

ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
120th Meeting
Geneva, 26 January 2022

EXCOM/CONCLU/120

CHAIR'S CONCLUSIONS

FORMAL SEGMENT

Item 1 – Adoption of the agenda.

1. The provisional draft agenda for the 120th meeting was adopted.

Item 2 – Chair’s conclusions from the last meeting.

2. The conclusions from the 119th meeting of EXCOM (EXCOM/CONCLU/119) were adopted.

Item 3 - Matters relating to the Conference of European Statisticians:

a) Meeting with the Chair of the Conference of European Statisticians.

3. The Chair of the Conference of European Statisticians (CES), Mr. Padraig Dalton, made a presentation to EXCOM on the achievements of CES over the past year and its plans for the future. He invited EXCOM to approve the programme of work of the Statistics subprogramme for 2022 and the terms of references of three teams of specialists established under the Conference.

4. The representative of the European Union and its member States recalled that Eurostat and UNECE had signed in 2021 an arrangement to set out a plan to facilitate cooperation on statistics-related matters of common interest. The aim was to carry out joint statistical activities, share knowledge, promote best practices, and support statistical capacity development at national and international level. She highlighted the timeliness of the Task Force on Data Stewardship in view of the increasing responsibilities on data stewardship assigned to national statistical offices. She recognized the importance of building partnerships with other actors for national statistical systems to integrate statistical and geospatial information to capture granular data. Eurostat would for the first time contribute in 2022 to financially support the geospatial work in the region. Following the 69th session of UNECE, the representative looked forward to work of the Task Force on Measuring Circular Economy, as well as to the 70th session of CES which would celebrate the thirtieth anniversary of the adoption of the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics. She had no objection to the decisions tabled for EXCOM approval.

5. The representative of the Russian Federation welcomed the in-depth reviews carried out by CES in 2021 that had led to practical recommendations for countries to address emerging challenges. He noted that CIS countries highly appreciated technical assistance provided by UNECE, including on monitoring progress towards the SDGs. He underscored the need for impartial approaches to official statistics. He had no objection to the decisions tabled for EXCOM approval.

6. The representative of Serbia recalled that the head of the Statistical Office of the Republic of Serbia (SORS) was in the Bureau of CES and appreciated the opportunity for all interested statistical experts to integrate their knowledge, ideas and experiences into the CES idea and

innovations factory. SORS employed a strategic approach to supporting decision-making at all government levels by providing reliable data, including visualised reports based on statistical analysis and predictions. He invited all interested national statistical offices to exchange ideas on this topic. SORS had taken part in the CES project on machine learning and even hosted a machine learning sprint session at its premises. As a result of the project, SORS created machine learning algorithms, which would be used in post-census activities such as coding textual answers to the questions on economic activity and occupation. SOR recognized the value of UNECE work on the integration of statistical and geospatial data and was applying it in the context of the census, by creating a data visualized portal with geospatial information of census buildings. This portal would indicate whether data was collected for a specific building and provide various analyses of collected data in a user-friendly way. This constituted a practical implementation of the UNECE idea of integrating statistical and geospatial data. SORS had also benefited from various UNECE surveys on the impact of COVID-19. The results of these surveys had provided the government with reliable data to support decision-making during the difficult days of the pandemic. He concluded by informing that Belgrade would host the next ModernStats World Workshop in 2022.

7. The representative of the United Kingdom recalled that the UK Office of National Statistics co-led the CES work on machine learning, which provided a good platform for knowledge exchange, research collaboration and capacity building, benefiting an ever-growing number of countries. The Task Force on the Value of Official Statistics would submit its final report to CES in 2022 for endorsement, containing a review of a proposed measurement framework with recommendations for national statistical offices (NSOs) to promote, measure and communicate the value of stats. The British NSO was also developing a health index, summarizing health outcomes and determinants into a single value. This would enable easier comparisons and tracking over time, simplify understanding of health trends and facilitate engagement by the media and the public, and provide a framework for stakeholders to assess the most necessary health improvements and the benefits of the latter. Regarding the thirtieth anniversary of the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics, she noted that a series of mini-campaigns would take place shortly to highlight the global importance of these principles for maintaining trust in official statistics, including two led by the UK. The UK Office for Statistics Regulation played a key role, addressing misuse and ensuring that statistics served the public good. She had no objection to the decisions tabled for EXCOM approval.

