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Economic Commission for Africa

Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development

Eleventh session

Kampala (hybrid), 9–11 April 2025

Items 4, 5, 6 and 7 of the provisional agenda*

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

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

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

High-level panel 4: Capitalizing on the Second World Summit on Social Development to make progress towards 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)

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

I. Background

1. The Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development is an annual intergovernmental and multi-stakeholder platform mandated by the General Assembly through its resolutions 67/290, 70/1 and 70/299. The Forum was put into operation following the adoption of resolutions 930 (XLVIII) and 939 (XLIX) at the eighth and ninth joint annual meetings of the Specialized Technical Committee on Finance, Monetary Affairs, Economic Planning and Integration of the African Union and the Conference of African Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development of the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), held in 2015 and 2016, respectively.

2. The Forum undertakes integrated follow-up and review of the

* ECA/RFSD/2025/1.



Sustainable Development Goals of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the goals of Agenda 2063: The Africa We Want, of the African Union. This is because, for Africa, the two agendas provide a synergistic framework for achieving inclusive and people-centred sustainable development in the region.

3. The Forum is one of the three mechanisms mandated to follow up on, review and catalyse action to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals and the goals of Agenda 2063. The other mechanisms are the voluntary national reviews and, at the global level, the high-level political forum on sustainable development. To complement these processes and to bolster local action, national and subnational governments have embarked on voluntary local review processes. In that regard, the Forum also provides a platform for peer-to-peer learning, including on voluntary national reviews and voluntary local reviews by subnational entities.

4. As in previous years, the eleventh session of the Forum is being organized jointly by ECA and the host Government. Accordingly, the eleventh session will be organized jointly by ECA and the Government of Uganda, in collaboration with the African Union Commission, the African Development Bank and various entities of the United Nations system. It will bring together ministers, senior officials, experts and sustainability practitioners from members of ECA, the private sector, civil society, academic institutions and entities of the United Nations system.

II. Context

5. The eleventh session of the Forum is being held against a backdrop of slow progress, stagnation and even regression in relation to the attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals, worldwide and in Africa. At the global level, only 16 per cent of the targets under the Goals are on track to be met by 2030, with the remaining 84 per cent showing limited progress or, in some cases, regression.¹ The situation is worse still in Africa, where, at the current rate of progress, only 10 of the 144 measurable targets under the Goals will be achieved by 2030, with up to 106 targets requiring accelerated action and another 28 showing signs of regression.² The continent's poor performance in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda is due to several persistent challenges that it is still struggling to overcome.

6. Economic growth, although positive in several African countries, has been fragile, uneven and insufficient to drive substantial poverty reduction and achieve all the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030. The average gross domestic product (GDP) growth rate per year for Africa has been about 3 per cent since 2019, well below the 7 per cent target needed to achieve Goal 8.³ Consequently, the continent is still grappling with high levels of poverty, unemployment and inequality. It can be seen from World Bank data that, in 2019, the region accounted for 60 per cent of poor people worldwide, with 35 per cent of the African population living below the global poverty line.⁴ The situation has certainly worsened since then, as the effects of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic and the global economic shocks caused by the war between the Russian Federation and Ukraine have further exacerbated

¹ Jeffrey D. Sachs, Guillaume Lafortune and Grayson Fuller, *Sustainable Development Report 2024: The SDGs and the UN Summit of the Future* (Dublin, Dublin University Press, 2024).

² Adivhaho Ramaite and Alize le Roux, "Accelerate, extend or abandon? Africa's SDG dilemma", Institute for Security Studies, 12 September 2024.

³ Statistics Times, "List of continents by GDP", Economy database. Available at <https://statisticstimes.com/economy/continents-by-gdp.php> (accessed on 27 November 2024).

⁴ *World Economic Situation and Prospects 2023* (United Nations publication, 2023).

economic vulnerability, pushing millions into extreme poverty and reversing gains made in poverty reduction.

