



**Economic and Social  
Council**

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**ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE**

Fifty-eighth session  
(4-6 March 2003)

**PROVISIONAL AGENDA FOR THE FIFTY-EIGHTH SESSION**

To be held in the Palais des Nations, Geneva,  
starting at 10 a.m. on Tuesday, 4 March 2003

1. Adoption of the Agenda

**HIGH LEVEL POLICY SEGMENT**

2. Economic developments in the UNECE region

3. Sustainable development in the UNECE region:

- National sustainable development strategies: Main problems, lessons and implications for the work of the UNECE
- Regional perspectives on sustainable development: the UNECE's follow-up to the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD)

Accreditation procedures have been introduced for all delegates attending meetings held at the Palais des Nations. Delegates are therefore requested to fill in the attached registration form (also available from the UNECE Internet website) and to transmit it, at the latest two weeks before the session, to the UNECE secretariat, either by fax (+41 22 917 00 36) or by e-mail (alison.mangin@unece.org). In Geneva, prior to the session, delegates are requested to present themselves at the Pass and Identification Unit of the UNOG Security and Safety Section, located at the Villa Les Feuillantines, 13 Avenue de la Paix (see attached map), to be issued with an identification badge. In case of difficulties, please contact the UNECE secretariat (Annual Session of the Commission - Tel: +41 22 917 28 92; Spring Seminar – Tel +41 22 917 2722).

4. The ECE reform
5. Major policy directions of ECE's work

**GENERAL SEGMENT**

6. UNECE's achievements and constraints during 2002 and perspectives for 2003
7. Preparation for and follow-up to World and Regional Conferences:
  - Information on the holding of the Pan-European Regional Ministerial Conference (Bucharest, November 2002) in preparation for the World Summit on Information Society and Preparations for the World Summit on Information Society in December 2003
  - Follow-up to the Ministerial Conference on Ageing in Berlin, September 2002
8. Technical cooperation
9. Cooperation and coordination with other organizations
10. Report of the Group of Experts on the Programme of Work (GEPW)
11. Election of officers
12. Other business
13. Adoption of the report



## EXPLANATORY NOTES AND TIMETABLE

<b>Time</b>	<b>Agenda Item</b>	<b>Introduction</b>	<b>Explanatory Notes</b>	<b>Documentation</b>
Tuesday, 4 March  a.m.	<u>Item 1:</u> Adoption of the Agenda	Chairperson of the Commission	The adoption of the agenda will be followed by opening remarks by the Chairperson of the Commission and the Executive Secretary.	E/ECE/1397
<b><u>POLICY SEGMENT</u></b>				
a.m.	<u>Item 2:</u> Economic developments in the UNECE region.	Executive Secretary	Under this agenda item, a discussion will take place on the current economic situation in the region. The discussion will be supported by the Economic Survey for 2003, first issue.	Updated Conference Room Paper
a.m/pm	<u>Item: 3</u> Sustainable development in the ECE region:	Chairperson of the Commission and member States	Agenda 21, which was adopted at the Rio Conference in 1992, requested countries to develop national strategies for sustainable development. These strategies were, in principle, to be completed by 2002. Under this item, various member States will report on the progress that has been made in the development of these strategies, and an attempt will be made to highlight the main problems and challenges ahead as well as the broader implications for UNECE's work.	Conference Room Paper
p.m.	<input type="checkbox"/> National sustainable development strategies: Main problems, lessons and implications for the work of the UNECE  <input type="checkbox"/> Regional perspectives on sustainable development: the UNECE's follow-up to the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD)	Executive Secretary	Against the background of the discussions at the morning session, there will be a review of the role of the UNECE in promoting sustainable development process, and its follow-up to the WSSD.	E/ECE/1398