8. The representative of the Republic of Moldova expressed interest in continuing to receive support for statistics on the SDGs, population, migration, gender, poverty, inequalities, environment, climate change and hazardous events and disasters, waste statistics, strategic and managerial issues and modernisation of official statistics. The Republic of Moldova fully supported the position of CES as set out in the report on technical cooperation.

9. The representative of Switzerland appreciated the often pioneering and global work of CES, including the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics, and the alignment of the programme of work to the SDGs. He noted that the increased cooperation between CES, Eurostat and OECD had lightened the burden of NSOs. It was important that the work of CES continue to be taken up at the global level. He had no objection to the decisions tabled for EXCOM approval.

10. The representative of Belarus welcomed the reviews carried out by CES, the new recommendations on statistics for employment, waste, and quality of information sources. He also appreciated the efforts on circular economy and the technical assistance provided to the

Belarussian NSO. He had no objection to the decisions tabled for EXCOM approval.

11. The representative of Albania appreciated the efforts of CES to provide support for evidence-based policy making. The Albanian Institute of Statistics stood ready to intensify cooperation, especially on circular economy, and welcomed the activity of the three Teams of Specialists in the reporting period. He had no objection to the decisions tabled for EXCOM approval.

12. The representative of Spain recalled that the Spanish National Statistics Institute was part of the CES Steering Group on SDGs and had collaborated in the development of the Second Roadmap on Sustainable Development Indicators. In this regard, he thought it important that countries were supported in implementing the recommendations of the Roadmap, as well as the monitoring of the degree of implementation. He also highlighted the efforts to launch a regional platform of SDG indicators and improve the measurement of globalization and its impact on economic statistics. Spain was also participating in the Inter-agency and Expert Group on Disaster-related Statistics. He supported the planned celebrations for the thirtieth anniversary of the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics, noting that they constituted a fundamental pillar for the producers of official statistics to adequately carry out their mission of providing the highest quality information to society. He had no objection to the decisions tabled for EXCOM approval.

13. The Chair concluded that EXCOM thanks the Chair of the Conference of European Statisticians for the comprehensive report. EXCOM appreciates being informed about the activities and achievements of the Conference and being kept aware of future directions of its work.

b) Decisions on matters relating to the Conference of European Statisticians:

14. The Chair concluded that EXCOM approves the Programme of Work of the Statistics subprogramme for 2022, as contained in documents ECE/CES/2021/16 and ECE/CES/2021/16/Add.1, and the terms of reference of the Task Force on measuring circular economy (2022–2023), the Task Force on data stewardship (2022–2023) and the Task Force on the role of national statistical offices (NSOs) in achieving national climate objectives (2022–2024), as contained in ECE/EX/2022/L.1.

Item 4 - Matters relating to the Committee on Forests and the Forest Industry:

a) Meeting with the Chair of the Committee on Forests and the Forest Industry.

15. The Chair of the Committee on Forests and the Forest Industry (COFFI), Ms. Maria Sokolenko, made a presentation to EXCOM on the achievements of COFFI over the past year, as well as on the Committee's plans for the future. She invited EXCOM to approve the Programme of Work of the Forests and Forest Industry subprogramme for 2022, the revised Terms of Reference for the Team of Specialists on Forest Products and Wood Energy Statistics, and the extension of mandates through 2023 of four other Teams of Specialists.

16. The representative of the European Union and its member States said that the new Integrated Programme of Work (IPoW) was an efficient tool for supporting member States in enhancing and promoting sustainable forest management and an excellent example of efficient and streamlined cooperation in the region. She appreciated the Committee's diligent focus on

circular economy, in preparation and follow-up to the 69th Commission session, and its efforts to break silos by collaborating with other organizations and bodies. She recognized the need to mobilize funds to carry out the activities planned for 2022.

17. The representative of the Republic of Moldova appreciated the outcomes of the Ministerial Meeting on Forest Landscape Restoration and the ECCA30/Bonn Challenge in Eastern and South-East Europe. The Republic of Moldova had benefited from consultations with the secretariat and started to build capacity to support UNECE initiatives such as the Trees in Cities Challenge. The government was also receiving support to improve technical capacities for industrial production of forest material. This assistance was needed to support modernization of network of forest nurseries while still maintaining and preserving natural forest ecosystems, ensuring ecological regeneration and reconstruction and replacement of invasive species with native ones. The Republic of Moldova was identifying degraded lands that could be rehabilitated by reforestation and had set a target of 1000 ha for the next 10 years. In that context, the government hoped for further support from COFFI.

