



Economic Commission for Europe**Executive Committee****126th meeting**

Geneva, 13 January 2023

Item 6(c) of the provisional agenda

Matters relating to the Committee on Urban Development, Housing and Land Management: matters relating to the Forum of Mayors**Decision relating to the Forum of Mayors*****Draft decision***

Recalling decision ECE/EX/2020/L.16 of the 112th session of the Executive Committee (EXCOM) of the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) deciding to undertake an evaluation of the Forum of Mayors in 2022 the results of which were to be considered by the Committee on Urban Development, Housing and Land Management (CUDHLM) at its 83rd session and EXCOM during 2022, and based on the recommendations of the CUDHLM 83rd session on the same subject, EXCOM:

1. *Decides* to continue the Forum of Mayors beyond 2022;
2. *Further decides* that the Forum of Mayors:
 - (a) Is established as a subsidiary body of CUDHLM in the form of a Team of Specialists (provisions contained in document ECE/EX/2/Rev.1, namely the Guidelines for the establishment and functioning of teams of specialists within UNECE apply);
 - (b) Will be convened annually in Geneva immediately prior to the session of CUDHLM.
3. *Approves* the mandate and Terms of Reference of the Forum of Mayors, as well as other elements, as contained in the annex below, for the period 2023–2024. In line with the procedure contained in ECE/EX/2/Rev.1, a review will be undertaken before recommending extension.



Annex

Terms of Reference and other elements of the Forum of Mayors

Objectives and scope

1. As a Team of Specialists, the Forum of Mayors has the following objectives and scope:
 - (a) To allow for the participation of mayors¹ in ECE and to share their city strategic plans, actions and joint initiatives for addressing regional and global challenges, including implementing SDG 11 and other relevant targets;
 - (b) To support the implementation of the work of the ECE Committee on Urban Development, Housing and Land Management (CUDHLM) and subprogramme 8;
 - (c) To promote human-centred solutions for supporting the successful implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;
 - (d) To facilitate the sharing of experiences from cities, including success stories and challenges, in line with the topic of the Forum and within the mandate of the Committee;
 - (e) To contribute to achieving coherence and complementarity between the local, regional and global levels in furtherance of a stronger, more networked and inclusive multilateral system.

Mandate and outcomes

2. The Forum of Mayors has the following mandate:
 - (a) To provide advice to CUDHLM on matters within its scope;
 - (b) To submit recommendations within its scope for the consideration of CUDHLM, for its action;
 - (c) To agree on and adopt declarations in their own capacity in line with point (a) under “Other elements” of this annex;
 - (d) To decide on the Forum of Mayors plan of activities.
3. The Forum of Mayors will deliver the following outcomes:
 - (a) Advice to the CUDHLM provided;
 - (b) Recommendations developed for the consideration of CUDHLM;
 - (c) Declarations are drafted and adopted;
 - (d) Experiences are shared during the Forum;
 - (e) Activities of the Forum are agreed upon.

Frequency and location

4. The Forum of Mayors will be convened annually in Geneva immediately prior to the session of CUDHLM.

¹ For the purpose of the Forum of Mayors, a mayor is an official elected or appointed to act as chief executive of a city or town. Deputy mayors will also be allowed to participate in the Forum.

Participation and attendance

5. The participation and attendance rules of the Forum of Mayors are the following:
- (a) No more than one mayor from any ECE member State will participate in the Forum – while seeking to ensure gender diversity and diversity of experience based on the criteria and selection process in paragraph 8 below;
 - (b) Additional mayors from ECE member States are welcome to attend the Forum, either physically or remotely, subject to the availability of funding and capacity constraints.

Membership and officers

6. In accordance with ECE/EX/2/Rev.1 (“*Guidelines for the establishment and functioning of teams of specialists within UNECE*”), the Forum of Mayors Team of Specialists will be composed of mayors from the ECE member States. Intersessional and preparatory meetings of the Team of Specialists can be attended by their representatives. Relevant international organizations, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and the private sector will be asked to join the Forum upon request of the secretariat and in agreement with the Forum of Mayors’ Chairperson and Vice-Chairpersons.
7. The first Chairperson and two Vice-Chairpersons will be selected extraordinarily by the bureau of CUDHLM among mayors having participated in a previous session of the Forum until the end of the following session. The next session Chairpersons will be elected by the Forum of Mayors until the end of the following session.

Criteria and selection process

8. The following objective criteria shall be applicable to the selection of cities:²
- Having a minimum population of 10,000 as applicable.
 - Having a concrete project or other activity currently under way with demonstrable relevance to and impact on the objectives of CUDHLM including sustainable urban development, housing and land management.
 - Having made a verifiable contribution to the theme chosen for the session of the Forum.
 - Having a commitment to the United Nations Charter, to the objectives of the Forum and to the principles of the Geneva Declaration of Mayors,³ and
 - Having achieved advances in other areas of interest to CUDHLM and ECE, including the SDGs and the empowerment of women.
9. The following process shall apply to the selection of cities:
- The secretariat will invite all ECE member States to identify at least three cities, as appropriate, in their respective countries that can demonstrate their eligibility and commitment to provide substantive contribution to the Forum based on the above-mentioned objective criteria and any others decided by CUDHLM and/or EXCOM, and send the nominations to the secretariat.
 - Member States will have 30 days for submitting the list of cities to the secretariat. The deadline will be clearly indicated in the communication.
 - In consultation with the secretariat, the Chairperson and Vice-Chairpersons shall select a city from the list recommended by the member State.
 - In the absence of any submission by the set deadline by the member State, the secretariat will identify potential cities from that country for the consideration of

² Not all criteria should necessarily apply.

³ This will be explicitly requested in the invitation letters. By accepting the invitation, mayors will express their commitment.

the Chairperson and Vice-Chairpersons, for their decision.

- Once all the cities are selected, the secretariat will send official invitation letters to the mayors of the selected cities.

Other elements

(a) Based on the precedent set by the First Forum of Mayors, the Forum may be authorized to adopt declarations on matters of shared interest to the local authorities provided they are related to the mandate of the Forum and of CUDHLM. Such declarations should only be deemed to be official outcomes of the Forum if they are adopted by consensus;

(b) With a view to promoting awareness and harnessing support for the Forum of Mayors, the Chairperson and the two Vice-Chairpersons, in consultation with the secretariat, should designate an “Advocate of the Forum” for each Forum. Such person shall not be a mayor and shall have a distinguished record of exemplary support for the objectives of the Forum of Mayors and CUDHLM. Gender and geographic diversity in the designation of the “Advocate of the Forum” should be ensured. The “Advocate of the Forum” should be invited to give a statement during the Forum;

(c) Architect Norman Foster is appointed as “Advocate of the Forum” for 2023;

(d) Based on the precedent of the 2022 Forum of Mayors, other United Nations Regional Commissions are invited to organize an "interregional segment" back-to-back with the Forum to include mayors from all the regions, to exchange good practices among peers and with other interested stakeholders. Details of the interregional segment should be discussed with all interested stakeholders and should be shared well ahead of the Forum with all ECE member States.
