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Economic Commission for Africa
Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development
 Seventh session
 Brazzaville (online), 1– 4 March 2021

Item 3(b) of the provisional agenda*
**Organizational matters: adoption of the agenda and
 programme of work**

All times listed below are Brazzaville local time (GMT+1)

Provisional programme of work

Thursday, 25 February and Friday, 26 February 2021

Pre-events

- 8.30–9 a.m. **Registration**
- 9 a.m.–5.30 p.m. Africa Regional Science Technology and Innovation Forum
- Side-events (see list at: www.uneca.org/arfsd2021)

Friday, 26 February and Saturday, 27 February 2021

Pre-events (continued)

- 12–6.30 p.m. Regional preparatory workshop for African voluntary national reviews and voluntary local reviews: strengthening integration and reporting on the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063
- 1.30–6 p.m. Preparatory and capacity development workshop for major groups and other stakeholders in the African region for the seventh session of the Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development

Monday, 1 March 2021

- 9 a.m.–1 p.m. **Side events (continued)**
- 9 a.m.–3.30 p.m. **Registration**
- 3.30–4.15 p.m. **Introductory session and organizational matters**
 (agenda item 3)
- Venue:** Virtual
- Chair:** Minister of Public Service, Labour and Social Welfare, Zimbabwe and Chair of the Bureau of the sixth

* ECA/RFSD/2021/1/Rev.1.



session of the Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development, P.V. Mavima

Moderator: Director, Technology, Climate Change, and Natural Resource Management Division, ECA, Jean-Paul Adam

(a) Election of the Bureau

Chair: Chair of the Bureau of the sixth session of the Regional Forum

(b) Adoption of the agenda and programme of work

4.15–4.30 p.m.

Break

4:30–6:30 p.m.

High-level panel on transformative action and investment to better build forward from the COVID-19 crisis towards a resilient and green Africa to achieve the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063 (agenda item 2)

Venue: Virtual

Chair: Representative of the Government of the Congo

Moderator: Vice President, Geneva Press Club, Catherine Fiankan-Bokonga

Panellists:

- Commissioner for Economic Development, Trade, Industry and Mining, African Union Commission, Albert M. Muchanga
- Minister of Public Service, Labour and Social Welfare, Zimbabwe, P.V. Mavima
- Director General of Sustainable Development, the Congo, Roch Germain Mpassi Moumpassi
- Permanent Representative of Botswana to the UN and Vice President of the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), Collen Vixen Kelapile
- UN Assistant Secretary-General and United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) Deputy Executive Director, Diene Keita
- Compagnie Financière Africaine (COFINA), the Congo, Destin Ngoulou

General discussion

Tuesday, 2 March 2021

10-11 a.m.

Progress report on implementation of the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063, and tackling the COVID-19 crisis at the regional and subregional levels (agenda item 4)

Venue: Virtual

Chair: Chair of the Bureau of the seventh session of the Regional Forum

Presentations:

Highlights of the Africa sustainable development report 2021: Progress, achievements and measures for a sustainable recovery from COVID-19 and to scale up implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the goals identified in Agenda 2063, by a representative of ECA

Implementation of Agenda 2063 and regional approaches to COVID-19 recovery, by a representative of the African Union Commission

Perspectives from the subregions by representatives of the regional economic communities

General discussion

11–11.15 a.m.

Break

11.15 a.m.–1 p.m.

Plenary round-table panel on meeting data and statistics needs for evidence-based, inclusive and sustainable recovery from the COVID-19 crisis, and to achieve the goals of the decade of action and delivery for sustainable development in Africa (agenda item 5)

Venue: Virtual

Chair: Chair of the Bureau of the seventh session of the Regional Forum

Moderator: Houghton Irungu, Executive Director, Amnesty International Kenya

Panellists:

- Vice President of the republic of Malawi and Minister responsible for Economic Planning, Development and Public Sector Reform, Saulos Klaus Chilima
- Minister of National Development and Planning, Zambia, Alexander Chiteme
- Minister, Planning and Development Commission of Ethiopia, Fitsum Assefa
- Digital Economy Minister, Mali, Hamadoun Toure
- Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Disaster Risk Reduction, and head of United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction, Mami Mizutori
- Assistant Secretary General for Programmes, COMESA, Kipyego Cheluget
- Chairperson, South African Statistics Council, Davis Everatt
- Executive Director of Africa Philanthropic Foundation, and Co-Convener of Tanzania Sustainable Development Platform, Stephen Chacha

General discussion

1–2.30 p.m.

Lunch break

2.30–4 p.m.

