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Economic Commission for Africa
Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development
 Seventh session
 Brazzaville (online), 1– 4 March 2021

Item 3(b) of the provisional agenda*
Organizational matters: adoption of the agenda and programme of work

All times are Brazzaville, Republic of the Congo local time (GMT+1)

Provisional programme of work

Thursday 25 to Friday 26 February 2021

Pre-events

- | | |
|------------------|---|
| 8.30–9 a.m. | Registration |
| 9 a.m.–5.30 p.m. | <p>Africa Regional Science Technology and Innovation Forum</p> <p>Regional preparatory workshop for African voluntary national reviews and voluntary local reviews: strengthening integration and reporting on the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063</p> <p>Preparatory and capacity development workshop for major groups and other stakeholders in the African region for the seventh session of the Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development</p> <p>Other pre-events (see list at: www.uneca.org/arfsd2021)</p> |

Monday, 1 March 2021

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| 9 a.m.–1 p.m. | Pre-events Cont. |
| 9 a.m.–3.30 p.m. | Registration |
| 3.30–4.15 p.m. | <p>Introductory session and organizational matters
(agenda item 3)</p> <p>Venue: Virtual</p> <p>Chair: Minister of Public Service, Labour and Social Welfare, Zimbabwe and Chair of Outgoing Bureau of the sixth session of the Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development, Professor P.V. Mavima</p> |

Moderator: Director, Technology, Climate Change and Natural Resources Management Division, ECA, Jean-Paul Adam

(a) Election of the Bureau

Chair: Chair of the Bureau of the seventh session of the Regional Forum

(b) Adoption of the agenda and programme of work

4.15–4.30 p.m.

Break

4:30–6:30 p.m.

High-level panel on transformative actions and investments to build forward better from COVID-19 crisis towards a resilient and green Africa to achieve the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063 (agenda item 2)

Venue: Virtual

Chair: Representative of the Government of Congo

Moderator: TBC

Panellists:

- United Nations Under-Secretary-General and UNFPA Executive Director, Natalia Kanem (tbc)
- President of the United Nations ECOSOC, Amb. Munir Akram
- African Union Commissioner Amani Abu Zeid (tbc)
- Minister Claver Gatete, Rwanda (tbc)
- Minister Barbara Creecy, South Africa (Tbc)
- Private Sector

General discussion

Tuesday, 2 March 2021

10-11 a.m.

Progress report on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063 in the context of building forward better from COVID-19 crisis at the regional and subregional levels (agenda item 4)

Venue: Virtual

Chair: Chair of the Bureau of the seventh session of the Regional Forum

Presentations:

- Highlights of the Africa sustainable development report 2021: Progress, achievements and measures for a sustainable recovery from COVID-19 and to scale up implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the goals identified in Agenda 2063, by a representative of ECA
- Implementation of Agenda 2063 and regional approaches to COVID-19 recovery, by a representative of the African Union Commission
- Perspectives from the subregions by representatives of the regional economic communities

General discussion

11–11.15 a.m.

Break

11.15 a.m.–1 p.m.

Plenary round-table panel on meeting data and statistics needs for evidence-based inclusive and

sustainable recovery and building forward better from COVID-19 crisis and realising the decade of action in Africa (agenda item 5):

Venue: Virtual

Chair: Chair of the Bureau of the seventh session of the Regional Forum

Moderator: Mr. Houghton Irungu, Executive Director, Amnesty International Kenya

Panellists:

- Ms. Mami Mizutori, Special Representative of the United Nations Secretary-General (SRSG) for Disaster Risk Reduction, and head of United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR)
- Minister responsible for finance
- H.E. Alexander Chiteme, Minister of National Development and Planning, Zambia
- Minister responsible for information, science and technology/digital transformation
- Ambassador Kipyego Cheluget, Assistant Secretary General for Programmes, COMESA
- Prof. Davis Everatt, Chairperson, South African Statistics Council
- Mr. Stephen Chacha, Technical Committee of the Africa Regional Civil Society Engagement Mechanism

General discussion

1–2.30 p.m.

Lunch break

2.30–4 p.m.

