



# Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General  
30 December 2024

Original: English

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**Economic Commission for Africa**  
**Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development**  
Eleventh session  
Kampala (hybrid), 9–11 April 2025

Item 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 eleventh session of the Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development will be moderated by a renowned media personality, with support from the Director of the Climate Change, Food Security and Natural Resources Division of the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA). The outgoing Chair of the Bureau of the tenth session of the Forum will preside.

2. Statements will be delivered by the following: the Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa; the outgoing Chair of the Bureau; the President of the Economic and Social Council and Permanent Representative of Canada to the United Nations; a representative of the African Development Bank; a representative of the African Union Commission; the Deputy Secretary-General; and the Prime Minister of Uganda. The President of Uganda will open the session.

### 2. Presidential dialogue

#### Documentation

Driving job creation and economic growth through sustainable, inclusive, science-based and evidence-based solutions for implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and Agenda 2063: The Africa We Want, of the African Union – concept note (ECA/RFSD/2025/4)

Summary of the report on African progress towards achieving the goals of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and Agenda 2063: The Africa We Want, of the African Union (ECA/RFSD/2025/10)

3. The President of Uganda will preside over the dialogue between the invited Heads of State and Government, which will set the scene for the Forum. The role of African leadership and commitment in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063 will be addressed. Insights and guidance will be provided on African priorities and on specific measures taken with a view to accelerated economic growth; to job creation, in particular for young people and women; and to the attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals and the ambitions, known as moonshots, of the second 10-year implementation plan (2024–2033) of Agenda 2063. In that regard, participants in the dialogue are expected to discuss the issues of: the financing of the two agendas, including through debt, and the mobilization of finance for infrastructure development;

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\* ECA/RFSD/2025/1.



digital transformation and emerging technologies; the advancement of the implementation of the Agreement Establishing the African Continental Free Trade Area, other forms of regional integration and the strengthening of the regional economic communities; infrastructure development; a robust industrialization agenda, including value addition and the development of regional value chains; and the implications of climate change and the need for sustainability.

### **3. Organizational matters**

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

##### **Documentation**

Function and composition of the Bureau of the Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development (ECA/RFSD/2025/INF/5)

4. The outgoing Chair of the Bureau will conduct the election of the members of the Bureau for the eleventh session of the Forum. Before the elections, the secretariat will be invited to provide a brief overview of the role and history 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 delegation will take place to determine which specific members of ECA will 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**

Provisional agenda (ECA/RFSD/2025/1)

Annotated provisional agenda (ECA/RFSD/2025/2)

Draft programme of work (ECA/RFSD/2025/3)

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

### **4. High-level panel 1: Increasing ambition and finding innovative solutions for mobilizing sustainable finance, and channelling and using finance more efficiently and effectively to implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and Agenda 2063: The Africa We Want, of the African Union, with emphasis on the second 10-year implementation plan (2024–2033)**

##### **Documentation**

Driving job creation and economic growth through sustainable, inclusive, science-based and evidence-based solutions for implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and Agenda 2063: The Africa We Want, of the African Union – concept note (ECA/RFSD/2025/4)

Information and guidelines for high-level panel 1 (ECA/RFSD/2025/INF/8)

6. Panellists are expected to include: representatives of ministries, including ministries of finance; central bank governors; presidents of regional banks; managers of pension funds; and another representative of the private sector.

7. On the basis of 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.

8. The panel dialogue will conclude with the reflections of a designated resource person on the main messages from the panellists and the discussion.

**5. High-level panel 2: Scaling sustainable, inclusive, science-based, evidence-based and data-driven solutions to dramatically increase economic growth, boost job creation and accelerate implementation of the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063**

Driving job creation and economic growth through sustainable, inclusive, science-based and evidence-based solutions for implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and Agenda 2063: The Africa We Want, of the African Union – concept note (ECA/RFSD/2025/4)

Information and guidelines for high-level panel 2 (ECA/RFSD/2025/INF/2)

9. Panellists and discussants will include representatives of resident coordinator offices, ministers responsible for the selected Sustainable Development Goals, representatives of the private sector and representatives of civil society organizations. Given the crucial role of accurate data and statistics in evidence-based policymaking, representatives of the statistical community, including heads of statistical agencies, will also be part of the panel.

