



# Economic and Social Council

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## Economic Commission for Europe

### Executive Committee

#### 111th meeting

Geneva, 5 October 2020

Item 3(c) of the provisional agenda

#### **Update on Special Procedures during COVID-19 period: decisions related to the extension of Special Procedures during COVID-19 period**

### **Procedures to take decisions in formal meetings with remote participation**

#### *Draft Decision*

1. Taking note of the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on participation in the intergovernmental meetings of bodies subsidiary of the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) (i.e. intergovernmental level including sectoral committees, bodies reporting directly to the Executive Committee (EXCOM), and working parties) whereby many technical experts still cannot participate physically in the meetings due to the prevailing travel restrictions and quarantine requirements;
2. Mindful of the need to ensure proper consideration and adoption of the decisions, and reiterating that every effort shall be made to reach agreement on all decisions by consensus;
3. The Executive Committee decides that, as part of the special procedures established for the COVID-19 pandemic period, conclusions, recommendations or decisions considered and agreed ad referendum at these formal meetings with remote participation shall be circulated through all Geneva Permanent Representations, in accordance with paragraph 19 of the Appendix III of document E/ECE/1464 (Guidelines on procedures and practices for ECE bodies), for approval by silence procedure of 72 hours by the participating delegations of the above meetings;
4. Possibility for the objection is understood as a safeguard measure in case a registered participant was not able to participate remotely in the meeting because of technical reasons;
5. At the end of the specified period, the secretariat will confirm the adoption of any and all decisions to which no objection was raised within the specified period;
6. In case of the silence being broken, the issue may be referred back to the subsidiary body or to its parent body for further consideration and guidance, as needed;
7. This decision applies to the relevant meetings until 31 December 2020. [or same timeframe as the current special procedure for informal meetings];



8. The Secretariat on a monthly basis conducts an interim review of the implementation of this decision and informs the Chairperson of EXCOM if such implementation resulted in the increased difficulties in the decision-making process of subsidiary bodies of the Economic Commission for Europe.

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