

**Economic and Social Council**Distr.: General
12 May 2016

Original: English

Economic Commission for Africa
Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development
Second session
Cairo, 17-19 May 2016**Concept note****I. Background and rationale**

1. The Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development originates from the important decisions adopted at the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, more commonly known as Rio+20, which was held in 2012 to strengthen the institutional framework for sustainable development at all levels. These include the decision to establish the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development to ensure effective monitoring and implementation of sustainable development commitments at the global level. Subsequently, the African regional implementation meeting held in November 2012 on the post-Rio+20 follow-up processes adopted specific recommendations on sustainable development bodies. These recommendations included a call for the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) to convene, together with the African Union Commission (AUC), the African Development Bank and other partners, the Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development in preparation for the sessions of the High-level Political Forum. At the African regional implementation meeting, it was recognized that in convening the Forum, the provision of a strengthened platform that adequately provided for the enhanced integration of the three dimensions of sustainable development should be ensured.

2. In July 2013, the United Nations General Assembly, through its resolution A/RES/67/290, formally established the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development as the main United Nations platform dealing with sustainable development, replacing the Commission on Sustainable Development. The Forum meets every four years at the level of Heads of State and Government under the auspices of the General Assembly, and every year under the auspices of the Economic and Social Council. The Forum adopts negotiated declarations.

3. The General Assembly, in its resolution, decided that sessions of the Forum held under the auspices of the Economic and Social Council should conduct regular reviews, starting in 2016, on the follow-up and implementation of sustainable development commitments and objectives, including those related to the means of implementation, within the context of the post-2015 development agenda.

4. The High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development has held three meetings so far. The inaugural meeting of the Forum was held on 24 September 2013 by the President of the General Assembly, under the overall

theme “Building the future we want: From Rio+20 to the post-2015 development agenda”. The second meeting of the Forum was held under the auspices of the Economic and Social Council, from 30 June to 9 July 2014, on the theme “Achieving the Millennium Development Goals and charting the way for an ambitious post-2015 development agenda, including the Sustainable Development Goals”. The third session of the Forum took place from 26 June to 8 July 2015 on the theme “Strengthening integration, implementation and review: The High-level Political Forum after 2015”.

5. In its resolution establishing the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development, the General Assembly decided that the meetings of the Forum held under the auspices of the Economic and Social Council would benefit from regional preparatory processes. It also acknowledged the importance of the regional dimension of sustainable development and invited the United Nations regional commissions to contribute to the work of the Forum, including through annual regional meetings, with the involvement of other relevant regional entities, major groups and stakeholders, as appropriate. Consistent with this resolution, the Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development was instituted in 2015 at the eighth Joint Annual Meeting of the African Union Specialized Technical Committee on Finance, Monetary Affairs, Economic Planning and Integration and the Economic Commission for Africa Conference of African Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development. Resolution 930 (XLVIII) establishing the Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development called upon ECA, in collaboration with AUC and other partners, to take all necessary steps to convene on an annual basis the African Regional Forum on Sustainable Development. In the same resolution, ministers undertook to work in close collaboration with national Governments to support the convening of the African Regional Forum on Sustainable Development and called upon member States to scale up their commitment to support the Forum.

6. It is against this backdrop that the inaugural meeting of the Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development was held by ECA in collaboration with AUC, AfDB, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), in Addis Ababa, on 17 and 18 June 2015. The ninth session of the ECA Committee on Sustainable Development provided the platform for the 2015 Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development, where participants adopted Africa’s collective input to the 2015 session of the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development in the form of key messages on the theme and other issues. The key messages were presented to the High-level Political Forum by the Chair of the Committee. The key messages included:

(a) Building on the experiences of the African regional implementation meetings, including successes, challenges and lessons learned, will be critical for the successful convening of the Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development. In that regard, ECA should organize the regional forums jointly with AUC and AfDB, in collaboration with NEPAD, the UNEP Regional Office for Africa, the UNDP Regional Bureau for Africa and other relevant actors;

(b) Agenda 2063 constitutes Africa’s framework for implementing the post-2015 development agenda. In this respect, the Agenda, with its accompanying goals, targets and indicators, should provide a robust monitoring, evaluation and reporting framework for effective implementation at national, sub-regional and regional levels;

