



**Growth through innovation:  
harnessing data and frontier  
technologies for the economic  
transformation of Africa**

Fifty-eighth session of the Economic  
Commission for Africa Conference of  
African Ministers of Finance, Planning  
and Economic Development

*28 March, 2026 - 3 April, 2026*

## Consolidated timetable

### Saturday, 28 March

#### Meeting of the Committee of Experts

Venue: Grande Salle

9–9.30 a.m.	<b>Opening of the forty-fourth meeting of the Committee of Experts and the fifty-eighth session of the Economic Commission for Africa (agenda item 1)</b>
9.30–9.40 a.m.	<b>Election of the Bureau and adoption of the agenda and programme of work (agenda item 2)</b>
9.40–10.40 a.m.	<b>Session I: Overview of recent economic and social developments in Africa (agenda item 3)</b>
10.40–11 a.m.	Coffee break and Knowledge fair
11 a.m.–noon	<b>Session II: Assessment of progress on regional integration in Africa (agenda item 4)</b>
Noon–12.30 p.m.	<b>Session III: Presentation and general discussion on the theme of the fifty-eighth session of the Economic Commission for Africa (agenda item 5)</b>
12.30–2 p.m.	Lunch break
2–3.30 p.m.	<b>Session III: Presentation and general discussion on the theme of the fifty-eighth session of the Economic Commission for Africa (continued)</b>
3.30–3.45 p.m.	Coffee break and Knowledge fair
3.45–5.30 p.m.	<b>Session IV: Statutory issues (agenda item 6)</b>
5.30 p.m.	End of day one



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## Sunday, 29 March

### Meeting of the Committee of Experts

Venue: Grande Salle

9–10.15 a.m.	<b>Session V: Statutory issues</b> ( <i>continued</i> )
10.15–10.45 a.m.	<b>Session VI: Statutory issues</b>
10.45 a.m–12.15 p.m.	<b>Session VII: Statutory issues</b>
12.15–12.45 p.m.	Coffee break and Knowledge fair
12.45–1.15 p.m.	<b>Session VIII: Statutory issues</b>
1.15–2.15 p.m.	<b>Session IX: Statutory issues</b>
2.15–3.30 p.m.	Lunch break
3.30–4.30 p.m.	<b>Session X: Statutory issues</b>
4.30–4.45 p.m.	Coffee break and Knowledge fair
4.45–5.15 p.m.	<b>Session XI: Date, venue and theme of the fifty-ninth session of the Economic Commission for Africa</b> (agenda item 7)
5.15–5.30 p.m.	<b>Other matters</b> (agenda item 8)



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## Monday, 30 March

### Meeting of the Committee of Experts

Venue: Grande Salle

9.30–10.30 a.m.	<b>Session XII: Presentation on the report on progress made in the fulfilment of the second 10-year implementation plan (2024–2033) of Agenda 2063: The Africa We Want, of the African Union</b> (to be confirmed)
10.30–11.30 a.m.	Coffee break and Knowledge fair
Noon–4.30 p.m.	Drafting of the report on the meeting of the Committee of Experts
Noon–2 p.m.	Lunch break
2–3.30 p.m.	Tangier city tour
3.30–4.30 p.m.	Engagement of the Executive Secretary with delegates
4.30–6 p.m.	<b>Session XIII: Consideration and adoption of the report of the Committee of Experts and consideration of recommendations and draft resolutions</b> (agenda item 9)
6–6.30 p.m.	<b>Closing of the forty-fourth meeting of the Committee of Experts</b> (agenda item 10)



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## Tuesday, 31 March

### Side events

<p>11.30 a.m.–1 p.m.</p>	<p><b>Side event: Leveraging data and technology for domestic resource mobilization and debt governance</b></p> <p><b>Organizer:</b> ECA</p> <p><b>Venue:</b> Salle Tingis</p> <p>The side event is intended:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To highlight how data and technology can be used to increase transparency in the governance of debt, including guarantees and other contingent liabilities, by central government entities and State-owned enterprises</li> <li>• To examine how digital tools and analytics support the management of debt stress, including through risk-monitoring, stress-testing and providing early warning of refinancing, exchange-rate and interest-rate pressures</li> <li>• To explore how data and technology can improve the coordination of debt, tax and fiscal policies to support domestic resource mobilization and protect fiscal space</li> <li>• To identify institutional and legal priorities for implementing technology-enabled fiscal governance reforms, with a focus on capacity-building and accountability</li> </ul>
<p>1–2.30 p.m.</p>	<p>Lunch break</p>