Plenary round-table panels on national and local action and review for a sustainable recovery and building forward better from COVID-19 crisis and implementation, follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063: (agenda item 6):

(a) Voluntary national reviews and peer learning to strengthen recovery from COVID-19 and implementation, follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063

Venue: Virtual

Chair: Chair of the Bureau of the seventh session of the Regional Forum

Moderator: Ms Marion Barthelemy, Director, Office of intergovernmental support and coordination for sustainable development, DESA

Panellists:

- Ambassador Collen V. Kelapile, Permanent Representative of Botswana and Vice President of ECOSOC
- Minister/member State representative (2021 VNR country)
- Minister/member State representative (2020 or earlier VNR Country)
- Hon Mr. Obeth Kdanjoze, Director General, National Planning Commission, Namibia

- Ms Najat Maalla M'jid Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General on Violence against Children
- Mr Kofi Kankam, Co-Chair, Africa Regional Mechanism for Major Groups and other Stakeholders

General discussion

4–4.15 p.m.

Break

4.15–6 p.m.

Plenary round-table panels (agenda item 6 con't.):

(b) Voluntary local reviews and peer learning to bolster local action to recover and build forward better from COVID-19 crisis and implement, follow-up and review progress on the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063

Venue: Virtual

Chair: Chair of the Bureau of the seventh session of the Regional Forum

Moderator: Ms Thokozile Ruzvidzo, Director, Gender, Poverty and Social Policy Division, ECA

Panellists:

- H.E. July Moyo, Minister of Local Government, Zimbabwe
- Mr Ambrose Onoria, Commissioner, Ngora District, Uganda
- Mr Dmitry Pozhidaev, Global Advisor for Local Government Finance, UN Capital Development Fund
- Mr Oumar Sylla, Chief, Regional Office for Africa, UN-Habitat
- Mr Jean-Pierre Mbassi, Secretary General, United Cities and Local Governments of Africa

General discussion

Wednesday, 3 March 2021

9–11 a.m.

Parallel meetings on in-depth review, peer learning and dialogue on the nine sub-themes of the Regional Forum: (agenda item 7):

(a) Parallel meeting on the sub-theme on no poverty

Venue: Virtual

Chair: Member of the Bureau of the seventh session of the Regional Forum

Co-Chair: Mrs. Ahunna Eziakonwa, UNDP Regional Director

- **Presenter:** Raymond Gilpin, Chief Economist and Head of Strategy, Analysis and Research at UNDP Africa

Panellists:

- Hon. Paul Mavima, Minister of Public Service, Labour and Social Welfare, Zimbabwe

- Minister/Policy maker
- Mrs. Najat Vallaud-Belkacem, France Director, ONE and former French Minister for Women's Rights and Minister for Education
- Mr. Peter Kamaligin, Pan Africa Programme Director, OXFAM
- Dr. Abebe Shimeles, Director of Research, African Economic Research Consortium (AERC)

General discussion

(b) Parallel meeting on the sub-theme on zero hunger

Venue: Virtual

Chair: Member of the Bureau of the seventh session of the Regional Forum

Co-Chair: Selected representative of AUC/REC/UN

Panellists:

- Minister
- Minister
- UN: Dr. J. Chris Toe, WFP's Senior Advisor at the Office of Strategic Partnerships
- AUC/REC
- Private Sector/Civil Society/youth

General discussion

(c) Parallel meeting on the sub-theme on good health and well-being

Venue: Virtual

Chair: Member of the Bureau of the seventh session of the Regional Forum

Co-Chair: Co-Chair: Dr. Matshidiso Moeti, Regional Director for Africa, WHO

- **Presenter:** WHO

Panellists:

- Hon. Jacqueline Lydia Mikolo, Minister of Health and Population, Republic of Congo
- Dr. Maha El-Rabbat, WHO Special Envoy on COVID19, Former Minister of Health for Egypt and Director of the MENA Health Policy Forum.
- Dr. Julitta Onabanjo, Regional Director, East and Southern Africa Regional Office (ESARO), UNFPA
- Think tank/REC
- Mr. Keith Andere, Regional Caucus Coordinator - Africa Youth Caucus/Director of Programmes at African Youth Commission