Time	Agenda Item	Introduction	Explanatory Notes	Documentation
<p>Wednesday, 5 March a.m</p>	<p><u>Item 4:</u> The UNECE reform</p> <p><u>Item 5:</u> Major policy directions of UNECE's work</p>	<p>Executive Secretary</p> <p>Executive Secretary</p>	<p>Under this item, a discussion will be held on the UNECE Reform Process, including its link to the Secretary-General's reform initiative. Discussion will focus on both the secretariat and intergovernmental structure, as well as on the reform of technical cooperation.</p> <p>As agreed by the Commission, under this item discussion will focus on the major policy directions of UNECE's work.</p>	<p>E/ECE/1399 (see related report of Secretary-General on United Nations Reform (A/57/387)</p> <p>E/ECE/1400</p>
<b>GENERAL SEGMENT</b>				
	<p><u>Item 6:</u> UNECE's achievements and constraints during 2002 and perspectives for 2003</p>	<p>Chairperson, PSB Chairs, and secretariat</p>	<p>The achievements of UNECE during 2002, along with any constraints, will be highlighted during this segment. Perspectives for the following year will also be outlined, including information on existing or new cross-sectoral activities. PSB Chairs will be invited to report on their work under this item.</p>	<p>E/ECE/1401 See also for reference: ENERGY/2002/3 TRADE/2002/3, 13 and 16 TIM/2002/6 and 7</p>
	<p><u>Item 7:</u> Preparation for and follow-up to World and Regional Conferences:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>ÿ Information on the holding of the Pan-European Regional Ministerial Conference (Bucharest, November 2002) in preparation for the World Summit on Information Society to be held in December 2003</li> <li>ÿ Follow-up to the Ministerial Conference on Ageing in Berlin, September 2002</li> </ul>	<p>Chairperson and Host member States</p>	<p>Under this item, information will be provided on the holding of the Pan-European Regional Ministerial Conference in preparation for the World Summit on Information Society to be held in December 2003. will be discussed. In addition, the UNECE's follow-up to the Ministerial Conference on Ageing, held in Berlin in September 2002, will be addressed. (Follow-up to the WSSD will be addressed under agenda item 3 of the Agenda).</p>	<p>E/ECE/1402</p>

<b>Time</b>	<b>Agenda Item</b>	<b>Introduction</b>	<b>Explanatory Notes</b>	<b>Documentation</b>
p.m.	<u>Item 8:</u> Technical cooperation	Executive Secretary	An overview of UNECE's technical cooperation will be provided by the secretariat as called for in the Plan of Action	E/ECE/1403
<u>Thursday,</u> <u>6 March:</u>  a.m.	<u>Item 9:</u> Cooperation and coordination with other organizations.	Executive Secretary	Under this item, UNECE's cooperation with other organizations will be outlined. It is expected that the discussion would focus on how cooperation and coordination could be strengthened.	E/ECE/1404 and Add.1 See also for reference: ENERGY/2002/8 and 11 TRADE/2002/14 and Add.1 TIM/2002/4
p.m.	<u>Item 10:</u> Report of the Group of Experts on the Programme of Work (GEPW)	Chairperson of the GEPW	Under this item the Chairperson of the GEPW will introduce the report of the GEPW on its work during 2002.	E/ECE/1405
	<u>Item 11:</u> Election of Officers	Chairperson		
	<u>Item 12:</u> Other business	Chairperson		
	<u>Item 13:</u> Adoption of the Report	Rapporteur		

### **General Notes**

1. The fifty-eighth session of the Commission (4-6 March 2003) will be preceded by a seminar on 3 March on "Sustainable development in the ECE Region". Debate under the session's agenda item 2. will draw upon the seminar's discussion.
2. In accordance with the Commission's Rules of Procedure, the documents referred to in the Provisional Agenda will, wherever possible, be transmitted to Governments in the Commission's three official languages (English, French, Russian) not less than forty-two days before the opening of the session, i.e. not later than 21 January 2003. For reasons of economy, delegates are requested to bring copies of the documents mentioned in the provisional agenda to the meeting.
3. As part of the ongoing efforts of all concerned to revitalize the sessions of the Commission, and in keeping with the previous sessions of the Commission, the Bureau recommends that delegations, PSB Chairpersons and representatives from other organizations/initiatives should refrain from general statements and limit themselves to specific observations and proposals for action. Any delegation wishing to provide a text for distribution is requested to provide the secretariat, preferably in advance of the session, with sufficient copies (approximately 75).
4. It is anticipated that the Gunnar Myrdal Lecture will be held on Wednesday, 5 March, at 4.30 in the afternoon. The formal meeting of the Commission will adjourn at 4:30 p.m. with the lecture to be held in the same meeting room.

