



# Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General  
25 January 2021

Original: English

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## Economic Commission for Europe

### Sixty-ninth session

Geneva, 20 and 21 April 2021

Item 6 of the provisional agenda

### Report on activities of the Executive Committee

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### Note by the Chairperson of the Executive Committee

The Executive Committee (EXCOM) acts on behalf of the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) between the biennial sessions of the Commission and is competent on all matters related to ECE activities in conformity with its Terms of Reference and Rules of Procedure (ECE/EX/3/Rev. 1). As stipulated in paragraph 4, EXCOM shall submit to the biennial session of the Commission a full report on its activities and plans.

The present document is being submitted to the sixty-ninth session of ECE to inform deliberations under agenda item 6 and covers a reporting period from May 2019 to February 2021.



## **I. Introduction**

1. The Executive Committee (EXCOM) was established by ECE member States as a result of the Reform of 2005. Between the biennial sessions of the Commission, it acts on behalf of the Commission and is competent on all matters related to ECE activities in conformity with its terms of reference (ECE/EX/3/Rev.1).
2. At its sixty-eighth session in 2019, the Commission elected Belarus as its Chair, and Switzerland and Romania as its Vice-Chairs for a two-year period.
3. EXCOM met on a regular basis, and the agenda of each meeting was set by the Chairperson in consultation with the Vice-Chairpersons and the Executive Secretary. The full documentation of the proceedings of EXCOM is available on the website of the Commission.

## **II. Ensuring business continuity during the COVID-19 pandemic and the liquidity crisis of the secretariat**

4. Due to the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, in the spring of 2020, in-person meetings were temporarily suspended at the Palais des Nations in Geneva in line with relevant host-country regulations. EXCOM and its subsidiary bodies could not hold formal meetings for a period of four months, from March through June 2020. To ensure business continuity, member States therefore temporarily adjusted the meeting and decision-making modalities of EXCOM.

### **A. Special procedures during the COVID-19 period**

5. On 6 April 2020, EXCOM adopted “Special procedures during the COVID-19 period” (ECE/EX/2020/L.4). These procedures authorized the Chair of the Commission to circulate, after consultations with the ECE bureau, draft decisions to all member States, through the Permanent Missions in Geneva, under a silence procedure of at least 72 hours and in accordance with Rule 20 of the Terms of Reference and Rules of Procedure as contained in ECE/EX/3/Rev.1.
6. The special procedures also authorized the Chair of the Commission to convene remote informal meetings of the members of EXCOM to discuss matters of crucial importance for the continuity of the work of the Commission, including in preparation of the silence procedure. During the COVID-19 pandemic period, two remote informal meetings of the members of EXCOM were held on 8 April and 20 May 2020.

### **B. Special procedures for subsidiary bodies**

7. Further, the special procedures of EXCOM encouraged the subsidiary bodies of the ECE to explore innovative formats to conduct business remotely, noting that, on an exceptional basis and for business-critical issues, this may include decision-making through written consultations and silence procedure outside the regular sessions of the respective bodies. Special procedures were developed for the following bodies:
  - (a) Subsidiary bodies of the Inland Transport Committee;
  - (b) United Nations Centre for Trade Facilitation and Electronic Business (UN/CEFACT);
  - (c) Committee on Innovation, Competitiveness and Public-Private Partnerships and its subsidiary bodies;

- (d) Steering Committee on Trade Capacity and Standards and its subsidiary bodies;
- (e) Committee on Sustainable Energy.

### **C. Procedures to take decisions in formal meetings with remote participation**

8. By mid-July 2020, the resumption of onsite meetings became possible, albeit initially only with a limited number of in person participants, as stipulated by health regulations of the host country. The use of information technology, provided by the United Nations Office in Geneva (UNOG), facilitated the convening of so-called “hybrid meetings”, formal sessions with full interpretation that allowed for in person and remote online participation of member States. The 110th meeting of the Executive Committee, postponed from 2 April 2020 to 10 July 2020, was held in such a hybrid format. From October 2020 until January 2021 the Executive Committee held three further formal meetings in a hybrid format.