(c) Africa has many platforms that could support the thematic reviews that may be undertaken under the auspices of the Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development. These include the various ECA statutory committees,

the Joint Meetings of the African Union Specialized Technical Committee on Finance, Monetary Affairs, Economic Planning and Integration and the Economic Commission for Africa Conference of African Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development, the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment and other relevant African ministerial bodies. Should thematic reviews be agreed as part of the High-level Political Forum process, the contributions from these platforms, in addition to those of the United Nations system, should be optimized, taking into account their comparative advantages in terms of enlisting the critical mass of expertise needed for reviewing a particular thematic area;

(d) National coordinating bodies for sustainable development are essential for coherent and integrated planning and decision-making at the national level and ensuring effective linkages from local to global. National sustainable development bodies should ensure the integration of the three dimensions of sustainable development, and should promote the mainstreaming of sustainable development at the highest level of decision-making organs of Government, the private sector and civil society organizations in accordance with national priorities and strategies.

II. 2016 session of the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development in the light of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, Agenda 2063 and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda

2016 session of the High-level Political Forum and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

7. The 2016 session of the High-level Political Forum will be held in New York from 11 to 20 July 2016, under the theme “Ensuring that no one is left behind”. This session will be the first since Heads of State and Government adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in September 2015. The Forum is expected to start effectively delivering on its mandates to provide political leadership, guidance and recommendations on the 2030 Agenda’s implementation and follow-up; keep track of progress; spur coherent policies informed by evidence, science and country experiences; and address new and emerging issues.

8. The 2030 Agenda will shape countries’ development policies and strategies over the next 15 years. The 2030 Agenda has at its core 17 Sustainable Development Goals (see annex I) and 169 associated targets. The Goals are integrated and indivisible, and incorporate in a balanced manner the three dimensions of sustainable development. The Goals embody Africa’s sustainable development priorities based on the common African position on the post-2015 development agenda. In this connection, it is to be recalled that the outcome of the Africa regional consultative meeting on the Sustainable Development Goals, held in 2013 and which endorsed 12 sustainable development goals, served as technical input to the work of the African high-level committee on the post-2015 development agenda, culminating in the common African position.

9. In terms of implementation of the 2030 Agenda, Heads of State and Government have called upon member States to develop as soon as possible practicable ambitious national responses to its overall implementation. The national responses can build on existing planning instruments, such as national development and sustainable development strategies, as appropriate.

Sustainable natural resource development as a critical input to the integrated implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and Agenda 2063

10. The 2030 Agenda acknowledges that regional and subregional frameworks can facilitate the effective translation of sustainable development policies into concrete action at the national level. In this regard, the 2030 Agenda reaffirms the importance of supporting the African Union's Agenda 2063. Agenda 2063, a successor to NEPAD, was adopted by African Heads of State and Government in January 2015 as a long-term development framework over a 50-year period. This Agenda aims to achieve an integrated, prosperous and peaceful Africa, driven by its own citizens and representing a dynamic force in the world. Ten-year plans serve as frameworks for implementing the Agenda. The first of these implementation plans spans the period 2014-2023.

11. Both agendas prioritize structural transformation. Natural resources, including minerals, remain a key pillar for achieving inclusive structural transformation in Africa. The products of mining are essential to all aspects of life, contributing to the health, well-being, and development of society. Combined with the capability to mobilize physical, technological and financial resources required for sustainable development, it is clear that minerals and extractives have an important role to play in the sustainable development agenda, as illustrated in annex II.

12. Agenda 2063 stresses the need for an endogenous plan for transformation based on harnessing the continent's comparative advantages through its natural resources. The Agenda also prioritizes the industrialization of African economies through beneficiation and value addition of natural resources, and implementation of the Africa Mining Vision at the country, subregional and continental levels. In this regard, it is to be noted that the Africa Mining Vision stipulates that "a resource-based African industrialization and development strategy must be rooted in the utilization of Africa's significant resource assets to catalyse diversified industrial development, as was successfully implemented by several erstwhile resource-based economies in the developed world".

13. The minerals sector therefore provides an opportunity for bringing together both agendas in an integrated and coordinated manner for the sustainable development of Africa. This highlights the opportunity that the mineral sector provides to examine and promote integrated approaches for the implementation of the two agendas.

