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High-level political forum on sustainable development

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Item 2 of the provisional agenda*

Accelerated action and transformative pathways: realizing the decade of action and delivery for sustainable development

Reports of the regional forums on sustainable development

Note by the Secretariat

1. The importance of the regional dimension of sustainable development has long been recognized. At the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, from 20 to 22 June 2012,¹ Member States recognized that regional frameworks could complement and facilitate the effective translation of sustainable development policies into concrete action at the national level.
2. Subsequently, when the General Assembly decided on the format and organizational aspects of the high-level political forum on sustainable development, it acknowledged the importance of the regional dimension of sustainable development and invited the 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 other relevant stakeholders, as appropriate.²
3. The value of follow-up and review at the regional and subregional levels was also reflected in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,³ in which Member States recognized that such follow-up and review could provide useful opportunities for peer learning, including through voluntary reviews, sharing of best practices and discussion on shared targets.
4. Since the adoption of the 2030 Agenda, the regional commissions have convened regional forums on sustainable development. The forums have served as vibrant platforms at which to discuss follow-up and review of the Agenda at the regional level and to prepare for the reviews of the high-level political forum.

* [E/HLPF/2020/1](#).

¹ See General Assembly resolution [66/288](#).

² See General Assembly resolution [67/290](#).

³ See General Assembly resolution [70/1](#).



5. In the political declaration of the high-level political forum on sustainable development convened under the auspices of the General Assembly,⁴ held on 24 and 25 September 2019, Member States recognized the importance of the efforts of the regional commissions through the regional forums and pledged to initiate a decade of accelerated action and delivery for sustainable development.

6. Owing to the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, only one of the 2020 regional forums on sustainable development could be held as scheduled. Three needed to be postponed and one had to be scaled down and held virtually. The dates and locations of the 2020 forums, as well as the symbols of the reports thereof, are as follows:

(a) Africa region, Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe, 24–27 February ([E/HLPF/2020/3/Add.1](#));

(b) Europe region (virtual meeting), Geneva, 19 March ([E/HLPF/2020/3/Add.2](#));

(c) Asia-Pacific region, Bangkok, postponed (originally scheduled to be held from 25 to 27 March) ([E/HLPF/2020/3/Add.3](#));

(d) Latin America and the Caribbean region, Havana, postponed (originally scheduled to be held from 28 to 31 March) ([E/HLPF/2020/3/Add.4](#));

(e) Arab region, Beirut, postponed (originally scheduled to be held from 7 to 9 April) ([E/HLPF/2020/3/Add.5](#)).

⁴ See General Assembly resolution [74/4](#).