7. The global economic downturn, coupled with rising debt levels, has strained the public finances of many African States, limiting their capacity to invest in the essential services and infrastructure that are necessary to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals. An annual financing gap of about \$402 billion will need to be closed by 2030, in order for African States to fast-track their structural transformation and catch up with the high-performing developing countries of other regions.⁵

8. Despite the continent's relatively low contribution to global cumulative greenhouse gas emissions, Africa is especially vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change, which are reflected in agricultural productivity loss, disruptions to production and supply chains, and losses of revenue from trade, in particular for countries with economies that are heavily dependent on climate-sensitive sectors, such as exports of agricultural commodities.⁶ The urgent need to adapt to climate change and mitigate its effects is clear. Unfortunately, Africa has severely limited access to climate finance: in 2022, the region received only 2 per cent of global investment in clean energy.⁷

9. The African labour market is characterized by high levels of informality, underemployment and youth unemployment. The continent's growing population of young people, projected to reach 830 million by 2050,⁸ represents both an opportunity and a challenge. Harnessing this demographic dividend requires the creation of millions of decent jobs, yet current economic structures are ill-equipped to meet this demand.

10. Structural transformation remains slow, with limited progress in industrialization and increased value addition. Commodity dependence, with limited diversification and integration into global value chains, has left African economies vulnerable to external shocks.

11. The COVID-19 pandemic has exposed and exacerbated weaknesses in African health systems, leading to setbacks in progress towards achieving the health-related Sustainable Development Goals, in particular in reducing maternal and child mortality, combating infectious diseases and improving access to healthcare. The pandemic has also compounded social inequality, disproportionately affecting women, young people and other marginalized groups. Infectious diseases, such as HIV/AIDS and malaria, remain a challenge, as do emerging health threats. Healthcare infrastructure remains underdeveloped and access to essential services is limited, in particular in rural areas. Accordingly, stronger, more resilient health systems and social protection measures are needed.

12. Gender disparities persist across Africa, with women and girls facing significant barriers to education, employment and political participation. Violence against women and harmful practices, such as child marriage and female genital mutilation, remain prevalent in many parts of the region. Despite progress towards gender parity in primary education, the number of girls who progress to secondary and tertiary education remains low. Women's participation in the labour force is also hindered by discriminatory practices and the unequal burden of unremunerated work: worldwide, women spend, on

⁵ African Development Bank, *African Economic Outlook, 2024: Driving Africa's Transformation – the Reform of the Global Financial Architecture* (Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire, 2024).

⁶ African Union, ECA, African Development Bank and United Nations Development Programme, *Africa Sustainable Development Report, 2024* (Addis Ababa; Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire; New York; 2024).

⁷ International Energy Agency, *Financing Clean Energy in Africa* (Paris, 2022).

⁸ Nardos Bekele-Thomas and Snorre Westgaard (*Africa Renewal*), "Unlocking the potential of Africa's youth", United Nations, 4 October 2024.

average, about 2.5 times as many hours performing unpaid care and domestic work as men.⁹ Without improved access to resources, such as land and finance, women's full contribution to economic growth cannot be unleashed.

13. The continent's marine and coastal ecosystems are under significant threat from overfishing, pollution and climate change. The degradation of these ecosystems has severe implications for food security, livelihoods and biodiversity. Despite the vast marine resources of Africa, the potential for sustainable economic growth and job creation offered by the blue economy remains largely untapped. Addressing these challenges requires enhanced governance, investment in sustainable practices and regional cooperation.

14. Achieving the Sustainable Development Goals and the goals of Agenda 2063 requires robust partnerships at all levels. Africa continues to face challenges in mobilizing adequate financial resources, technological support and capacity-building, however. The continent's tax-to-GDP ratio remains low, averaging about 16 per cent per year,¹⁰ which limits domestic resource mobilization efforts. Global financial flows, including foreign direct investment and official development assistance, are volatile, with many African countries struggling to attract sustainable investment. In addition, the debt burden on States has increased, with several facing the risk of debt distress.

15. Weak governance, political instability and conflicts in several African countries continue to hamper sustainable development. The erosion of trust in multilateralism and the rise of geopolitical tensions further complicate efforts to implement the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063. Strengthening governance frameworks, promoting peace and enhancing regional cooperation are essential to the creation of an enabling environment for sustainable development.

