



# Economic and Social Council

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## Economic Commission for Europe

Committee on Urban Development, Housing and Land Management

### Eighty-fifth session

Geneva, 2–4 October 2024

Item 1 of the provisional agenda

### Adoption of the agenda

## Annotated provisional agenda for the eighty-fifth session

To be held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva, (Room XVII) starting at 10 a.m. on Wednesday, 2 October 2024\*

### I. Provisional agenda\*

1. Adoption of the agenda.
2. Workshop on housing affordability.
3. Forum of Mayors: outcomes of the fourth meeting, mandate and terms of reference.
4. Matters arising since the last Committee session:
  - (a) Recent developments in the United Nations and the Economic Commission for Europe;
  - (b) Recent developments in other organizations.
5. Review of the implementation of the programmes of work 2023 and 2024:
  - (a) Voluntary Local Reviews: measuring progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals at the local level;
  - (b) Implementation of the United for Smart Sustainable Cities initiative;
  - (c) Building urban resilience through action plans, nature-based solutions, and innovative and green financing;
  - (d) Activities of the network of the Geneva Charter Centres for Sustainable Housing and Smart Sustainable Cities;
  - (e) Land administration and management;

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\* Delegates attending the sessions are requested to register online no later than **15 September 2024** through the following link: <https://indico.un.org/event/1007251/>. For access to the Palais, registered delegates should obtain an identification badge at the Pass and Identification Unit of the United Nations Office at Geneva Security and Safety Section, located at the Pregny Gate, 14 Avenue de la Paix (see map and other practical information available from the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe website: [www.unecce.org/meetings/practical.html](http://www.unecce.org/meetings/practical.html)).



- (f) Activities of the Real Estate Market Advisory Group for Sustainable, Climate-Neutral and Energy-Efficient Buildings and Cities;
  - (g) Country profiles on urban development, housing and land management;
  - (h) Affordable, carbon-neutral and energy-efficient housing in the region of the Economic Commission for Europe.
6. Update on technical cooperation activities.
  7. Programme of work of the housing and land management component of the Housing, Land Management and Population subprogramme for 2025 and recommendations on key components of the programme of work for 2026.
  8. Election of the Bureau.
  9. Other business.
  10. Adoption of the report.

## II. Annotations to the provisional agenda

### 1. Adoption of the agenda

*Documentation: Annotated provisional agenda for the eighty-fifth session of the Committee (ECE/HBP/2024/1)*

1. The Chair of the Committee on Urban Development, Housing and Land Management (the Committee) will open the meeting. She will invite the Committee to adopt the agenda, as set out in the present document. The provisional agenda was prepared by the secretariat, in agreement with the Bureau of the Committee.<sup>1</sup>

### 2. Workshop on housing affordability

*Documentation: Workshop on housing affordability: discussion paper (ECE/HBP/2024/3)*

*Challenges and priorities for improving housing affordability: Executive summary (ECE/HBP/2024/4)*

*Programme of the workshop on housing affordability (ECE/HBP/2024/Inf. 1)*

*Challenges and priorities for improving housing affordability in the ECE region (ECE/HBP/2024/Inf.2)*

2. A workshop on housing affordability will be organized to review the related challenges and showcase solutions and good practice from countries and local governments across the ECE region and beyond. The workshop will also outline and discuss the outcomes of the 2024 survey conducted by the ECE Real Estate Market Advisory Group for Sustainable, Climate-Neutral and Energy-Efficient Buildings and Cities (Advisory Group), as well as relevant international work of partner organizations, including the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat), the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe, the European Mortgage Federation, Housing Europe and the International Union of Tenants.
3. The Committee will be invited to take note of the key conclusions of the workshop and recommend follow-up activities, including the possible organization in 2025 of a ministerial meeting on housing affordability and other topical housing issues, such as climate neutrality and financing mechanisms and incentives.

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<sup>1</sup> All documentation for the meeting will be made available on the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) website at: <https://unece.org/info/events/event/391140>.

### 3. Forum of Mayors: outcomes of the fourth meeting, mandate and terms of reference

*Documentation: Draft decision on the mandate and the revised terms of reference of the Forum of Mayors (ECE/HBP/2024/5)*

*Report on the review of the Forum of Mayors (ECE/HBP/2024/Inf. 3)*

4. The Forum of Mayors, a subsidiary body (a Team of Specialists) to the Committee,<sup>2</sup> will hold its fourth meeting, “Cities’ Summit for the Future”, in Geneva, on 30 September and 1 October 2024. It is expected to deliberate on the ramifications for local authorities of the “Pact of the Future” to be adopted at the United Nations Summit of the Future (New York, 22–23 September 2024) and highlight the multiple ways in which cities can substantially contribute to implementing the Pact. As an output of the meeting, the Forum is expected to agree on a statement on the future of cities, representing a unified vision and a commitment from municipal leaders towards shaping the future of the cities, and calling upon States to support local level action for delivering on international commitments.

5. The Chair of the Forum of Mayors will report on the outcomes of the meeting, and present the mayors’ output statement to the Committee. The Committee will also be informed of any recommendations from the mayors regarding the next meeting of the Forum, preliminarily scheduled to be held in Geneva on 6 and 7 October 2025, immediately before the eighty-sixth session of the Committee (Geneva, 8–10 October 2025).

