



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

[Zoom Link for Virtual Attendance](#)

PROGRAMME

Time	Agenda Item
08:30–09:00	Registration Moderator of the Forum: Ms. Wongel Tamene , Senior Manager, Communications and Partnerships at the Ethiopian Securities Exchange (ESX).
Opening	
09:00–09:20	Opening Remarks: HE Mr. Claver Gatete , Executive Secretary, ECA
Fireside Chat	
09:20–09:50	Fireside Chat with Mr. Deribe Asfaw , CEO, Cooperative Bank of Oromia, Ethiopia. Moderator: Dr Herve Lado , Africa Head, UN Global Compact, Nigeria.
Session 1: Reality Check & Solutions Roundtable - What is Working?	
10:00–10:05	Introduction (Moderator)
10:05–10:55	Panel Discussion: The Reality Check - Business, Entrepreneurship and Youth Perspectives <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Mr. Solomon Odong’o, CEO of Diacente Group, Uganda.- Mr. Markos Lemma, CEO and Co-Founder, IceAddis, Ethiopia.- Mr. Abel Hailegiorgis, Founder, Bamboo Labs, Ethiopia.- Ms. Betelhem Abebe, Founder and Creative Director, ZEWD Design, Ethiopia.- Ms Kalkidan Mulugeta, Co-Founder, ClearSkies Technology, Ethiopia. Moderator: Ms Nozipho Hlophe , Regional Trade Analyst, UNDP.
10:55–11:35	Cluster 1 Roundtable: Industry, Infrastructure, Innovation and Value Chains <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Mr. Josef Abramowitz, President/CEO & Co-founder of Gigawatt Global, Netherlands.- Dr. Tiwalade Adeniyi, Head of ESG at ARISE IIP, UAE.- Mr Michael Adenew, Country Director at Oxford Policy Management, UK.- Mr. Stanley Kinemelo, Senior Manager Sustainability at CRDB Bank Plc, Tanzania.
11:35–12:10	Cluster 2 Roundtable: Water, Energy, Cities and Urban Delivery Systems <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Ms. Florence Larbi, COO of Jospong Group, Ghana.- Mr. Hassan Hassan, CEO of ADHI Africa Holding Ltd, Rwanda.- Ms. Onneetse Ndadi, Founder Sustainabiz, Botswana.
12:10–12:30	Reflections and transition to the afternoon sessions
Lunch Break	
12:30–13:30	Lunch Break

Time	Agenda Item
Session 2: Blended Finance and Emerging Innovative Instruments	
13:30–13:40	Introduction <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mrs Ngone Diop, Director, ECA, WA. - Moderator: Dr. Jean-Marc Kilolo, Economist, Finance and Domestic Resource Mobilization, ECA
13:40–14:00	Blended Finance and Risk Sharing Structures to Crowd in Capital in Africa <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mr. Aakif Merchant, 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> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ms. Laura Kelly, Director, International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED) - Ms. Soumaya Iraqui-Houssaini, Chief of Section, Demographic Dividend for Development, ECA
14:20–14:50	Panel : Aligning Blended Finance and Debt Solutions to Scale Investment and Delivery <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mr. Moortaza Jiwanji, Sustainable Finance Advisor, UNDP Africa Sustainable Finance Hub - Mr. Lamin Trawally, Sustainable Finance Lead, Global Green Growth Institute (GGGI) - Mr Charles Kevin Kamau, Head of Strategic Partnerships & Private Sector Coordination, County Government of Kilifi, Kenya. Moderator: Mr. Aakif Merchant , 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
Session 3: Leadership Compact – From Financing Solutions to 12-Month Action	
15:15–16:00	Leadership Exchange: Priority reforms, partnership pathways, investment actions and next-step commitments over the next 12 months <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ms Doris Mpoumou, UN Women Special Representative to the AU and UNECA. - Mr. Prasoon Raghuwanshi, Senior Investment Officer, IFC, Ethiopia - Mr. Solomon Odong’o, CEO, Diacente Group, Uganda.
Closing	
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