9. On 5 October 2020, EXCOM adopted “Procedures to take decisions in formal meetings with remote participation” (ECE/EX/2020/L.12). These procedures required all decisions agreed during such meetings to be confirmed through a silence procedure and were established as a safeguard measure in case a registered participant was not able to participate remotely in the meeting because of technical reasons.

10. An overview of the respective procedures mentioned above is provided in annex I of this report. As stipulated in the special procedures, these arrangements are exceptional and time-limited. The secretariat reported back to EXCOM on their implementation throughout the COVID-19 period.

11. In light of the ongoing constraints posed by the pandemic, these procedures have been extended on several occasions and, at the time of the writing of this report, are in effect through 31 March 2021.

### **D. Liquidity crisis and reduced meeting servicing capacity**

12. In addition to the constraints caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, the implementation of the official calendar of ECE meetings was further impaired by the liquidity crisis of the secretariat. UNOG informed the ECE secretariat in August 2020 that the usual meeting servicing quota of three meetings per day had been reduced to one meeting per day, with the duration of hybrid meetings being limited to two hours if remote participation exceeded 30 minutes, as compared to the normal three hours. De facto, this reduced the interpretation capacity available to the Commission and its subsidiary bodies to 4–6 hours per day, as compared to the customary 18 hours. The secretariat elaborated a revised calendar of official meetings from October 2020 to April 2021 and embraced a broad range of innovative meeting formats to make the most out of the reduced capacity. The special procedures adopted for EXCOM and much of the Commission’s subsidiary architecture, as well as the flexibility of member States and the ECE secretariat to adjust their methods of work accordingly, proved crucial in this regard.

## **III. Main accomplishments**

13. In the period between May 2019 and January 2021, EXCOM held nine meetings, two remote informal meetings of the members of ECE, and six informal consultations. Two more formal meetings are expected to be held before the Commission session in April 2021.

14. In line with paragraph 3 of its terms of reference the Executive Committee reviewed, evaluated and approved the programmes of work of the Sectoral Committees, namely the

- (a) Committee on Environmental Policy
- (b) Committee on Forests and the Forest Industry;
- (c) Committee on Urban Development, Housing and Land Management;
- (d) Committee on Innovation, Competitiveness and Public-Private Partnerships;
- (e) Committee on Sustainable Energy;
- (f) Conference of European Statisticians;
- (g) Inland Transport Committee;
- (h) Steering Committee on Trade Capacity and Standards;
- (i) Standing Working Group on Ageing.

15. It approved the set-up, renewal, terms of reference and work plans of groups under the Sectoral Committees, examined with the Chairpersons and Vice-Chairpersons of the Sectoral Committees, their reports on the implementation of their Programme of Work and other relevant issues. The list of decisions approved by EXCOM related to all of these ECE bodies is contained in annex II of this document.

16. Over the past intersessional period, EXCOM was also seized on a number of other items that are listed in alphabetical order in annex III. They include in particular:

- (a) annual report on evaluation (2019) and 2022 evaluation plan;
- (b) annual reports on technical cooperation for 2018 and 2019;
- (c) ECE and its partnerships: cooperation and partnership agreements, centres of excellence and collaboration with other regional commissions;
- (d) evaluation of gender mainstreaming in ECE;
- (e) implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action: regional process;
- (f) modalities for the intergovernmental negotiations of the global compact for safe, orderly and regular migration (A/RES/71/280);
- (g) possible legally binding agreement on forests in Europe;
- (h) Forum of Mayors;
- (i) proposed programme budget for 2021 and 2022;
- (j) Regional Forum on Sustainable Development for the ECE region (RFSD) and the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF);
- (k) repositioning of the United Nations development system;
- (l) ECE resource mobilisation strategy;
- (m) response to the COVID-19 pandemic, developments related to ECE activities during the COVID-19 and special procedures during COVID-19 period;
- (n) Strategic Heritage Plan;
- (o) United Nations Road Safety Fund.

