

**Economic and Social Council**

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Economic Commission for Africa
Committee on Private Sector Development,
Regional Integration, Trade, Infrastructure,
Industry and Technology
Fourth session
Addis Ababa (hybrid), 18 and 19 November 2025

Item 3 of the provisional agenda*
Consideration and adoption of the agenda
and programme of work

Annotated provisional agenda

1. Opening of the session

The fourth session of the Committee on Private Sector Development, Regional Integration, Trade, Infrastructure, Industry and Technology will be held on 18 and 19 November 2025 at the United Nations Conference Centre in Addis Ababa and will open at 10 a.m. East African Time (UTC+3). Facilities will be provided for online participation. The session will begin with statements by the Chair of the outgoing Bureau, representatives of the secretariat, which is provided by the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), the African Union, the African Development Bank, the African Export-Import Bank and the Government of the host country. The Chair of the outgoing Bureau will preside until the election of the incoming Bureau.

2. Election of the Bureau

Following consultations among members of ECA, conducted through the deans of the five subregions, members will elect the incoming Bureau, which will be responsible for the session's deliberations in collaboration with the secretariat. Following established practice, the Bureau will comprise five members: one Chair, three Vice-Chairs and one Rapporteur. After the election of the new Bureau, the incoming Chair will preside over the rest of the proceedings. A table indicating the previous members of the Bureau is attached as an annex.

3. Consideration and adoption of the agenda and programme of work

Documentation

Provisional agenda (E/ECA/CPRTIIT/4/1)

Annotated provisional agenda (E/ECA/CPRTIIT/4/2)

Draft programme of work (E/ECA/CPRTIIT/4/3)

* E/ECA/CPRTIIT/4/1.



The Committee will consider and adopt the agenda and the programme of work.

4. Presentation of reports by the secretariat

The secretariat will introduce progress reports on the work undertaken over the past two years on private sector development, regional integration, trade, infrastructure, industry and technology. The presentations will be followed by a general discussion, leading to policy recommendations for members of ECA.

(a) Deepening regional integration in Africa: enabling regional value chains through the Agreement Establishing the African Continental Free Trade Area for innovation, diversification and economic transformation

Documentation

Deepening regional integration in Africa: enabling regional value chains through the Agreement Establishing the African Continental Free Trade Area for innovation, diversification and economic transformation (E/ECA/CPRTIIT/4/6)

The ability of Africa to compete in the global digital economy hinges on harmonized regulation, interoperable systems and robust cross-border infrastructure. Weak regional integration and connectivity gaps continue to limit progress, however. The report includes an examination of the ways in which the Agreement Establishing the African Continental Free Trade Area can help to address those challenges by advancing regulatory coherence, lowering compliance costs and encouraging digital investment. In addition, it highlights the role of frontier technologies in enabling the region's transition towards a continental customs union and common market, through such tools as digital customs systems and interoperable regulatory platforms. Building on that foundation, an analysis is provided of regional and continental frameworks and their potential to catalyse regional value chains in critical sectors, such as food processing, tourism, health, pharmaceuticals and the automotive industry. Those value chains, which are underpinned by technology and knowledge, offer a strategic route to inclusive industrialization, greater economic resilience and deeper regional integration across the continent.

(b) Frontier technologies: catalysts for innovation, regional integration and sustainable development

Documentation

Frontier technologies: catalysts for innovation, regional integration and sustainable development (E/ECA/CPRTIIT/4/7)

Frontier technologies, such as artificial intelligence, genetic sequencing and robotics, are transforming economic and social structures across the world. In Africa, the pace of technological change presents both challenges and significant opportunities. The technologies hold great promise for strengthening the region's innovation environments, enhancing the efficiency of public and private sector service delivery and accelerating progress towards sustainable development. The growing single market on the continent provides a unique opportunity to harness frontier technologies with a view to deepening regional integration and fostering home-grown technological solutions and businesses. The report contains an exploration of major trends in frontier technologies that are especially relevant to Africa, highlighting the measures and actions that are needed in order to unlock market potential and the ways in which innovation can benefit from, and contribute to, regional integration and sustainable development.

(c) **Harnessing energy and transport for economic and social transformation in Africa**

Documentation

Harnessing energy and transport for economic and social transformation in Africa (E/ECA/CPRTIIT/4/8)

Africa is at a pivotal moment in its infrastructure development, and substantial progress has been made in upgrading transportation networks and energy systems throughout the continent. Currently, investments in infrastructure total approximately \$80 billion annually; however, experts note that there are significant annual infrastructure needs of between \$130 billion and \$170 billion.¹ The report provides an outline of the infrastructure development path, with a focus on the role of ECA in supporting initiatives related to transport corridors, regional integration projects and energy infrastructure. It includes an analysis of the priority given by African countries to sustainable development, enhancements to cross-border connectivity and the mobilization of domestic resources in the context of reshaping infrastructure throughout the continent.

