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**Economic Commission for Africa****Committee of Experts of the Conference of African  
Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development**

Forty-fourth meeting

Tangier, Morocco (hybrid), 28–30 March 2026

Item 6 of the provisional agenda\*

**Statutory issues****Report of the Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable  
Development on its eleventh session and follow-up  
activities****I. Introduction**

1. The present report is submitted to the Committee of Experts of the Conference of African Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development of the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) to inform it of the work and outcomes of the eleventh session of the Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development and follow-up activities.

2. The plans for the twelfth session of the Forum are also set out in the present report, so as to inform members of ECA and other stakeholders, catalyse their engagement in the planning process and prepare them to participate in the session.

3. The Committee is invited to share its perspectives and to provide guidance and recommendations in relation to the content of the report, with a view to stepping up the pace and scale of implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and Agenda 2063: The Africa We Want, of the African Union.

4. The overall purpose of the Forum is to advance the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063, with a focus on reviewing progress, strengthening learning and advocating policy measures for the effective implementation of the two agendas.

5. The Forum is convened annually by ECA, together with the Government of the host country and in collaboration with the African Union Commission, the African Development Bank and various international organizations, including entities of the United Nations system.<sup>1</sup>

\* E/ ECA/COE/44/1.

<sup>1</sup> The following international organizations were involved in convening the eleventh session of the Forum: Department of Economic and Social Affairs; Development Coordination Office; Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations; International Labour Organization; International Organization for Migration; Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS; Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs; Office of the Special Adviser on Africa; Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights; Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees; United Nations Children's Fund; United Nations Conference on Trade and Development; United Nations Development Programme;



## II. Organization and focus

6. ECA, together with the Government of Uganda and in collaboration with the above-mentioned partners, convened the eleventh session of the Forum at the Speke Resort Convention Centre in Kampala, in a hybrid format, with both in-person and online participation, from 9 to 11 April 2025.

7. The Forum was attended by more than 2,500 participants in person and over 800 online, comprising ministers and high-level representatives of the Governments of 52 members of ECA, intergovernmental bodies, United Nations entities, other international organizations and the major groups and other stakeholders.

### A. Context, focus and objectives

8. The session was held as the progress made in the implementation of the two agendas remained generally off track. Economic growth, although positive in several African countries, remained fragile, uneven and insufficient to drive substantial poverty reduction and achieve all the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030. Between 2019 and late 2024, the average gross domestic product growth rate per year for Africa was about 3 per cent, well below the 7 per cent target needed to achieve Goal 8.<sup>2</sup> The continent's growing population of young people, projected to reach 830 million by 2050,<sup>3</sup> represented both an opportunity and a challenge. However, the African labour market was characterized by high levels of informality, underemployment and youth unemployment. Consequently, the continent was still grappling with high levels of poverty, unemployment and inequality.

9. Against that backdrop, the eleventh session of the Forum was 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”, which was closely aligned with the theme 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”.

10. During the session, an in-depth review of progress was carried out and measures were identified to accelerate efforts to attain the five selected Sustainable Development Goals (Goal 3, ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages; Goal 5, achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls; Goal 8, promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all; Goal 14, conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development; and Goal 17, strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development) and the corresponding goals of Agenda 2063, with a special focus on the second 10-year implementation plan (2024–2033).

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United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization; United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women); United Nations Environment Programme; United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat); United Nations Industrial Development Organization; United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction; United Nations Office to the African Union; United Nations Population Fund; United Nations Sustainable Development Group; United Nations Volunteers; World Food Programme; World Trade Organization.

<sup>2</sup> Statistics Times, “List of continents by GDP”, Economy database. Available at <https://statisticstimes.com/economy/continents-by-gdp.php> (accessed on 27 November 2024).

<sup>3</sup> Nardos Bekele-Thomas and Snorre Westgaard (*Africa Renewal*), “Unlocking the potential of Africa’s youth”, United Nations, 4 October 2024.