III. Theme

16. In that context, with around six years remaining before 2030, the eleventh session of the Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development will be held under the theme "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". The theme is aligned with that of the 2025 meeting of the high-level political forum on sustainable development, namely "Advancing sustainable, inclusive, science- and evidence-based solutions for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its Sustainable Development Goals for leaving no one behind". The eleventh session of the Forum represents an opportunity to reflect on and devise transformative measures that will put the region back on track to achieve the Goals by 2030.

17. The concurrent responsibility of African States to implement the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063 demands that the required transformative measures aimed at attainment of the Goals also be aligned with the need to put into effect the *Second 10-Year Implementation Plan, 2024–2033* of Agenda 2063. Marking the beginning of the decade of acceleration of Agenda 2063, the Plan sets out a bold and far-reaching road map for transforming Africa, through seven ambitions, known as moonshots, to guarantee that, by 2033, Africa will be prosperous, integrated, democratic, peaceful, cultured, people-driven and influential.¹¹

⁹ United Nations, "Goal 5: achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls", 2024.

¹⁰ Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, African Union Commission and African Tax Administration Forum, *Revenue Statistics in Africa 2023* (Paris, OECD Publishing, 2023).

¹¹ African Union, *Second 10-Year Implementation Plan, 2024–2033* (Addis Ababa, 2024).

18. Held after the Summit of the Future, the Forum is also an opportunity to reflect and capitalize on the outcome documents of the summit,¹² with a view to shaping specific, action-oriented solutions that can decisively increase the scale and pace of implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

19. The eleventh session of the Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development is the setting for African States to prepare for the meeting of the high-level political forum on sustainable development that will be convened in New York in July 2025. The eleventh session also represents a timely chance for African States to prepare for the Second World Summit for Social Development, to be held in Qatar from 4 to 6 November 2025, with a view to garnering global support for the continent's priorities. Among the priorities are 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.

20. There is a growing recognition that sustainable development in Africa requires not only economic growth but also job creation, social inclusion, environmental sustainability and robust governance. The five Sustainable Development Goals on which the 2025 meeting of the high-level political forum will be focused include Goal 8: decent work and economic growth. Accordingly, the eleventh session of the Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development represents a unique opportunity to focus on Goal 8, in particular the need for sustainable economic transformation, including inclusive economic growth and job creation.

21. Such a focus will enable the Forum to identify and articulate workable ways of generating inclusive economic growth and creating jobs, in particular for women and young people, and of achieving the Sustainable Development Goals and the goals of Agenda 2063. In this connection, the Forum will seek to set out solutions that could contribute to the realization of:

(a) Healthy, productive populations and well-being for all at all ages, as the foundation for healthy economies and sustainable transformation;

(b) Inclusivity, gender equality and the meaningful participation and empowerment of women and girls, young people and other marginalized groups in social, economic and political activities;

(c) Sustainable, green industrialization and economic diversification, with African companies moving further along their value chains by adding more value, within Africa, to the continent's abundant natural resources, in particular marine resources, given that Goal 14 has been selected for the 2025 meeting of the high-level political forum;

(d) Sustainable use and management of freshwater resources and their associated ecosystems, in particular wetlands, above all in landlocked African countries;

(e) Adequate, predictable and sustainable financing, channelled and used efficiently and effectively to enable beneficiaries, in particular private companies, women, young people and local communities, to take tangible action;

(f) Deployment of science, technology and innovation and promotion of digital transformation as essential catalysts for sustainable development, including as means of harnessing the continent's wealth of natural resources to foster sustainable industrialization;

¹² The Pact for the Future, the Global Digital Compact and the Declaration on Future Generations (General Assembly resolution 79/1).

(g) Advancement of trade and associated boosts to economic growth and regional integration through the African Continental Free Trade Area.

22. Within that context, the objectives, sub-themes and format of the eleventh session of the Forum are as set out in sections IV, V and VI, respectively.

IV. Objectives

23. The overall objective of the eleventh session of the Forum is to conduct a regional follow-up and review of progress made, facilitate peer-to-peer learning and advance sustainable, inclusive, science-based, evidence-based and data-driven solutions to dramatically increase economic growth, job creation and the pace and scale of attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals and the aspirations, goals and targets of Agenda 2063.

