; and H.E. Ambassador Kwesi Quartey, Deputy Chairperson, African Union Commission.</p>