

**Regional Coordination Mechanism****Special session**

Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe, 24 February 2020

**Annotated provisional agenda**

<b>1.</b>	<p><b>Opening of the session</b></p> <p><i>Welcoming remarks</i></p> <p>The facilitator of the opening session, the Director of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Regional Bureau for Africa and Chair of the African regional team of the United Nations Sustainable Development Group, will provide an overview and purpose of the special session of the Regional Coordination Mechanism for Africa, then introduce the opening session speakers.</p> <p><i>Opening statements</i></p> <p>The Special Representative to the African Union and Head of the United Nations Office to the African Union will deliver welcoming remarks, to be followed by a statement from the Deputy Chairperson of the African Union Commission. The Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations will deliver the opening address.</p>
<b>2.</b>	<p><b>Dialogue between the African Union and the United Nations on leveraging the United Nations decade of action in realizing the Sustainable Development Goals and implementing Agenda 2063</b></p> <p>Advancing the integrated implementation of the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063 in a manner that ensures the realization of concrete results and impact on the ground is at the core of the work of the Regional Coordination Mechanism. The <i>2018 Africa Sustainable Development Report</i> states that Africa was making steady progress towards building the critical ingredients for sustainable and resilient societies, but the pace was slow. In this regard, the United Nations system pledged to continue to work in partnership with the African Union Commission and the African Development Bank to leverage and optimize the use of financial and human resources to advance the development objectives of member States.</p> <p>With only 10 years left to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals, in September 2019, the Secretary-General called upon all sectors of society to mobilize for a decade of action on three levels: global action to secure greater leadership, more resources and smarter solutions for the Goals; local action embedding the needed transitions in the policies, budgets, institutions and regulatory frameworks of governments, cities and local authorities; and people action, including</p>



	<p>by young people, civil society, the media, the private sector, unions, academia and other stakeholders, to generate an unstoppable movement pushing for the required transformations. The decade of action calls for accelerated efforts to achieve sustainable solutions to the world’s biggest challenges, including poverty, gender inequality, climate change and the finance gap. The Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa will moderate the session. It will be interactive and will present an opportunity for the Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations to engage in dialogue with the Deputy Chairperson of the African Union Commission and other stakeholders on leveraging the decade of action in accelerating the realization of the Sustainable Development Goals and the implementation of Agenda 2063. Other speakers will be: the Special Representative to the African Union and Head of the United Nations Office to the African Union; the Commissioner for Social Affairs of the African Union Commission; and the Minister for National Development Planning, Zambia.</p> <p>This will be followed by comments from other selected stakeholders, including civil society and the private sector.</p>
<p>3.</p>	<p><b>Breakout groups on leveraging the United Nations decade of action in realizing the Sustainable Development Goals and implementing Agenda 2063</b></p> <p>Two breakout groups will deliberate on the following topics:</p> <p>(a) African Union theme for 2020: “Silencing the guns: creating conducive conditions for Africa’s development”</p> <p>The African Union theme for 2020 is “Silencing the guns: creating conducive conditions for Africa’s development”. As the Secretary-General stated at the thirty-third ordinary session of the Assembly of the African Union in Addis Ababa on 9 February 2020, “Silencing the guns is not just about peace and security but also inclusive sustainable development and human rights.” Within the context of Agenda 2063, its 10-year implementation road map and the 2030 Agenda, this session is expected to deliberate on how to build conditions conducive to promoting access to opportunities for all, including ensuring that the interventions for silencing the guns are inclusive, with effective engagement of women and young people in the multi-level peace processes.</p> <p>(b) Sustainable Development Goals gateway (ECA and UNFPA)</p> <p>The integrated planning and reporting toolkit is a comprehensive planning tool developed by ECA. The toolkit appraises the progress of countries and regions against the Sustainable Development Goals based on validated data from the United Nations Statistics Division in an easily comprehensible manner, which makes the best use of the limited data available for some Goals. The toolkit comprises validated and centralized data sources, drawn from the United Nations statistics portal and it also allows countries to use their own uniquely-specified data to track progress against the Goals. If countries are gathering data specific to their own national development plans and goals, the toolkit provides scope for these data to be used in a variety of reports and graphs.</p> <p>The incorporation of multiple data sources, both validated, publicly available international data and also data specific to individual countries, provides a wider perspective on development. It also ensures that the toolkit complies with the demands of member States that they</p>

	<p>are supported in accounting for their own development activities. Easy access to the data already available through the Statistics Division and to the unique data being generated by the member States themselves encourages a multifaceted approach to monitoring and evaluating progress against the Sustainable Development Goals and other international agendas. The toolkit has a user-friendly graphical interface and can generate powerful reports on various aspects of development planning. ECA is currently working in a partnership platform with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the African Development Bank and the African Union Development Agency to progressively implement the United Nations guide integrated with the toolkit at both national and subregional levels.</p> <p>Each group will nominate a moderator or chairperson to facilitate and guide the work of the group, and a rapporteur to take notes and present the outcome of the respective breakout group.</p>
4.	<p><b>Parallel special session on young people and African youth engagement for the decade of action and delivery for sustainable development: UN@75 – The future is now</b></p> <p>This session will provide an opportunity to discuss and examine high-impact flagship initiatives of the African Union and how best to coordinate work between the United Nations system and the African Union Commission, so as to ensure that the decade of action delivers for young people, in line with the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063. It will explore opportunities for greater youth engagement, highlight the alignment of African Union initiatives with the United Nations Youth Strategy, and consider how to step up the pace and scale of implementation. The outcomes will contribute to informing the high-level political forum and two youth events that will be held in New York: the Youth Plenary on 31 March 2020, organized in the context of the seventy-fifth anniversary of the United Nations, and the Youth Forum to be organized by the Economic and Social Council on 1 and 2 April 2020, with the attendance of the Deputy Secretary-General.</p>
5.	<p><b>Breakout groups report to plenary</b></p> <p>The co-chairs, the Advisor to the Chairperson, Bureau of the Chairperson of the African Union Commission and the Assistant Director General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) will invite the breakout groups to report back to the plenary session. Each group will present a summary of the discussions, followed by key issues and recommendations.</p>
6.	<p><b>Other matters</b></p> <p>The session may wish to consider any other matters not covered under the items mentioned above.</p>
7.	<p><b>Closing of the session</b></p> <p>The Assistant Secretary-General and the Chair of the Africa regional team of the United Nations Sustainable Development Group will facilitate the session. She will invite the Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa and the Deputy Chairperson of the African Union Commission to deliver the closing remarks.</p>