11. The session also offered an opportunity for capacity development in relation to voluntary national and local reviews, peer-to-peer learning, the exchange of best practices, and the formulation and promotion of solutions and initiatives to accelerate and expand the scale of implementation of the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063.

12. Convened in the lead-up to the Fourth International Conference on Financing for Development, the 2025 meeting of the high-level political forum and the Second World Summit for Social Development, the eleventh session also provided a platform for African preparation for those events.

13. The proceedings of the Forum were guided by its elected Bureau.<sup>4</sup>

## **B. Main meetings and events held on the margins of the Forum**

14. The session was officially opened by the President of Uganda, Yoweri Kaguta Museveni. Opening statements were delivered by the Minister of the Economy and Finance of Mauritania and Chair of the outgoing Bureau, Sid’Ahmed Ould Bouh; the President of the Economic and Social Council and Permanent Representative of Canada to the United Nations, Robert Rae; the Executive Secretary of ECA, Claver Gatete; the Commissioner for Agriculture, Rural Development, Blue Economy and Sustainable Environment of the African Union Commission, Moses Vilakati; the Deputy Secretary-General, Amina Mohammed; and the Prime Minister of Uganda, Robinah Nabbanja.

15. The proceedings of the session featured the following main meetings:

(a) Presidential dialogue, chaired by the President of Uganda, in which participants addressed job creation, economic growth and the acceleration of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063;<sup>5</sup>

(b) High-level panels on four topics, namely “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)”, “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”, “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” and “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)”;

(c) Parallel meetings for an in-depth review of progress made and peer-to-peer learning on the sub-themes of the session around the five selected Sustainable Development Goals and the corresponding goals of Agenda 2063;

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<sup>4</sup> Chair: Uganda; First Vice-Chair: Maritius; Second Vice-Chair: Cameroon; Third Vice-Chair: Gambia; and Rapporteur: Mauritania.

<sup>5</sup> The panellists were the President of Zimbabwe and Chairperson of the Southern African Development Community, Emmerson Mnangagwa; the First Deputy Prime Minister of Equatorial Guinea, Gaudencio Mohaba Mesu; the Cabinet Secretary for the National Treasury and Economic Planning of Kenya, John Mbadi; the former President of the United Republic of Tanzania, Jakaya Kikwete; and the President of the Economic and Social Council.

(d) Plenary round-table panels on two topics, namely “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” and “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”.

16. The main meetings of the session were preceded by several events held on its margins, the outcomes of which enriched deliberations during the main meetings. The events included:

- (a) Meeting of regional ministers of finance, central bank governors and pension fund managers on financing for development;
- (b) Seventh African Regional Science, Technology and Innovation Forum;
- (c) Regional preparatory workshop for African voluntary national reviews and voluntary local reviews;
- (d) Dialogue on advancing environmental sustainability, the outcomes of the twenty-ninth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, carbon markets and energy access;
- (e) Children and Youth Forum;
- (f) Sixth Africa climate talks;
- (g) Leadership forum on attaining the Sustainable Development Goals in Africa: progress and way forward (former Heads of State and Government);
- (h) Sustainable Development Goals Activation Day: private sector round table on the Sustainable Development Goals and Agenda 2063;
- (i) Symposium on gender;
- (j) Optimal blended finance solutions for mobilizing private investment at a scale commensurate with African priorities;
- (k) Accelerating transformation through fulfilment of the second 10-year implementation plan (2024–2033) of Agenda 2063;
- (l) Meeting of representatives of faith-based organizations;
- (m) Preparatory and capacity-development workshop for major groups and other stakeholders in Africa;
- (n) In total, 56 other events on the margins, aligned with the theme and sub-themes of the session.

