

ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

125th meeting

Geneva, 30 November 2022

Item 7 of the provisional agenda

Informal Document 2022/42/Rev.1

**Draft decisions for consideration by the Economic Commission for Europe
on items related to Energy and
item on Promotion of Circular Economy and the sustainable use of natural
resources (Follow up to the 69th Commission – High level theme)**

(for approval)

EXCOM is invited to submit the below draft decisions to the seventieth session of the Commission for consideration under agenda item 7 “Other issues calling for decision by the Commission.”

(As per standing practice, the text will undergo technical editing before issuance to ensure alignment with UN editorial guidelines.)

Draft decision items for further consideration

2. Promotion of Circular Economy and the sustainable use of natural resources (Follow up to the 69th Commission – High level theme)*

The Economic Commission for Europe,

1. *Recalling* the deliberations at its sixty-ninth session, including the commitment made by its member States to step up their efforts to promote circular economy approaches and the sustainable use of natural resources, namely by mainstreaming circularity and the sustainable use of natural resources in the existing relevant ECE sectoral work programmes – as appropriate, and through the voluntary initiatives and capacity building cooperation opportunities that have been submitted to that session of the ECE, and other voluntary commitments that were made earlier in the Environment for Europe process.
2. *Welcomes* the progress report on the work of the Commission on the promotion of a circular economy and the sustainable use of natural resources, as contained in document xxx;
3. *Recognizes* with appreciation the efforts made by relevant Sectoral Committees and bodies reporting directly to the Executive Committee, and by the secretariat of the Commission, to further strengthen its work in this field in line with the provisions of decision A (69) I, to enhance the impact of relevant existing ECE instruments, replicate and scale up existing approaches, and develop proposals in their respective programmes of work, including possible collaboration across subprogrammes, for impactful and measurable solutions that promote a circular economy and the sustainable use of natural resources, that support measuring progress towards policy targets regarding circular economy in the ECE region, and that can facilitate attaining the objectives of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;
4. *Acknowledges* that the Pan-European Strategic Framework for Greening the Economy may serve as a framework for voluntary initiatives on circular economy, resource efficiency and sustainable infrastructure development, including through promoting nature-based solutions, towards a just transition;
5. *Further recognizes* the voluntary initiatives undertaken by member States to further accelerate and scale up the transition to a circular economy and the sustainable use of natural resources;
6. *Invites* relevant subsidiary bodies, the secretariat, and member States, to continue their efforts in this regard and explore synergies also with the Commission's future work, especially initiatives related to digital and green transformations for sustainable development in the region of the Economic Commission for Europe;
7. *Notes* that the early designation of a high-level theme has effectively facilitated closer collaboration across the secretariat, the intergovernmental architecture and the broad expert community of the Commission and made their collective expertise available to the deliberations at the Commission session, and thus requests the Executive Committee, in line with its responsibilities to prepare the session of the Commission, to designate a future cross-cutting theme for the high-level segment of the upcoming Commission session at the end of a given Commission year.

* Numbering of items has been kept as per the original document.

Draft decisions of the Economic Commission for Europe on items related to Energy

5. Building resilient energy systems

The Economic Commission for Europe,

1. *Noting* the urgent need to address the increasing vulnerability of the energy systems in the ECE region; noting the sovereign right of states to determine national energy policy, conditions for exploiting their energy resources, their choice between different energy sources, and the general structure of their energy supply, and the pace and ways of the energy transformations; and further noting that the efforts that are being currently undertaken on the global scale need to be scaled-up to meet the objectives of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in general and of the 2°C target of the Paris Agreement in particular, and that current climate goals should not be compromised by a focus upon short-term energy challenges.

2. *Recognizes* that the Committee and its six subsidiary bodies are in a unique position to support the building of resilient energy systems in the ECE region, welcomes the prioritization and implementation of special resiliency-related activities by the Committee and takes note of the **ECE Platform on Resilient Energy Systems** to coordinate and promote efforts related to energy resilience across the ECE region, providing for inclusive dialogue. Further notes that the Committee added building resilient energy systems to the programme of work beginning in 2024 as a new focus area with no regular budgetary implications but recognizes the urgent need to mobilize extrabudgetary resources to support this critical area of work.

6. Decision to study finance for energy-related climate change activities in the ECE region, particularly related to critical raw materials

The Economic Commission for Europe,

1. Noting that, to deliver on climate change and sustainable development, the ECE region must optimize the management of endowments of natural resources, including CRMs, that a significant increase in sustainability-focused investments for sourcing and development of CRMs is crucial to ensuring the security of supply, and that there is currently a lack of financing available for CRM-related projects in the ECE region.

2. Requests that the Committee study how best to address the current barriers to climate finance in the ECE region, such as a lack of socially, environmentally and economically referenced standardized and harmonized data on projects, and develop, within existing resources, products that address these barriers.