18. The representative of the Russian Federation hoped the partnership between UNECE and FAO would continue to facilitate regional cooperation. She welcomed the new IPoW and supported planned activities to assist the countries of the Caucasus and Central Asia to develop information systems for managing forests. She considered the exchanges of experience in COFFI on protecting forests from fires and on the Trees in Cities Challenge as positive. It was important to continue scientific and political dialogue on boreal forests. She therefore supported the extension of the mandate of the relevant Team of Specialists. She also welcomed efforts to expand communication on forest issues and had no objections to the decisions tabled for EXCOM approval.

19. The representative of Switzerland found the exchange of experience made possible through the subsidiary architecture of COFFI very important and therefore supported the proposed mandates for the Teams of Specialists. Regarding the Forest Sector Outlook, he believed the relevant Team of Specialists should be reactivated as of 2025 to revise the 2021 Outlook. Switzerland supported efforts to address climate change mitigation and adaptation. He said that emerging topics such as urban forestry, agro-forestry and data and knowledge exchange should be explored. Switzerland had supported activities on communications and outreach with voluntary contributions, including for the Trees in Cities Challenge.

20. The representative of Albania said that his government had taken measures following the Ministerial Meeting to increase protected forest area to 20 per cent at the national level, which translated to 7000 ha of regenerated forest area. Efforts were ongoing to align policies with sustainable forest management, protect biodiversity and achieve a higher biomass growth rate. He had no objection to the decisions tabled for EXCOM approval.

21. The Chair concluded that EXCOM thanks the Chair of the Committee on Forests and the Forest Industry for the comprehensive report. EXCOM appreciates being informed about the activities and achievements of the Committee and being kept aware of future directions of its work.

b) Decisions on matters relating to the Committee on Forests and the Forest Industry:

22. The Chair concluded that EXCOM approves the Programme of Work of the Forests and Forest Industry Subprogramme for 2022, as contained in document ECE/TIM/2021/9-

FO:EFC/2021/9, the revised Terms of Reference of the Team of Specialists on Forest Products and Wood Energy Statistics as contained in annex II of ECE/TIM/2021/2-FO:EFC/2021/2 for the period 2022–2023 with a possibility of being renewed to 2025, and the extension of the mandate for the period 2022–2023 of the following teams of specialists, as contained in document ECE/TIM/2021/2-FO:EFC/2021/2:

- (a) Team of specialists on boreal forests;
- (b) Team of specialists on monitoring sustainable forest management;
- (c) Team of specialists on sustainable forest products;
- (d) Team of specialists on forest communication (Forest Communicators' Network).

Item 5 – Decisions on matters relating to the Committee on Sustainable Energy:

23. The Chair recalled that certain decisions pertaining to the Committee on Sustainable Energy had been deferred from the previous meeting. The silence procedure related to formal meetings with remote participation had now been concluded without objection for the thirtieth session of the Committee on Sustainable Energy. Thus, she invited EXCOM to approve the revised strategic review of the Sustainable Energy subprogramme, its draft programme of work for 2022, the renewal of the mandates for various Groups of Experts, and the change of name of the Group of Experts on Coal Mine Methane to the Group of Experts on Coal Mine Methane and Just Transition, its revised terms of reference and the renewal of its mandate.

24. The Chair concluded that EXCOM approves the revised strategic review of the sustainable energy subprogramme as contained in document ECE/ENERGY/2021/4, the proposed draft programme of work of the sustainable energy subprogramme for 2022 as contained in document ECE/ENERGY/2021/1, the renewal of the mandates of the Groups of Experts on Cleaner Electricity Systems, on Energy Efficiency, on Gas and on Renewable Energy for the period 2022–2023 with the possibility of extension as contained in document ECE/ENERGY/137, and the change of name of the Group of Experts on Coal Mine Methane to the Group of Experts on Coal Mine Methane and Just Transition, its revised terms of reference and the renewal of the mandate until 31 December 2023 with the possibility of extension as contained in document ECE/ENERGY/2021/13.

Item 6 - Update on Special Procedures during the COVID-19 period and meeting servicing arrangements.