General discussion

(d) Parallel meeting on the sub-theme on decent work and economic growth,

Venue: Virtual

Chair: Hon. Firmin Ayessa, Deputy Prime Minister for Civil Service, State Reform, Labour, and Social Security, Republic of Congo

Co-Chair: Mr Moussa Oumarou, ILO Deputy Director-General for Field Operations and Partnerships

- **Presenter:** Bernd Mueller, Employment Specialist, Decent Work Team for Eastern & Southern Africa, ILO

Panellists:

- Mr Samba SY, Ministère du Travail, du Dialogue Social et des Relations avec les
- Dr Chris Ngige; Minister of Labour and Employment, Nigeria
- Ms. Jacqueline Mugo, Executive Director of the Federation of Kenya Employers (FKE) and Secretary General of Business Africa Federation of Kenya Employers
- Mr. Kwasi Adu-Amankwah, General Secretary, ITUC-Africa
- Dr. Prosper Chitambara, Labour & Economic Development Research Institute of Zimbabwe
- Mr. Anduamlak Tsega, Youth representative

General discussion

11.00–11.15 a.m. Break

11.15 a.m.–1.15 p.m. **Parallel meetings on in-depth review, peer learning and dialogue on the nine sub-themes of the Regional Forum:** (agenda item 7 cont.):

(e) Parallel meeting on the sub-theme on reduced inequalities

Venue: Virtual

Chair: Member of the Bureau of the seventh session of the Regional Forum

Co-Chair: Mr. Charles Kwenin; Regional Director, IOM

- **Presenter:** Ms Maureen Achieng; IOM Ethiopia Chief of Mission and Representative to AU and UNECA

Panellists:

- Minister - Southern Africa
- Mr. Mabingue Ngom, Regional Director WCARO UNFPA AUC/REC
- Ms. Almaz Negash, Founder & Executive Director, African Diaspora Network (TIME)
- Professor Isabella Aboderin, Chair in Africa Research and Partnerships and Director, Perivoli Africa Research Centre (PARC)
- Mr. Berhanu Tefera, Executive Director of the Africa Disability Forum
- Ms. Judith Kaulem- Executive Director, Poverty Reduction Forum Trust-Zimbabwe

General discussion

(f) Parallel meeting on the sub-theme on responsible consumption and production**Venue:** Virtual**Chair:** Member of the Bureau of the seventh session of the Regional Forum**Co-Chair:** Ms Juliette Biao Koudenoukpo, UNEP Regional Director for Africa**Panellists:**

- Minister of forest economy and sustainable development, Rep. Congo
- Youth representative: Divine N
- Development partner: Dr. Osman Abdalla
- Minister of Energy, DRC (tbc)
- Minister: Environment

General discussion**(g) Parallel meeting on the sub-theme on climate action****Venue:** Virtual**Chair:** Member of the Bureau of the seventh session of the Regional Forum**Co-Chair:** Special Representative of the United Nations Secretary-General (SRSG) for Disaster Risk Reduction, and head of United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR), Ms. Mami Mizutori**Panellists:**

- Dr. Seleshi Bekele, Minister of Water, Irrigation and Energy, Ethiopia
- Ms. Laure Gnassou, UNDP
- Dr. McLay Kanyangara, COMESA
- Dr. James Kinyangi, Head of the African Development Bank's ClimDev-Africa Special Fund (CDSF)
- Dr. Amos Makarau, Director, Regional Office for Africa, World Meteorological Organization
- Ms. Chinma George, Environmental and Climate Change Expert, Nigeria

General discussion**(h) Parallel meeting on the sub-theme on peace, justice and strong institutions****Venue:** Virtual**Chair:** Mr. Ange Aimé Wilfrid BININGA Ministre de la justice, des droits humains et de la promotion des peuples autochtones**Co-Chair:** Pr. Eddy Maloka, CEO, APRM**Panellists:**

- Mr. Ronald Ozzy Lamola, Minister of Justice and Correctional Services of the Republic of South Africa.