### **III. Outcomes and main results**

#### **A. Consensus on practical measures to reinforce the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063 and on African priorities for the meeting of the high-level political forum on sustainable development and other international forums in 2025**

17. Forum participants reached agreement on African priorities and on practical measures to be taken by States, United Nations entities and

development partners to drive job creation and economic growth and to accelerate the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063. The priorities and measures are set out in the following two outcome documents of the session, which also jointly served as the input of Africa to the 2025 meeting of the high-level political forum, the Fourth International Conference on Financing for Development, the Second World Summit for Social Development and the intergovernmental committees of senior officials and experts of the subregional offices of ECA:

(a) Eleventh session of the Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development: summary and key messages;<sup>6</sup>

(b) 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.<sup>7</sup>

18. The African priorities presented to the 2025 meeting of the high-level political forum, the Fourth International Conference on Financing for Development and the Second World Summit for Social Development, on which action was to be taken at the regional and national levels, include:

(a) Strengthening leadership and reforming the implementation of continental and global frameworks, by:

(i) Reviewing urgently and strengthening national and local institutions, plans, programmes and financial systems to better mainstream and accelerate the fulfilment of the 2030 Agenda, the Pact for the Future, the Global Digital Compact and the second 10-year implementation plan of Agenda 2063;

(ii) Including global and continental priorities formally in the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework to ensure strong support and coordinated and effective implementation;

(iii) Supporting the formulation and application of clear road maps for voluntary national and local reviews of the integrated implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the second 10-year implementation plan of Agenda 2063;

(b) Delivering financing and fostering partnerships, by:

(i) Accelerating reform of the global financial architecture to ensure sustainable finance for developing countries and establish fair debt resolution mechanisms;

(ii) Adopting a coordinated and integrated approach to the mobilization and use of sustainable finance for the coherent and accelerated fulfilment of the 2030 Agenda and the second 10-year implementation plan of Agenda 2063;

(iii) Increasing domestic resource mobilization and ensuring sustainable borrowing and efficient resource use, through the digitalization of tax administration, the curbing of financial leakages, the combating of corruption and the scaling-up of innovative financing tools, such as green bonds, diaspora bonds and blended finance;

(iv) Improving the measurement of economic growth through the use of natural capital accounting techniques, in order to enhance credit ratings and strengthen the position of Africa in global negotiations on access to affordable finance;

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<sup>6</sup> ECA/RFSD/2025/11.

<sup>7</sup> ECA/RFSD/2025/12.

- (v) Encouraging private sector investment through the adoption of de-risking measures and expanding the United Nations Global Compact Forward Faster initiative<sup>8</sup> in Africa;
- (c) Scaling up investment and digitalization to unlock the potential of young people, women and children, by:
  - (i) Boosting innovation and youth employment through support for entrepreneurship led by young people, innovation hubs and employment pathways, the expansion of digital literacy and the promotion of education in science, technology, engineering and mathematics;
  - (ii) Implementing gender mainstreaming in policy design, planning, and budgeting, and improving resource allocation to gender-responsive initiatives;
  - (iii) Expanding digital learning and capacity-building, and improving access to science and technology for women, young people and children;
- (d) Investing in health and social protection, by:
  - (i) Increasing government financing for the health sector, including through innovative mechanisms, and allocating at least 15 per cent of national budgets to the health sector;
  - (ii) Promoting the local production of vaccines, medical consumables and pharmaceuticals, including through capitalization on the Agreement Establishing the African Continental Free Trade Area;
  - (iii) Developing holistic and innovative approaches to and investment in poverty reduction and social protection;
- (e) Creating jobs and driving sustainable economic transformation, by:
  - (i) Supporting pro-employment macroeconomic and industrial policies that drive export-led growth and economic diversification;
  - (ii) Boosting decent employment and promoting green economic growth, through help for States with adding value to critical minerals and other natural resources by establishing nature-positive and climate-resilient special economic zones and green regional value chains;
- (f) Harnessing aquatic and marine resources, transitioning to a sustainable blue economy and combating pollution, by:
  - (i) Accelerating progress on Goal 14 through the implementation of African Union strategies on maritime and ocean governance and the promotion of transitioning to sustainable and equitable blue and circular economies;
  - (ii) Stepping up efforts to combat pollution, in particular plastics, in aquatic and marine environments.