25. The Secretary of the Commission informed that, since the last meeting of EXCOM, one silence procedure had been concluded related to formal meetings with remote participation, namely the 30th session of the Committee on Sustainable Energy. The silence had not been broken for this procedure. One silent procedure for the 85th session of the Working Party on Pollution and Energy was underway. Full details were available on the UNECE website.

26. On the topic of meeting servicing arrangements, on behalf of the Executive Secretary, the Secretary of the Commission informed EXCOM that going forward, UNECE would be expected by the Controller to pay for the cost related to remote simultaneous interpretation (RSI). She recalled that technical conference support servicing for UNECE was included in the budget of UNOG (section 29 E of the Regular Budget) and was not covered under the budget for UNECE (section 20, Economic development in Europe). UNECE had very few non-post

resources and could not absorb RSI-related expenditures. The total estimated cost of ensuring business continuity for ECE intergovernmental meetings in 2022 was estimated at \$984,500. (This figure is based on an additional cost of \$1,100 per two-hour meeting with 50 remote participants for 895 intergovernmental meetings during the year.)

27. She highlighted two of the options for moving forward contained in informal document 2022/3:

(a) If member States were to request the Secretariat to provide RSI meetings, this would trigger programme budget implications (PBI). Taking into account the related governance process, this could be a medium- to long term approach but would likely not be available for 2022.

(b) Alternatively, an extrabudgetary project could raise additional funds for RSI. In line with standing arrangements, the secretariat would need to receive pledges from member States prior to tabling such a proposal for consideration by EXCOM.

28. The Controller had indicated that entities that deem it impossible to absorb the unprogrammed RSI expenditures should revert to him. Accordingly, UNECE discussions with the Controller were ongoing. Continued engagement by member States in the process both in Geneva and in New York was strongly encouraged. She also noted that this *force majeure* situation could be an opportune moment for an in-depth review of UNECE meeting practices across its governance architecture. If member States agreed to this suggestion, the secretariat would elaborate a project proposal and terms of reference for consideration.

29. The representative of the European Union and its member States noted that discussions on this important topic were ongoing in the Geneva Group of main donors. She believed that possible longer-term solutions, should they be needed, could only be found with greater transparency on the use of resources for conference services. Changes between budget lines could be preferable and more feasible than additional funding. As such, she hoped the ongoing discussions with UNOG would provide a clearer picture of the conference servicing budgets and on their use. In that context, she wondered whether a joint outreach to UNOG could be helpful, and how member States could further support a greater transparency on how the UNOG budget for UNECE was used, including possibly via New York. She encouraged the secretariat to enter into a regular dialogue with UNOG, facilitated by the EXCOM Bureau as appropriate.

30. The representative of the Russian Federation expressed concern at the ongoing situation. He inquired whether, when considering the relevant budgets, the Fifth Committee had rejected the allocation of RSI costs, or whether these costs had not been included in the proposed budgets in the first place.

31. The Secretary of the Commission and the Chief of the Programme Management Unit explained that UNOG had clarified that RSI support was not part of its current conference servicing mandate. The Controller had exceptionally allocated necessary resources to ensure business continuity in 2021 but was not continuing this arrangement. Instead he instituted the aforementioned arrangement. The RSI matter had not been discussed at the Fifth Committee. She also invited delegations to attend a related briefing organised by UNOG the following day.

32. The representative of Spain cautioned that any solutions that were found should not create an imbalance by placing the burden of interpretation solely on the member States that did not use English.

33. The Chair concluded that EXCOM requests the secretariat to continue the dialogue between UNECE and UNOG on conference servicing matters, including related to the resourcing of remote simultaneous interpretation (RSI) as a business continuity measure, and asks the Bureau of EXCOM to engage in this process. Further, EXCOM encourages delegations to consider joint action on this matter, including engagement of relevant counterparts at UN Headquarters.

INFORMAL SEGMENT

Item 7 – Follow-up of the sixty-ninth session of the Economic Commission for Europe

34. The Executive Secretary presented a status update on the work of UNECE in all subprogrammes on the high-level theme of the 2021 Commission session. She said that the theme had inspired all of UNECE to take additional action relevant to the respective subprogrammes and its specific mandates. In doing so, UNECE was building on existing tools, filling gaps in its normative framework, scaling up approaches and suggesting additional steps for the consideration of member States. The information provided was only a first snapshot of these efforts and would be supplemented periodically with further updates, which would then feed into the report that the Commission had requested for its next session. She invited EXCOM to consider the draft decision contained in informal document 2022/4.

