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Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development

Ninth session

Niamey (hybrid)

28 February–2 March 2023

Information note for participants



A-23-00136

The ninth session of the Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development will be held at the Mahatma Gandhi International Conference Centre and the Congressional Palace (Palais des Congrès) in Niamey from 28 February to 2 March 2023. The present document contains general information on meeting arrangements that may be helpful for your travel arrangements and your participation at the Forum.

To keep costs down and protect the environment, this information note will be available in electronic format only. Additional information on the 2023 Forum is provided on a dedicated webpage of the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) (www.uneca.org/arfsd2023).

Forum overview

The theme of the session is “Accelerating the inclusive and green recovery from multiple crises and the integrated and full implementation of the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063”.

Preliminary events will be held on Sunday and Monday, 26 and 27 February 2023, while the Forum will commence with a high-level panel discussion on Tuesday, 28 February and will end on Thursday, 2 March. Side events will be held on Saturday and Monday, 25 and 27 February, at the same venues.

For more information, please refer to the provisional programme of work (ECA/RFSD/2023/3), which is available on the ECA website at: www.uneca.org/arfsd2023.

Visa and immigration requirements

All visitors need a valid passport to travel to the Niger. Participants should process their entry visa before travel from diplomatic and consular representations of the Niger abroad. Holders of passports from the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) along with holders of service passports and passports issued by the African Union, the African Development Bank and United Nations, receive a free visa on arrival in Niger.

In case there is no diplomatic or consular representation of the Niger in your country, a visa to enter the Niger via the airport must be obtained from the Nigerien authorities through the Niger Convention Agency ((Agence Nationale de l'Économie des Conférences (ANEC)). For this purpose, you must send a copy of your passport to the following email address: accreditation@anec-niger.ne and indicate your country of origin and your flight route. Once approved, the visa will be issued to you upon your arrival at Diori Hamani International Airport in Niamey.

If you require a visa on arrival, once your online registration has been approved, you will receive a confirmation letter via email that will help to facilitate the processing of your visa application at the airport.

A visa for travel to the Niger costs 25,000 CFA francs (41.40 dollars) in cash, along with 2,500 CFA francs (4.10 dollars) fee for a photo if you do not have one. The total cost would be 27,500 CFA (45.50 dollars).

When you apply for an entry visa at the diplomatic or consular representation, your passport will be kept there to affix the visa and will be available for pick up 24 hours later.

Airport reception and transportation

Officers from the ECA Protocol and Liaison Unit, Nigerien protocol authorities and representatives of the Niger Convention Agency will be available at the airport to provide you assistance as needed, such as in relation to immigration formalities and luggage retrieval. Diori Hamani International Airport is located 12 km southeast of the city centre.

You should contact the hotel at which you've chosen to stay to arrange your transfer from the airport to your hotel. Group daily transport arrangements to and from the meeting venues will be made by the organizers for participants who are staying at the designated hotels (see annex I). If you are not staying at a designated hotel, you will be responsible for arranging your own daily transport to and from the venues. To facilitate transport arrangements, please submit your itinerary and hotel selection at: <https://indico.un.org/event/1003633/registrations/>.

Meeting venue

The main venue for the Forum will be the Mahatma Gandhi International Conference Centre. In addition, some pre-events and sessions will be held at the Congressional Palace. The journey by vehicle between the two venues is about one minute. Shuttles will operate between the two venues every 15 minutes.

Contact information for the Mahatma Gandhi International Conference Centre is as follows:

Address: Boulevard of the Republic, BP 683 Niamey-Niger

Telephone: (+227) 20 72 42 00

Website: www.anec-niger.ne

Lodging

You are kindly requested to contact a designated hotel directly to arrange, confirm and guarantee your booking. You will be responsible for bearing all lodging costs. Special United Nations rates are available to participants for rooms booked at the designated hotels (see annex I).

You are kindly requested to note that Forum organizers will not be in a position to arrange hotel accommodation for participants. The organizers have blocked a group of rooms in the hotels listed in annex I. Participants who need accommodation are requested to make their bookings in these hotels by the deadlines indicated in annex I.

Delegate accreditation

Government delegations are kindly requested to submit to ECA their letters of nomination, duly signed by the appropriate authorities of their respective Governments, at their earliest convenience, but no later than 15 February 2023. The letters must indicate the names, titles and contact details of the representatives nominated to attend the meeting and can be submitted online using the link provided in the invitations sent by ECA.