Plenary round-table panels on national and local action and reviews for sustainable recovery and building forward better from the COVID-19 crisis, and to review the implementation of and follow-up to the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063 (agenda item 6)

(a) Voluntary national reviews and peer learning to strengthen recovery from COVID-19 and implementation, follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063

Venue: Virtual

Chair: Chair of the Bureau of the seventh session of the Regional Forum

Moderator: Director, Office of Intergovernmental Support And Coordination For Sustainable Development,

Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat, Marion Barthelemy

Panellists:

- Minister of Planning and Economic Development, Egypt, Hala El-Said
- Permanent Representative of Botswana and Vice President of the Economic and Social Council, Collen V. Kelapile
- Director General, National Planning Commission, Namibia, Obeth Kdanjoze
- Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence against Children, Najat Maalla M'jid
- Co-Chair, Africa Regional Mechanism for Major Groups and other Stakeholders, Kofi Kankam

General discussion

4–4.15 p.m.

Break

4.15–6 p.m.

Plenary round-table panels (agenda item 6, continued)

(b) Voluntary local reviews and peer learning to bolster local action to recover and build forward better from the COVID-19 crisis, and to review progress made in the implementation of and follow-up to the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063

Venue: Virtual

Chair: Chair of the Bureau of the seventh session of the Regional Forum

Moderator: Director, Gender, Poverty and Social Policy Division, ECA, Thokozile Ruzvidzo

Panellists:

- Minister of Local Government, Zimbabwe, July Moyo
- Commissioner, Ngora District, Uganda, Ambrose Onoria
- Global Advisor for Local Government Finance, United Nations Capital Development Fund, Dmitry Pozhidaev
- Chief, Regional Office for Africa, United Nations Human Settlement Programme (UN-Habitat), Oumar Sylla
- Secretary-General, United Cities and Local Governments of Africa, Jean-Pierre Mbassi
- Yaoundé City Council, Marie Solange Bang

General discussion

Wednesday, 3 March 2021

9–11 a.m.

Parallel meetings for an in-depth review of progress made and peer learning on the sub-themes of the Regional Forum (agenda item 7)

(a) Parallel meeting on the sub-theme of no poverty

Venue: Virtual

Chair: Member of the Bureau of the seventh session of the Regional Forum

Co-Chair: Director of the UNDP Regional Service Center for Africa, Mr. Stan Nkwain

Presenter: Chief Economist and Head of Strategy, Analysis and Research, UNDP Africa, Raymond Gilpin

Panellists:

- Minister of Public Service, Labour and Social Welfare, Zimbabwe, P.V. Mavima
- France Director, ONE, and former French Minister for Women's Rights and Minister for Education, Najat Vallaud-Belkacem
- Pan Africa Programme Director, OXFAM, Peter Kamalingin
- Director of Research, African Economic Research Consortium, Abebe Shimeles

General discussion

(b) Parallel meeting on the sub-theme of zero hunger

Venue: Virtual

Chair: Member of the Bureau of the seventh session of the Regional Forum

Co-Chair: Assistant Director-General and FAO Regional Representative for Africa, Abebe Haile-Gabriel

Panellists:

- Minister of Agriculture, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Jean Joseph Kasonga Mukuta (tbc)
- Minister of Food and Agriculture, Ghana, Owusu Afriyie Akoto (tbc)
- Senior Advisor, Office of Strategic Partnerships, World Food Programme, J. Chris Toe
- Commissioner for Rural Economy and Agriculture, AUC, Josefa Leonel Correia Sacko (tbc)
- President of the Pan-African Parliamentary Alliance for Food Security and Nutrition, Stephen Julius Masele (tbc)

General discussion

(c) Parallel meeting on the sub-theme of good health and well-being

Venue: Virtual

Chair: Member of the Bureau of the seventh session of the Regional Forum

Co-Chair: Regional Director for Africa, World Health Organization (WHO), Matshidiso Moeti

Presenter: Senior Technical Officer, Health Systems Development, WHO Regional Office for Africa, Humphrey Karamagi

Panellists:

- WHO Special Envoy on COVID-19, former Minister of Health for Egypt and Director of the MENA Health Policy Forum, Maha El-Rabbat

- Directeur de Cabinet de la Ministre de la santé, des populations, de la promotion de la femme et de l'intégration de la femme au développement, Balandamio Florent
- Director - Policy and Planning, Ministry of Health, Zambia, Henry Chewe
- Regional Director, East and Southern Africa Regional Office, United Nations Population Fund, Julitta Onabanjo
- REDD+ National Coordinator, the Congo, Georges Claver Boundzanga