14. Domestic resource mobilization will play an important role in realizing the ambitious levels of finance needed for the implementation of the two agendas. Both agendas underline domestic resource mobilization as being crucial for the realization of the required funding. According to the first 10-year implementation plan of Agenda 2063, domestic resource mobilization should contribute to at least 75 to 90 per cent of the financing of Agenda 2063 on average per country. Agenda 2063 projects that such a proportion of resources could be generated through vehicles such as maximization of natural resource rents and the curbing of illicit financial flows.

15. The minerals sector remains a major source of illicit financial flows. Cutting illicit leakages will contribute significantly to domestic revenue mobilization for Governments. Agenda 2063 aims to eliminate all forms of illicit financial flows, while the 2030 Agenda seeks to reduce illicit financial flows over the next 15 years and strengthen the recovery and return of stolen assets. The minerals sector is therefore key to the realization of the Sustainable Development Goals and the aspirations of Agenda 2063.

16. The 2016 session of the High-level Political Forum is an opportunity to look at the integration of the two agendas, and this integration will not come full circle unless the mining sector is embedded in the overall coordination framework. Indeed, the Forum will guard against overlapping timeframes for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063. African countries have signed up to both agendas. This implies that African countries need

integrated regional and, in particular, national strategic frameworks, including national development plans, to ensure effective concurrent implementation of both agendas.

17. Regarding follow-up and review, the 2030 Agenda states that Governments have the primary responsibility for follow-up and review at the national, regional and global levels over the coming 15 years. Moreover, the 2030 Agenda reiterates the mandate and central role of the High-level Political Forum in overseeing follow-up and review at the global level. Thematic reviews of progress, including on cross-cutting issues, will also be held under the auspices of the Forum, buttressed by the work of the functional commissions and other intergovernmental bodies and forums, reflecting the integrated nature of the Sustainable Development Goals as well as the interlinkages between them. Those reviews will engage all relevant stakeholders and, where possible, feed into and be aligned with the cycle of the High-level Political Forum. The 2030 Agenda also notes that follow-up and review at the regional and subregional levels can provide useful opportunities for peer learning and in this regard welcomes the cooperation of regional and subregional commissions and organizations.

18. Agenda 2063, on the other hand, calls for the convening of an annual African forum that will take action based on Agenda 2063 progress reports, encourage stakeholders to accelerate the realization of Agenda 2063, and identify best practices and champions to accelerate implementation. This again brings into sharp focus the dual role of African countries and regional actors to conduct follow-up and review of the two agendas.

2016 session of the High-level Political Forum, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda

19. In July 2015 the General Assembly, in its resolution 69/313, adopted the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, the outcome document of the third International Conference on Financing for Development. The Agenda is the framework at the global level for financing sustainable development and is recognized as an integral part of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. In the Agenda, countries made commitments on domestic public resources; domestic and international private business and finance; international development cooperation; international trade as an engine for development; debt and debt sustainability; science, technology, innovation; capacity-building; and data, monitoring and follow-up.

20. The follow-up of the Agenda is to be carried out by an annual economic and social council forum on financing for development. The forum is mandated to carry out follow-up and review of the financing for development outcomes and the means of implementation of the 2030 Agenda. The outcomes of the forum are to be fed into the overall follow-up and review of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda at the sessions of the High-level Political Forum. The convergence at the High-level Political Forum of the economic and social council forum on financing for development and the 2030 Agenda follow-up and review is logical as progress in the provision of the means of implementation will determine the level of achievement of goals and targets set out in the 2030 Agenda. It implies that the regional level follow-up and review through the Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development should also recognize this intricate link and review progress and challenges in the delivery of the means of implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

Imperative of integrated implementation, follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063

21. African countries have committed themselves to implementing both the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063. These agendas have closely overlapping

implementation time frames, considering that the 2030 Agenda spans the years 2015 to 2030 while the first 10-year implementation plan for Agenda 2063 will be executed between 2014 and 2023. The processes leading to the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063 were concurrent, mutually reinforcing and led to a significant commonality in the goals and targets set to be achieved by both agendas which are to be implemented by the same member States in Africa. Moreover, both agendas have to be followed-up and reviewed on an annual basis. Successfully translating both agendas into the desired on-the-ground outcomes and assessing success to that effect demands coherent implementation and follow-up strategies. Without such coherent approaches there could be inefficient deployment of the means of implementation together with a great deal of duplication. An increased burden, particularly on reporting, follow-up and review, on the part of member States and regional actors is imminent. Addressing these challenges, which evidently have significant implications for effective use of scarce and limited means of implementation, will require African countries to consider adopting integrated and harmonized approaches to the implementation, follow-up and review for both agendas.

