



# Economic and Social Council

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## Economic Commission for Europe

### Executive Committee

#### 110th meeting

Geneva (online), 10 July 2020

Item 2(b) of the provisional agenda

#### Update on Special Procedures during COVID-19 period: extension of Special Procedures during COVID-19 period

### Extension of Special Procedures during COVID-19 period

#### *Background*

1. As of end June 2020, the scheduling of meetings of the official calendar is still impaired by mitigating measures to the COVID-19 pandemic that limits the availability of UNOG's conference servicing capacity. Currently, only select meetings of the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) can be held with full interpretation and under special arrangements that are being reviewed periodically, as host country guidance is evolving.
2. To ensure business continuity, and also taking into account a potential resumption/tightening of COVID-mitigation measures, the secretariat proposes to extend the Special Procedures during the COVID-19 period. This would permit the membership to retain the option of taking business-critical decisions over the summer, as needed. Such a decision would be taken on the understanding that the special procedures would not be used if formal meetings can resume prior to the expiry date of these arrangements.

#### *Draft Decision*

The Executive Committee

3. Authorizes the Chair of the Commission to continue using the Special Procedures during the COVID-19 period, initially adopted on 6 April 2020, for taking decisions of the Executive Committee until 30 September 2020;
4. Extends the Special Procedures approved for the Inland Transport Committee and the Committee on Sustainable Energy, adopted on 29 May 2020, until 30 September 2020;
5. Requests the Secretariat to continue exploring possible solutions to the issue of interpretation in remote meetings in accordance with Rules of procedure 18 and 19, with a view of proposing solutions to the membership as soon as possible;
6. Underlines that these arrangements are exceptional and time-limited and requests the Secretariat to report back to EXCOM on their implementation throughout the COVID-19 situation.

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