

Evaluation of UNECE Forum of Mayors (FoM)

(July 2022)

Final Progress report as of 31 December 2023

#	Recommendation	Management response	Responsibility	Progress
1	Formally establish the Forum of Mayors. It represents an innovative initiative that (i) responds to the role of mayors and cities as a positive and growing force on the global stage; and (ii) ensures the relevance and effectiveness of UNECE.	UNECE accepts the recommendation. At its 126 th meeting on 13 January 2023 EXCOM established the Forum of Mayors (FoM) as a Team of Specialists under the Committee on Urban Development, Housing and Land Management (CUDHLM). The next FoM is expected to be held in Geneva in October 2023.	Housing Unit (HU), Forests, Land and Housing Division (FLHD) of UNECE	Implemented as of 31 December 2023 At its 126 th meeting on 13 January 2023 EXCOM decided to establish the Forum of Mayors as a subsidiary body of the Committee on Urban Development, Housing and Land Management. It also decided that a review will be undertaken before recommending extension. The 2023 Forum of Mayors will be held In Geneva on 2-3 October
2	Further strengthen the connection of the Forum with the work of CUDHLM by attaching it to the annual sessions of the Committee and finding a complementary narrative but keeping the Forum's own programme and agenda.	UNECE accepts the recommendation. At its 126 th meeting on 13 January 2023 EXCOM decided that the FoM will be convened annually in Geneva immediately prior to the session of the Committee on Urban Development, Housing and Land Management (CUDHLM).	HU, FLHD	Implemented as of 31 December 2023 The 2023 Forum of Mayors will be held in Geneva on 2-3 October immediately prior to the 84 th session of the Committee on Urban Development, Housing and Land Management (CUDHLM). Future sessions are also back-to-back per the Terms of Reference of the Forum.
4	Have informal meetings with the representatives of municipalities to define the theme of the Forum's meetings. Consider organizing the presentations specifically around progress towards the SDGs.	UNECE partially accepts the recommendation. At its 126 th meeting on 13 January 2023 EXCOM decided to establish a bureau of the FoM to guide the work of the Forum, including deciding on the theme. Consultations with a group of experts will be organized in any case by the secretariat to explore options, if the chairpersons agree.	HU, CUDHLM	Implemented as of 31 December 2023 At its 126 th meeting on 13 January 2023 EXCOM decided to establish a bureau of the FoM to guide the work of the Forum, including deciding on the theme. In line with the Forum of Mayors Terms of Reference, the Bureau of the 2023 Forum of Mayors discussed about the theme and agreed that the overall topic of the Forum of Mayors will be "Urban regeneration towards 2030". The Bureau of the 2024 Forum of Mayors decided that the theme for 2024 will be "Cities Summit of the Future".

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5	Provide more information at the Forum on impact measurement to strengthen the role of the Forum as a crucial instrument to keep mayors and cities focused on the 2030 Agenda by, for example, presenting existing UNECE tools for sustainable urban development, measuring progress toward smart sustainable cities, developing urban SDG strategies, trade-offs, implementation, monitoring, participation, etc.	UNECE partially accepts the recommendation. At its 126 th meeting on 13 January 2023 EXCOM approved the objectives and scope of the FoM as described in the draft decision contained in ECE/EX/2023/L.4. The FoM agenda/programme will be agreed by July 2023 and will reflect the decision taken by EXCOM as described above.	HU, FLHD	Implemented as of 31 December 2023 and ongoing At its 126th meeting on 13 January 2023 EXCOM approved the objectives and scope of the FoM as described in the draft decision contained in ECE/EX/2023/L.4 In the program a specific panel on SDGs localization has been included. The same will happen for the 2024 Forum of Mayors.
6	Consider hiring one dedicated staff to strengthen the secretariat. In this respect, the Government of Italy has recently provided support through a JPO at the P2 level to help with the Forum. If the experience proves successful, it should be considered to make this position a regular budget one.	UNECE partially accepts the recommendation. A staff at the P2 level was recruited in October 2022 as part of the Junior Professional Officer (JPO) Programme with funding from Italy. If the experience proves successful, the division will try to keep this position irrespective of the funding source.	HU, FLHD	Implemented as of 31 December 2023 The JPO has been recruited. If the experience proves successful, the division will try to keep this position irrespective of the funding source. However, the organization of the Forum cannot count only on XB staff, and the secretariat will seek to establish a position if the Forum of Mayors continues beyond 2024.
7	Strengthen the connection with the work of other UNECE subprogrammes and divisions. The above-mentioned JPO position, together with the recently established fully dedicated Regional Advisor position, should contribute to improve cross-collaboration with other divisions and the quality of UNECE services.	UNECE partially accepts the recommendation. At its 126th meeting on 13 January 2023 EXCOM made no recommendation or decision in this regard. The JPO and the Regional Adviser will in any case continue to promote cross-divisional cooperation on matters related to cities.	HU, FLHD	Implemented as of 13 January 2023 At its 126th meeting on 13 January 2023 EXCOM made no recommendation or decision in this regard. The JPO and the Regional Adviser will in any case continue to promote cross-divisional cooperation on matters related to cities.
9	Strengthen the current city selection system that fully corresponds with the intergovernmental nature of UNECE. Further develop objective selection criteria to ensure alignment with the work of CUDHLM and maximize impact. The limit of one city per country is a pragmatic approach. In the future, an increased number could be considered if sufficient	UNECE accepts the recommendation. At its 126th meeting on 13 January 2023 EXCOM established specific selection criteria and selection process. The selection is expected to be completed by May 2023.	HU, FLHD	Implemented as of 30 June 2023 At its 126th meeting on 13 January 2023 EXCOM established specific selection criteria and selection process. As of 1 May 2023, with reference to the Note to member States of 14 February 2023 requesting nominations for cities to participate in the Forum of Mayors 2023 and in line with Decision ECE/EX/2023/L.4, the secretariat and the Bureau of the Forum of Mayors:

