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**Economic Commission for Africa**  
**Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development**  
Eighth session  
Kigali (hybrid), 3–5 March 2022Item 3(b) of the provisional agenda\*  
**Organizational matters: adoption of the agenda and  
programme of work****Annotated provisional agenda****1. Opening of the session**

1. The opening of the eighth session of the Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development will be moderated by the Director of the Technology, Climate Change and Natural Resources Management Division of the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), Jean-Paul Adam. The outgoing Chair of the Bureau of the seventh session of the Regional Forum, the representative of the Congo, will preside.

2. Statements will be delivered by the following: the Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations and Executive Secretary of ECA, Vera Songwe; the outgoing Chair of the Bureau of the Regional Forum; a representative of the African Development Bank; a representative of the African Union Commission; the Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations, Amina Mohammed; the President of the Economic and Social Council, Collen Kelapile; and invited Heads of States and Government. The President of Rwanda will open the session and deliver the keynote address.

**2. High-level panel on unlocking financing to build forward better from the COVID-19 crisis and accelerate delivery of sustainable development in Africa****Documentation**

ECA/RFSD/2022/4

Concept note for the eighth session of the Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development

ECA/RFSD/2022/INF/4

Guidelines for the high-level panel

3. The high-level panel discussion will set the tone for the Regional Forum. It will be a dialogue among high-level policymakers and eminent persons. It will focus on effective measures to address the overarching challenge of mobilizing adequate and sustainable financing to invest in sustainable recovery

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\* ECA/RFSD/2022/1.



from the COVID-19 crisis and accelerate the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and Agenda 2063: The Africa We Want, of the African Union. To that effect, the panellists will articulate the financing needs and provide high-level insights in respect of opportunities to mobilize financing, focusing on the role of the Liquidity and Sustainability Facility, which has been designed and launched by ECA and partner entities.

4. The panel will have a chair and moderator, along with high-profile policymakers and eminent persons from various backgrounds related to the focus of the high-level dialogue. Based on selected questions posed by the moderator, the panellists will engage in an interactive discussion. Following the dialogue among the panellists, the moderator will invite members of the audience to pose follow-up questions and to make other relevant contributions from the floor.

### **3. Organizational matters**

#### **(a) Election of the Bureau**

5. The outgoing Chair of the Bureau will conduct the elections of the members of the Bureau for the eighth session of the Regional Forum. Before the elections, the Chair will invite the secretariat to provide a brief overview of the history and role of the Bureau. The incoming Bureau will comprise five members (the Chair, three Vice-Chairs and the Rapporteur), who will be elected on the basis of equitable geographical representation. Following the elections, consultations among the heads of delegations will take place on the specific member States to represent their respective subregions, and the composition of the incoming Bureau will be announced. The newly elected Bureau members will be invited to assume their seats at the podium.

#### **(b) Adoption of the agenda and programme of work**

##### **Documentation**

ECA/RFSD/2022/1	Provisional agenda
ECA/RFSD/2022/2	Annotated provisional agenda
ECA/RFSD/2022/3	Provisional programme of work

6. The Regional Forum will be invited to consider and adopt the agenda and the programme of work, subject to any amendments deemed necessary.

### **4. Highlights of progress at the regional and subregional levels in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063 in the context of the COVID-19 crisis**

##### **Documentation**

ECA/RFSD/2022/10  
Summary of the 2020 Africa sustainable development report

7. The aim of agenda item 4 will be to provide a synopsis of progress at the regional and subregional levels towards the attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals and the goals of Agenda 2063, taking into account the context of the COVID-19 crisis. There will be presentations on the following two topics:

- (a) Highlights of progress at the regional and subregional levels in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda in a context of the COVID-19 crisis (presented by a representative of ECA);

- (b) Progress and key regional initiatives to build forward better from the COVID-19 crisis and achieve the goals of Agenda 2063 (presented by a representative of the African Union Commission).

8. Before opening the floor for discussion of the themes raised in the two presentations, the Chair will invite representatives of the five subregions to share their perspectives on the measure to ensure green, inclusive and resilient recovery from the COVID-19 crisis and accelerate implementation of the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063.

## **5. Plenary round-table panel on boosting the generation and use of data and statistics to build forward better and accelerate delivery of sustainable development in Africa**

### **Documentation**

ECA/RFSD/2022/INF/2

Information and guidelines for the plenary round-table panel on boosting the generation and use of data and statistics

9. This round-table panel will address the need for scaled-up efforts and opportunities, including through initiatives at various levels, to boost the generation, access to and use of accurate, timely and disaggregated data and statistics for a green, inclusive and resilient recovery from the COVID-19 crisis and the accelerated implementation the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063.

## **6. Plenary round-table panels on national and subnational actions and reviews to build forward better and accelerate delivery of sustainable development in Africa**

### **Documentation**

ECA/RFSD/2022/INF/1

Information and guidelines for the plenary round-table panel on voluntary national reviews and peer learning to strengthen country-level interventions

ECA/RFSD/2022/INF/3

Information and guidelines for the plenary round-table panel on voluntary subnational reviews and peer learning to bolster local action

### **(a) Voluntary national reviews and peer learning to strengthen country-level interventions**

10. This round-table panel is designed to facilitate learning and strengthen practice in conducting and following up on voluntary national reviews of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063. To achieve this objective, the panel is expected to highlight solutions and good practices, and exchange experiences and lessons learned in voluntary national reviews. Panellists will also share insights relating to the challenges of conducting such reviews in the time of COVID-19 and the role of the reviews in ensuring a green, inclusive and resilient recovery from the COVID-19 crisis alongside the accelerated implementation of the two agendas. Among the matters to be highlighted during the discussion will be the outcomes of the pre-event on voluntary national and local reviews. The discussion will be led by a panel comprising selected policymakers and senior experts from the countries involved in voluntary national reviews in previous years and 2022, and from other countries in Africa that are front-runners in the implementation of Agenda 2063. Representatives of young people and the private sector will be part of the panel. It is anticipated that the panellists will share their views, experiences and

lessons learned; outline compelling solutions; and identify actions and other measures to build forward better from the COVID-19 pandemic and accelerate the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063.