- Mr Stanlake Samkange, Senior Director of Strategic Partnerships, Representative to the African Union, and Director of WFP Africa Global Office
- Adv Joseph Whittal, Chairperson of the Ghana Commission on Human Rights and Administrative Justice, and Chair of the NANHRI Working Group on Agenda 2030 & 2063
- UN/OSAA/ IOM to nominate a speaker
- Theophilous Chiviru, Team Lead, Africa and Middle East, Open Government Partnership (OGP)

General discussion

(i) Parallel meeting on the sub-theme on partnerships

Venue: Virtual

Chair: Member of the Bureau of the seventh session of the Regional Forum

Co-Chair: Edward Kallon, UN Resident Coordinator, Nigeria

Panellists:

- Presenter: Thierry Amoussougbo, UNIDEP-ECA
- Margaret Malu, Deputy Regional Director for Southern Africa, UN World Food Programme
- José Carbajo Martínez, Director, Financial Private Sector & Sustainable Development Department, Independent Evaluation Group, World Bank Group
- Nathalie Pilhes, President, Gender & Governance Platform (2GAP)
- Mohammed Abdiker, Regional Director, IOM for East and Horn of Africa
- Talla Kebe, SPMO, OSAA

General discussion

1.15–2.30 p.m.

Lunch break

2.30 –3.45 p.m.

Plenary roundtable panel on leveraging science, technology, innovation and digital transformation for a resilient and sustainable recovery from COVID-19 crisis and realising the decade of action in Africa: (agenda item 8)

Venue: Virtual

Chair: Member of the Bureau of the seventh session of the Regional Forum

Co-Chair: Selected representative of AUC/REC/UN

Panellists:

- United Nations Under-Secretary-General and Special Adviser on Africa, Cristina Duarte
- Minister
- Minister
- AUC/REC
- Private Sector/Civil Society/youth

3.45 –4 p.m.

Break

4.–5.15 p.m.

Opening ceremony(agenda item 1)

Venue: Centre International de Conférences de Kintélé

Chair: Minister of Public Service, Labour and Social Welfare, Zimbabwe and Chair of Outgoing Bureau of the sixth session of the Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development, Professor P.V. Mavima

Moderator: Director, Technology, Climate Change and Natural Resources Management Division, ECA, Jean-Paul Adam

Special message by representative of young people

Statements:

- Minister of Public Service, Labour and Social Welfare, Zimbabwe and Chair of the outgoing Bureau of the sixth session of the Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development, Professor P.V. Mavima
- United Nations Under-Secretary-General and Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa, Vera Songwe
- Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations, Amina Mohamed
- H.E. Albert M. Muchanga Commissioner for Trade and Industry, African Union Commission
- Special Statements by invited Head of States and Government (tbc)
- H.E. Arlette Soudan Nonault, Minister of Tourism and Environment, Republic of Congo
- Opening remarks and Keynote address by the President of the Republic of Congo, H.E. Denis Sassou Nguesso

Signing of the partnership framework between the Government of the Republic of Congo and the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), to create the African Center for Research on Artificial Intelligence (CARIA) within the University Denis SASSOU NGUESSO.

Thursday, 4 March 2021

9.15 a.m. –11.20 a.m. **Regional Dialogue: African Food Systems** (agenda item 9)

Venue: Virtual

Chair: Dr. Godfrey Bahiigwa, Director, Department of Rural Economy and Agriculture, AUC

Key Note Speaker: Mr. William Lugemwa, Director, PSDFD, ECA

Breakout session 1: Building sustainable, resilient food systems in Africa

This session is to consider action tracks 3 & 5 on, respectively, sustainable production and resilience building

Moderator: Mr. Mohamed Mousa, Director, Agriculture and Environment, IGAD

Panellists:

- Mr. Jamie Morrison, Director, Food Systems and Food Safety, FAO

- Mrs. Joan Kagwanja, Chief, Agriculture and Business Enabling Environment Section & Coordinator, African Land Policy Centre (ALPC), PSDF, ECA
- Mrs. Madina Dansoko, Founder and General Manager, Lella Sarl Inc, Guinea
- Mr. Stanlake Samkange, Director, Africa Global Office, WFP
- Mr. Amjad Abbashar, Chief, UN Disaster Risk Reduction, Regional Office for Africa (UNDRR) (tbc)

General discussion

Breakout session 2: Promoting Sustainable, inclusive Food Systems for healthy diets and improved nutrition