10. On the basis of 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.

11. The panel dialogue will conclude with the reflections of a designated resource person on the main messages from the panellists and the discussion.

**6. High-level panel 3: Follow-up on the outcome documents of the Summit of the Future in the context of advancing sustainable, inclusive, science-based and evidence-based solutions to increase the pace and scale of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063**

**Documentation**

Driving job creation and economic growth through sustainable, inclusive, science-based and evidence-based solutions for implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and Agenda 2063: The Africa We Want, of the African Union – concept note (ECA/RFSD/2025/4)

Information and guidelines for high-level panel 3 (ECA/RFSD/2025/INF/4)

12. Panellists and discussants will include representatives of the Regional Collaborative Platform for Africa, including its Co-Chairs, as well as representatives of members of ECA, of development partners and of major groups and other stakeholders.

13. On the basis of 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.

14. The panel dialogue will conclude with the reflections of a designated resource person on the main messages from the panellists and the discussion.

**7. High-level panel 4: Capitalizing on the Second World Summit for Social Development to advance the achievement of African priorities (poverty eradication; full employment and decent work for all; inclusivity and social integration, leaving no one behind; and full achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals and the goals of Agenda 2063)**

**Documentation**

Driving job creation and economic growth through sustainable, inclusive, science-based and evidence-based solutions for implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and Agenda 2063: The Africa We Want, of the African Union – concept note (ECA/RFSD/2025/4)

Information and guidelines for high-level panel 4 (ECA/RFSD/2025/INF/1)

15. On the basis of 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.

16. The panel dialogue will conclude with the reflections of a designated resource person on the main messages from the panellists and the discussion.

**8. Parallel meetings for an in-depth review of progress made, peer-to-peer learning and acceleration measures regarding the sub-themes of the Forum**

**Documentation**

Information and guidelines for the parallel meetings on the sub-themes of the Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development (ECA/RFSD/2025/INF/3)

Background report on the sub-theme of good health and well-being (ECA/RFSD/2025/5)

Background report on the sub-theme of gender equality (ECA/RFSD/2025/6)

Background report on the sub-theme of decent work and economic growth (ECA/RFSD/2025/7)

Background report on the sub-theme of life below water (ECA/RFSD/2025/8)

Background report on the sub-theme of partnerships for the goals of the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063 (ECA/RFSD/2025/9)

(a) **Good health and well-being**

(b) **Gender equality**

(c) **Decent work and economic growth**

(d) **Life below water**

(e) **Partnerships for the goals of the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063**

17. Five meetings on the sub-themes of the Forum will be held in parallel. During the meetings, participants will undertake an in-depth review of progress made towards achieving the goals of the two agendas that correspond to the five sub-themes of the Forum. They will also engage in peer-to-peer learning about best practices, challenges and opportunities to scale up implementation of the two agendas, with a focus on the five sub-themes.

18. During each parallel meeting, panellists and participants will collaboratively identify, articulate and agree on a set of key messages. The intention of the messages will be the communication of policy options, strategies and sustainable, inclusive, science-based and evidence-based solutions to dramatically increase economic growth, job creation and the pace and scale of the attainment of the selected Sustainable Development Goals and of the corresponding goals of Agenda 2063.

19. Participants in the Forum may join any of the parallel meetings, which will be open to all those in attendance.

**(f) Reports on the parallel meetings**

20. Under this sub-item, representatives of members of ECA will give five-minute presentations to the plenary on each of the parallel meetings, highlighting the conclusions and agreed set of key messages arising from their deliberations. Each presentation will be followed by a brief discussion, with a view to enriching and fine-tuning the proposed key messages.

