



**Twelfth Session of the Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development  
Private Sector Forum, in partnership with ECA and UNDP**

**Forward Faster: Scaling Private Sector Partnerships to Accelerate the SDGs in Africa**

Date: 27 April 2026 | Location: Africa Hall, United Nations Conference Centre, Addis Ababa

**PROGRAMME**

<b>Time</b>	<b>Agenda Item</b>
08:30–09:00	Registration
<b>Opening</b>	
09:00–09:20	Opening Remarks: <b>HE Mr. Claver Gatete</b> , Executive Secretary, ECA
<b>Fireside Chat</b>	
09:20–09:50	Fireside Chat with <b>Mr. Deribe Asfaw</b> , CEO, Cooperative Bank of Oromia, Ethiopia. Moderator: <b>Dr Herve Lado</b> , Africa Head, UN Global Compact, Nigeria.
<b>Session 1: Reality Check &amp; Solutions Roundtable - What is Working?</b>	
10:00–10:05	Introduction (Moderator)
10:05–10:55	<b>High-Level Panel: The Reality Check</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Mr. Ozonnia Ojielo</b>, United Nations Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator in Ethiopia</li> <li>- <b>H.E. Semereta Sewasew</b>, Ethiopia State Minister of Finance for Economic Cooperation (TBC)</li> <li>- <b>Mr. Solomon Odong’o</b>, CEO of Diacente Group, Uganda</li> <li>- <b>Mr. Abel Hailegiorgis</b>, Founder, Bamboo Labs</li> </ul> Moderator: <b>Dr Mathias Naab</b> , Director, UNDP Africa Regional Services, Ethiopia.
10:55–11:35	<b>Cluster 1 Roundtable: Industry, Infrastructure, Innovation and Value Chains</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Mr. Josef Abramowitz</b>, President/CEO &amp; Co-founder of Gigawatt Global, Netherlands.</li> <li>- <b>Dr. Tiwalade Adeniyi</b>, Head of ESG at ARIS IIP, UAE.</li> <li>- <b>Mr Michael Adenew</b>, Country Director at Oxford Policy Management, UK.</li> <li>- <b>Mr. Stanley Kinemelo</b>, Senior Manager Sustainability at CRDB Bank PLC, Tanzania.</li> </ul>
11:35–12:10	<b>Cluster 2 Roundtable: Water, Energy, Cities and Urban Delivery Systems</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Ms. Onneetse Ndadi</b>, Founder Sustainabiz, Botswana.</li> <li>- <b>Ms. Florence Larbi</b>, COO of Jospong Group, Ghana.</li> <li>- <b>Mr. Hassan Hassan</b>, CEO of ADHI Africa Holding Ltd, Rwanda.</li> </ul>
12:10–12:30	Reflections and transition to the afternoon sessions
<b>Lunch Break</b>	
12:30–13:30	Lunch Break
<b>Session 2: Blended Finance and Emerging Innovative Instruments</b>	
13:30–13:40	Introduction <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Mrs Ngone Diop</b>, Director, ECA, WA.</li> <li>- Moderator: <b>Dr. Jean-Marc Kilolo</b>, Economist, Finance and Domestic Resource Mobilization, ECA</li> </ul>

Time	Agenda Item
13:40–14:00	Blended Finance and Risk Sharing Structures to Crowd in Capital in Africa - <b>Mr. Aakif Merchant</b> , Director and Head of Africa, Convergence Blended Finance
14:00-14:20	Debt Swaps and Sovereign Level Innovative Financing for Development and Climate Action <i>Including ECA debt swap programmes and country experiences</i> - <b>Ms. Laura Kelly</b> , Director, International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED) - <b>Ms. Soumaya Iraqui-Houssaini</b> , Chief of Section, Demographic Dividend for Development, ECA
14:20–14:50	Panel : Aligning Blended Finance and Debt Solutions to Scale Investment and Delivery - <b>Mr. Moortaza Jiwaji</b> , Sustainable Finance Advisor, UNDP Africa Sustainable Finance Hub - <b>Mr. Lamin Trawally</b> , Sustainable Finance Lead, Global Green Growth Institute (GGGI) - <b>Mr Charles Kevin Kamau</b> , Head of Strategic Partnerships & Private Sector Coordination, County Government of Kilifi, Kenya. Moderator: <b>Mr. Aakif Merchant</b> , Director and Head of Africa, Convergence Blended Finance
14:50-15:00	Reflections and transition to Session III (Moderator)
15:00–15:15	Health break
<b>Session 3: Leadership Compact – From Financing Solutions to 12-Month Action</b>	
15:15–16:00	Leadership Exchange: Priority reforms, partnership pathways, investment actions and next-step commitments over the next 12 months - <b>Ms Doris Mpoumou</b> , UN Women Special Representative to the AU and UNECA - <b>H.E. Ms Semereta Sewasew</b> , Ethiopia State Minister of Finance for Economic Cooperation (TBC) - <b>Mr. Solomon Odong’o</b> , CEO of Diacente Group, Uganda.
<b>Closing</b>	
16:00–16:15	Summary of key outcomes and next steps
16:15–16:30	Closing remarks and way forward

*Note: All times are Addis Ababa time (EAT). Speakers and moderators are subject to confirmation*