7. Best Practice Guidance for Effective Management of Coal Mine Methane at National Level: Monitoring, Reporting, Verification and Mitigation

The Economic Commission for Europe,

1. Recalling its decision 4 of E/ECE/1462 Annual Report (1 April 2009 to 31 March 2011).

2. Noting the short-term value of capturing and using recovered methane to increase energy supply and support energy system resilience in the short term and to increased capture and reductions of methane to achieve climate objectives in the long term.

3. Endorses the “Best Practice Guidance for Effective Management of Coal Mine Methane at National Level: Monitoring, Reporting, Verification and Mitigation” (ECE/ENERGY/139), developed under the Committee’s Group of Experts on Coal Mine Methane and Just Transition.

4. Recommends that the Guidance be disseminated widely, inviting States Members of the United Nations, international organizations and the regional commissions to consider the possibility of taking appropriate measures to ensure the application of “Best Practice Guidance for Effective Management of Coal Mine Methane at National Level: Monitoring, Reporting, Verification and Mitigation” worldwide.

5. Decides to propose to ECOSOC to consider inviting States Members of the United Nations, international organizations and the regional commissions to apply the Best Practice Guidance for Effective Management of Coal Mine Methane at National Level and to transmit to the Council at its next session a draft decision on the issue for consideration and possible adoption.

Draft ECOSOC Decision on the Best Practice Guidance for Effective Management of Coal Mine Methane at National Level: Monitoring, Reporting, Verification and Mitigation

The Economic and Social Council:

Noting that at its seventieth session (18-19 April 2023), the Economic Commission for Europe endorsed the “Best Practice Guidance for Effective Management of Coal Mine Methane at National Level: Monitoring, Reporting, Verification and Mitigation” (ECE/ENERGY/139), of December 2021, recommended that the “Best Practices Guidance for Effective Management of Coal Mine Methane at National Level: Monitoring, Reporting, Verification and Mitigation” be disseminated widely, and

Invited States Members of the United Nations, international organizations and the regional commissions to consider the possibility of taking appropriate measures to ensure the application of “Best Practice Guidance for Effective Management of Coal Mine Methane at National Level: Monitoring, Reporting, Verification and Mitigation” in countries worldwide, and proposed to the Economic and Social Council that it recommend the application of the “Best Practice Guidance for Effective Management of Coal Mine Methane at National Level: Monitoring, Reporting, Verification and Mitigation” worldwide, and noting that this proposal does not have financial implications.

Decides to invite States Members of the United Nations, international organizations and the regional commissions to consider the possibility of taking appropriate measures to ensure the application of the “Best Practice Guidance for Effective Management of Coal Mine Methane at National Level: Monitoring, Reporting, Verification and Mitigation” worldwide.

8. United Nations Resource Management System Principles and Requirements

The Economic Commission for Europe,

1. Recalling its decision E (69) paragraph 2 of E/ECE/1494 Annual Report (9 April 2019 to 20 April 2021).
2. Noting that sustainable management of natural resources is fundamental to attainment of the 2030 Agenda, attainment of the Paris Agreement and progress towards a more circular economy.
3. Endorses, subject to the procedure outlined in the report of the Committee on Sustainable Energy at its thirty-first session (ECE/ENERGY/143, paragraph 34), the United Nations Resource Management System (UNRMS) Principles and Requirements (ECE/ENERGY/GE.3/2022/6) developed by the Committee’s Expert Group on Resource Management.
4. Recommends that the UNRMS Principles and Requirements be disseminated widely, inviting States Members of the United Nations, international organizations and the regional commissions to consider the possibility of taking appropriate measures to ensure the application of the UNRMS Principles and Requirements worldwide.
5. Decides to propose to ECOSOC to consider inviting States Member of the United Nations, international organizations and the regional commissions to apply the UNRMS Principles and Requirements and to transmit to the Council at its next session a draft decision on the issue for consideration and possible adoption.

Draft ECOSOC Decision on the UNRMS Principles and Requirements

The Economic and Social Council,

Noting that at its seventieth session (18-19 April 2023), the Economic Commission for Europe endorsed the UNRMS Principles and Requirements of 14 April 2022 as contained in document ECE/ENERGY/GE.3/2022/6, recommended that the UNRMS Principles and Requirements be disseminated widely.

Invited States Members of the United Nations, international organizations and the regional commissions to consider the possibility of taking appropriate measures to ensure the application of the UNRMS Principles and Requirements in countries worldwide, and proposed to the Economic and Social Council that it recommends the application of the UNRMS Principles and Requirements worldwide, and noting that this proposal does not have financial implications.

Decides to invite States Members of the United Nations, international organizations and the regional commissions to consider the possibility of taking appropriate measures to ensure the application of the UNRMS Principles and Requirements worldwide.