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<p>2.30–5 p.m.</p>	<p><b>Side event: Enhancing African trade flows through improved port infrastructure and operations</b></p> <p><b>Organizers:</b> ECA, International Telecommunication Union and the Government of Morocco</p> <p><b>Venue:</b> Salle Tingis</p> <p>The objectives of the side event are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To share experiences and insights on the transformative role of frontier technologies in the transport sectors, in particular in the management of ports</li> <li>• To demonstrate the impact that the application of frontier technologies can have on port efficiency</li> <li>• To share the requirements for a smart port platform to operate with other smart elements in the port’s environment</li> <li>• To explore how port infrastructure affects transport costs and trade</li> <li>• To explore the requirements for ports to serve as green hydrogen hubs</li> <li>• To disseminate the finding of the latest research by ECA on ports, transport costs and trade in Africa</li> </ul>
<p>9.30 a.m.–6 p.m.</p>	<p><b>Side event: Continental youth symposium: African youth at the frontier of technologies, innovation, sovereignty and jobs in the digital age</b></p> <p><b>Organizers:</b> Pan African Youth Union and ECA</p> <p><b>Venue:</b> Salle Cap Spartes</p> <p>The primary objective of the side event is to provide a high-level platform to allow young people, policymakers and experts to engage directly with ECA, African ministers and development partners on the role of frontier technologies in job creation, digital sovereignty and economic transformation. Young people will be invited to articulate their expectations of ECA and Governments, identify the principal challenges they face in the digital and innovation economy and propose youth-driven policy recommendations.</p>



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## Wednesday, 1 April

### Side events

<p>9.30 a.m.–6 p.m.</p>	<p><b>Side event: Health as sovereign investment: fiscal strategy, innovative finance and regional transformation in Africa</b></p> <p><b>Organizers:</b> ECA, the Susan Thompson Buffet Foundation and the United Nations country team in Morocco</p> <p><b>Venue:</b> Salle Cap Spartes</p> <p>This side event is conceived not as a technical symposium but as a catalytic political platform for: aligning ministries of finance and health in a shared macroeconomic framing; engaging development banks, health partners and investors on structured financing mechanisms; advancing regional integration as a health financing multiplier; and highlighting reform as a political imperative.</p>
<p>9.30–11 a.m.</p>	<p><b>Side event: Financing for innovation: the role of African multilateral financial institutions in accelerating technological and economic transformation in Africa</b></p> <p><b>Organizers:</b> African Export-Import Bank and Alliance of African Multilateral Institutions</p> <p><b>Venue:</b> Salle Tingis</p> <p>The objectives of this side event are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To examine how African multilateral financial institutions can increase long-term, affordable capital for technology-driven sectors</li> <li>• To discuss ways to better direct development finance towards digital and technology sectors that boost employment, productivity and structural transformation</li> <li>• To enhance collaboration between finance ministries and African financial institutions to align financial instruments with national innovation and digital transformation strategies</li> <li>• To contribute to financial reform efforts by ensuring changes in the global financial architecture result in more accessible capital for Africa</li> </ul>