Questions regarding the delegate accreditation procedure should be directed to:

Jean-Paul Adam

Director

Technology, Climate Change and Natural Resources Management Division

Economic Commission for Africa

Email: jean-paul.adam@un.org

or

Hamza Hlima
Niger Convention Agency
h.hamza@anec-niger.ne
Tel: +227 90105763

Registration and identification badges

Online registration

You must register through the online link to the Indico platform provided in the invitation letter. You are encouraged to do so well in advance, and no later than Wednesday, 15 February 2023, to ensure that credentials and visas can be processed, and badges can be issued as quickly as possible. The online system makes it easier to log the details required from participants and facilitates logistical preparations.

Badges

Access to the meeting venues is restricted. A valid badge must be presented to gain entry. Forum badges will be issued at the registration counter located in front of the Gandhi Centre main entrance. Registration will begin on Saturday, 25 February 2023.

For security reasons, Forum badges must be displayed at all times and must be shown to gain access to the Forum venues and meeting rooms. If you lose your badge, you should immediately report the loss to the registration counter.

Facilities and services

Accommodation for persons with disabilities

In the spirit of inclusion contained in the Sustainable Development Goals, the organizers will take measures to make the Forum accessible for persons with disabilities. If you require special assistance, please email eca-arfsd@un.org to see how we can best support you.

Internet

ECA will adopt a paper-smart organizational approach during the eighth session of the Forum. Participants are strongly encouraged to use electronic media as much as possible, and every effort will be made to reduce the number of documents printed. To help achieve these objectives, high-density wireless connectivity will be made available at the Forum.

Documents

As a paper-smart event, only electronic versions of Forum documents will be made available to participants. All Forum documents will be available via the ECA paper-smart portal (papersmart.uneca.org) and on the webpage dedicated to Forum documents (www.uneca.org/eca-events/ninth-session-africa-regional-forum-sustainable-development/documents). Those who are attending in person are advised to bring their own devices (e.g., laptop computer, tablet, smartphone) to download and view the documents.

Working languages

The working languages of the Forum are English and French.

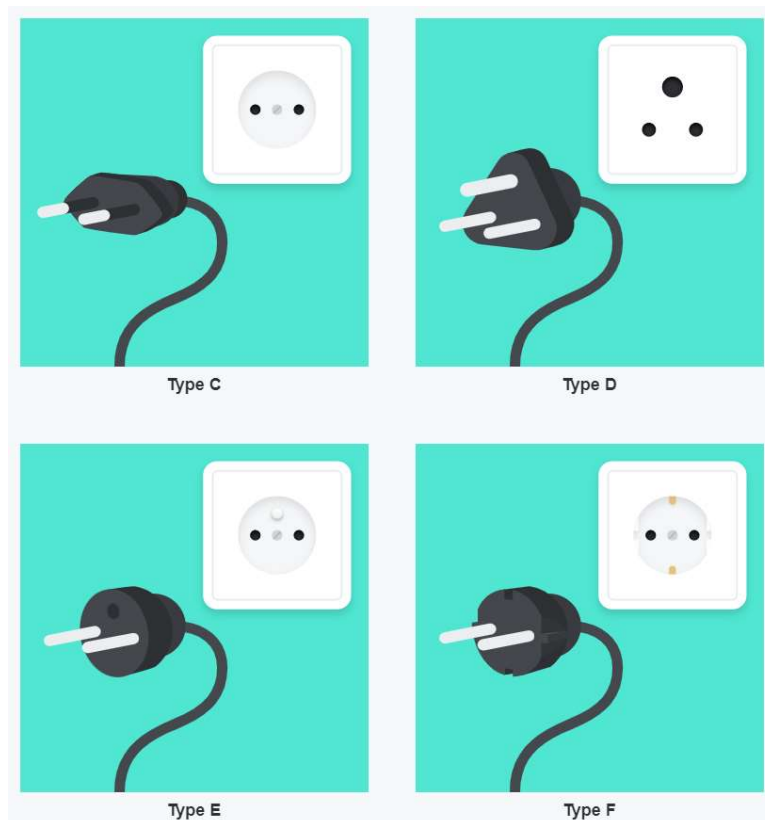
Practical information

Currency

The official currency in the Niger is the West African CFA franc. One United States dollar is equal to approximately 615.50 CFA. Credit and debit cards, such as American Express, Diners Club, MasterCard and Visa, are accepted in the Niger. ATMs are also available.