35. The representative of the European Union and its member States appreciated the highlighted initiatives and wondered how they could be used to promote UNECE's work, including during the celebrations for the 75th anniversary of the organization. She also wondered whether cross-cutting cooperation on circular economy could be further improved, including with other organizations, as appropriate. This could be important for the preparatory work and subsequent implementation of the theme of the 70th session. A good example of breaking the silos was the cooperation on circular economy under the Economic Cooperation and Trade subprogramme, which worked with organizations such as the International Trade Centre and WTO, and its further plans to bring together its subsidiary bodies, namely the Working Party on Public-Private Partnerships and the Team of Specialists on Innovation and Competitiveness Policies, among others. Another good example was COFFI.

36. The representative of Belarus stressed the importance of the theme of the 69th session for his country. He also found the theme of the 70th session promising and thought it could inform the celebrations for the upcoming 75th anniversary of the organization. In that context, he suggested that holding a ministerial forum could be a good opportunity to assess the work undertaken over the past year to make headway with economic cooperation in the region.

37. The Chair concluded that EXCOM welcomes the information provided by the secretariat on the status of implementation of the decisions taken by the sixty-ninth Commission sessions related to the cross-cutting theme "Promoting circular economy and the sustainable use of natural resources" as contained in informal document 2022/4; commends the subsidiary

architecture of UNECE and the secretariat for the action taken thus far; notes with appreciation that the designation of the high-level theme has contributed to building momentum and has already started to further strengthen the Commission's work in this field within its existing mandate as appropriate and subject to available resources; encourages the secretariat to actively pursue communication and outreach work on related activities, and looks forward to receiving further periodic updates on the issue.

Item 8 - Update on the preparations for the celebration of the 75th anniversary of the Economic Commission for Europe

38. The Executive Secretary informed EXCOM about the plans to celebrate the 75th anniversary of the organization with a one day event that explores UNECE's past, present and future, focusing on what the region could look like in the next 75 years and how the role of UNECE could evolve. There could be a mix of substantive themes exploring long-term trends and scenarios, and lighter programme items, such as trends in fashion, food and music. Side events/exhibitions throughout the year could also be possible. During a recent related briefing, several delegations had put the emphasis on telling the story of UNECE's impact on people's lives, and that citizens, especially young people, should be seen as key stakeholders. They also hoped that the cross-cutting themes of the 69th and 70th Commission sessions would be prominently featured. She hoped delegations would engage actively in the preparations, including by suggesting speakers, hosting events, in-kind or financial support and providing feedback on the concept. The Deputy Executive Secretary would shortly convene informal consultations on the event, which was expected to take place sometime after mid-June.

39. The representative of the European Union its member States hoped the event would focus on raising awareness of UNECE and its products and could form part of a comprehensive outreach campaign. She thought a 75-year time frame for looking into the future was too long and suggested to align it with Our Common Agenda, which considers 25 years. A more light-hearted element about Europe in 2097 could be included.

Item 9 – Evaluation of Economic Commission for Europe engagement with the private sector.

40. The Executive Secretary presented the programme-level internal evaluation of UNECE engagement with the private sector. The evaluation had found that the relevance of private sector engagement was broadly recognized by UNECE strategic documents and acknowledged by UNECE member States and staff members. UNECE has benefited from it in terms of raising the relevance of its work, accessing specific expertise and new solutions, testing the relevance of the norms, raising awareness of its work, and encouraging business sector contribution to the SDGs. However, the evaluation also noted the absence of staff dedicated to private sector engagement, and had concluded that the framework for engagement with the public sector adopted in 2017 did not contribute to effectively promoting cross-sectoral collaboration or the establishment of strategic partnerships. The UNECE Management Response accepted the eight recommendations from the evaluation and was available on the UNECE website.

41. The representative of the Russian Federation said the participation of the private sector in the work of UNECE had great practical importance. He expressed concern about the low level of awareness and information about the existing framework for engagement with the business sector and hoped that this would improve. He also hoped that the implementation of the recommendations from the evaluation would systematize and boost the engagement of private companies in UNECE. He welcomed the plans to elaborate a partnership strategy.