17. EXCOM actively engaged in the preparations of the 2020 RFSD and was fully briefed on its outcomes. In light of the COVID-19 pandemic, the RFSD was held as a virtual meeting on 19 March 2020, focusing discussions on accelerating action and delivery for the

achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in the region. The session was attended remotely by over 300 participants. RFSD submitted the chair's conclusion to the HLPF as official input from the ECE region. Further information is available on the ECE website.

18. EXCOM was periodically informed about the ongoing reform initiative of the Secretary-General on the repositioning of the United Nations development system. ECE actively engaged in related work at the regional level and regularly sought the feedback of member States. The Secretary-General in his 2020 Report on the Implementation of General Assembly resolution 71/243 on the quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system (A/75/79-E/2020/55) reaffirmed his earlier recommendations for action in five key areas of transformation and outlined the steps to be taken for operationalizing his recommendations. Following the endorsement of his suggested approach in A/RES/74/297, the United Nations Sustainable Development Group in September 2020 elaborated a roadmap for implementation.

19. In autumn 2020, the Regional United Nations system in Europe and Central Asia with its already existing and well-functioning integrated platform for United Nations cooperation transitioned to the Regional Collaborative Platform for Europe and Central Asia (RCP-ECA). The RCP serves as the main inter-agency coordination platform for sustainable development at the regional level, bringing leadership, accountability and clarity to system-wide goals, activities and results in the region to amplify support to countries by the United Nations country teams. The RCP is chaired by the Deputy Secretary-General, with the ECE Executive Secretary and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Regional Director as co-vice chairs. Its main substantive arm are seven issue-based coalitions, inter-agency expert groups for joint advocacy, analysis and support to United Nations country teams on the major development challenges in the region. EXCOM was informed in detail about their work. A first results-based report of the United Nations system at the regional level will be submitted to the 2021 Regional Forum. ECE and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) are co-chairing a new Regional Coordination Group on Data and Statistics to support the consolidation and improvement of statistical capacities at the regional level.

20. Further, EXCOM was apprised of the outcomes of the regional meeting to review the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (Beijing+25). The regional Beijing+25 review meeting, hosted by ECE in October 2019, showed that progress has been slow and uneven across the 56 member States of the ECE region and gender gaps remain in all areas and countries. Member States underscored the critical importance of achieving gender equality and the empowerment of women to realize the objectives of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

21. Pursuant to the request by member States, EXCOM was periodically informed about the United Nations Road Safety Fund that was launched by the Secretary-General in April 2018. Adding to the five first pilot projects launched in 2018, the Fund is currently financing 15 projects in four regions, implemented by nine United Nations organizations. Its 2020 Call for Proposals will close on 31 January 2021 and will disburse a further USD 4 million. The Fund will continue to prioritize fundraising, expand its geographical and programmatic footprint, and ensure that its ongoing projects are generating immediate and tangible impact.

22. In the area of technical cooperation, the secretariat reported to EXCOM on support provided to 17 United Nations programme countries in the ECE region through implementation of extrabudgetary projects, the Regular Programme on Technical Cooperation and technical cooperation projects funded by United Nations Development Account (UNDA).

23. Technical cooperation activities were delivered in an integrated and coherent manner through the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF),

in cooperation with United Nations Country Teams and Resident Coordinators. During the reporting period, 11 UNSDCFs for the 2021–2025 cycle were prepared and five already signed.

24. EXCOM was also informed of ECE participation in the conference on South-South Cooperation (Buenos Aires, Argentina, 20–22 March 2019) that raised awareness on the Commission’s technical cooperation as a contribution to South-South and triangular cooperation. The 2018 United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation publication “Good Practices in South-South and Triangular Cooperation for Sustainable Development” showcased good practices within the framework of the United Nations Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia and the Environmental Performance Review Programme.

25. The secretariat reported to EXCOM on 20 evaluations that were conducted in 2019–2020: one programme-level evaluation, five subprogramme-level evaluations, two evaluations of UNDA projects and 12 evaluations of extrabudgetary projects. EXCOM approved the 2022 Evaluation plan.

26. In May 2020, EXCOM approved a revised Resource Mobilization Strategy and was subsequently informed of Resource Mobilization Plans elaborated by the secretariat.

