



# Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General  
14 March 2019

Original: English

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## Economic Commission for Europe

### Sixty-eighth session

Geneva, 9 and 10 April 2019

Item 6 of the provisional agenda

### Other issues calling for decision by the Commission

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### Revision

### Note by the secretariat\*

## I. Extension of the mandate of the Regional Forum on Sustainable Development

The Economic Commission for Europe,

1. Recalling its decision B (67) to establish the Regional Forum on Sustainable Development for the region of the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE),
2. Reaffirming the provisions contained therein on the role, objectives and format of the Regional Forum,
3. Noting with appreciation the successful organization of the previous sessions of the Regional Forum as a platform for peer learning and the exchange of policy experiences and good practices in the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals,
4. Decides to continue to convene annual sessions of the Regional Forum in the years 2020 and 2021, in close cooperation with the entities of the regional United Nations system and with the active engagement of other relevant stakeholders;
5. Requests the secretariat to develop the agenda of each session of the 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 on sustainable development under the auspices of the Economic and Social Council, with a focus on those aspects that are

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\* The present report was submitted after the deadline as a result of consultations among member States.



particularly relevant to the ECE region, and taking into account lessons learned from previous meetings;

6. Also requests the secretariat to publish a yearly report on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in the ECE region to support the discussions at the sessions of the Regional Forum, with a focus on the Sustainable Development Goals under review by the high-level political forum for sustainable development that year, using existing data sets and statistics;

7. Decides to keep the Regional Forum aligned with the overall follow-up and review process of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development at the global level, taking into account the outcomes of the meeting of the high-level political forum on sustainable development to be convened under the auspices of the General Assembly on 24 and 25 September 2019;

8. Also decides to submit the outcome of the sessions of the Regional Forum to the high-level political forum on sustainable development under the auspices of the Economic and Social Council, as part of the regional contributions to the global follow-up and review process of the 2030 Agenda;

9. Requests the secretariat to prepare in 2021 an evaluation of the added value of the Regional Forum for ECE member States so far and identify possible improvements;

10. Further decides to review the present decision at its sixty-ninth session.

## **II. Revised terms of reference of the Committee on Environmental Policy**

The Economic Commission for Europe,

11. Noting that the twenty-third session of the Committee on Environmental Policy (14–17 November 2017) adopted the revision of its terms of reference to better reflect the work on the Sustainable Development Goals, and that these revisions do not propose any amendments to the mandate of the Committee and do not have financial implications, decides to approve the revised terms of reference of the Committee on Environmental Policy as contained in document ECE/CEP/2017/5.

## **III. Revised terms of reference of the Steering Committee on Trade Capacity and Standards**

The Economic Commission for Europe,

12. Noting that the fourth session of the Steering Committee on Trade Capacity and Standards (3–4 May 2018) adopted the revision of its terms of reference to better reflect the work on the Sustainable Development Goals, and that these revisions do not propose any amendments to the mandate of the Steering Committee and do not have financial implications, decides to approve the revised terms of reference of the Steering Committee on Trade Capacity and Standards as contained in document ECE/CTCS/2018/2.

## **IV. Change of name of the Committee on Housing and Land Management**

The Economic Commission for Europe,

13. Noting the broadening role of the Committee on Housing and Land Management in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the New Urban Agenda and other relevant agreements, noting also that the seventy-ninth session of the Committee on Housing and Land Management (4–5 October 2018) endorsed the proposal of its Bureau on renaming this Committee, as contained in documents ECE/HBP/2018/L.1 and ECE/HBP/194, decides to change the name of the Committee to “Committee on Urban Development, Housing and Land Management”.