**B. Enhanced capacity for 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**

19. During the session, 10 African States received capacity development in relation to the conducting of voluntary national reviews and to the effective

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<sup>8</sup> See United Nations Global Compact, Forward Faster. Available at: <https://forwardfaster.unglobalcompact.org/>.

presentation of the resulting reports at the 2025 meeting of the high-level political forum.<sup>9</sup>

**C. Strengthened capacity through the exchange of best practices and knowledge to drive the implementation of the two agendas**

20. During the eleventh session of the Forum, including the events on the margins, participants engaged in multi-stakeholder dialogue, including the sharing of experiences, best practices and lessons learned in the design and implementation of national frameworks, programmes and measures, aimed at achieving the goals of the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063.

**D. Action-oriented reports on the various sub-themes of the session**

21. The documentation prepared for the eleventh session of the Forum included background reports on its five sub-themes, each of which related to one of the five selected Sustainable Development Goals and the corresponding goals of Agenda 2063.<sup>10</sup> In addition, a summary (ECA/RFSD/2025/10) of the *Africa Sustainable Development Report, 2025* further informed the Forum's deliberations.<sup>11</sup>

22. The focus of the reports on the sub-themes was progress made in the achievement of the goals in question, along with challenges and options for scaling up efforts to attain the targets under each goal. The reports were intended to support advocacy and inform deliberations on the key messages and the ministerial statement developed during the session.

**IV. Follow-up to the eleventh session of the Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development**

**A. 2025 meeting of the high-level political forum on sustainable development**

23. As part of the follow-up to the eleventh session of the Forum, ECA and its partners sought to convey the outcomes of the session to other participants in the 2025 meeting of the high-level political forum, convened in New York from 14 to 23 July, and the events held on its margins.

24. The follow-up activities highlighted in the following paragraphs served to promote the uptake of the recommendations made in the outcome documents of the session at the global, regional and national levels.

**1. Advancement of African strategic interests at the high-level segment of the Economic and Social Council, including the ministerial segment of the high-level political forum on sustainable development**

25. The session about regional perspectives on implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals was dedicated to discussion of the outcome documents of regional forums for sustainable development. The Prime Minister of Uganda and Chair of the eleventh session of the Africa Regional Forum on

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<sup>9</sup> The representatives of Angola, Eswatini, Ethiopia, Gambia, Ghana, Lesotho, Nigeria, Seychelles, South Africa and Sudan presented their voluntary national reviews. Ultimately, the Government of South Africa deferred the presentation to the high-level political forum of its review.

<sup>10</sup> ECA/RFSD/2025/5, ECA/RFSD/2025/6, ECA/RFSD/2025/7, ECA/RFSD/2025/8 and ECA/RFSD/2025/9.

<sup>11</sup> African Union and others (Addis Ababa, 2025).

Sustainable Development, the Executive Secretary of ECA and representatives of African States presented the African priorities, drawn from the Kampala Declaration and the key messages that had been adopted by the Forum at its eleventh session.

26. The main outcome document of the 2025 high-level political forum was the ministerial declaration (E/HLS/2025/1), which adequately reflects the African priorities and perspectives expressed in the outcome documents of the eleventh session of the Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development. The salient points of the ministerial declaration are listed in the annex to the present report.

**2. Further support for African States participating in voluntary national reviews**

27. ECA participated in the sessions concerning voluntary national reviews to support and reinforce the messages of the nine African States that were presenting their reviews.

**3. Convening of and participation in Africa Day**

28. ECA, jointly with the Office of the Special Adviser on Africa, the African Union Commission, the United Nations Development Programme, the African Development Bank and other partners, convened Africa Day.<sup>12</sup> Held under the theme “Advancing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and Agenda 2063 through inclusive growth and partnerships, social protection, and decent jobs”, Africa Day served to strengthen the voice of Africa; enable the sharing of best practices and lessons learned; and strengthen partnerships for the implementation of the two agendas.

**4. Launch of the *Africa Sustainable Development Report, 2025***

29. Africa Day provided a platform for the launch and dissemination of the *Africa Sustainable Development Report, 2025*. In the report, a synthesis is presented of progress made in the implementation of the five selected Sustainable Development Goals and the corresponding goals of Agenda 2063; it also includes an outline of specific measures taken to speed up implementation.