27. EXCOM also reviewed the ECE proposed programme budgets for 2021 and 2022. The secretariat kept EXCOM apprised of developments related to the liquidity issue and measures taken to address it. The secretariat made all possible efforts to minimize impact on mandate implementation across the organization.

28. In keeping with the guidelines on procedures and practices for ECE bodies (E/2013/37-E/ECE/1464, appendix III), which specify that work should be “carried out in a way that is member driven, participatory, consensus-oriented, transparent, responsive, effective, efficient, results-oriented and accountable”, the secretariat regularly informed EXCOM on its efforts to strengthen its working methods and managerial practices focused on the four key management principles promoted by the Executive Secretary: accountability, transparency, participation and equality.

29. At the initiative of the Chair of the Commission, EXCOM held a series of informal consultations from November 2019 to February 2020 to review its working methods and discuss issues of common interest. In light of the constraints caused by the pandemic and the ongoing budgetary pressures, the membership expressed readiness to further consider meeting servicing arrangements and working methods. Discussions on this matter are ongoing and will draw on the recent experiences with virtual and other innovative consultation formats.

30. In preparation of the sixty-ninth Commission session, EXCOM decided to designate a cross-cutting high-level theme early to facilitate broad engagement of relevant entities in its subsidiary architecture. Following broad consultations with the membership led by the Commission Chair, the theme of the high-level segment, “Promoting circular economy and the sustainable use of natural resources”, was adopted in February 2019. To capitalize on synergies among mandated areas of work of ECE and to deepen multi-sectoral collaboration across subprogrammes, sectoral Committees were actively engaged in the preparation of the session and contributed their substantive expertise on the theme. This has already proven most valuable in the lead up to the session and related preparatory activities of EXCOM. A further evaluation of this innovative approach will be held after the Commission session with a view to guiding future arrangements.

31. EXCOM was also briefed on the secretariat’s review of its partnership arrangements, aimed at facilitating a more strategic and results-oriented collaboration approach. The review covered cooperation modalities with other organizations, including memoranda of understanding and the establishment of Centres of Excellence in different subprogrammes.

32. The Executive Secretary informed EXCOM of continuing efforts by the secretariat to strengthen innovative practices and new working methods to foster greater operational agility. ECE has set up mechanisms and incentives to cooperate across Divisions and thematic areas and exchange knowledge more systematically. To this end, the secretariat is engaging with the Innovation Network at United Nations Headquarters and is elaborating an action plan with concrete proposals to strengthen the organizational capacity for innovation.

33. EXCOM was also apprised of progress made in the work of the four cross-sectoral nexus teams on i) Sustainable use of natural resources; ii) Sustainable and smart cities; iii) Sustainable mobility and smart connectivity and iv) Measuring and monitoring progress towards the SDGs. Each of the inter-divisional teams of ECE experts has undertaken an in-depth analysis of current and future challenges and a needs assessment for the region to assist member States in designing and implementing integrated policies in these areas. The findings of these analyses and corresponding policy recommendations are set out in a series of four flagship publications that will be launched during the sixty-ninth Commission session.

#### IV. Challenges and way ahead

34. The COVID-19 pandemic has prompted the need for robust policy responses to reduce pressure on health systems, facilitate social distancing, mitigate economic disruption and, eventually, provide impetus for a sustainable recovery aligned with the 2030 Agenda.

35. Since the beginning of the pandemic, ECE has stepped up its support to member States in confronting this difficult situation. It will continue to closely engage with them to mitigate the impacts of the crisis and facilitate the recovery. The strategic considerations that will guide this support include:

- Ensure that the COVID-19 response is well aligned with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, contributes to the progress of the SDGs and, in light of the fact that the pandemic has exacerbated existing inequalities even further, takes into account the needs of vulnerable groups so that no one is left behind;
- Engage, as required, all the different ECE functions and assets, including its convening power, normative production and technical cooperation;
- Draw on areas of core strengths and leverage the existing expertise of ECE and its partners, including, in particular, the United Nations regional system; Increase the impact and resilience of ECE activities through the use of virtual tools to complement existing engagement modalities.