Electricity supply and voltage

The electricity supply in Niger is 230 V with a frequency of 50 Hz and alternating current (AC). The sockets have 13-amp breakers. Plug types C, D, E and F are used, as depicted below.



Mobile phone services

Airtel Niger (by Bharti Airtel), Zaman Telecom, Moov Africa Niger (by Maroc Telecom) and SahelCom (by Niger Telecoms) are the main mobile phone companies in the country that offer prepaid SIM cards. Any purchaser of a SIM card must be registered to obtain activation. The SIM card can be registered at the time of purchase. You will need to show your passport when purchasing a SIM card from authorized vendors.

The companies listed above have roaming agreements with partners in many countries.

Health care resources

You should ensure that your vaccinations are up to date at least four-to-six weeks before travelling to the Niger. Vaccination against yellow fever is mandatory. Please check the validity of your vaccination card and update it accordingly.

For any health emergencies, a health services station will be setup by the Niger Convention Agency at the meeting venue. The precise location will be communicated by the meeting secretariat in due course.

There are numerous hospitals and clinics at which participants may seek medical assistance, including the following:

1. **Clinique Magori**
Dr. Ali Adda
Dr. Tope (English-speaking)
80-00-30-05
89-39-57-20
20-74-12-91
2. **Clinique Gamkalley**
Dr. Fentin Gbaguidi
20-73-20-33
20-73-46-39
3. **Clinique Olivia**
Dr. Susan Beebout (internist)
94-98-43-54
4. **Tafadek**
Dental Clinic
Dr. Any Ango
Dr. Corrine Mayaki
Dr. Nadine Traoré Daouda
Prof. Diouf Joseph
20-73-20-34
5. **Clinique Lumière**
Ophthalmology
Dr. Soumana Yacouba
94-34-03-88
20-36-03-88
6. **Hôpital National de Niamey**
20-72-23-26
20-72-22-53
7. **Centre Hospitalier Universitaire - Lamordé**
20-31-68-78
8. **Maternité Centrale Gazoby**
20-73-35-50
20-73-37-19

Coronavirus disease vaccination and testing

Participants are invited to follow the recommendations issued by the World Health Organization (WHO) regarding the prevention of COVID-19. However, the conditions for entering and leaving the Niger by air have been simplified as follows:

Upon arrival

- For vaccinated travellers whose last dose is at least 4 weeks old, the COVID-19 PCR test is no longer required
- For travellers who have not been vaccinated or who have not provided proof of vaccination, the last dose of which dates back at least 4 weeks, the COVID-19 PCR test is required
- Participants will be required to present their proof of vaccination or COVID-19 PCR test results upon arrival at the airport.

Upon departure

- For any traveller presenting proof of vaccination, for which the last dose dates back at least 4 weeks, the COVID-19 PCR test is no longer required
- For any traveller who has not been vaccinated or who has not provided proof of vaccination, the last dose of which dates back at least 4 weeks, the COVID-19 PCR test is required

If you show symptoms of COVID-19 (fever, cough, headache, muscle pain), you must isolate yourself as soon as possible in your hotel room and notify the organizers, who will inform the health authorities.

At the meeting venues, participants must:

- Submit to body temperature checks throughout the duration of the meeting, if requested
- Wear a face mask at all times, except when eating or drinking
- Maintain social distancing
- Constantly use hand disinfectant (hydroalcoholic gel), which will be made available by the meeting organizers
- If you need to take a COVID-19 PCR test for departure purposes, you may do so either at the Centre for Medical and Health Research (Centre de Recherche Médicale et Sanitaire (CERMES)) for 25,000 CFA francs, or at the Mahatma Gandhi International Conference Centre for 30,000 CFA francs. The results will be available no later than 24 hours after the samples were taken. For expedited testing, the results of which will be available the same day, the cost is 50,000 CFA francs.

If you are declared positive for COVID-19, the Government will provide all medical care. Access to the meeting venue is strictly on the condition that you present proof of having received a full course of COVID-19 vaccination or proof of an up-to-date negative COVID-19 PCR test.