**5. Convening of and participation in other strategic events on the margins of the meeting**

30. To further advance African perspectives and priorities and to exchange best practices, ECA joined partners to convene or participate in other events on the margins of the meeting, including:

(a) Lab on strengthening strategic planning and foresight for African voluntary national reviews and Agenda 2063 reporting;

(b) Lab entitled “Harnessing Sustainable Development Goal interlinkages through voluntary national reviews: best practices from the regions”;

(c) 2025 annual meeting of the Partnership Platform on Localizing the Sustainable Development Goals;

(d) Event entitled “Advancing energy transition in the Global South: fostering sustainable economic growth and building strategic partnerships”;

(e) High-level event entitled “Mobilizing global and regional collaborations to accelerate socioeconomic transformation in Africa: leveraging the Kampala Declaration and outcomes of the eleventh session of the Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development”.

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<sup>12</sup> Africa Day is an annual event held on the margins of the high-level political forum.

## B. Fourth International Conference on Financing for Development

31. The eleventh session of the Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development also generated input to the Fourth International Conference on Financing for Development, held in Seville, Spain, from 30 June to 3 July 2025.

32. The outcome document of the Conference is the Sevilla Commitment,<sup>13</sup> the chief features of which that are aligned with African priorities are:

- (a) Emphasis on the need for urgent reforms in the international financial architecture;
- (b) Commitment to scaling up capacity-building support for strengthening domestic resource mobilization, including undertakings to improve tax systems, combat illicit financial flows and make use of national development banks;
- (c) Support for efforts to create effective and replicable, scalable blended finance structures and instruments for different country contexts, including those tailored to low- and middle-income countries;
- (d) Renewed focus on effective partnerships and reform of official development assistance.

33. Measures to support the fulfilment of the Sevilla Commitment are set out in the Sevilla Platform for Action and include:

- (a) Launch of the Global Hub for Debt Swaps for Development to provide technical and financial support for States, in particular in Africa, that are interested in exchanging sovereign debt for a commitment to invest in their own development;
- (b) Establishment of the Sevilla Forum on Debt as a new platform for low- and middle-income country borrowers.

## C. Second World Summit for Social Development

34. The African priorities drawn from the eleventh session of the Forum were presented to the Second World Summit for Social Development, held in Doha from 4 to 6 November 2025, by ECA, the Government of Uganda and other partners. The Doha Political Declaration,<sup>14</sup> the outcome document of the Summit, is focused on eradicating poverty, promoting full and productive employment and decent work for all, and fostering social integration.

35. Participants in the Summit invited the regional commissions, within their respective mandates, to convene preparatory meetings at the regional level in advance of the follow-up to the Summit, in order to assess progress made, gaps and opportunities for action towards the implementation of the Doha Political Declaration and of the Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development and Programme of Action of the World Summit for Social Development.

## V. Plans for the twelfth session of the Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development

36. In the absence of an offer from any member of ECA to act as host,<sup>15</sup> the twelfth session of the Forum will be held in a hybrid format, with both in-person

<sup>13</sup> General Assembly resolution 79/323, annex.

<sup>14</sup> General Assembly resolution 80/5, annex.

<sup>15</sup> In relation to any such offer that the secretariat may receive, it will consult with the Bureau of the eleventh session.

and online participation, at the United Nations Conference Centre in Addis Ababa, from 28 to 30 April 2026.

37. The session will be organized by ECA, in collaboration with the partners mentioned in the introduction to the present report, under the theme “Turning the tide: transformative and coordinated actions for the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063”. The theme is aligned with that of the meeting of the high-level political forum on sustainable development, which will be held in New York in July 2026, namely “Transformative, equitable, innovative and coordinated actions for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its Sustainable Development Goals for a sustainable future for all”.

38. The session is expected to be attended by ministers, other high-level policymakers and experts from all members of ECA. Representatives of intergovernmental organizations, including United Nations entities, the private sector, civil society organizations, the major groups and other stakeholders, and international development partners are also expected to attend.