36. These broad principles can be translated into a number of concrete actions:

- Review and repurpose, to the extent possible, existing activities to meet COVID-19 needs;
- Engage the intergovernmental architecture of ECE, as a platform that involves its full membership especially at the sectoral committee level, to consider changes in the programme of work and reflect new needs and priorities, as appropriate;
- Enhance the coherence and effectiveness of ECE activities by exploiting cross-sectoral synergies and building on the nexus approach;
- Identify evolving demands for support and ensure the coherence of United Nations offerings through further strengthening engagement with Resident Coordinators and United Nations country teams;
- Exploit emerging funding possibilities, including by strengthening existing partnerships and developing new ones;

- Review existing operational arrangements for the conduct of different types of activities and assess the scope and resource implications for the use of virtual tools.

37. ECE has at its disposal a large number of instruments and initiatives that can support member States in their efforts to tackle the crisis and promote a sustainable recovery. They can be grouped into three pillars, which define broad policy goals that address policy concerns on the COVID-19 response and recovery, namely to i) Facilitate connectivity; ii) Address transboundary and other risks; and iii) Support a green and resilient recovery.

### ECE Action Framework for Responses to the COVID-19 crisis

<i>Facilitate connectivity</i>	<i>Address transboundary and other risks</i>	<i>Support a green and resilient recovery</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Enhance cooperation and implementation of a harmonized regulatory framework for border crossing</li> <li>- Promote digital implementation of existing legal transport instruments</li> <li>- Facilitate trade through the exchange of electronic information</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Promote use of existing multilateral environmental agreements to deal with various risks</li> <li>- Foster transparency, traceability and risk management through the use of standards</li> <li>- Promote and enhance statistical frameworks to improve the basis for decision making including in relation to disasters</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Enhance resilience and efficiency through improved resource use, including through circular economy approaches</li> <li>- Address the implications of the crisis in urban centers and engage cities as drivers of the recovery</li> <li>- Promote sustainable infrastructure, including through private sector participation</li> </ul>

38. The COVID-19 crisis has created a fluid and unprecedented situation. A sustained and effective organizational response requires drawing lessons from initial interventions and an active dialogue among the membership to understand evolving needs and shape demand-driven future action. ECE stands ready to support its membership in the recovery effort to build back better.

39. In addition to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, resource constraints remain a major concern for the work of ECE. This includes in particular the continuing liquidity crisis of the regular budget of the global Secretariat. As outlined in the report by the Secretary-General (A/75/387), the ongoing financial uncertainty continues to compel budget management based on liquidity rather than programme delivery. The Secretariat is committed to using the resources entrusted to it in a cost-effective and efficient manner. The financial health of the Organization depends on Member States meeting their financial obligations in full and on time.

40. Another very important challenge which the international community continues to face is climate change. Although the COVID-19 pandemic dominated the news cycles and the attention of policymakers in 2020, the year also witnessed several extreme weather events and related natural disasters, such as huge wildfires, floods, draught and record temperatures. Mitigating and improving resilience to climate change has been mainstreamed in ECE subprogrammes as appropriate for several years. ECE will maintain these efforts and keep highlighting to all its constituencies the need to continue working in this area to prevent further catastrophes.

41. Going forward, ECE will continue to concentrate its efforts on delivering effectively and with measurable impact on its multi-sectoral mandates and on supporting member States in achieving the 2030 Agenda.