Media accreditation

All media representatives will require accreditation from the host Government and the Forum secretariat.

Media representatives from outside the Niger

All invited sponsored and self-sponsored media representatives travelling to the Niger must register online at www.uneca.org/arfsd2023. Once your registration is approved by the organizing team, you will receive an official invitation letter to facilitate the visa application

process. Media representatives residing in countries without an embassy or high commission of the Niger will be advised on attendance modalities once their registration has been approved.

Invited media representatives will be required to submit a letter of assignment and one valid form of identification (for example, a press card, work identification, a driving licence or a passport) as proof of their media affiliation to denekews.uneca@un.org. These items should also be presented upon check in at the media desk in Niamey.

A media centre will be set up at the meeting venue to facilitate media coverage of the Forum. More information will be communicated directly to registered media representatives.

Media equipment

Media representatives travelling from outside the Niger will be required to fill out an equipment form to facilitate customs clearance. The form will be shared upon request to denekews.uneca@un.org.

Media representatives based in the Niger

Media representatives based in the Niger may register on site. If registering on site, you will need to present your letter of assignment and passport at the designated media desk at the meeting venue. On-site registration will open on Friday, 24 February 2023. Please contact denekews.uneca@un.org closer to that time for more information on the exact location.

Security advisory

Niamey is a relatively safe city for travellers. All hotels and meeting venues will be monitored by the local police. Having said that, visitors are advised to remain cautious and to adhere to the following guidelines:

- Maintain a low profile
- Stay alert and vigilant
- Do not go anywhere alone to the extent possible
- Do not go out at night
- Do not be at the wrong place at the wrong time

While you are at the meeting venues, please adhere to the following guidelines:

- Wear your conference badge visibly and show it to any authorized person who asks to see it
- Do not leave bags and parcels unattended, as they may be confiscated and destroyed
- Do not bring unauthorized individuals (including children) into the meeting venues
- Look after your valuables
- Check that you have all your documents and personal items before you leave the conference halls and meeting rooms
- Inform the ECA Security and Safety Service or the nearest security officer if you lose anything valuable

When you are in your hotel, please follow the safety advice below:

- Upon entering and leaving your room, make sure that you have locked the door

- Before leaving the room, make sure that no money, jewellery, cameras or other valuables are visible
- Deposit valuables or portable items at the reception desk and obtain a receipt, or secure your valuables in your hotel room safe
- Should you observe anything suspicious or out of the ordinary, please contact the ECA Security and Safety Service

24-hour emergency numbers

ECA Event Security Coordinator

Christiana Ifeoma Ugulu

Tel: +251 91 150 8209

Email: christiana.ugulu@un.org

United Nations Department of Safety and Security in Niger

United Nations House

428, Niger River Avenue

P.O. Box: 11.207 Niamey

Tel: (+227) 20 73 13 00

SOC 24H/7: 91208446

LSA/Niamey: 80066402/90985221

FSA/DSS: 80068676

SA/DSS: 80096954

Médecin UN: 91208357

Police: 20733743

Niger National Police

- Fire brigade (free call): 18
- Ambulance (free call): 15 or +227 93591802
- General assistance: 15 or +227 93591802
- Emergency police: 17 or 8383

About Niamey

General information

Niamey is the capital and largest city of the Niger. It is primarily situated on the east bank of the Niger River. In a country with the world's highest fertility rate, the city's population has grown rapidly, caused in part by an influx of people seeking employment or fleeing drought in rural areas. Owing to population trends, a majority of the city's residents are young people. The city is located in the country's pearl millet growing region, while manufacturing features the production of bricks, ceramics, cement and woven goods.

A major attraction in the city is the National Boubou Hama Museum, which includes a zoo, a museum of vernacular architecture and dress, a craft centre, and exhibits featuring dinosaur skeletons and the remains of the Tree of Ténéré. Other places of interest include the American, French and Nigerien cultural centres, seven major markets (including the Niamey Grand Market), a traditional wrestling arena, and a horse racing track. Most of the colourful pottery sold in Niamey is hand-made in the nearby village of Boubon.

