

ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Eighty-seventh meeting
Geneva, 18 November 2016

Item 7

Informal Document No. **2016/57**

Preparations for the 2017 Commission session

Note by the secretariat

At the request of EXCOM, the secretariat is presenting the attached draft provisional agenda for the 2017 Commission session for consideration.

Delegations are invited to provide comments. The secretariat stands ready to convene informal consultations with interested delegations.

In this regard, member States are also invited to explore which items they may wish to consider under proposed agenda item 6, "Other issues calling for decision by the Commission." Based on recent discussions in EXCOM, these may include the following:

- Renaming ECE to allow for the use of the acronym UNECE;
 - Green Economy following the Environment for Europe Ministerial in Batumi;
 - Decisions arising from Inland Transport Committee;
 - Geospatial Information Management (subject to further discussion in EXCOM in December 2016);
 - Regional Forum for Sustainable Development.
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**Economic and Social Council**

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XXX April 2017**ZERO DRAFT FOR DISCUSSION**

Economic Commission for Europe**Sixty-seventh session**

Geneva, 26–27 April 2017

Item 1 of the provisional agenda

Adoption of the agenda**Connecting countries and improving lives towards sustainable development in the ECE region****Annotated provisional agenda for the sixty-seventh session**

To be held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva, starting at 10 a.m. on Wednesday, 26 April 2017

I. Provisional agenda

1. Opening and adoption of the agenda.

A. High-level segment: Connecting countries and improving lives towards sustainable development in the ECE region

2. High-level dialogue.

3. High-level thematic discussions:

(a) Strengthening cross-sectoral action in support of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

(b) Mobilizing resources in support of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

4. Discussion and endorsement of the outcome document.

B. General segment

5. Report on activities of the Executive Committee.

6. Other issues calling for decision by the Commission.

7. Election of officers.

8. Other business.

9. Adoption of the report of the session.

II. Annotations to the provisional agenda

1. Opening and adoption of the agenda

Documentation: E/ECE/1479

1. The Commission will adopt its agenda.

A. High-level segment: Connecting countries and improving lives towards sustainable development in the ECE region

2. High-level dialogue

Documentation: E/ECE/14XX

2. In 2017, the Economic Commission for Europe marks its 70th anniversary. The 67th session of the Commission provides an opportunity to reflect upon the significant transitions in the ECE region and the historical mandate and role of ECE to facilitate concerted action for the economic development and integration of the region raising the level of economic activity, and maintaining and strengthening the economic relations of the member States, both among themselves and with other countries of the world. This reflection will look back on the achievements of ECE, as well as a look forward, to help chart the course for ECE's future role in support of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

3. Over seven decades, ECE's work has yielded significant results for the region and has established a notable amount of public goods in the form of norms, standards and conventions, a broad body of knowledge, and a wealth of expertise that is available to member States and to interested stakeholders, including beyond the region.

4. Today, new challenges are emerging for our region. We live in uncertain times with strong secular forces and global processes at play. In these circumstances, it is particularly important to collectively develop a vision of the future, of the existing opportunities and pitfalls in the search for sustainable development in our region. Amid this uncertainty, the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda provides a reference framework that defines our ambitions and is shaping policy actions – at the national, regional and global levels.

5. The Commission is invited to reflect on what the region should look like in 2030, including how greater economic integration and cooperation, based on peaceful coexistence and international law, could support the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. Covering the broad spectrum of ECE activities, this visioning exercise will identify both opportunities and challenges that need to be addressed in future policy planning, as well as ways and means for ECE to effectively support member States in the implementation of the Agenda 2030.

6. The high-level dialogue will be opened by a keynote address of the Secretary-General (tbc). Different facets of a vision for the future will be articulated in a ministerial-level panel discussion. Key messages from the Regional Forum on Sustainable Development will be presented. An interactive session among participants will follow. A background note will raise possible issues for discussion. These will include:

- What could the key steps to achieve a vision towards 2030 in our region? What could integration and cooperation in support of sustainable development look like in the ECE region towards 2030?
- What role can ECE play to help countries convene and cooperate to create an enabling environment to ensure the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in a way that leaves nobody behind?

3. High-level thematic discussions

Documentation: E/ECE/14XX

7. The integrated, universal and transformative nature of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) requires a cross-sectoral approach in their implementation. It also requires the mobilization of

additional resources from multiple sources in support of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. Two high-level thematic discussions will address key questions related to integrated cross-sectoral action and resource mobilisation, including through the development and strengthening of partnerships and engaging additional actors.

(a) Strengthening cross-sectoral action in support of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda

8. With its diverse programmes and in multiple partnerships, ECE is already pursuing a cross-sectoral approach to address the inextricable linkages between transport, health and the environment, and between water, food, energy and ecosystems, to name but two examples. Effective implementation of the SDGs will require an approach for all SDGs that goes beyond individual sectors, addresses interdependencies and realizes potential synergies, where appropriate.