22. With the foresight of the imperative for Africa to adopt a coherent strategy for the effective and coordinated implementation, follow-up and review of both agendas, ECA and AUC convened the ninth Joint Annual Meetings of the African Union Specialized Technical Committee on Finance, Monetary Affairs, Economic Planning and Integration and the Economic Commission for Africa Conference of African Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development (more commonly referred to as the Conference of Ministers) in March 2016 under theme: “Towards an integrated and coherent approach for the implementation, monitoring and evaluation of Agenda 2063, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals”.

23. The Conference made key decisions and recommendations on the theme of the meeting. Some of the pertinent outcomes of the Conference in the context of the High-level Political Forum and the Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development included recognition that:

(a) Multiple development frameworks have not met Africa’s imperative for accelerated, inclusive and sustainable growth, thus weakening the continent’s prospects for structural transformation;

(b) Africa must adopt a coherent strategy for the effective and coordinated implementation of Agenda 2063 and the 2030 Agenda. In this regard, the Conference agreed on a single monitoring and evaluation framework, accommodating both agendas, and a common reporting architecture that will produce a single periodic performance report;

(c) Reporting on these two apparently separate frameworks could prove to be onerous and thus recommended that a unified reporting platform should be established consistent with the equivalence of goals and targets established through the goal and indicator mapping and costing exercise that has been undertaken;

(d) There are huge capacity requirements for the implementation of both agendas, hence the critical importance of prioritizing related capacity-building at all levels;

24. In addition, the Conference adopted a resolution on the Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development, reaffirming the convening of the Forum by ECA and AUC in collaboration with other partners to follow-up and review the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, Agenda 2063 and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Specifically, in the resolution the Conference of Ministers:

- (a) Acknowledged the need to align the biennial consultations of the Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development with the annual meetings of the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development;
- (b) Requested ECA, in collaboration with AUC and other partners, to convene on an annual basis the Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development for follow-up and review of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, Agenda 2063 and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;
- (c) Decided that the Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development will build on existing platforms, avoiding the creation of additional administrative structures, and will promote coordination and coherence, learning and the sharing of best practices within the United Nations development system and with other regional and subregional forums and organizations;
- (d) Encouraged member States to participate in the Africa Regional Forum for Sustainable Development, scheduled to take place from 17 to 19 May 2016, and the High-level Forum on Sustainable Development, scheduled to take place from 11 to 20 July 2016.

III. 2016 Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development

A. Objective and theme

25. The 2016 Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development will take place against the backdrop of the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, and at a time when African countries are transitioning to Agenda 2063. Moreover, the Forum will be held in the period following the ninth Joint Annual Meetings, the outcomes of which provided a good direction for Africa to optimally benefit from the three agendas.

26. ECA, in collaboration with AUC, AfDB, UNEP and UNDP, is holding the 2016 Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development with the objective of deliberating and agreeing on Africa's collective input, in the form of key messages, to the 2016 High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development.

27. The 2016 session of the Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development will be held under the theme "Ensuring inclusive and integrated implementation and follow-up of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and Agenda 2063". This theme is well-aligned with that of the 2016 High-level Political Forum, and will allow African countries to consider inclusion as the principle that should overarch integrated approaches to the implementation, follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063 in order to ensure that no one is left behind.

28. The minerals and extractive sector has for a long time operated as an enclave economy, and therefore constitutes a litmus test that if integration can be achieved in embedding the sector into broader sustainable development, then the problem of integration is not insurmountable. Given this opportunity that the mineral sector provides to promote the integrated implementation of the two agendas, the theme will also enable countries to highlight the significance of inclusion in the sustainable development of the sector and examine how the sector could contribute to the mobilization of domestic resources for the implementation of the two agendas.

