

Context:

The ARFSD is an annual multi-stakeholder platform organized jointly by UNECA and the Host Government in collaboration with the African Union Commission, the African Development Bank, and other entities of the United Nations System. It brings together Ministers, senior officials, experts, and practitioners from UN member States the private sector, civil society, academia, and UN organizations.

This year's edition was held from March 3rd to March 5th under the theme "Building forward better : A Green, Inclusive and Resilient Africa Poised to Achieve the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063"

1. Objectives

- The core objectives of this year's forum were to include an in-depth appraisal of the implementation of five of the 17 SDGs : quality education (SDG 4); gender equality (SDG 5), life below water (SDG 14); life on land (SDG 15) and partnerships for the goals (SDG 17).

2. Outcomes

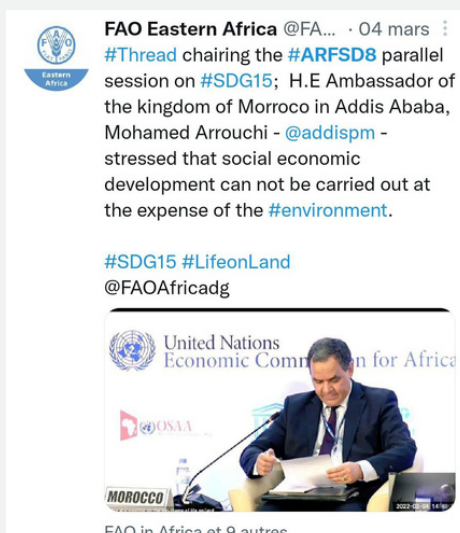
- Rwanda will present Africa's position (based on the deliberations of the ARFSD) at the high-level segment of the 2022 HLPF to be held in New York.
- ARFSD is designed to reflect African-centric perspectives and adopts two main outcomes.
- The first, "Summary and Key messages" is the collective input and deliberations of the forum.
- The second is the "Declaration of the Forum", which is named after the host city, distills the deliberations of the forum to come up with Africa's collective position on issues of concern.

3. Main observations

- Available assessments of the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063 implementation progress indicate that most African nations are off-track to achieving the targets and set goals of the two development blueprints within the set timeframe. The unprecedented impact of COVID-19 and climate change have for the time being dented and slowed Africa's quest to realize both agendas. The deliberations of the previous forums identified gaps and areas of weakness in realizing the dual agendas and offered solution pathways.
- The continued economic impact of the pandemic is spurring African leaders to also reflect on strategies to revamp the development model that can help African countries collectively achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
- Economic issues and social development make the priority for the African continent.
- Economic integration and education are considered pillars of sustainable development
- The **key messages** represent Africa's collective position on issues of concern but do not define mechanisms and tools for action.

Seen on social media

H.E Ambassador of Morocco in Addis Ababa called for social and economic development that is mindful of the environment.



H.E Paul Kagame highlighted in his speech the need for a green and resilient recovery.