**9. Plenary round-table panel on harnessing science, technology, innovation and digital transformation to underpin sustainable, inclusive, science-based and evidence-based solutions for economic growth, job creation and accelerated implementation of the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063**

21. In addition to the central themes of the round-table panel, there will be discussion of ways of ensuring the effective implementation in Africa of the commitments set out in the outcome documents of the Summit of the Future, in particular the Global Digital Compact.

22. Panellists will deliberate on the outcomes of the following events that will precede the Forum: the seventh African Science, Technology and Innovation Forum, and the coding camp for African girls.

23. The panel dialogue will conclude with the reflections of a designated resource person on the main messages from the panellists and the discussion.

**10. Plenary round-table panel on voluntary national and local reviews as a means of fostering sustainable, inclusive, science-based, evidence-based and data-driven solutions to dramatically increase economic growth, job creation and the pace and scale of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063**

**Documentation**

Information and guidelines for the plenary round-table panel on voluntary national and local reviews as a means of fostering sustainable, inclusive, science-based, evidence-based and data-driven solutions to dramatically increase economic growth, job creation and the pace and scale of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063 (ECA/RFSD/2025/INF/6)

24. This round-table panel is designed to facilitate learning and strengthen practice in conducting and following up on voluntary national and local reviews of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063. To achieve this objective, the panel is expected to highlight best practices and challenges, and to exchange experiences and lessons learned from voluntary national and local reviews, in the context of accelerating implementation of the two agendas.

25. Panellists will also share insights about the linkages between voluntary national and local reviews and how to use the reviews to drive inclusive, science-based, evidence-based and data-driven solutions to dramatically increase economic growth, job creation and the pace and scale of implementation of the two agendas.

26. In addition, the panel discussion will provide an opportunity to highlight the outcomes of the preliminary event on voluntary national and local reviews.

27. The discussion will be led by a panel comprising selected policymakers and senior experts from the countries and localities involved in voluntary national and local reviews in previous years and in 2025, and from other countries in Africa that are leading the way in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063. The panel will include representatives of the statistical community, young people and the private sector.

28. On the basis of 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.

29. The panel dialogue will conclude with the reflections of a designated resource person on the main messages from the panellists and the discussion.

## **11. Consideration and adoption of key messages and the Kampala declaration on sustainable, inclusive, science-based and evidence-based solutions for driving job creation and economic growth and for implementing the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063**

### **Documentation**

Eleventh session of the Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development: summary and key messages (ECA/RFSD/2025/L.1)

Draft Kampala declaration on sustainable, inclusive, science-based and evidence-based solutions for driving job creation and economic growth and for implementing the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063 (ECA/RFSD/2025/L.2)

30. For the consideration of participants in the eleventh session of the Forum, the Rapporteur of the Bureau will present the drafts of the key messages of the Forum and the Kampala declaration on sustainable, inclusive, science-based and evidence-based solutions for driving job creation and economic growth and for implementing the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063.

31. The key messages and the declaration will represent the collective African input to the 2025 meeting of the high-level political forum on sustainable development and the Second World Summit for Social Development. The outcome documents of the Forum will also inform the Fourth International Conference on Financing for Development, the global review of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the United Nations Conference to Support the Implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14: Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development, to be held in June 2025.

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

32. The secretariat will present proposals on the theme, dates and venue of the twelfth session of the Forum for consideration by the participants. The theme will be aligned with that of the 2026 meeting of the high-level political

forum on sustainable development: “Transformative, equitable, innovative and coordinated actions for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its Sustainable Development Goals for a sustainable future for all”. Accordingly, pursuant to General Assembly resolution 78/285, the Forum will, at its twelfth session, focus on Goals 6, 7, 9, 11 and 17.

### **13. Other matters**

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

### **14. Closing of the session**

34. The Chair of the Bureau of the eleventh session of the Forum will summarize the main outcomes of the deliberations. Closing remarks will follow, given by the Deputy Executive Secretary (Programme) and Chief Economist of ECA and the Resident Coordinator for Uganda. The Chair will then conclude the proceedings and declare the eleventh session closed.

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