24. The specific objectives of the eleventh session of the Forum are as follows:

(a) To review progress, challenges and opportunities in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063 and, in line with the 2025 meeting of the high-level political forum on sustainable development, to conduct an in-depth review of the attainment in Africa of Sustainable Development Goals 3 (good health and well-being), 5 (gender equality), 8 (decent work and economic growth), 14 (life below water) and 17 (partnerships for the Goals) and the corresponding goals of Agenda 2063, with a special focus on the *Second 10-Year Implementation Plan, 2024–2033*;

(b) To strengthen learning and advocate effective policy measures and action at the national, regional and global levels, including sustainable, inclusive, science-based and evidence-based solutions to advance the attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals and the goals of Agenda 2063, in particular by scaling up the available funding;

(c) To follow up on and take forward the outcome documents of the Summit of the Future;

(d) To serve as the regional preparatory meeting for the 2025 meeting of the high-level political forum and the Second World Summit for Social Development ;

(e) To reach consensus and adopt outcome documents, namely:

(i) Summary and key messages of the Forum, comprising African States' priorities and main policy options and recommendations to inform and spur measures at the subnational, national, regional and global levels to dramatically increase economic growth, job creation and the pace and scale of implementation of the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063;

(ii) Kampala Declaration on sustainable, inclusive, science-based and evidence-based solutions to drive job creation and economic growth and for implementation of the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063.

V. Sub-themes

25. The activities of the eleventh session of the Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development will be conducted on the basis of the following sub-themes, which have been crafted around the five Sustainable Development Goals to be considered at the 2025 meeting of the high-level political forum on sustainable development:

- (a) Good health and well-being;
- (b) Gender equality;
- (c) Decent work and economic growth;
- (d) Life below water;
- (e) Partnerships for the Goals.

26. A concise analytical report on each of the sub-themes will inform the deliberations, offering a thorough examination of the selected Goals and of the corresponding goals of Agenda 2063. Among the critical issues to be covered under each sub-theme are:

- (a) Major trends and progress made in achieving the selected targets of the specific Sustainable Development Goals and the corresponding goals of Agenda 2063;
- (b) Challenges, constraints and emerging issues that hold back progress, by hindering the adoption of science-based and evidence-based solutions for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063;
- (c) Opportunities and sustainable, inclusive, evidence-based solutions to increase economic growth and job creation and to advance the implementation of the two agendas, taking into consideration the linkages between the Goal in question, on the one hand, and other Sustainable Development Goals and goals of Agenda 2063, on the other, in order to foster coherence.

VI. Format

27. The eleventh session of the Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development will be held in a hybrid format that will provide for both in-person and online participation, facilitating broad engagement and enabling contributions from diverse stakeholders at all levels. The Forum will encompass the pre-session meetings and events and main segments that are described in detail below.

28. Alongside these events, a knowledge fair will be held.

A. Preliminary events, side events and other meetings on the margins of the Forum

29. A series of preliminary events, designed to gather and integrate a wide range of stakeholder perspectives, will precede the session. The events will provide a platform for the exchange of ideas, tools, experiences, best practices and lessons learned during the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063. In addition, related meetings will be held on the margins of the Forum, the outcomes of which are expected to make substantive contributions to its deliberations.

30. The preliminary events will include the following:

- (a) Seventh African Regional Science, Technology and Innovation Forum;
- (b) Regional preparatory workshop for African voluntary national reviews and voluntary local reviews;
- (c) Meeting of regional ministers of finance, central bank governors and pension fund managers on financing for development;
- (d) Annual meeting of the Regional Collaborative Platform for Africa;
- (e) Meeting of resident coordinators;
- (f) Meeting of regional directors of entities of the United Nations system;
- (g) Preparatory and capacity-development workshop for major groups and other stakeholders in Africa;
- (h) Africa climate talks;
- (i) Food systems review;
- (j) Parliamentary forum on the Sustainable Development Goals and the goals of Agenda 2063;
- (k) Private sector round table on the Sustainable Development Goals and Agenda 2063;
- (l) Coding camp for African girls;
- (m) Symposium on gender;
- (n) Meeting of representatives of faith-based organizations;
- (o) Symposium on children and young people;
- (p) Leadership forum on attaining the Sustainable Development Goals in Africa: progress and way forward;
- (q) Dialogue on refugees.