42. The representative of the European Union and its member States appreciated the prospect of a revised partnership strategy, including operational guidance which would support the secretariat in its work with different private sector representatives, and hoped that this strategy would be elaborated together with interested member States. She reiterated that good governance issues were paramount for the EU and its Member States and inquired how ethics and conflict of interest (including use of titles) would be addressed in this strategy. She hoped for an informal consultation on this matter, or on the strategy more generally.

43. The representative of the United Kingdom welcomed the transparency provided by the evaluation. The private sector had an important role to play in promoting the SDGs and regional economic cooperation and efficient engagement with it was key for maximizing the potential of UNECE. The evaluation had shown a low level of familiarity with the existing framework for engagement and relevant due diligence processes, and revealed insufficiencies within that framework. She therefore supported the idea of a proposed partnership strategy and welcomed the commitment to provide an annual report on partnerships to EXCOM. She agreed with the idea that due diligence was not a deterrent to partnerships, but rather an enabling function that would allow to identify the most efficient partnerships. It was of utmost importance that the strategy be effectively operationalized and used by staff. She looked forward to further updates and stood ready to engage in the development of the strategy.

44. The Chair concluded that EXCOM takes note of the results of the evaluation of UNECE's engagement with the private sector as contained in informal document 2022/5.

Item 10 – Extrabudgetary projects (for approval).

45. Regarding the extrabudgetary project contained in informal document 2022/8, the representative of the European Union and its member States said that the regulatory framework drawn by the EU and the Central Commission for the Navigation of the Rhine had proved to be appropriate. Therefore, she welcomed that the project provided for a basis for regulatory convergence of the Danube region with that framework, especially when in the context of the Recommendations on Harmonized Europe-Wide Technical Requirements for Inland Navigation Vessels and on Minimum Requirements for the Issuance of Boatmaster's certificates in Inland Navigation with a view to their Reciprocal Recognition for International Traffic. A further separation of regimes was indeed not desirable.

46. The Chair concluded that EXCOM approves the extrabudgetary projects contained in informal documents 2022/7 and 2022/8.

Item 11 - Briefing by the Executive Secretary: Important new developments and key upcoming events.

47. Regarding cooperation with other organizations, the Executive Secretary informed EXCOM of a Memorandum of Understanding under preparation with the Union of European Football Associations (UEFA). The objectives were to promote smart and sustainable city goals, facilitate knowledge exchange, ensure that investment into UEFA events from partners and hosts contributed to the cities reaching their smart and sustainable goals, develop a mutual understanding of cities' societal challenges and needs, and liaise with sponsors and athletes' societies to promote sustainable production and consumption patterns.

48. The Executive Secretary informed EXCOM about her recent mission to Bern, Switzerland, where in December 2021 she had held meetings with high-level government officials.

49. The Executive Secretary also informed EXCOM that UNECE had assumed the coordinator role for Regional Commissions for 2022. This would provide an opportunity to increase the visibility of UNECE in New York and in a number of global discussions. The cross-cutting themes of the 69th and 70th Commission sessions and Our Common Agenda would be key focus items. Further, there would be follow up to summit meetings of 2021, such as the initiative on extractive industries, the food summit, an upcoming summit on urbanization, the global biodiversity meeting etc.

50. Regarding the pending approval of the revised Terms of Reference of the Inland Transport Committee by ECOSOC, the Executive Secretary informed EXCOM that the ECOSOC Bureau had recently met at the expert level and representatives of the regional groups had indicated that they could accept the revisions to the Terms of Reference circulated at expert level in December 2021. This would be confirmed when the ECOSOC Bureau met at the ambassadorial level, most likely in late January. Once agreement was reached at ECOSOC, the revised proposals should be transmitted from Geneva for ECOSOC consideration at a plenary meeting.

51. The Chair said that she expected to receive a copy of the revised text soon that she would circulate to delegations. Thereafter, she intended to contact the ECOSOC Bureau to facilitate tabling of the issue for ECOSOC consideration and, hopefully, adoption.

52. The representative of Kyrgyzstan said that his government was putting forward Mr. Edil Baisalov, Chairman of the Council of Ministers of the Kyrgyz Republic, as candidate for the chairmanship of the 2022 Regional Forum for Sustainable Development and hoped that member States would support this proposal.

53. The Chair concluded that EXCOM accepts, with appreciation, the offer of Kyrgyzstan to chair the 2021 Regional Forum.

Item 12 – Any other business

54. The Chair informed EXCOM that its next meeting would take place on 3 March 2022.