## **V. Revised terms of reference and change of name of the Working Group on Ageing**

The Economic Commission for Europe,

14. Noting the 2017 Lisbon Ministerial Declaration “A Sustainable Society for All Ages: Realizing the potential of living longer” that acknowledged the need to explore the possibility of a resource-neutral transformation of the Working Group on Ageing to further support the intergovernmental collaboration in the field of population ageing,

15. Noting General Assembly Resolution A/RES/72/144 that recommends consideration of expanding the role of the regional commissions on ageing issues,

16. Further noting the decision of the Executive Committee (E/EX/2019/L.1) to approve the revised terms of reference of the Working Group on Ageing,

17. Decides to change the name of the Working Group on Ageing to “Standing Working Group on Ageing”; and

18. Adopts the revised terms of reference of the Standing Working Group on Ageing as contained in E/EX/2019/L.1.

## **VI. Change of name of subprogramme 7**

The Economic Commission for Europe,

19. Noting its Decision A (65) paragraph 20(b) on changing the name of the Timber Committee to “Committee on Forests and the Forest Industry” to better reflect the scope of its work and noting also the endorsement by the Executive Committee of the proposal to align the name of subprogramme 7 with the name of the Committee (ECE/EX/2019/L.2),

20. Decides to change the name of subprogramme 7 from “Forestry and Timber” to “Forests and Forest Industry”; and

21. Decides also to transmit this decision to the Economic and Social Council for consideration and, possibly, endorsement.

## **VII. Framework guidelines for Energy Efficiency Standards in Buildings**

The Economic Commission for Europe,

22. Recommends that the ECE Framework guidelines for Energy Efficiency Standards in Buildings and their derivative High-Performance Buildings Initiative be deployed and disseminated widely, specifically drawing on the capacities of the five Regional Commissions of the United Nations and the United Nations Development Programme. The

Commission decides to transmit the Framework guidelines to the Economic and Social Council for its consideration and, possibly, endorsement.

## **VIII. International Year of Methane**

The Economic Commission for Europe,

23. Recommends to the Economic and Social Council that recognizing the role that growing atmospheric concentrations of methane play in climate change and the imperative for near-term remediation, 2020 be declared the International Year of Methane in support of the Global Methane Challenge and its partner organizations. The Commission decides to transmit the recommendations to the Economic and Social Council for its consideration and, possibly, endorsement.

## **IX. Revised terms of reference of the Inland Transport Committee**

The Economic Commission for Europe,

24. Noting that the Inland Transport Committee adopted at its eighty-first session (19–22 February 2019) its revised terms of reference as contained in document ECE/TRANS/288/Add.2, Annex I, and noting that these revisions do not have financial implications,

25. Decides to endorse the revised terms of reference of the Inland Transport Committee as contained in document ECE/TRANS/288/Add.2, annex I.

## **X. Implementation of the Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes at the global level**

The Economic Commission for Europe,

26. Welcomes the operationalization in 2016 of the amendment to the Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes (Water Convention) allowing accession to all United Nations Member States;

27. Also welcomes the accession by Chad and Senegal to the Convention in 2018 and the interest to accede by 20 countries<sup>1</sup> officially expressed at the eighth session of the Meeting of the Parties (Astana, 10–12 October 2018);

28. Notes the adoption at the eighth session of the Meeting of the Parties of the Strategy for the implementation of the Convention at the global level (ECE/MP.WAT/54/Add.2);

29. Also notes the adoption at the eighth session of the Meeting of the Parties of the programme of work for 2019–2021 (ECE/MP.WAT/54/Add.1) to support the Convention's implementation which will contribute to the objectives set in the Strategy;

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<sup>1</sup> Benin, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Iraq, Jordan, Mauritania, Mongolia, Niger, Nigeria, Uganda, Togo, Tunisia, Somalia, Suriname and Viet Nam.

30. Recognizes that due to the operationalization of the amendment to the Convention in 2016 and the growing number of Parties, the management and implementation of future programmes of work under the Convention would require additional regular budget resources;

31. Requests the secretariat to take all necessary measures, including the provision of additional human and financial resources from the regular budget, to ensure effective management and full implementation of the Convention's programme of work;

32. Decides to transmit to the Economic and Social Council at its session of 2019 a draft resolution on this issue for consideration and possible adoption.

**Draft ECOSOC resolution on the implementation of the Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes at the global level**

*The Economic and Social Council,*

*Noting* the adoption by the 68th session Economic Commission for Europe (Geneva, 9–10 April 2019) of decision ... on implementation of the Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes (Water Convention) at the global level, which is annexed to the present resolution,

*Endorses* the decision of the Economic Commission for Europe on the implementation of the Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes at the global level.