39. Participants in the twelfth session will be expected:

(a) To review the progress made in, and the challenges and opportunities arising from, accelerating the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063, along with its second 10-year implementation plan, including an in-depth review of the degree of attainment in Africa of the five selected Sustainable Development Goals (Goal 6, ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all; Goal 7, ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all; Goal 9, build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation; Goal 11, make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable; and Goal 17, strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development) and the corresponding goals of Agenda 2063;

(b) To strengthen learning about transformative actions and advocate the scaling-up of transformative and coordinated policy measures for the 2030 Agenda and the second 10-year implementation plan of Agenda 2063;

(c) To prepare and articulate the African regional input to the 2026 meeting of the high-level political forum, including by building the capacity of and supporting the 19 African States<sup>16</sup> that are planning to present their voluntary national reviews at the meeting;

(d) To serve as the African regional preparatory meeting for the 2026 United Nations Water Conference to Accelerate the Implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 6: Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all;

(e) To follow up on the outcomes of the Fourth International Conference on Financing for Development, the Second World Summit for Social Development and the thirtieth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change;

(f) To explore and gain insights into African priorities for the post-2030 global framework for sustainable development;

(g) To adopt the following outcome documents of the session:

(i) Summary and key messages;

(ii) Addis Ababa declaration on the theme of the twelfth session.

<sup>16</sup> Algeria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cabo Verde, Cameroon, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Egypt, Gabon, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Liberia, Malawi, Mozambique, Rwanda, Senegal, Somalia, Togo, Tunisia and United Republic of Tanzania.

40. The session will also feature preliminary events, to be held from 25 to 27 April 2026.

41. Members of ECA, regional and subregional organizations, the major groups and other stakeholders, United Nations entities and other development partners are invited:

- (a) To contribute to the organization of the session, including by financing the participation of delegations;
- (b) To organize subregional forums on sustainable development to strengthen a bottom-up approach to the work of the Forum;<sup>17</sup>
- (c) To plan and participate in the session, including by organizing and holding events on its margins to enrich the deliberations of the Forum.

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<sup>17</sup> Such subregional forums could be organized by subregional offices of ECA, in collaboration with the regional economic communities and with other United Nations entities at the subregional and national levels.

## Annex

### Salient points of the ministerial declaration issued following the 2025 meeting of the high-level political forum on sustainable development

1. With a view to facilitating consideration by the Committee of Experts, the salient points of the ministerial declaration of the high-level political forum (E/HLS/2025/1) are listed below.

2. Emphasizing that the world faces urgent and interconnected challenges and crises posed by rising inequality, including gender inequality, racism, persistent poverty, hunger and malnutrition, unemployment, global economic uncertainty, widening digital divides and technological disparities, climate change and biodiversity loss, the ministers and high representatives:

(a) Reaffirmed strongly their commitment to effectively implementing the 2030 Agenda and its Sustainable Development Goals;

(b) Recommitted themselves to accelerating the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, emphasizing the urgent need to take bold, ambitious, accelerated, just and transformative action in the remaining five years;

(c) Underlined the need to implement the political declaration of the 2023 Sustainable Development Goals Summit<sup>18</sup> and the relevant commitments in the Pact for the Future<sup>19</sup> and its annexes;

(d) Highlighted the need to build on the political momentum of the Sustainable Development Goals Summit, the Summit of the Future, the 2025 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 and the Fourth International Conference on Financing for Development.