5. **Presentation on the theme of the session: “Leveraging frontier technologies and innovation to advance regional integration for sustainable and inclusive growth”**

Documentation

Issues paper (E/ECA/CPRTIIT/4/5)

The secretariat will introduce an issues paper on the theme of the session, which provides an exploration of the ways in which frontier technologies and innovation can drive regional integration and transform development in Africa. In addition, the paper includes definitions of the technologies, an assessment of the continent’s readiness for them and an outline of strategic pathways that can help to unlock their full potential.

6. **General discussion on the theme**

Panellists will lead a general discussion on the theme of the session, inviting the views of representatives of the African Development Bank, the African Export-Import Bank, the African Union Commission, ECA and the regional economic communities.

7. **Review of the 2024 and 2025 programme plans relating to private sector development, regional integration, trade, infrastructure, industry and technology, and the priorities of the 2026 programme plan**

The secretariat will introduce an overview of the programme plans of ECA for 2024 and 2025, covering aspects related to the work of the Regional Integration and Trade Division and the Technology, Innovation, Connectivity and Infrastructure Development Division. The presentation will be followed by a discussion of the performance and achievements of those programme plans and of the priorities set out in the 2026 programme plan.

¹ Africa-Europe Foundation and African Union Development Agency-New Partnership for Africa’s Development, *The Missing Connection: Unlocking Sustainable Infrastructure Financing in Africa – A Technical White Paper* (Brussels and Cape Town; Midrand, 2025).

8. Consideration and adoption of the report on the session

The Committee may wish to consider and adopt the report on the session, which will include a summary of the views expressed during its deliberations. In addition, the Committee may want to endorse the recommendations that emerge from the discussions.

9. Closing of the session

A vote of thanks will be proposed by a representative of one of the members of ECA. This will be followed by closing remarks by the Chair, who will highlight the main outcomes of the session.

Annex

Members of the Bureau of the Committee on Regional Cooperation and Integration,¹ 1999–2017

<i>Year</i>	<i>Chair</i>	<i>1st Vice-Chair</i>	<i>2nd Vice-Chair</i>	<i>3rd Vice-Chair</i>	<i>Rapporteur</i>
1999	Malawi (Southern Africa)	Burkina Faso (West Africa)	Central African Republic (Central Africa)	Tunisia (North Africa)	Uganda (East Africa)
2002	Senegal (West Africa)	Equatorial Guinea (Central Africa)	Kenya (East Africa)	Malawi (Southern Africa)	Morocco (North Africa)
2003	Algeria (North Africa)	Burkina Faso (West Africa)	Cameroon (Central Africa)	Ethiopia (East Africa)	United Republic of Tanzania (East Africa)
2005	Uganda (East Africa)	Morocco (North Africa)	South Africa (Southern Africa)	Burkina Faso (West Africa)	Cameroon (Central Africa)
2007	Sudan (North Africa)	Rwanda (East Africa)	Nigeria (West Africa)	Chad (Central Africa)	Malawi (Southern Africa)
2009	Ethiopia (East Africa)	South Africa (Southern Africa)	Ghana (West Africa)	Gabon (Central Africa)	Egypt (North Africa)
2011	Cameroon (Central Africa)	Gambia (West Africa)	Tunisia (North Africa)	Eswatini (Southern Africa)	Eritrea (East Africa)
2013	Benin (West Africa)	Algeria (North Africa)	Malawi (Southern Africa)	Uganda (East Africa)	Gabon (Central Africa)
2015	Sudan (North Africa)	Namibia (Southern Africa)	Kenya (East Africa)	Congo (Central Africa)	Nigeria (West Africa)
2017	South Africa (Southern Africa)	Uganda (East Africa)	Democratic Republic of the Congo (Central Africa)	Mali (West Africa)	Egypt (North Africa)

¹ The remit of the former Committee on Regional Cooperation and Integration was transferred to the Committee on Private Sector Development, Regional Integration, Trade, Infrastructure, Industry and Technology, which was formed pursuant to resolution 966(LII) of the Conference of African Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development. See the report of the Conference of Ministers on the work of its fifty-second session, Marrakech, Morocco, 25 and 26 March 2019, annex II (E/ECA/CM/52/2).

Members of the Bureau of the Committee on Private Sector Development, Regional Integration, Trade, Infrastructure, Industry and Technology, 2019–present

<i>Year</i>	<i>Chair</i>	<i>1st Vice-Chair</i>	<i>2nd Vice-Chair</i>	<i>3rd Vice-Chair</i>	<i>Rapporteur</i>
2019	Djibouti (East Africa)	Democratic Republic of the Congo (Central Africa)	Sierra Leone (West Africa)	Libya (North Africa)	Zambia (Southern Africa)
2021	Democratic Republic of the Congo (Central Africa)	Mali (West Africa)	Namibia (Southern Africa)	Morocco (North Africa)	Uganda (East Africa)
2023	Guinea-Bissau (West Africa)	Namibia (Southern Africa)	Mauritania (North Africa)	United Republic of Tanzania (East Africa)	Central African Republic (Central Africa)