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	resources are available. In any case, the selection should allow to mix new with previous participants.			a. Received nominations from a number of countries; b. For those countries which did not send a nomination, selected cities to participate.
10	Organize the Forum on an annual basis, at least until it becomes a well-known event and frequency could be then reconsidered. The Forum is a work in progress with immense opportunities to build up a record of action beyond sharing experiences. A yearly event would allow the Forum to “keep the momentum” and provide a response to a quickly evolving context by offering a neutral platform to bring stakeholders together.	UNECE partially accepts the recommendation. In line with ECE/EX/2/Rev.1 (“Guidelines for the establishment and functioning of teams of specialists within UNECE”), at its 126th meeting on 13 January 2023 EXCOM decided to hold the FoM in 2023 and 2024. It also decided that a review will be undertaken before recommending extension.	HU, FLHD	Implemented as of 13 January 2023 At its 126th meeting on 13 January 2023 EXCOM decided to hold the FoM in 2023 and 2024. It also decided that a review will be undertaken before recommending extension.
11	Organize the Forum two or three times in Geneva and then consider alternating every other year. This would minimize any selection problems, facilitate participation, ensure economies of scale, strengthen the Forum’s character and connection with United Nations processes and stress mayors as another layer of diplomacy.	UNECE accepts the recommendation At its 126th meeting on 13 January 2023 EXCOM decided the first two sessions will be organized in Geneva, as per draft decision contained in ECE/EX/2023/L.4.	HU, FLHD	Implemented as of 13 January 2023 At its 126th meeting on 13 January 2023 EXCOM decided the first two sessions will be organized in Geneva, as per draft decision contained in ECE/EX/2023/L.4.
12	Allow space to discuss political matters that could happen on the sides of the Forum (e.g., non-official declarations or discussions, side events, etc.), but with consideration to include more political discussions and outcome in the formal session (together with the presentations with images). It is necessary to keep the relevance of the initiative by providing a venue for mayors’ deliberations and initiatives. This will also strengthen ownership and visibility.	UNECE partially accepts the recommendation. No decision was made by EXCOM at its 126th meeting on 13 January 2023 in this regard. Political matters will continue to be addressed during side events to the Forum, as in the past edition.	HU, FLHD	Implemented as of 31 December 2023 and ongoing Political matters will continue to be addressed during side events to the Forum. Moreover, the Forum of Mayors 2024 will focus on the Pact for the Future and discuss its implementation at the local level.

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13	Consider including a “global segment” in the Forum’s future sessions so as to contribute to the global vision of the future of cities. The selection of participants should be based on clear criteria to ensure that their engagement benefits all parties, including the other Regional Commissions of the United Nations.	<p>UNECE accepts the recommendation.</p> <p>At its 126th meeting on 13 January 2023 EXCOM invited Regional Commissions 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 UNECE member States.</p>	HU, FLHD	<p>Implemented as of 30 June 2023</p> <p>At its 126th meeting on 13 January 2023 EXCOM invited Regional Commissions 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 are being discussed with all interested stakeholders and will be shared well ahead of the Forum with all UNECE member States.</p> <p>Participants have been selected and a draft programme of "Interregional Segment", organized back-to-back with the Forum of Mayors, has been prepared in close collaboration with other Regional Commissions.</p>
14	Consider formalizing the position of “Patron” of the Forum to increase its visibility and the participation of urban stakeholders beyond the usual UNECE constituency.	<p>UNECE accepts the recommendation.</p> <p>With a view to promoting awareness and harnessing support for the Forum of Mayors, at its 126th meeting on 13 January 2023 EXCOM decided that 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 the 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.</p> <p>Architect Norman Foster was appointed “Advocate of the Forum” for 2023, as per draft decision contained in ECE/EX/2023/L.4.</p>	HU, FLHD	<p>Implemented as of 13 January 2023</p> <p>With a view to promoting awareness and harnessing support for the Forum of Mayors, at its 126th meeting on 13 January 2023 EXCOM decided that 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 the 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.</p> <p>Architect Norman Foster was appointed “Advocate of the Forum” for 2023, as per draft decision contained in ECE/EX/2023/L.4.</p>