General discussion

(d) Parallel meeting on the sub-theme of decent work and economic growth

Venue: Virtual

Chair: Deputy Prime Minister for Civil Service, State Reform, Labour and Social Security, the Congo, Firmin Ayessa

Co-Chair: ILO Deputy Director-General for Field Operations and Partnerships, Moussa Oumarou

Presenter: Employment Specialist, Decent Work Team for Eastern and Southern Africa, ILO, Bernd Mueller

Panellists:

- Minister of Labour and Social Dialogue, Senegal, Samba Sy
- Minister of Labour and Employment, Nigeria, Chris Ngige
- Public service and reform adviser to the President of the Republic, Head of State, the Congo, Laurent Tengo
- Executive Director of the Federation of Kenya Employers (FKE), and Secretary General of Business Africa Federation of Kenya Employers, Jacqueline Mugo
- General Secretary, ITUC-Africa, Kwasi Adu-Amankwah
- Labour and Economic Development Research Institute of Zimbabwe, Prosper Chitambara
- Youth representative, Anduamlak Tsega

General discussion

11.00–11.15 a.m. Break

11.15 a.m.–1.15 p.m. **Parallel meetings for an in-depth review of progress made and peer learning on the sub-themes of the Regional Forum** (agenda item 7, continued)

(e) Parallel meeting on the sub-theme of reduced inequalities

Venue: Virtual

Chair: Member of the Bureau of the seventh session of the Regional Forum

Co-Chair: Regional Director, International Organization for Migration (IOM), Charles Kwenin

Presenter: Chief of Mission in Ethiopia, IOM, and Representative to the African Union and ECA, Maureen Achieng

Panellists:

- Présente de la fondation Jeunesse Éducation et Développement, the Congo, Esther Ahissou Gayama
- Director, Regional Office for West and Central Africa, United Nations Population Fund, Mabingue Ngom
- Chair in Africa Research and Partnerships and Director, Perivoli Africa Research Centre, Isabella Aboderin
- Executive Director, Poverty Reduction Forum Trust–Zimbabwe, Judith Kaulem

General discussion

(f) Parallel meeting on the sub-theme of responsible consumption and production

Venue: Virtual

Chair: Member of the Bureau of the seventh session of the Regional Forum

Co-Chair: Regional Director for Africa, United Nations Environment Programme, Juliette Biao Koudenoukpo

Panellists:

- Representative, Ministry of Water Development, Sanitation and Environmental Protection, Zambia (tbc)
- Commissioner for Rural Economy and Agriculture, AUC, Josefa Leonel Correia Sacko (tbc)
- Subregional Coordinator for Eastern Africa, FAO, and Representative to the African Union and ECA, Chimimba David Phiri
- Regional Director, UNESCO (tbc)
- Director, Technology, Climate Change and Natural Resources Management Division, UNECA, Jean-Paul Adam (tbc)
- Chief Scientist, Desert Locust Control Organization for Eastern Africa, Osman Abdalla
- Managing Director, Climate Smart Agriculture Youth Network, Ntiokam Divine

General discussion

(g) Parallel meeting on the sub-theme of climate action

Venue: Virtual

Chair: Member of the Bureau of the seventh session of the Regional Forum

Co-Chair: Special Representative of the United Nations Secretary-General for Disaster Risk Reduction, and Head of United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction, Mami Mizutori

Panellists:

- Director, Regional Office for Africa, World Meteorological Organization, Amos Makarau
- Head of the African Development Bank's ClimDev-Africa Special Fund, James Kinyangi
- Executive Director, Pan African Climate Justice Alliance, Mithika Mwenda
- Development coordination officer, UNDP, Laure Gnassou
- Representative, COMESA, McLay Kanyangarara
- Environmental and Climate Change Expert, Nigeria, Chinma George
- Programme Management Officer, Office of the Director of Climate Change, Biodiversity and Green Economy, Morocco, Bouzekri Razi
- Université Marien Ngouabi, the Congo, Ifo Suspens Averti
- Special Adviser on Africa (OSAA), Bitsat Yohannes-Kassahun

General discussion

(h) Parallel meeting on the sub-theme of peace, justice and strong institutions

Venue: Virtual

Chair: Ministre de la justice, des droits humains et de la promotion des peuples autochtones, Ange Aimé Wilfrid Bininga

Co-Chair: Regional Director, International Organization for Migration Regional Office for West and Central Africa, Christopher Gascon

Presenter: Officer-in-Charge, Economic Governance and Public Finance Section, United Nations Economic Commission for Africa, Allan Mukungu

Panellists:

- Advisor to Minister of Justice and keeper of Seals, Algeria, Benabbas Nora
- SDGs and Agenda 2063 Expert, APRM/AUC, Sara Hamouda
- Senior Director of Strategic Partnerships, Representative to the African Union, and Director of WFP Africa Global Office, Stanlake Samkange
- Ministry of Justice, Zimbabwe, Emily Mutsa
- Chairperson of the Ghana Commission on Human Rights and Administrative Justice, and Chair of the NANHRI Working Group on Agenda 2030 & 2063, Joseph Whittal
- Team Lead, Africa and Middle East, Open Government Partnership (OGP), Theophilous Chiviru
- Economic Affairs Officer, OSAA, New York, USA, Hussein El-Shaar
- International coordinator, Biennial for the Culture of peace in Africa, UNESCO, Vincenzo Fazzino

General discussion

(i) Parallel meeting on the sub-theme of partnerships**Venue:** Virtual**Chair:** Directeur Général du Plan et de la Prospective
Ministère du Plan, Niger, Mainassara Assoumane**Co-Chair:** United Nations Resident Coordinator, Nigeria,
Edward Kallon**Presenter:** Head of e-Learning and Knowledge
Management, ECA, Thierry Amoussougbo**Panellists:**

- Minister of Planning, Statistics and Regional Integration, the Congo, Ingrid Olga Ebouka Babackas
- Deputy Regional Director for Southern Africa, World Food Programme, Margaret Malu
- Director, Financial Private Sector and Sustainable Development Department, Independent Evaluation Group, World Bank Group, José Carbajo Martinez
- President, Gender and Governance Platform (2GAP), Nathalie Pilhes
- Regional Director, East and Horn of Africa, IOM, Mohammed Abdiker
- Senior Programme Management Officer, UN Office of the Special Adviser on Africa, Talla Kebe

General discussion

1.15–2.30 p.m.

Lunch break

2.30–3.45 p.m.

Plenary round-table panel on leveraging science, technology, innovation and digital transformation for a resilient and sustainable recovery from the COVID-19 crisis, and to achieve the goals of the decade of action and delivery for sustainable development in Africa (agenda item 8)**Venue:** Virtual**Chair:** Member of the Bureau of the seventh session of the Regional Forum**Co-Chair:** Selected representative of African Union/regional economic community/United Nations**Panellists:**

- Minister of Higher and Tertiary Education, Innovation, Science and Technology Development, Zimbabwe, Amos Murwira
- Minister for Scientific Research and Technological Innovation, the Congo, Parfait Aimé Coussoud Mavoungou
- Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations and Special Adviser on Africa, Cristina Duarte
- Regional Director and Representative of UNESCO, Regional Office for Southern Africa, Hubert Gijzen
- Director, Science and Technology Policy Research Institute, CSIR, Ghana, Wilhelmina Quaye
- Senior Programme Officer (science, technology and innovation), SADC secretariat, Anneline Morgan

General discussion

3.45 –4 p.m.

Break

4–5.15 p.m.

Opening ceremony (agenda item 1)

Venue: Centre International de Conférences de Kintélé and virtual

Chair: Minister of Public Service, Labour and Social Welfare, Zimbabwe and Chair of Outgoing Bureau of the sixth session of the Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development, P.V. Mavima

Moderator: Director, Technology, Climate Change and Natural Resources Management Division, ECA, Jean-Paul Adam

Master of Ceremonies: Journalist, Gyldas Mayela

Special message by representative of young people

Statements:

- Minister of Public Service, Labour and Social Welfare, Zimbabwe and Chair of the outgoing Bureau of the sixth session of the Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development, P.V. Mavima
- Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations and Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa, Vera Songwe
- Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations, Amina Mohammed
- President, Economic and Social Council of the United Nations, Munir Akram
- Commissioner for Economic Development, Trade, Industry and Mining, African Union Commission Albert M. Muchanga
- Special statements by invited Heads of States and Government
- Minister of Tourism and Environment, the Congo, Arlette Soudan Nonault
- Opening remarks and keynote address by the President of the Congo, Denis Sassou Nguesso

Signing of a partnership framework agreement between the Government of the Congo and the Economic Commission for Africa to create the African Centre for Research on Artificial Intelligence (CARIA) at the Denis Sassou Nguesso University

Thursday, 4 March 2021

9 a.m.–2.30 p.m.

Refining and circulation of summary report and the key messages of the seventh session of the Forum by the secretariat under the guidance of the Bureau

9.15–1.30 p.m.