3. In relation to finance, debt, technology, partnerships and cooperation, they:

(a) Committed themselves to continuing to reform the international financial architecture, enhancing its resilience, coherence and effectiveness in responding to present and future challenges and crises;

(b) Called for scaled-up international public finance and improved access to concessional finance, and committed themselves to delivering more affordable, predictable, sustainable and sufficient finance to developing countries;

(c) Committed themselves to enhancing global, regional, national and local partnerships for sustainable development, engaging with all relevant stakeholders, including civil society organizations, private companies, academic institutions and young people;

(d) Called for improved international debt mechanisms to support debt review, debt payment suspensions and debt restructuring;

(e) Committed themselves to continuing to assist developing countries in avoiding a build-up of unsustainable debt and in implementing resilience measures so as to reduce the risk of relapsing into another debt crisis;

(f) Undertook to take concrete actions to enhance fiscal space, address debt challenges of developing countries and lower the cost of capital;

<sup>18</sup> General Assembly resolution 78/1, annex.

<sup>19</sup> General Assembly resolution 79/1.

(g) Pledged to promote inclusive and effective international tax cooperation;

(h) Committed themselves to continuing to take action to bridge the digital divides and spread the benefits of digitalization;

(i) Undertook to promote equitable and inclusive access to and development of artificial intelligence.

4. With reference to the regional dimension of sustainable development and the role of the United Nations system, they:

(a) Reaffirmed the importance of the regional dimension of sustainable development in addressing regional challenges and scaling up action among countries;

(b) Committed themselves to fully supporting and continuing to strengthen the United Nations development system, including the resident coordinator system, to make it more strategic, responsive, accountable, collaborative and integrated;

(c) Urged the United Nations development system to elaborate on the specific inter-agency, comprehensive, system-wide response plan for middle-income countries;

(d) Reaffirmed the need to augment support for the implementation of Agenda 2063 and its second 10-year implementation plan and the programme of the New Partnership for Africa's Development;

(e) Pledged to strengthen the roles of the United Nations, international financial institutions and other relevant international organizations.

5. With regard to voluntary national and local reviews, they:

(a) Encouraged States to consider developing national road maps of voluntary national reviews for presentation until 2030 and to support local authorities in the preparation of voluntary local reviews;

(b) Encouraged all States to use the key findings of the voluntary national reviews and the sharing of locally driven development approaches and pathways, to accelerate actions to implement the 2030 Agenda;

(c) Encouraged greater support for the Governments of developing countries in the preparation of more evidence- and data-based voluntary national reviews;

(d) Undertook to strengthen the use of voluntary national reviews as a tool for sharing knowledge and tracking progress, involving all relevant stakeholders.

6. In relation to health, they:

(a) Recognized the need to promote the equitable access of developing countries, in particular African countries, to safe, high-quality, efficacious, effective, accessible and affordable vaccines, including for coronavirus disease (COVID-19);

(b) Recognized the need to help developing countries to strengthen local and regional production of vaccines, medicines, diagnostics and other health technologies to facilitate equitable access;

(c) Committed themselves to strengthening health systems and investing in primary healthcare to achieve universal health coverage.

7. With reference to gender, women, social protection and young people, they:

(a) Reaffirmed the continuing efforts of United Nations entities to accord high priority to promoting the implementation of the women and peace and security agenda, including in the context of the 2030 Agenda;

(b) Committed themselves to enhancing global, regional, national and local partnerships for sustainable development, engaging all relevant stakeholders;

(c) Committed themselves to including young people in the formulation, implementation and assessment of sustainable development strategies and programmes designed to address their specific needs.

8. In the area of job creation, employment and economic growth, they:

(a) Pledged to promote development-oriented policies that support productive activities, decent job creation, entrepreneurship, creativity and innovation;

(b) Undertook to invest in inclusive and equitable high-quality education at all levels, vocational education and training;

(c) Reaffirmed their commitment to investing in the economy to restore and create decent jobs and livelihoods, with a view to achieving increased economic productivity through diversification, technological upgrading and innovation, by means of a focus on high value added and labour-intensive sectors.

9. In relation to oceans, the marine economy, pollution and plastics, they:

(a) Reaffirmed their commitment to accelerating action to prevent, significantly reduce and control marine pollution of all kinds, and to develop an international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution, including in the marine environment.

(b) Called upon States and regional economic integration organizations that have not done so to consider signing and ratifying, approving or accepting the Agreement under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Marine Biological Diversity of Areas beyond National Jurisdiction.

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