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<p>11.30 a.m.–1 p.m.</p>	<p><b>Side event: Women’s financial and economic inclusion for sustainable development in Africa: harnessing data and innovation</b></p> <p><b>Organizers:</b> African Center for Economic Transformation and Economic Commission for Africa (ECA)</p> <p><b>Venue:</b> Salle Tingis</p> <p>The overarching objective of this side event, being held during International Women’s Month, is to elevate women’s economic inclusion as a core macroeconomic and fiscal priority, using African-led evidence to inform finance ministers’ policy choices by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Positioning the African Women’s Inclusion Index, the African Gender and Development Index and other analytical work from ECA and the African Center for Economic Transformation as complementary and dynamic policy tools for finance ministers to generate evidence that informs budgets, national development plans and African Union reporting processes</li> <li>• Strengthening government policy coordination across finance, gender, economic planning, trade and digital portfolios to address the structural barriers limiting women’s economic inclusion</li> <li>• Supporting accountability and peer learning at the ministerial level to enable reflection on progress, gaps and practical implementation challenges in translating gender commitments into economic outcomes</li> </ul>
<p>1–2 p.m.</p>	<p>Lunch break</p>
<p>6–8 p.m.</p>	<p><b>Host government side event</b> <b>Venue: Ido Malabata Hotel</b></p>



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## Thursday, 2 April

### Ministerial segment

Venue: Grande Salle

7.30–9 a.m.	Breakfast meeting between finance ministers and the Deputy Executive Secretary (Programme) and Chief Economist, ECA, Hanan Morsy
9.30–10.30 a.m.	<p><b>Opening of the ministerial segment</b> (agenda item 1)</p> <p>National anthem Master of ceremonies: (to be determined)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Remarks by the Chair of the outgoing Bureau, Minister of Economy and Finance, Morocco, Nadia Fettah Alaoui</li> <li>• Remarks by the Chairperson of the African Union Commission, Mahmoud Ali Youssouf</li> <li>• Video remarks by the Director General of the World Trade Organization, Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala</li> <li>• Video remarks by the President of the General Assembly, Annalena Baerbock</li> <li>• Remarks by the Executive Secretary of ECA, Claver Gatete</li> <li>• Official address by the Head of Government of Morocco, Aziz Akhannouch</li> </ul>
10.30–11 a.m.	Group photo, coffee break and Knowledge fair
11–11.15 a.m.	<b>Election of the Bureau and adoption of the agenda and programme of work</b> (agenda item 2)
11.15–11.45 a.m.	<p><b>Overview of current global economic trends, related challenges and their implications for Africa</b></p> <p>Deputy Executive Secretary (Programme) and Chief Economist, ECA, Hanan Morsy</p>
11.45 a.m.–12 p.m.	<p><b>Presentation on the theme of the Conference</b></p> <p>Deputy Executive Secretary (Programme) and Chief Economist, ECA, Hanan Morsy</p>



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12–1.30 p.m.	<p><b>Keynote address: 2026 Adebayo Adedeji Memorial Lecture</b> Trevor Manuel, former Minister of Finance, South Africa</p> <p>High-level discussions</p>
1.30 - 3 p.m.	Lunch break
3–3.30 p.m.	<p><b>Dialogue on the theme of the fifty-eighth session of the Economic Commission for Africa</b> (agenda item 3)</p> <p>Launch of the Economic Report on Africa, 2026</p>
3.30–5 p.m.	<p><b>High-level round-table discussions</b> (agenda item 4)</p> <p><b>Round table 1: Leveraging technology for growth and economic transformation</b></p>
5–5.30 p.m.	Coffee break and Knowledge fair
5.30–6 p.m.	Press conference
7 p.m.	Reception



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## Friday, 3 April

### Ministerial segment

Venue: Grande Salle

9–10.30 a.m.	<b>High-level round-table discussions</b> (agenda item 4) <i>(continued)</i> <b>Round table 2: Empowering the Africa of the future: advancing the development of digital public infrastructure, data centres and sovereignty</b>
10.30 a.m.–noon	<b>Presentation on the Sustainable Health Financing Initiative</b> (agenda item 5)
Noon–12.15 p.m.	Coffee break and Knowledge fair
12.15–2.15 p.m.	<b>Consideration of recommendations and adoption of resolutions</b> (agenda item 6)
2.15–3.15 p.m.	Lunch break
3.15–4.45 p.m.	<b>Consideration and adoption of the ministerial statement</b> (agenda item 7)
4.45–5 p.m.	<b>Other matters</b> (agenda item 8)
5–5.15 p.m.	<b>Closing of the ministerial segment and the fifty-eighth session of the Economic Commission for Africa</b> (agenda item 9)