



UNITED NATIONS
ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL
ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR AFRICA



AFRICAN UNION



AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK

Africa Regional Consultative Meeting on the Sustainable
Development Goals

Ministerial segment

Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
4 November to 5 November 2013



Distr.: General

E/ECA/SDG/Inf.4
9 September 2013

Original: English

Guidelines for the High-level Policy Dialogue 4 November 2013

I. BACKGROUND

1. The development of sustainable development goals (SDGs) is among the key commitments agreed upon at the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20) which took place from 20 to 22 June 2012 in Rio de Janeiro. Rio+20 recognized that SDGs could be useful for pursuing focused and coherent action on sustainable development. It underlined that goals should address and incorporate in a balanced manner all three dimensions of sustainable development and their interlinkages. The Conference also recognized the importance and usefulness of a set of SDGs that among others takes into account different national circumstances, capacities and priorities, builds upon commitments already made, and contributes to the full implementation of the outcomes of all major summits in the economic, social and environmental fields. Furthermore, the Conference stressed that the goals should be coherent with and integrated into the United Nations development agenda beyond 2015.

2. Rio+20 resolved to establish an inclusive and transparent intergovernmental process on sustainable development goals that would be open to all stakeholders, with a view to developing global SDGs to be agreed upon by the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA). In this connection, a United Nations General Assembly Open Working Group (OWG) comprising 30 representatives nominated by member States from the five United Nations regional groups was established on 22 January 2013. The OWG is co-chaired by Kenya and Hungary. Member States decided to use a constituency-based system of representation whereby most of the seats in the Working Group are occupied by several like-minded countries. The African members of the working group are: Algeria/Egypt/Morocco/Tunisia; Ghana; Benin; Kenya; United Republic of Tanzania; Congo; and Zambia/Zimbabwe. The OWG will propose the sustainable development goals for the consideration and appropriate action of the UNGA.

3. As a follow-up to Rio+20, the Africa Regional Implementation Meeting (Africa RIM) was held in November 2012. The RIM deliberated on the main outcomes of Rio+20 and their implications for Africa. This meeting adopted the Africa RIM Outcome Document, which represents Africa's collective input to the Rio+20 follow-up processes, including the sustainable development goals. In this regard, the Africa RIM agreed on the need to have an effective, broad-based, bottom-up and consultative process to flesh out the goals, indicators and targets that should underpin the SDGs. The RIM also agreed that the goals, targets and indicators should be informed by among others, the outcomes of the Africa process on the Post-2015 Development Agenda.

4. The United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA), African Union Commission (AUC), African Development Bank (AfDB) and United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) jointly organized subregional and regional consultations on the Post-2015 Development Agenda in Africa. These consultations were held in Accra in November 2011; Mombasa in October 2012; Dakar in December 2012; and Hammamet, Tunisia in March 2013. The regional consultation in Hammamet aimed among other things at identifying Africa's priorities for the post-2015 agenda; identifying enablers and critical success factors for the Post-2015 Development Agenda; and aligning the post-2015 priorities with other development programmes and agendas including Rio+20 and New Partnership for Africa's Development. The meeting adopted an outcome document in which it agreed that the Post-2015 Development Agenda should incorporate the Rio+20 outcomes and the outcomes of Africa-wide initiatives, national and regional consultations as well as United Nations forums, including *20 years since the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD +20)* among others.

5. The Sixth Joint Annual Meetings of the AUC Conference of Ministers of Economy and Finance and the ECA Conference of African Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development which was held in March 2013 deliberated on the Post-2015 Development Agenda and implementation of the Rio+20 Outcomes in Africa. In the Ministerial Statement adopted by the meeting, the ministers *inter alia* urged that necessary steps be taken to achieve an early convergence between the Post-2015 Development Agenda and the Rio+20 follow-up processes, particularly the SDGs, towards ensuring a “Delivery as One” United Nations development agenda. The ministers also called on ECA, AUC and AfDB to ensure that Africa’s priorities identified through the region’s consultations on the Post-2015 Development Agenda are duly incorporated in the SDGs and agenda that are being formulated.

The Africa Regional Consultative Meeting on the SDGs

6. It is against this background that ECA together with the African Union Commission (AUC) and the African Development Bank (AfDB) are organizing the Africa Regional Consultative Meeting on the SDGs. The main objectives of the meeting are to:

- (i) Enable African countries to identify, articulate and reach a consensus on the region’s sustainable development priorities and goals taking into account the outcomes of the Africa consultations on the Post-2015 Development Agenda; and
- (ii) Prepare Africa to speak with one strong voice and rally international support for the SDGs that are well aligned with the region’s sustainable development priorities and aspirations.

7. The Meeting will comprise an experts segment from 31 October to 2 November and a ministerial segment on 4 and 5 November 2013.

8. On 4 November 2013, a High-level Policy Dialogue will be held. This will be an interactive session with the objective of forming a consensus and providing high-level political guidance on the following themes:

- The Post-2015 Development Agenda and Africa’s sustainable development priorities;
- Enhancing convergence between the Post-2015 Development Agenda and the SDGs process; and
- Strategies for ensuring that Africa’s priorities are effectively articulated and negotiated at the global level.

II. FORMAT OF THE HIGH-LEVEL POLICY DIALOGUE

9. The ministerial policy dialogue will focus on the three thematic issues identified above.

10. The moderator will highlight the focus of the discussions, introduce the panellists and steer the discussions.

11. Following interventions by panellists, the floor will be opened for general discussions involving representatives of the various stakeholders.

12. The moderator will then sum up the key policy messages and recommendations.

III. GUIDELINES

Guidelines for moderator

13. The moderator will:
- (a) Introduce the objective and themes;
 - (b) Introduce the panellists;
 - (c) Ensure that panellists adhere to the allotted time;
 - (d) Facilitate interventions from the floor while ensuring that interventions are relevant; and
 - (e) Sum up the key policy messages and recommendations.

Guidelines for panellists

14. Twenty minutes will be allotted for the keynote address and each minister will have 10 minutes to speak on the different themes. The representatives of parliamentarians, major groups, the private sector and development partners will have five minutes each.

Guidelines for those from the secretariat who will be taking down notes

15. Those who will be taking down notes will provide a report in soft copy with the following information:

- (a) Title of session;
- (b) Location and time; and
- (c) Names of speakers, titles and organizations.

16. The reports should cover the following:

- (a) Summary of the main points made during the presentation and discussion;
- (b) Key areas of consensus;
- (c) Key areas of controversy, including a summary of the different contending points of view;
- (d) Key recommendations and policy messages emerging; and
- (e) Summary provided by the moderator.

IV. SCHEDULE

17. The panel discussion will be organized as follows:

Monday, 4 November 2013

14.30 – 16.30 High-level Policy Dialogue on the Post-2015 Development Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals

- Keynote address covering the three thematic issues of the dialogue
- Interventions from three ministers representing the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development

- Interventions by representatives of parliamentarians, major groups, the private sector and development partners including AUC, ECA, and AfDB.

16.30 – 16.45 *Coffee/Tea Break*

16.45 – 18.00 High-level Policy Dialogue – Continued

- General discussions
- Sum-up by the moderator

V. MODERATOR AND PANELLISTS

18. Will be circulated during the meeting.