9. A high level panel, including senior representatives of different portfolios (e.g. health, transport, energy, environment, trade, gender equality etc.), will share experiences, lessons and good practices to enhance cross-sectoral collaboration and highlight the necessity and the value of integrated approaches towards the implementation of the SDGs. It will be followed by an interactive session among participants. A background note will raise possible issues for discussion. These will include:

- Which kinds of linkages and interdependencies exist between different thematic sectors and what are their implications for policy towards 2030?
- What additional synergies can be achieved with an integrated approach that reaches beyond the narrow sectoral perspectives, including through the deepening of existing partnerships and outreach to even broader groups of stakeholders?
- What strategies are required to strengthen effective cross-sectoral action in the ECE region?

(b) Mobilizing resources in support of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda

10. The Addis Ababa Action agenda acknowledged the need for ambitious and credible means of implementation of the 2030 Agenda in the area of financing for sustainable development. A better understanding of current and expected resource flows and emerging trends, and of regulatory frameworks and their links to financial models, is required to inform the development of resource mobilization strategies in support of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda that meet the specific needs in our region.

11. A high level panel, including senior member State representatives of different portfolios, financial institutions, the private sector, etc. will discuss resources required in support of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, approaches to tap multiple sources of funding for different activities, and strategies to bridge the gap between demand and supply in financing.. A background note will raise possible issues for discussion. These will include:

- What are the key financial requirements of different sectors in support of the implementation of the SDGs? What are challenges and constraints in mobilizing the required resources and what legal, regulatory and institutional frameworks are needed to overcome them and improve the quantity and quality of resources for sustainable development?
- What role can the collaboration between the public and the private sectors play, including through public-private partnerships for infrastructure development and the provision of public services?
- What type of financial instruments could be developed/mobilized in support of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda?

4. Discussion and endorsement of the outcome document

Documentation: E/ECE/14XX

12. Member States are invited to discuss and endorse the draft outcome document stating the continued relevance of the historic mandate of ECE and reiterating their commitment to implement the 2030 Agenda; building bridges through cross-border and regional cooperation, engaging all stakeholders and partners, and using ECE tools and instruments.

B. General segment

5. Report on activities of the Executive Committee

Documentation: E/ECE/14XX

13. Following the review of the ECE reform, the Executive Committee was established in 2006 to act as the governing body of ECE during the intersessional period of the Commission. Member States will be provided with a report of the activities of EXCOM since the last Commission session and will be invited to provide their views and comments on the functioning of EXCOM.

6. Other issues calling for decision by the Commission

Documentation: E/ECE/14XX

14. The Commission will be asked to approve any other decision as necessary.

7. Election of officers

15. Rule 12 of the Rules of Procedure of the Commission states: "The Commission shall, at each biennial session, elect a country from among its members to hold the chair for the period of the biennium. The representative of the elected country will be the Chairperson. The Commission will also, at the same meeting, elect two countries whose representatives will become the Vice-Chairpersons for the period of the biennium. The Chairperson and Vice-Chairpersons of the Commission will also serve as the Chairperson and Vice-Chairpersons of the Executive Committee for the period of the biennium." Accordingly, under this item, elections for the Chair and Vice-Chairs for a period of two years will be held.

9. Other business

10. Adoption of the report of the session

III. Tentative timetable

| <i>Time</i> | <i>Agenda item</i> |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| Wednesday, 26 April 2017 | |
| 10:00–10:30 | Opening and adoption of the agenda Opening remarks: - Chairperson - Executive Secretary - Other high-level officials |
| | High-level segment: Connecting countries and improving lives towards sustainable development in the ECE region |
| 10:30–13:00 | Item 2: High-level dialogue Keynote address: Secretary-General of the United Nations (tbc) |
| | Lunch break |
| 13.15- 14.45 | <i>[Lunchtime conversation with former Executive Secretaries of ECE]</i> |
| 15:00–17:00 | Item 3: High-level thematic discussions (a) Strengthening cross-sectoral action in support of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda (b) Mobilizing resources in support of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda |
| 17:00–18:00 | Item 4: Discussion and endorsement of the outcome document |
| 18:15 | <i>[Myrdal Lecture and Reception]</i> |
| Thursday, 27 April 2017 | |
| | High-level segment (continued) |
| 10:00–10:30 | Item 4: Discussion and endorsement of the outcome document |
| | General segment |
| 10:00–10.30 | Item 5: Report on activities of the Executive Committee |
| 10.30–12: 00 | Item 6: Other issues calling for decision by the Commission |
| 12:00–12:30 | Item 8: Election of officers |
| 12:30–13:00 | Item 9: Other business |
| | Meeting suspension to finalize the conclusions and decisions |
| | <i>[Side events to showcase the work of ECE]</i> |
| 16:00–17:00 | Item 10: Adoption of report of the session |
