



Economic and Social Council

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Economic Commission for Europe

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Item 6 of the provisional agenda

Other issues calling for decision by the Commission

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Note by the secretariat

I. Establishment of the Regional Forum on Sustainable Development

The United Nations Economic Commission for Europe,

1. Welcoming General Assembly resolution 70/1, entitled “Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”, in which member States adopted a comprehensive, far-reaching and people-centred set of universal and transformative Sustainable Development Goals and targets, and reaffirmed their commitment to working tirelessly for the full implementation of this Agenda by 2030,
2. Recalling that the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, *inter alia*, recognizes the importance of building on existing follow-up and review mechanisms at the regional level and encourages all Member States to identify the most suitable regional forum in which to engage, as well as United Nations regional commissions to continue supporting member States in this regard,
3. Recalling also General Assembly resolution 67/290, which, *inter alia*, acknowledges the importance of the regional dimension of sustainable development, and invites the United Nations regional commissions to contribute to the work of the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development, including through annual regional meetings, with the involvement of other relevant regional entities, major groups and other relevant stakeholders, as appropriate,
4. Recalling furthermore General Assembly resolution 70/299, which encourages member States to identify the most suitable regional or subregional forums and formats for the follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda, and welcomes the steps taken in this regard,

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5. Taking into account the Ministerial Declaration of the 2016 High-level Political Forum (E/HLS/2016/1), which recognizes the important role the regional and subregional forums can have in supporting the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and welcomes the identification, development and convening of appropriate regional and subregional forums on sustainable development,
6. Decides to establish the Regional Forum on Sustainable Development for the region of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE), which, while retaining its intergovernmental character, would serve as a regional mechanism to follow-up and review the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and to convene it annually in Geneva in the years 2018 and 2019, in close cooperation with the entities of the regional United Nations system,
7. Decides also that the Regional Forum will focus on practical value added, taking into account the work of existing regional bodies and mechanisms, including peer review mechanisms, while avoiding additional reporting burdens for member States, and contribute to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development by:
 - (a) creating a space for UNECE member States for peer learning and the exchange of policy experiences and good practices in the implementation of Sustainable Development Goals;
 - (b) providing a regional and subregional overview of progress and challenges in implementation that would complement analogous reports at the global level;
 - (c) enhancing regional and subregional cooperation and addressing transboundary issues;
 - (d) providing a platform for the participation and contributions of all relevant stakeholders, including international and regional organizations, civil society, academia and the private sector, following the relevant provisions of the 2030 Agenda and the corresponding decisions of the Economic and Social Council.
8. Requests the secretariat to develop the agenda of each Regional Forum in close consultation with member States, and to align it with the respective themes and programme of work of the High-level Political Forum, with a focus on those aspects that are particularly relevant to the UNECE region, and taking into account lessons learnt from previous regional forums.
9. Decides to submit the outcome of the Regional Forum, in the form of a summary produced by its Chair, to the High-level Political Forum, as part of the regional contributions to the global follow-up and review process of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.
10. Furthermore decides to review this decision as appropriate, but at the latest at the sixty-eighth session of the Commission with a view to keeping the Regional Forum aligned with the follow-up and review process at the global level.

II. Strengthening institutional arrangements on geospatial information management

The United Nations Economic Commission for Europe,

11. Decides to request UNECE to engage with the United Nations Initiative on Global Geospatial Information Management (UN-GGIM:Europe), within existing resources, to gain a better understanding of how geospatial information can complement and support existing UNECE activities, particularly in the area of reviewing progress towards the

Sustainable Development Goals, and to present a detailed proposal for collaboration between the two bodies, taking into account the decision of the Conference of European Statisticians of April 2016 to support professional forums for statistical and geospatial experts to share good practices and learn from one another (ECE/CES/91) and a forthcoming decision on the nature and scope of this collaboration by the UN-GGIM:Europe Plenary Session, to be held in June 2017, for the consideration of the UNECE Executive Committee before December 2017.