31. The eleventh session of the Forum will also feature a knowledge fair, which will provide a platform for exchanging cutting-edge ideas and experiences, and for showcasing innovative solutions and new ideas on sustainable development. It will be a unique opportunity for individuals and organizations to exhibit their work on implementing the two agendas. At least 120 exhibitors from across the region are expected; while those that are aligned with the sub-themes of the Forum will be prioritized, exhibits will be considered if they are intended to showcase best practices, to drive economic growth and job creation, and to promote partnerships for the accelerated implementation of the two agendas.

B. Main segments

32. The eleventh session of the Forum will comprise five main segments.

1. Opening ceremony

33. At the opening ceremony, the President of Uganda will officiate and attendees will be addressed by the Deputy Secretary-General, the Prime Minister of Uganda, the Chairperson of the African Union Commission, the President of the African Development Bank, the President of the Economic and Social Council, the Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa and the Chair of the outgoing Bureau.

2. Presidential dialogue

34. The presidential dialogue will set the scene for the Forum. During the dialogue, African Heads of State and Government will address the role of African leaders in implementing the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063, and their commitment to doing so. They will provide insight and guidance on African priorities and will propose specific measures aimed at accelerated economic growth; job creation, in particular for young people and women; and the attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals and of the moonshots set out in the Second 10-Year Implementation Plan, 2024–2033 of Agenda 2063. In that connection, participants are expected to address the following specific subjects:

- (a) Means of financing the two agendas, including debt and the establishment of financial infrastructure in Africa;
- (b) Digital transformation and emerging technologies;
- (c) Advancement of the implementation of the Agreement Establishing the African Continental Free Trade Area, as well as subregional and regional integration;
- (d) Development of African infrastructure;
- (e) Furtherance of a robust African industrialization agenda, including value addition and regional value chains;
- (f) Implications of climate change and the need for environmental sustainability.

3. High-level panel dialogues

35. During the first panel, participants will discuss the importance of increasing ambition and finding innovative solutions for mobilizing sustainable finance. They will also reflect on the importance of channelling and using funds more efficiently and effectively to implement the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063, with emphasis on the Second 10-Year Implementation Plan, 2024–2033. Panellists are expected to include representatives of ministries, including ministries of finance; central bank governors; presidents of regional banks; and managers of pension funds.

36. Participants in the second panel will focus on identifying and scaling sustainable, inclusive, science-based, evidence-based and data-driven solutions to dramatically increase economic growth, boost job creation and accelerate implementation of the two agendas. Panellists and discussants will include: representatives of resident coordinator offices; ministers responsible for the selected Sustainable Development Goals; representatives of the statistical community, including heads of statistical agencies; and representatives of private companies and civil society organizations. Given the crucial role of accurate data and statistics in evidence-based policymaking, the participation of statisticians in the panel is especially important.

37. During the third panel dialogue, participants will explore measures to 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 two agendas. Participants 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.

38. Participants in the fourth panel will concentrate on how to capitalize 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.

4. Plenary round-table panels

39. The round tables, during which the role of accurate data and robust statistical systems will be addressed as cross-cutting issues, will be focused on the following two areas:

(a) 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 two agendas;

(b) Voluntary national and local reviews as 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 two agendas.

5. Parallel meetings

40. During the five parallel meetings, participants will thoroughly review the progress made with implementing the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063. They will also engage in peer-to-peer learning about best practices, challenges and opportunities to scale implementation of the two agendas, focusing on the five sub-themes of the Forum. During each meeting, 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.

VII. Expected outputs

41. The eleventh session of the Forum will generate the following outputs, which will be disseminated widely:

(a) Comprehensive policy reports on the sub-themes of the Forum, in which in-depth analysis and strategic guidance will be provided, for advancing sustainable development across the continent;

(b) Outcome documents of the eleventh session of the Forum, in which the agreed priorities, policy options and recommendations of African States will be set out, aimed at driving economic growth and job creation and at accelerating the implementation of the two agendas, while also serving as the region's collective input to the 2025 meeting of the high-level political forum on sustainable development and the Second World Summit for Social Development, which will be:

(i) Summary and key messages of the eleventh session of the Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development;

(ii) Kampala Declaration on sustainable, inclusive, science-based and evidence-based solutions to drive job creation and economic growth and for implementation of the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063;

(c) Report on the knowledge fair, aimed at enhancing knowledge networks and partnerships to advance implementation of the two agendas.

