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**Economic Commission for Africa**  
**Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development**  
Eighth session

Kigali (hybrid), 3–5 March 2022

Item 7 of the provisional agenda \*

**Parallel meetings for an in-depth review of progress made  
and peer learning on the sub-themes of the Regional Forum**

## **Information and guidelines for the parallel meetings on the sub-themes of the Regional Forum**

### **I. Introduction**

1. The following five meetings on the sub-themes of the Forum will be held in parallel:
  - (a) Parallel meeting on the sub-theme of quality education;
  - (b) Parallel meeting on the sub-theme of gender equality;
  - (c) Parallel meeting on the sub-theme of life below water;
  - (d) Parallel meeting on the sub-theme of life on land;
  - (e) Parallel meeting on the sub-theme of partnerships.

### **II. Date and time**

2. The parallel meetings will be held on Friday, 4 March 2022 from 11.15 a.m. to 1 p.m.

### **III. Objectives**

3. The objectives of the parallel meetings are:
  - (i) To review in depth and facilitate peer learning on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and Agenda 2063: The Africa We Want, of the African Union, with a special emphasis on the selected sub-themes;
  - (ii) To identify, articulate and agree on key messages composed of policy options and other measures for building forward better and accelerating implementation of the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063.
4. The parallel meetings will be guided by the overarching goal of building forward better towards a green, inclusive and resilient recovery from the

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\* ECA/RFSD/2022/1.



coronavirus disease (COVID-19) crisis, with a view to delivering on the goals of the two agendas in a timely manner.

#### **IV. Format**

5. The Chair of the Forum will designate members of the Bureau to chair each of the parallel meetings. Representatives of the United Nations entities and regional organizations that were co-leads in drafting the sub-theme background reports will be selected to co-chair the respective parallel meetings and serve as moderators. Each of the five parallel meetings will:

- (a) Be led by a panel comprising selected senior policymakers and experts in the fields related to the sub-theme or persons who have an interest in those fields (see paras. 7–11 below);
- (b) Be informed by a presentation on the background report, including indicative key messages on the respective sub-theme;
- (c) Discuss and reach consensus on key messages on the sub-theme, which will inform the consolidated draft key messages to be adopted by the Regional Forum.

#### **V. Guidelines**

6. The following guidelines will apply to the parallel meetings:

(a) The Chair will introduce the round-table panel, the meeting objective (stated above) and the panel members. The Chair will then yield to the Co-Chair/moderator, who will guide the discussion among the panellists and the other participants in the parallel meeting;

(b) The moderator will call upon the representative of the secretariat or authors of the background report on the sub-theme to present the sub-theme, with an emphasis on emerging opportunities and actions to accelerate implementation of the two agendas. The presentation will last a maximum of seven minutes;

(c) The moderator will then invite each panellist to speak for no longer than five minutes, focusing on one or more of the following questions:

- (i) In which areas has progress been made? What have been the main success factors?
- (ii) In which areas is progress lagging the most?
- (iii) What are the major constraints and challenges facing the region in ensuring the timely realization of the goals that correspond to the sub-theme?
- (iv) What are the most urgent and impactful actions that can be taken by Governments, the private sector and their partners to scale up a green and inclusive recovery from the COVID-19 crisis and accelerate implementation of the two agendas?

(d) The moderator will catalyse an interactive dialogue among the panellists, with a focus on the above-mentioned questions. The objective is to identify concrete policy actions and measures to build forward better from the COVID-19 crisis and accelerate the achievement of the goals of the two agendas by 2030;

(e) The moderator will then invite questions and other contributions from the floor and ensure that interventions are focused on the key questions

listed above and the context of building forward better from the COVID-19 crisis and accelerating implementation of the two agendas;

(f) At the end of the dialogue, the moderator will provide a summary of the key policy messages, including recommendations made to enable member States and partners to build forward better from the COVID-19 crisis and accelerate implementation of the two agendas;

(g) The moderator will then yield to the Chair, who will conclude the meeting.

## VI. Chair, Co-Chair/moderator and panellists for the parallel meetings

7. The Chair, Co-Chair/moderator and panellists of the parallel meeting on the sub-theme of quality education will be as follows:

**Venue:** Xxxxx

**Chair:** Chair of the Bureau of the eighth session of the Forum

**Co-Chair/moderator:** Xxxxx

**Panellists:**

- Xxxxx
- Xxxxx
- Xxxxx
- Representative of young people
- Representative of the private sector

8. The Chair, Co-Chair/moderator and panellists of the parallel meeting on the sub-theme of gender equality will be as follows:

**Venue:** Xxxxx

**Chair:** Member of the Bureau of the eighth session of the Forum

**Co-Chair and moderator:** Xxxxx

**Panellists:**

- Xxxxx
- Xxxxx
- Xxxxx
- Representative of young people
- Representative of the private sector

9. The Chair, Co-Chair/moderator and panellists of the parallel meeting on the sub-theme of life below water will be as follows:

**Venue:** Xxxxx

**Chair:** Member of the Bureau of the eighth session of the Forum

**Co-Chair and moderator:** Xxxxx

**Panellists:**

- Xxxxx
- Xxxxx
- Xxxxx

- Representative of young people
- Representative of the private sector

10. The Chair, Co-Chair/moderator and panellists of the parallel meeting on the sub-theme of life on land will be as follows:

**Venue:** Xxxxx

**Chair:** Member of the Bureau of the eighth session of the Forum

**Co-Chair and moderator:** Xxxxx

**Panellists:**

- Xxxxx
- Xxxxx
- Xxxxx
- Representative of young people
- Representative of the private sector

11. The Chair, Co-Chair/moderator and panellists of the parallel meeting on the sub-theme of partnerships will be as follows:

**Venue:** Xxxxx

**Chair:** Member of the Bureau of the eighth session of the Forum

**Co-Chair and moderator:** Xxxxx

**Panellists:**

- Xxxxx
  - Xxxxx
  - Xxxxx
  - Representative of young people
  - Representative of the private sector
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