**(b) Voluntary subnational reviews and peer learning to bolster local action**

11. This round-table panel is designed to showcase tools, such as the guide on conducting voluntary local reviews in Africa, and to exchange the experiences and good practices of cities and other subnational governments with voluntary local reviews and the contribution of such reviews to implementing the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063 at the local level, to strengthening voluntary national reviews, and to bolstering action to better implement the two agendas and ensure a green, inclusive and resilient recovery from the COVID-19 crisis. The discussion will be led by a panel comprising selected policymakers and senior experts from cities and other subnational entities that are conducting voluntary local reviews, and from countries that are involved in voluntary national reviews.

**7. Parallel meetings for an in-depth review of progress made and peer learning on the sub-themes of the Regional Forum**

**Documentation**

ECA/RFSD/2022/INF/5

Information and guidelines for the parallel meetings on the sub-themes of the Regional Forum

ECA/RFSD/2022/5

Background report on the sub-theme of quality education

ECA/RFSD/2022/6

Background report on the sub-theme of gender equality

ECA/RFSD/2022/7

Background report on the sub-theme of life below water

ECA/RFSD/2022/8

Background report on the sub-theme of life on land

ECA/RFSD/2021/9

Background report on the sub-theme of partnerships

12. Five meetings on the sub-themes of the Forum will be held in parallel as follows:

- (a) Parallel meeting on the sub-theme of quality education;
- (b) Parallel meeting on the sub-theme of gender equality;
- (c) Parallel meeting on the sub-theme of life below water;
- (d) Parallel meeting on the sub-theme of life on land;
- (e) Parallel meeting on the sub-theme of partnerships.

13. The aim of the parallel meetings is to review in depth and facilitate peer learning on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063, with a special emphasis on the selected sub-themes. The review will be held in the context of building forward better towards a green, inclusive and resilient recovery from the COVID-19 crisis, with a view to delivering on the goals of the two agendas in a timely manner. As such, panellist and participants in each parallel meeting will identify, articulate and agree on a set of key messages that address policy options and other measures for building forward better and accelerating implementation of the two agendas.

14. The parallel meetings will be open to all participants in the Regional Forum, who may join any of the parallel meetings.

**8. Plenary round-table panel on leveraging science, technology, innovation and digital transformation to build forward better from the COVID-19 crisis and accelerate delivery of sustainable development in Africa**

15. This round-table panel will address the importance and application of, and showcase interventions and lessons learned in leveraging, the enabling and transformative power of science, technology, innovation and digitalization to achieve a green, inclusive, and resilient recovery from the COVID-19 crisis and accelerate the delivery of sustainable development in Africa. Deliberations during this round table will capitalize on the outcomes of the fourth Africa Regional Science, Technology and Innovation Forum, which will precede the Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development.

**9. Presentations and discussions on sustainable recovery from the COVID-19 crisis and implementation of the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063**

16. This agenda item will comprise two sub-items:

**(a) United Nations development system support to build forward better and accelerate delivery of sustainable development**

17. This sub-item will feature a presentation and discussion on the role of, and ongoing interventions by, entities of the United Nations development system, including through opportunity and issue-based coalitions, to support member States, regional economic communities and the African Union Commission in building forward better, including through a green and inclusive recovery from the COVID-19 crisis, and to fully implement the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063.

**(b) Presentation by major groups and other stakeholders**

18. Under this sub-item, a presentation that highlights the outcomes of the preparatory and capacity-development workshop for major groups and other stakeholders in the African region will be followed by a discussion featuring perspectives from civil society, the private sector and academia on measures to ensure a green, inclusive and resilient recovery from the COVID-19 crisis, with a view to the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063.

**10. Presentation of commitments and actions to accelerate delivery of sustainable development**

19. The aim of this agenda item is to showcase, inspire and scale-up transformative actions to speed up progress to achieve the goals of the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063, in line with the decade of action and delivery on sustainable development that is underway. Under this item, member States, major groups, United Nations system entities and other development partners will present their commitments and actions to accelerate the achievement of the goals of the two agendas.

**11. Consideration and adoption of key messages and the Kigali declaration on building forward better from the COVID-19 crisis and accelerating delivery of sustainable development in Africa**

20. For the consideration of participants in the eighth session of the Regional Forum, the Rapporteur of the Bureau will present the key messages of the Forum and the Kigali declaration on building forward better from the COVID-19 crisis and accelerating delivery of sustainable development in Africa. The key messages and the declaration will represent the collective input by the African region to the 2022 meeting of the high-level political forum on sustainable development.

**Documentation**

ECA/RFSD/2022/...

Draft summary report and key messages of the eighth session of the Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development

**12. Theme, dates and venue of the ninth session of the Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development**

21. The secretariat will present proposals on the theme, dates and venue of the ninth session of the Regional Forum for consideration by the participants.

**13. Other matters**

22. The Regional Forum may wish to consider any other matters that are brought to its attention.

**14. Closing of the session**

23. The Chair of the Bureau of the eighth session of the Regional Forum will summarize the main outcomes of the deliberations. Closing remarks will follow by Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations and Executive Secretary of ECA, Vera Songwe. The Chair will then conclude the proceedings and declare the eighth session closed.

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