VIII. Expected outcomes

42. The eleventh session of the Forum is expected:

(a) To achieve consensus on African priorities, including sustainable, inclusive, science-based and evidence-based solutions to increase economic growth and job creation and advance attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals and the goals of Agenda 2063, with the priorities presented also including measures to follow up on the Summit of the Future and to identify the African input to the Second World Summit for Social Development;

(b) To strengthen the capacity of the States that are conducting voluntary national reviews in 2025 to undertake their reviews and present the review reports at the 2025 meeting of the high-level political forum on sustainable development;

(c) To equip members of ECA, civil society, private companies, academic institutions and development partners with the knowledge, skills, tools and best practices necessary to advance implementation of the two agendas, and to act upon and widen the reach of the Forum's outcome documents;

(d) To bolster commitments to increasing economic growth, job creation and the pace and scale of the implementation of the two agendas;

(e) To forge new, and strengthen existing, multi-stakeholder partnerships to mobilize and deliver strong and coordinated support, including financial, capacity-development and technological assistance for the implementation of projects and initiatives aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals and goals of Agenda 2063.

IX. Documentation

43. The documents for the eleventh session of the Forum will include:

(a) Pre-session documentation:

(i) Concept note;

(ii) 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;

(iii) Concise analytical reports covering the sub-themes of the session;

(iv) Reports and outcome documents of relevant past meetings and events;

(b) Post-session documentation:

(i) Kampala Declaration on sustainable, inclusive, science-based and evidence-based solutions to drive job creation and economic growth and for implementation of the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063;

(ii) Agreed-upon key messages for presentation at the 2025 meeting of the high-level political forum on sustainable development, at the Second World Summit for Social Development and at other strategic meetings at the global, regional, subregional and national levels;

- (iii) Report on the seventh African Regional Science, Technology and Innovation Forum;
- (iv) Report on the regional preparatory workshop for African voluntary national reviews and voluntary local reviews;
- (v) Report on the preparatory and capacity-development workshop for major groups and other stakeholders in Africa on sustainable development.

X. Communication

44. Communication and outreach for the eleventh session of the Forum will be guided by a communication strategy developed jointly by ECA and the host Government. A two-pronged approach to implementing the strategy will be adopted: capitalizing on potential advocacy opportunities and following a comprehensive communication plan. Under the strategy, a broad audience will be targeted, including African Governments, entities of the United Nations system, civil society and the private sector. The central activities include outreach and advocacy through high-level events, targeted messaging, media briefings and the extensive use of online platforms and social media campaigns. A robust mass publicity plan, involving such initiatives as press conferences, live television coverage, radio and television talk shows, and a variety of informational and promotional materials, will ensure that the eleventh session of the Forum garners visibility before, during and after the event. Communication efforts will be focused on enhancing engagement, raising awareness and disseminating the outcome documents of the Forum.

XI. Participants

45. The eleventh session of the Forum will bring together over 2,000 participants from within Africa and other regions, including representatives of:

- (a) All members of ECA;¹³
- (b) African Union Commission, African Union Development Agency and African Peer Review Mechanism;
- (c) African Development Bank;
- (d) Regional economic communities;
- (e) Entities of the United Nations system and other international agencies and organizations;
- (f) Major groups and other stakeholders, including civil society, business and industry organizations and academic and research institutions;
- (g) Development partners.

XII. Working languages

46. The working languages of the meeting will be Arabic, English and French. Simultaneous interpretation will be available in those three languages and in International Sign Language.

¹³ Invitations will be extended to Heads of State and Government; ministers and high-level policymakers, and experts from ministries and agencies responsible for: economic planning; finance; the environment; natural resources, including minerals; justice and governance; social affairs; energy; industry; infrastructure; trade; statistics; and science and technology.

XIII. Dates and venue

47. The eleventh session of the Forum will be held in Kampala, in a hybrid format with in-person and online participation, from 9 to 11 April 2025.
48. Preliminary meetings and events will be held from 6 to 8 April 2025.

XIV. Contacts

49. Enquiries concerning the eleventh session of the Forum should be addressed to the representatives of ECA or of the Government of Uganda, listed below.

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