



Economic Commission for Africa
Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development
Eighth session
Kigali (hybrid), 3–5 March 2022

Item 2 of the provisional agenda *

High-level panel on unlocking financing to build forward better from the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) crisis and accelerate delivery of sustainable development in Africa

Information and guidelines for the high-level panel on unlocking financing to build forward better from the coronavirus disease crisis and accelerate delivery of sustainable development in Africa

I. Background and introduction

1. The Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development is an intergovernmental platform convened annually by the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), in collaboration with the African Union Commission, the African Development Bank and the United Nations system.
2. The eighth session of the Regional Forum will be convened under the theme *“Building forward better: a green, inclusive and resilient Africa poised to achieve the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063”*.
3. One of the major expected outcomes of the Regional Forum is the articulation of the priorities and concrete policy options and recommendations for Africa to build forward better from the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) crisis and accelerate implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and Agenda 2063: The Africa We Want, of the African Union.

II. Objective

4. The high-level panel is intended:
 - (a) To identify effective measures to address the overarching challenge of mobilizing adequate and sustainable financing to invest in sustainable recovery from the COVID-19 crisis and accelerate the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063.

* ECA/RFSD/2022/1.



(b) To identify and articulate the financing needs and provide high-level insights in respect of opportunities to mobilize financing, focusing on the role of the Liquidity and Sustainability Facility, which has been designed and launched by ECA and partner entities.

III. Format

5. The high-level panel discussion will set the tone for the Regional Forum. It will be an interactive dialogue among high-level policymakers and eminent persons.

6. The panel will have a chair and moderator, along with high-profile policymakers and eminent persons from various backgrounds related to the focus of the high-level dialogue. Based on selected questions posed by the moderator, the panellists will engage in an interactive discussion. Following the panel discussion, the moderator will invite members of the audience to pose follow-up questions and to make relevant comments.

IV. Guidelines

7. The guidelines for the high-level panel discussion are as follows:

A. Role of the Chair

8. The Chair will:

(a) Introduce the high-level panel dialogue, including the objective as stated above;

(b) Introduce and yield to the moderator, who will introduce the panel members and guide the dialogue.

B. Role of the moderator

9. The moderator will:

(a) Explain the format of the dialogue;

(b) Invite each panellist to speak on one or more of the key questions listed in paragraph 10 below;

(c) Request the panellists to focus on innovative and transformative ways to mobilize financing for recovery from the COVID-19 crisis and to accelerate implementation of the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063;

(d) Help foster an interactive dialogue among the panellists on key issues, actions and solutions emerging from interventions by the panellists;

(e) Following the panel dialogue, invite questions and other contributions from the floor on the topics under discussion;

(f) At the end of dialogue, provide a summary of the key policy messages, including recommendations made;

(g) Yield to the Chair, who will conclude the dialogue.

C. Questions for dialogue

10. During the dialogue, panellists will be invited to address the following questions:

(a) What are the financing needs for the priority and transformative investments for Africa to build back better from the COVID-19 crisis and accelerate progress to achieve the goals of the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063?

(b) What is the role of the Liquidity and Sustainability Facility and how can African countries leverage it to deliver sustainable financing for COVID-19 recovery and implement the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063?

(c) What other workable measures and approaches should countries and the international community adopt to make sure that adequate financial resources are mobilized and are effectively allocated to recover from the COVID-19 crisis and to ensure a green, inclusive and resilient Africa to achieve the goals of the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063?

(d) What should be the role of various national, regional and global entities in mobilizing financing for the COVID-19 recovery and ensuring a green, inclusive and resilient Africa?

V. Schedule

11. The high-level panel dialogue will be held on 3 March 2022 from 10.30 a.m. to 12 noon.

VI. Chair, moderator and panellists

12. The Chair, moderator and high-level panellists are as follows:

Chair:

Representative of the Government of Rwanda

Moderator:

To be confirmed

High-level panellists:

- Minister of Finance and Economic Planning, Rwanda, Uzziel Ndagijimana
- Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations and Executive Secretary of ECA, Vera Songwe
- Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations and Special Adviser on Africa, Cristina Duarte
- President of the Islamic Development Bank, Muhammad Sulaiman Al Jasser
- President, African Export-Import Bank, Benedict Okey Oramah
- Chief Executive Officer, Adunni Organics, Olamide Gbadebo