Venue: Virtual

This session is to consider action tracks 1, 2 & 4 on, respectively, access to nutritious food; sustainable consumption; and equity and inclusiveness

Moderator: Jemimah Njuki, Director for Africa, International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI)

Panellists:

- Mrs. Felicite Tchibindat, Deputy Director, West and Central Africa, UNICEF (tbc)
- Mr. Divine Nitokam, Food Systems Champion
- Mr. Martin Fregene, Director, Department of Agriculture and Agro-Industry, AfDB
- Mr. Alex Ariho, Executive Officer, The African Agribusiness Incubators Network (AAIN)
- Mr. Ousmane Badiane, Director, Akademyia2063
- Mrs. Dina Saleh, Regional Director for Europe, Near East, Central Asia and North Africa Region, IFAD (tbc)

Plenary session

Chair: Mr. Godfrey Bahiigwa, Director, Department of Rural Economy and Agriculture, AUC

African solutions and Key messages:

- AUDA-NEPAD
- ECA

11.20 a.m.–1.30 p.m. **High-level policy roundtable on leveraging regional action for sustainable food systems in Africa**

Venue: Virtual

Chair: Dr. Vera Songwe, United Nations Under-Secretary-General and Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa

Key messages from the technical session: Mr. Godfrey Bahiigwa, Director, Department of Rural Economy and Agriculture, AUC

Panellists:

- H.E. Ambassador Josefa Sacko, Commissioner for Agriculture and Rural Development, African Union
- Dr. Akinwumi A. Adesina, President, AfDB
- Dr Ibrahim Mayaki, CEA, AUDA-NEPAD

- Dr Agnes Kalibata, Special Envoy for the Food Systems Summit
- H.E. Angela Thokozile Didiza, Minister of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development, South Africa & the Chair of the AU-STC on Agriculture, Rural Development, Water and Environment
- Ms. Lucy Muchoki, CEO, Pan African Agribusiness and Agroindustry Consortium

General discussion

- 1.30–2.30 p.m. Lunch break
- 9 a.m. –2.30 p.m. Refining and circulation of summary report and the key messages of the seventh session of the Forum by the secretariat under the guidance of the Bureau
- 2:30–3:45 p.m. **Presentations and discussions** (agenda item 10):
- Chair:** Chair of the Bureau of the seventh session of the Regional Forum
- (a) Presentation by the major groups and other stakeholders;**
- General discussion**
- (b) Presentation on the RCP and the support from the United Nations System to sustainable recovery from COVID-19 crisis and implementation of the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063**
- (c) Country level perspective and Regional strategy to support the United Nations Decade of Action and Delivery for Sustainable Development in Africa**
- Venue:** Virtual
- Chair:** Chair of the Bureau of the seventh session of the Regional Forum
- Co-Chair:** Mr Munyaradzi Chenje, UN Development Coordination Office (DCO) Regional Director for Africa
- Presentation by the UN Development System
 - Mrs. Coumba Mar Gadio, UN Resident Coordinator in Zambia, Country level perspectives on integrated support to the Decade of Action
 - Micheline Baussard, Adviser, UNECA, Perspectives on the Regional Strategy to support the Decade of Action
 - Discussion and perspectives of representatives of member States; regional economic communities; and the African Union Commission
- General discussions**
- 3.45 –4 p.m. Break
- 4–5 p.m. **Consideration and adoption of key messages** (agenda item 11)
- Venue:** Virtual
- Chair:** Chair of the Bureau of the seventh session of the Regional Forum

- 5–5.15 p.m. **Theme, dates and venue of the eighth session of the Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development** (agenda item 12)
Venue: Plenary Hall
Chair: Chair of the Bureau of the seventh session of the Regional Forum
- 5.15-5.30 p.m. **Other matters** (agenda item 13)
Venue: Virtual
Chair: Chair of the Bureau of the seventh session of the Regional Forum
- 5.30 p.m. **Closing of the session** (agenda item 14)
Venue: Plenary Hall
Statements:
- United Nations Under-Secretary-General and Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa, Vera Songwe or her Representative
 - Chair of the Bureau of the seventh session of the Regional Forum
-