## Annex I

**Special Procedures during the COVID-19 period adopted by the Executive Committee**

<i>Document symbol</i>	<i>Title</i>	<i>Adoption date</i>	<i>Renewal date</i>
ECE/EX/2020/L.4	Special procedures during the COVID-19 period	Adopted under silence procedure 6 April 2020	20 May, 10 July, 5 October and 14 December 2020
ECE/EX/2020/L.4	Arrangements for the ECE <b>Inland Transport Committee subsidiary bodies</b> to conduct business remotely during the COVID-19 period	Adopted under silence procedure 29 May 2020	10 July and 14 December 2020
ECE/EX/2020/L.4	Arrangements for business-critical decisions in order to ensure the continued governance of <b>UN/CEFACT</b> during the COVID-19 period	Adopted under silence procedure 29 May 2020	N/A
ECE/EX/2020/L.4	Arrangements for the ECE <b>Committee on Innovation, Competitiveness and Public-Private Partnerships</b> to conduct business remotely during the COVID-19 period	Adopted under silence procedure 29 May 2020	N/A
ECE/EX/2020/L.14	Arrangements for the <b>Committee on Innovation, Competitiveness and Public-Private Partnerships</b> to conduct business remotely during the COVID-19 period	14 December 2020	
EXE/EX/2020/L.11	Special Procedures during COVID-19 period for <b>subsidiary bodies of the Committee on Innovation, Competitiveness and Public-Private Partnerships</b>	5 October 2020	14 December 2020
ECE/EX/2020/L.4	Arrangements for business-critical decisions in order to ensure the continued governance of <b>the Steering Committee on Trade Capacity and Standards</b> during the COVID-19 period	Adopted under silence procedure 29 May 2020	N/A
ECE/EX/2020/L.10	Special Procedures during COVID-19 period for <b>subsidiary bodies of the</b>	5 October 2020	14 December 2020

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<i>Document symbol</i>	<i>Title</i>	<i>Adoption date</i>	<i>Renewal date</i>
	<b>Steering Committee on Trade Capacity and Standards</b>		
ECE/EX/2020/L.4	Arrangements for the ECE <b>Committee on Sustainable Energy</b> to conduct business remotely during the COVID-19 period	Adopted under silence procedure 29 May 2020	10 July and 14 December 2020
ECE/EX/2020/L.12	Procedures to take decisions in <b>formal meetings with remote participation</b>	5 October 2020	14 December 2020

## Annex II

### Decisions of the Executive Committee relating to subsidiary bodies of the Economic Commission for Europe taken in the intersessional period (May 2019 – January 2021)<sup>1</sup>

<i>Subsidiary bodies</i>	<i>Decisions</i>	<i>EXCOM meeting</i>
Committee on Environmental Policy (CEP)	N/A	109
Committee on Forests and the Forest Industry (COFFI)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Programme of work of the Forests and Forest Industry Subprogramme for 2020;</li> <li>- List of activities for 2020;</li> <li>- Establishment and terms of reference of a new Team of Specialists on Boreal Forests;</li> <li>- Revised terms of reference of the Team of Specialists on Forest Sector Outlook;</li> <li>- Extension of mandate for the period 2020–2021 of six Teams of Specialists.</li> </ul>	108, 113
Committee on Urban Development, Housing and Land Management (CHLM)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Programme of work of the housing and land management component of Housing, Land Management and Population subprogramme for 2020;</li> <li>- Extension of the mandate of Working Party on Land Administration for the period 2021–2025 and its revised terms of reference;</li> <li>- Programme of work of the Working Party on Land Administration for 2020– 2021.</li> </ul>	108, 112
Committee on Innovation, Competitiveness and Public-Private Partnerships (CICPPP)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Programme of Work of the Economic Cooperation and Integration subprogramme for 2020;</li> <li>- Renewal of the mandate of the Team of Specialists on Innovation and Competitiveness Policies;</li> <li>- Intersessional Implementation Plan of the Committee for 2020–2021;</li> <li>- Special procedures during COVID-19 period for CICPPP subsidiary bodies;</li> </ul>	106, 111
Committee on Sustainable Energy (CSE)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Programme of work of the sustainable energy subprogramme for 2020;</li> <li>- Renewal of mandates and work plans of six Group of Experts.</li> </ul>	108
Conference of European Statisticians (CES)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Programme of work of the Statistics subprogramme for 2020;</li> <li>- Converting the Expert Group on National Accounts into a standing team of specialists;</li> <li>- Mandates and ToRs of the Teams of Specialists.</li> </ul>	108, 113

<sup>1</sup> Decisions relating to silence procedure are shown in annex I.

