



# Economic and Social Council

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## Economic Commission for Europe

### Sixty-seventh session

Geneva, 26 and 27 April 2017

Item 1 of the provisional agenda

### Opening and adoption of the agenda

## UNECE at 70: Economic integration and cooperation towards 2030

### Annotated provisional agenda for the sixty-seventh session<sup>1</sup>

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

### UNECE at 70: Economic integration and cooperation towards 2030

2. High-level dialogue.
3. High-level thematic discussions:

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<sup>1</sup> Delegates attending the sixty-seventh session of the Commission are requested to either register online or complete the registration form available at the website (<https://www.unece.org/index.php?id=45294#/>) and transmit it to the UNECE secretariat, if possible at least two weeks prior to the session, either by e-mail ([info.ece@unece.org](mailto:info.ece@unece.org)) or fax (+41 (0)22 917 0566). At the Pregny Gate of the Palais des Nations (14, Avenue de la Paix), delegates should obtain an identification badge from the Pass and Identification Unit of the UNOG Security and Safety Section (see map and other practical information available at [www.unece.org/meetings/practical.html](http://www.unece.org/meetings/practical.html)) which is open every work day from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. In case of difficulty, please contact the UNECE secretariat by telephone at +41 (0)22 917 3249.



- (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 high-level statement.

## **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:**

#### **UNECE at 70: Economic integration and cooperation towards 2030**

### **2. High-level dialogue**

*Documentation:* E/ECE/1481

2. In 2017, the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) marks its seventieth anniversary. The sixty-seventh session of the Commission provides an opportunity to reflect upon the significant transitions in the UNECE region and the historical mandate and role of UNECE 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 UNECE, as well as look forward, to help chart the course for the future role of UNECE in support of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

3. Over seven decades, the work of UNECE 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 the region. These are 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 the region. Amid this uncertainty, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development provides a reference framework that defines the international community's 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 can maintain and strengthen the economic relations of the European countries, both among themselves and other countries of the world, and support the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. An important task of the economic dialogue is to promote a sustainable, inclusive, peaceful and prosperous future across the region, guided by the purposes and principles of the United Nations Charter, including the full respect for international law. Covering the broad spectrum of UNECE 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 UNECE to effectively support member States in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

6. The high-level dialogue will be opened by a keynote address of the Secretary-General (to be confirmed). 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 be the key steps to achieve a vision towards 2030 in the region? What could integration and cooperation in support of sustainable development look like in the UNECE region towards 2030?
- What role can UNECE 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? How could the work of UNECE on norms, standards and conventions be leveraged?
- How to create the necessary conditions for additional synergies and laying the foundation for greater economic integration in the UNECE region?

### 3. High-level thematic discussions

*Documentation:* E/ECE/1482

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 mobilization, 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, UNECE 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. Cross-sectoral work is most effective when it builds on creativity, innovation, cooperation and exchange of information.

9. A high-level panel, including senior representatives of different portfolios (e.g., health, transport, energy, environment, trade and gender equality), 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 is required to strengthen effective cross-sectoral action in the UNECE region?
- How can good governance contribute to enhancing policy coherence for sustainable development?
- How can UNECE further adapt to the need for stronger cross-sectoral collaboration required by the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development?

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

10. The implementation of the 2030 Agenda will require national and international efforts as well as the mobilization and effective use of resources from a wide variety of sources, including based on the collaboration between the public and the private sectors. A better understanding of emerging trends in this regard, including financing options, both domestic and international, 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. The development of norms, standards and classifications by UNECE has an impact in this context, i.e. regarding possible investment decisions, and this should be taken into account. UNECE also plays an important role in providing technical and expert assistance to its member States, in particular to the member States with economies in transition, to support the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

11. A high-level panel, including senior member State representatives of different portfolios, financial institutions, the private sector and academia will discuss major trends and emerging opportunities in mobilizing resources, developing partnerships and approaches to tap multiple sources of funding in view of fulfilling the 2030 Agenda in the areas of competence of UNECE. A background note will raise possible issues for discussion. These will include:

- What role can the collaboration between the public and the private sectors play, including through the work of UNECE on public-private partnerships for infrastructure development and the provision of public services?
- What are the key financial requirements of different sectors in support of the implementation of the SDGs?
- What role do UNECE standards and norms play in terms of financial and resource-allocation decisions?

#### **4. Discussion and endorsement of the high-level statement**

*Documentation:* E/ECE/1483

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

## **B. General segment**

### **5. Report on activities of the Executive Committee**

*Documentation:* E/ECE/1484

13. Following the review of the UNECE reform, the Executive Committee (EXCOM) was established in 2006 to act as the governing body of UNECE 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/1485 and E/ECE/1486

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.

### **8. Other business**

### **9. Adoption of the report of the session**

### III. Tentative timetable

<i>Time</i>	<i>Agenda item</i>
<b>Wednesday, 26 April 2017</b>	
10:00–10:30	Opening and adoption of the agenda Opening remarks: - Chairperson - Executive Secretary - Other high-level officials
<b>High-level segment: UNECE at 70 : Economic integration and cooperation towards 2030</b>	
10:30–13:00	Item 2: High-level dialogue Keynote address: Secretary-General of the United Nations (to be confirmed)
13:15–14:45	Lunch break <i>(Lunchtime conversation with former Executive Secretaries of UNECE)</i>
15:00–18:00	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
18:15	<i>(Myrdal Lecture and Reception)</i>
<b>Thursday, 27 April 2017</b>	
<b>High-level segment (continued)</b>	
10:00–10:30	Item 4: Discussion and endorsement of the high-level statement <b>General segment</b>
10:30–11:00	Item 5: Report on activities of the Executive Committee
11:00–12:00	Item 6: Other issues calling for decision by the Commission
12:00–12:30	Item 7: Elections of officers
12:30–13:00	Item 8: Other business Meeting suspension to finalize the conclusions and decisions <i>(Side events to show case the work of UNECE)</i>
16:00–17:00	Item 9: Adoption of report of the session