29. Given the multi-stakeholder nature of the Forum, the theme is also closely aligned with that of the recently concluding ninth Joint Annual Meetings of ECA and AUC, to allow all stakeholders to engage with, uptake and build on

the key decisions and messages of the meetings. This augurs well for coherence in Africa's voice with regard to the implementation, follow-up and review of the two agendas.

30. The theme of the Forum is broken down into the following sub-themes that will enable member States and other stakeholders to discuss in-depth and distill key messages on all the most pertinent aspects of the main theme:

- (a) Inclusive transformation for sustainable development;
- (b) Integrated results framework;
- (c) Integrated implementation;
- (d) Integrated follow-up.

B. Format

31. The Forum will be a two-day meeting to be preceded by a one-day experts group meeting of African countries¹ that will participate in national reviews during the Forum. The representatives of the nine major groups and other stakeholders will also hold a consultative meeting prior to the Forum. The outcomes of both pre-meetings will be presented at the Forum.

1. Opening of the Forum

32. A representative of the Government of Egypt will officially open the meeting. The opening session will be addressed by the Chair of the Committee on Sustainable Development, as well as representatives of ECA, AUC, AfDB and partner agencies of the United Nations system.

2. High-level panel discussion on opportunities and challenges in achieving inclusive and integrated implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and Agenda 2063

33. The purpose of this session is to set the scene for the deliberations of the Forum by flagging the key issues pertaining to the theme of the Forum and suggesting options for addressing them. Under this agenda item, a panel of high-profile policymakers from different backgrounds, such as economic and social development, natural resources management, mineral development and financing for development, will gather to discuss and share their views on the opportunities and challenges in achieving inclusive and integrated implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and Agenda 2063. The natural resource sector remains a bridge for bringing the three dimensions of sustainable development together and constitutes the greatest opportunity to align the two agendas, given its implications for inclusiveness, growth and prosperity. Indeed, Africa's efforts to achieve structural transformation cannot be achieved without natural resource management, one of the main conduits for measuring progress.

3. Organizational matters

34. The proceedings of the Forum will be guided by a Bureau, comprising a Chair, three Vice-Chairs and a rapporteur, to be elected by participating member States. In electing the members of the Bureau, balanced representation of countries from the five subregions will be ensured, taking into account the composition of the 2015 Bureau.

4. Plenary and breakout sessions

¹ The six African countries are Egypt, Madagascar, Morocco, Sierra Leone, Togo and Uganda.

35. There will be seven plenary sessions built around the main sub-themes and other issues integral to the Forum, as outlined below. All the plenary sessions will be supported by background reports. Following the discussions on the themes and reports from the pre-meetings, there will be parallel breakout sessions to examine the draft key messages. The chairs of the breakout sessions will be designated by the Chair of the Bureau. Participation in the parallel breakout groups will be open to representatives of all participating member States, representatives of intergovernmental organizations, entities of the United Nations system and representatives of major groups and other stakeholders. The main sessions are briefly discussed below.

- (i) The transition from the Millennium Development Goals to the Sustainable Development Goals: The presentation and discussions of this session will be based on the background report that outlines the extent to which the Millennium Development Goals were achieved in the region, the unfinished business, and the attendant challenges and lessons learned. The session will be an opportunity for discussion on effective ways forward and reporting on the progress towards achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.
- (ii) Inclusive transformation for sustainable development: The impressive economic growth that African countries have posted for more than a decade has been described as being non-inclusive. The continent needs to promote economic diversification based on inclusive and efficient utilization of its natural resources, including minerals. Inclusion is particularly important because it is recognized that the prosperity generated through Africa's natural resources-driven development has not been shared equitably. This session will discuss key issues, identify and articulate policy directions and actions to achieve inclusion, and ensure that inclusiveness underpins and is followed through in the process of integrated implementation, follow-up and review of Agenda 2063 and the 2030 Agenda in Africa.
- (iii) Integrated results framework: This session will be informed by a presentation on the integrated results framework adopted at the ninth Joint Annual Meetings of ECA and AUC. The Forum will discuss ways forward to effectively deploy the framework to guide the mainstreaming of the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063 into national strategic frameworks.
- (iv) Integrated implementation: It is important that countries' development plans are adapted for the implementation of the two agendas. This session will hear a presentation of key issues and the required actions and means of implementation to achieve effective integrated implementation of the two agendas. In this regard, it is important to highlight the opportunities that the development of the minerals sector provides for generating and mobilizing domestic resources for the implementation of the two agendas.
- (v) Integrated follow-up and review: Follow-up and review is an important requirement for both agendas so as to assess progress, share lessons learned and identify measures and policy actions to accelerate implementation. The applicable forums and timeframes for follow-up and review are defined for both agendas. This session will discuss the actions required to achieve integrated follow-up and review in order to reduce the burden on countries,