<i>Subsidiary bodies</i>	<i>Decisions</i>	<i>EXCOM meeting</i>
Inland Transport Committee (ITC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Matters relating to three subsidiary bodies;</li> <li>- Programme of Work of the Transport subprogramme for 2020;</li> <li>- Matters relating to five subsidiary bodies;</li> <li>- Extension of the mandate on the Group of Experts towards Unified Railway Law;</li> <li>- Extension of special procedures during COVID-19 period.</li> </ul>	105, Remote informal meeting of members of EXCOM (20 May 2020), 111
Steering Committee on Trade Capacity and Standards (SCTCS)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Programme of work of the Trade subprogramme for 2020;</li> <li>- Revised Terms of Reference of the Working Party on Agricultural Quality Standard;</li> <li>- Revised Programme of work of the Working Party on Agricultural Quality Standards for 2019–2020;</li> <li>- Programme of work for the Working Party on Regulatory Cooperation and Standardization Policies;</li> <li>- Renewal of mandates of three subsidiary bodies;</li> <li>- Programme of work of the Trade subprogramme for 2021;</li> <li>- Special procedures during COVID-19 period for SCTCS subsidiary bodies.</li> </ul>	106, 111
United Nations Centre for Trade Facilitation and Electronic Business (UN/CEFACT)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- PoW for 2019–2020;</li> <li>- Matters relating to three subsidiary bodies of the United Nations Centre for Trade Facilitation and Electronic Business</li> </ul>	105
Working Group on Ageing (WGA)	N/A	109

<i>Other issues discussed</i>	<i>EXCOM Meeting</i>
Annual reports on technical cooperation activities	105, 110
Annual report on evaluation (2019)	109
Evaluation activities: Evaluation workplan 2020–2021, 2022	112
Evaluation of Gender Mainstreaming in ECE	108
Economic Commission for Europe and partnerships: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) Cooperation and partnership agreements</li> <li>(b) Centres of Excellence</li> <li>(c) Collaboration with other Regional Commissions</li> </ul>	Remote informal meeting of members of EXCOM of 8 April 2020
ECE budget management efforts to address liquidity	105, Remote informal meeting of members of EXCOM of 20 May 2020
Format and organizational aspects of the Regional Review of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration	Remote informal meeting of members of EXCOM of 20 May 2020
Gender mainstreaming	111
Matters relating to Protocol on Water and Health	112

<i>Other issues discussed</i>	<i>EXCOM Meeting</i>
Preparations for the 2021 Commission Session	109, 110, 111, 112, 113
Proposed programme budget for 2021	108, 112
Recent developments related to ECE activities during the COVID-19 pandemic	Remote informal meeting of members of EXCOM of 8 April 2020, 110, 111
Regional Forum on Sustainable Development	108, 109, Remote informal meeting of members of EXCOM of 20 May 2020, 110, 111, 112
Repositioning of the United Nations development system	105, 107, 109, Remote informal meeting of members of EXCOM of 20 May 2020
Resource mobilization strategy of the Economic Commission for Europe	Remote informal meeting of members of EXCOM of 20 May 2020
Resource Mobilization Plans of the Economic Commission for Europe, 2021–2022	113
Response by the Economic Commission for Europe to the COVID-19 pandemic	Remote informal meeting of members of EXCOM of 20 May 2020, 110
Strategic Heritage Plan (information update on expected implications for meeting planning and servicing)	109
The United Nations Trust Fund on Road Safety	Remote informal meeting of members of EXCOM of 20 May 2020
Update on Special Procedures during COVID-19 period: (a) Decisions taken under silence procedure from April to June 2020 (b) Extension of Special Procedures during COVID-19 period (c) Decisions taken under silence procedure from June to September 2020.	110, Remote informal meeting of members of EXCOM of 20 May 2020, 111
Update: possible Legally Binding Agreement on Forest in Europe	106, Remote informal meeting of members of EXCOM of 20 May 2020
25-year review of the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action: regional process	106, 107
2020 high-level political forum on sustainable development (HLPF): “Accelerated action and transformative pathways: realizing the decade of action and delivery for sustainable development”	Remote informal meeting of members of EXCOM of 8 April 2020

Further, EXCOM adopted 39 extrabudgetary projects during the intersessional period.