Climate

The climate of Niamey is hot and semi-arid, with an annual expected rainfall of between 500 mm and 750 mm. Most of the rainfall occurs between late June and mid-September. There is practically no rain from October to April. Niamey is remarkably hot throughout the year. In fact, it is one of the hottest major cities on the planet. Average monthly high temperatures reach 38 °C (100 °F) four months out of the year, and in no month do average high temperatures fall below 32 °C (90 °F). During the dry season, in particularly from November through February, nights are generally cool.

Time zone

The time zone is UTC+2 all year long.

National languages

The official language of the Niger is French. Hausa, which is spoken by half the country's population, is the most widely spoken national language. The Niger has nine other officially-recognized national languages, namely, Arabic, Buduma, Fulfulde, Gourmanchéma, Kanuri, Zarma/Songhai, Tamasheq, Tassawaq and Tebu.

Annex I**Designated hotels**

#	Name	Contact	Category	Number of Rooms	Daily rate (United States dollars)
1.	Radisson Blu Hotel	Ana Mogildea Tel. +227 80 09 76 69 Ibrahim Boubacar Tel. +227 80 09 76 93 ibrahim.boubacar@radissonblu.com	5 star	110	182 (rate available until 15 February)
2.	Bravia Hotel	Stephane Ummayo Tel. +227 92 07 19 18 Balkissa Seyni balkissa.seyni@braviahotels.com	5 star	80	149 (rate available until 15 February)
3.	Soluxe	Tel. +227 20 33 22 22 reservationniamey@soluxeint.com	5 star	60	166 (rate available until 15 February)
4.	Noom Hotel	Charles Jimoh Tel. +227 80 07 06 32	4 star	30	149 (rate available until 15 February)
5.	Le Grand Hôtel	Tel : + 227 20 73 26 41 Tel : + 227 20 73 26 42 grandhotelniger@yahoo.fr	4 star	73	99 (rate available until 15 February)
6.	Hotel Ténéré	Tel. +227 20 73 20 20 Tel. +227 20 73 30 55 contact@hotel-tenere-niger.com	4 star	50	84 (rate available until 15 February)
7.	Gaweye Hotel	Hama Nayoussa hamanayoussa@yahoo.fr	3 star	160	83 (rate available until 25 February)
8.	Hotel Terminus	Tel. +227 20 73 26 92/20 73 26 93 hotermi@intnet.ne hotermi02@gmail.com www.hotel-terminus-niger.com	3 star	60	96 (rate available until 15 February)
9.	Homeland Hotel	Tel. +227 90 33 14 03 h_homeland@yahoo.fr	3 star	50	73 (rate available until 15 February)

#	Name	Contact	Category	Number of Rooms	Daily rate (United States dollars)
10.	Hotel Phoenix	Tel. +227 96 96 10 47 Tel. +227 20 75 25 64 groupephenixs@yahoo.com	3 star	50	49 (rate available until 20 February)
11.	Hotel Concorde	Tel. +227 98 40 81 66 Tel. +227 20 75 28 53	3 star	30	50 (rate available until 20 February)
12.	Hotel Univers	Tel. +227 20 75 44 89 Tel. +227 20 35 08 06 camping_univers_touristique@yahoo.fr	3 star	30	54 (rate available until 20 February)
13.	Hotel Tabakady	Tel. +227 20 73 58 18/95 37 97 79 tabakady.niger@yahoo.fr	3 star	30	81 (rate available until 15 February)

Annex II

Selected tourist attractions in or near Niamey

<i>Attraction</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Location</i>
National Boubou Hama Museum	The museum contains permanent themed-exhibit pavilions, a zoo, and an area where traditional craft-makers (e.g. weavers, leatherworkers and blacksmiths) demonstrate their work. The museum shop offers good quality items at reasonable prices. Opening hours are from 9:00 a.m. to 12 noon and from 3:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.	Niamey
Koure	Located 60 km from Niamey, Koure is a reserve for the last giraffes in West Africa.	Koure
Big market	This market offers a wide variety of products at negotiable prices adjacent to several other markets and general food stores.	Niamey
Souvenir shops	Located opposite the Air Afrique headquarters in the city centre, these shops sell a range of handicrafts that are made in the Niger.	Niamey
Arts and crafts centre	Located opposite the national museum and next to the town hall, the arts and crafts centre offers good quality handicrafts at attractive prices.	Niamey
Wadata craft village	This is an area that reflects the richness and diversity of all Nigerien craftsmanship.	Niamey