III. Road Safety Fund

The United Nations Economic Commission for Europe,

12. Welcomes the decision of the Inland Transport Committee to look into the possibility of establishing a Road Safety Fund through multi-stakeholder and intergovernmental expert consultations, with a view to developing a concrete proposal for the consideration of the Secretary-General in due course, and encourages member States to become involved in this process.

IV. Decision 1 of the Ministerial Resolution adopted at the seventy-ninth session of the Inland Transport Committee

The United Nations Economic Commission for Europe,

13. Takes note of the report of the Inland Transport Committee at its seventy-ninth annual session and welcomes the Ministerial Resolution on “Embracing the new era for sustainable inland transport and mobility” (ECE/TRANS/2017/2). In line with decision 1 of the Ministerial Resolution, the Commission considers favourably the question of mandating the Committee to report on an annual basis to both the Commission and, for information purposes, to the Economic and Social Council. To this end, the Commission decides to transmit the draft resolution appended to the annex of this document to the Economic and Social Council at its next session for its consideration and, possibly, adoption.

Annex

Draft resolution for the consideration of the Economic and Social Council

Note by the secretariat

I. Background

1. In 2017, the Inland Transport Committee (ITC) marked its seventieth anniversary. The anniversary was celebrated with the meeting of Ministers of Transport, on 21 February 2017, during the seventy-ninth annual session of ITC (21-24 February 2017).

2. The Ministerial meeting concluded with the signing of a ministerial resolution on “Embracing the new era for sustainable inland transport and mobility” (ECE/TRANS/2017/2), which was thereafter endorsed by ITC and reflected in its list of decisions. The resolution conveyed the appreciation of the highest level of constituency for the work carried out by the Committee and its subsidiary bodies and encouraged further outputs within existing mandates. Most importantly, the resolution provided collective affirmation of the relevance of the Committee for the advancement of the Sustainable Development Agenda through paving the way toward sustainable inland transport and mobility.

3. The resolution underlined the importance of ensuring global and harmonized regulatory governance through the United Nations transport Conventions administered under the purview of the Committee. As such, it included a request to the Economic Commission for Europe and the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations, to consider mandating the Committee to report, on an annual basis, to both the Commission and, for information purposes, to the Economic and Social Council, while leaving the organizational structure of the ECE secretariat, as well as the programme-budgeting functions and oversight unchanged. This would serve to enable the Committee to efficiently address the needs of global inland transport, with special attention to global regulatory governance through the United Nations transport Conventions and other means.

II. Considerations by the Commission

4. In line with the outcomes of the seventy-ninth session of ITC, the Commission is invited to consider the Ministerial resolution as adopted on 21 February 2017 and the request therein in conjunction with Decisions 2, 3 and 4 of the list of decisions of ITC (Informal document ITC (2017) No. 11) at its seventy-ninth session. The Commission is also invited to review the draft Economic and Social Council resolution, which is appended to the present document, and to consider transmitting it to Economic and Social Council for its consideration and possible adoption.

Appendix

Draft Resolution of the Economic and Social Council on the reporting of the Inland Transport Committee of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe

The Economic and Social Council,

Considering that, under the guidance of the Economic Commission for Europe, the Inland Transport Committee can contribute substantively to the accomplishment of the Sustainable Development Goals,

Acknowledging the importance of harmonized global regulatory governance in inland transport and the need to promote and facilitate universal geographical coverage of the United Nations transport Conventions,

Welcoming the outcome of the Ministerial meeting of the Inland Transport Committee on 21 February 2017 and the resolution on “Embracing the new era for sustainable inland transport and mobility”,

Noting the recommendation of the Economic Commission for Europe,

Decides to mandate the Inland Transport Committee of ECE to report to the Economic and Social Council on an annual basis for information purposes, while leaving the organizational structure of the ECE secretariat, as well as the programme-budgeting functions and oversight unchanged paying special attention to issues of global regulatory governance through the United Nations transport Conventions and other means.