Regional dialogue: African food systems (agenda item 9)

9:15 –11.20 a.m

High-level technical round table on leveraging regional action for resilient, inclusive and sustainable food systems in Africa

Venue: Virtual

Plenary session

Chair: Director, Department of Rural Economy and Agriculture, African Union, Godfrey Bahigwa

Key Note Speaker: Director, PSDFD, ECA, William Lugenwa

Breakout session 1: Building sustainable, resilient food systems in Africa

This session is to consider action tracks 3 and 5 (on sustainable production and resilience building, respectively)

Moderator: Senior Advisor, Strategic Partnerships Division, World Food Programme, Chris Toe

Panellists:

- Director, Food Systems and Food Safety, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, Jamie Morrison
- Chief, Agriculture and Business Enabling Environment Section and Coordinator, African Land Policy Centre (ALPC), ECA, Joan Kagwanja
- Founder and CEO, Quidiyon Inc., Guinea, Veda Simpson
- Interim Programme Manager for Food Security and Blue Economy Unit, Intergovernmental Authority on Development, Eshete Dejean
- Deputy Chief, Regional Office for Africa, United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction, Luca Rossi
- Chargé des missions du Ministre d'Etat, Ministre de l'Agriculture et de l'élevage, the Congo, Alexis Minga

General discussion

Breakout session 2: Promoting sustainable, inclusive food systems for healthy diets and improved nutrition

Venue: Virtual

This session is to consider action tracks 1, 2 and 4 (on access to nutritious food, sustainable consumption, and equity and inclusiveness, respectively)

Moderator: Director for Africa, International Food Policy Research Institute, Jemimah Njuki

Panellists:

- Deputy Director, West and Central Africa, UNICEF, Felicite Tchibindat
- Food Systems Champion and Managing Director, Climate Smart Agriculture Youth Network, Divine Nitokam
- Director, Department of Agriculture and Agro-Industry, African Development Bank, Martin Fregene (tbc)
- Executive Officer, African Agribusiness Incubators Network, Alex Ariho
- Director, Akademyia2063, Ousmane Badiane
- IFAD Representative

General discussion

Plenary session

Chair: Director, Department of Rural Economy and Agriculture, African Union Commission, Godfrey Bahigwa

African solutions and key messages:

- African Union Development Agency
- ECA

11.20–11.50 a.m.

Break

11.50 a.m.–1.30 p.m.

High-level policy round table on leveraging regional action for sustainable food systems in Africa

Venue: Virtual

Chair: Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations and Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa, Vera Songwe

Key messages from the technical session: Director, Department of Rural Economy and Agriculture, African Union Commission, Godfrey Bahigwa

General discussion

1.30–2.30 p.m.

Lunch break

2:30–3:45 p.m.

Presentations and discussions (agenda item 10)

Chair: Chair of the Bureau of the seventh session of the Regional Forum

(a) Presentation by the major groups and other stakeholders

General discussion

(b) Presentation on the support from the Regional United Nations Development System to sustainable recovery from COVID-19 crisis and implementation of the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063

(c) Country level perspective and regional strategy to support the United Nations decade of action and delivery for sustainable development in Africa

Venue: Virtual

Chair: Chair of the Bureau of the seventh session of the Regional Forum

Moderator: Regional Director for Africa, United Nations Development Coordination Office (DCO), Munyaradzi Chenje

- Presentation on behalf of the Regional UN Development System by the Strategic Advisor, UNDP, Antonia Joy Kategekwa
- Presentation on country level implementation of the Decade of Action and delivery of SDGs by UN Resident Coordinator in Zambia, Coumba Mar Gadio
- Presentation on Perspectives on the Regional Strategy to support the Decade of Action by Micheline Baussard, Adviser, UNECA
- Discussion and perspectives of representatives of member States; regional economic communities; and the African Union Commission

General discussions

- 3.45 –4 p.m. Break
- 4–5 p.m. **Consideration and adoption of key messages** (agenda item 11)
Venue: Virtual
Chair: Chair of the Bureau of the seventh session of the Regional Forum
- 5–5.15 p.m. **Theme, dates and venue of the eighth session of the Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development** (agenda item 12)
Venue: Virtual
Chair: Chair of the Bureau of the seventh session of the Regional Forum
- 5.15–5.30 p.m. **Other matters** (agenda item 13)
Venue: Virtual
Chair: Chair of the Bureau of the seventh session of the Regional Forum
- 5.30 p.m. **Closing of the session** (agenda item 14)
Venue: Virtual
Statements:
- Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations and Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa, Vera Songwe, or her representative
 - Chair of the Bureau of the seventh session of the Regional Forum

Thursday, 04 March and Friday, 05 March 2021**Post-event****Re-imagining the SDGs**

- 12 – 3pm Online Creative Writing Workshop for young writers participating in the Championing the Decade of Action Initiative
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