ensure mutual learning and accelerate the implementation of the two agendas.

- (vi) Reports of the pre-meetings: This session will consist of brief presentations on the outcomes of the meeting of African countries participating in the High-level Political Forum review process and the meetings of major groups. Valuable lessons learned and perspectives from these meetings will inform the key messages to be agreed upon by the Forum.
- (vii) Consideration of the draft key messages: During this session, the participants will refine, finalize and agree on the key messages emanating from the parallel breakout group for submission to the High-level Political Forum.

C. Expected outcomes

36. The 2016 Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development is expected to lead to:

- (a) Enhanced understanding and appreciation of the imperative to adopt inclusive and integrated approaches to the implementation and follow-up of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and Agenda 2063;
- (b) Clear articulation of Africa's priorities and key messages on the theme of the Forum as Africa's collective input to the 2016 session of the High-level Political Forum.

D. Expected outputs

37. The following outputs are expected to be delivered at the end of the Forum:

- (a) Agreement on Africa's collective input to the 2016 session of the High-level Political Forum and guidance for member States, in the form of key messages, on ensuring inclusive and integrated implementation and follow-up of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and Agenda 2063.
- (b) A report of the deliberations of the Forum, including the salient issues, priorities and recommendations on the theme.

E. Documentation

38. The pre-session documentation includes:

- (a) Concept note;
- (b) Report on the transition from the Millennium Development Goals to the Sustainable Development Goals;
- (c) Reports covering the sub-themes of the meeting;
- (d) Reports and outcome documents of relevant past meetings and events, including the ninth Joint Annual Meeting and the 2015 session of the Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development.

39. The in-session documentation includes:

- (a) Draft key messages of the Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development for submission to the 2016 session of the High-level Political Forum;

(b) Draft summary report of the deliberations of the Forum, including salient issues, priorities and recommendations on the theme.

40. The post-session documentation includes:

(a) Agreed key messages of the Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development for submission to the High-level Political Forum;

(b) Final summary report of the deliberations of the Forum, including salient issues, priorities and recommendations on the theme.

F. Participants

41. It is expected that participants will include:

(a) Representatives of all 54 member States of ECA, such as high-level experts from ministries and agencies in charge of planning, finance, environment, social affairs, mining and mineral resources, and science and technology;

(b) Representatives of major groups and other stakeholders, including civil society, business and industry organizations, academia and research institutions;

(c) African Union Commission;

(d) African Development Bank;

(e) NEPAD Planning and Coordinating Agency;

(f) Regional economic communities;

(g) United Nations and other international agencies and organizations;

(h) Development partners.

G. Working languages

42. The meeting will be conducted in English, French and Arabic, with simultaneous interpretation in the three languages.

H. Dates and venue

43. The Forum will be held in Cairo, from 17 to 19 May 2016.

I. Contacts

44. Enquiries about the Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development should be directed to:

Ms. Fatima Denton
 Director, Special Initiatives Division
 Economic Commission for Africa
 Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
 Email: fdenton@uneca.org

Annex I

Sustainable Development Goals of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

Goal 1. End poverty in all its forms everywhere
Goal 2. End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture
Goal 3. Ensure healthy lives and promote wellbeing for all at all ages
Goal 4. Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all
Goal 5. Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls
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 8. Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all
Goal 9. Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation
Goal 10. Reduce inequality within and among countries
Goal 11. Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable
Goal 12. Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns
Goal 13. Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts ²
Goal 14. Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development
Goal 15. Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss
Goal 16. Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels
Goal 17. Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development.

² Acknowledging that the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change is the primary international, intergovernmental forum for negotiating the global response to climate change.

Annex II: Mining and the Sustainable Development Goals