6. The secretariat will present to the Committee the results of the review of the Forum of Mayors (ECE/HBP/2024/Inf.1) and a draft decision by the Committee on the mandate and the revised terms of reference of the Forum of Mayors (ECE/HBP/2024/3).

7. The Committee will be invited to:

(a) Note the outcomes of the fourth meeting of the Forum of Mayors, including the mayors’ expected output statement on the future of cities, and any suggestions regarding the next meeting of the Forum;

(b) Take note of the results of the review of the Forum of Mayors, as contained in document ECE/HBP/2024/Inf.1;

(c) Adopt its decision on the extension of the mandate and the revised terms of reference of the Forum of Mayors (ECE/HBP/2024/3);

(d) Recommend that the Executive Committee of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) renew the mandate of the Forum of Mayors and approve its terms of reference;

(e) Make recommendations regarding the organization of the fifth meeting of the Forum of Mayors.

### 4. Matters arising since the last Committee session

*Documentation: Economic Commission for Europe Biennial Report (20 April 2021–18 April 2023) (E/ECE/1503)*

8. Delegates will be informed of recent developments in ECE, the United Nations and other international organizations that are of relevance to or impact the work of the Committee and will need to be considered in the planning and implementation of the Committee’s programmes of work for 2024 and 2025.

<sup>2</sup> As decided by the Executive Committee (EXCOM) of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) in January 2023 (ECE/EX/2023/L.4). The EXCOM also decided that the Forum of Mayors would convene its meetings annually in Geneva immediately prior to the session of the Committee on Urban Development, Housing and Land Management. For information on the fourth meeting of Forum of Mayors, see: <https://forumofmayors.unece.org/>.

**(a) Recent developments in the United Nations and the Economic Commission for Europe**

9. The Committee will be informed about the following recent developments in the United Nations and the Economic Commission for Europe:

(a) The follow-up to the seventieth session of the ECE Commission (Geneva, 18–19 April 2023), including the initiative to strengthen cooperation between the ECE sectoral committees, and the preparations for its seventy-first session, scheduled to be held in Geneva on 9–10 April 2025;

(b) Outcomes of the Regional Forum on Sustainable Development for the ECE Region (Geneva, 13–14 March 2024),<sup>3</sup> and the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (New York, 8–17 July 2024);<sup>4</sup>

(c) Expected participation of the ECE secretariat in upcoming global events, including the twelfth session of the World Urban Forum (Cairo, 4–8 November 2024).<sup>5</sup>

**(b) Recent developments in other organizations**

10. The secretariat will inform the Committee about other relevant developments that may have a bearing on the Committee's work.

11. Representatives of UN-Habitat, other United Nations agencies and United Nations Regional Economic Commissions, as well as other partner organizations, will provide information about their activities of relevance to the Committee.

12. The Committee will be invited to take note of the information provided and make recommendations for its future work.

**5. Review of the implementation of the programmes of work 2023 and 2024**

*Documentation: Draft programme of work of the housing and land management component of the Housing, Land Management and Population subprogramme for 2023 (ECE/HBP/2022/9)*

*Draft programme of work of the housing and land management component of the Housing, Land Management and Population subprogramme for 2024 (ECE/HBP/2023/7)*

*Activities of the Committee on Urban Development, Housing and Land Management since its eighty-fourth session (ECE/HBP/2024/6)*

13. The Committee will be invited to review the implementation of the 2023 and 2024 programmes of work as detailed under subitems 5 (a)-(h), below.

**(a) Voluntary Local Reviews: measuring progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals at the local level**

*Documentation: Regional guidelines for the development of Voluntary Local Reviews (ECE/HBP/2024/7)*

14. The Committee will be informed of the implementation of project-funded activities<sup>6</sup> that support cities and local governments to develop voluntary local reviews to measure and report on progress in achieving Sustainable Development Goals, including:

<sup>3</sup> <https://regionalforum.unece.org/events/regional-forum-2024>.

<sup>4</sup> <https://hlpf.un.org/2024>.

<sup>5</sup> <https://wuf.unhabitat.org/>.

<sup>6</sup> The United Nations Development Account 14th tranche project: "Voluntary local reviews: evidence for greener, resilient, and sustainable urban recovery in East European and Central Asian countries in transition" implemented by the secretariat in cooperation with the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA), United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and

(a) The revision and updating of the Guidelines for the Development of Voluntary Local Reviews in the ECE region (ECE/HBP/2024/7);

(b) Assistance to cities, including Bishkek (Kyrgyzstan), Dushanbe (Tajikistan), Nis (Serbia) and Tbilisi (Georgia), in the elaboration of voluntary local reviews;

(c) Organization of webinars (25 April and 23 May 2024) to present good practice in the countries of Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia and to promote existing online training courses in English and Russian on voluntary local reviews.

15. The Committee will be invited to:

(a) Comment and take note of the information;

(b) Endorse the updated Guidelines and request the secretariat to publish them as an official United Nations publication in English and Russian languages;

(c) Welcome the development of voluntary local reviews of Bishkek, Dushanbe, Nis and Tbilisi;

(d) Welcome the technical assistance and capacity-building activities.

**(b) Implementation of the United for Smart Sustainable Cities initiative**

*Documentation: Smart Sustainable Cities Profile: Podgorica, Montenegro (ECE/HBP/222)*

*Smart Sustainable Cities Profile: Almaty, Kazakhstan (ECE/HBP/223)*

16. The secretariat and a representative of the International Telecommunications Union will update the Committee about activities within the United for Smart Sustainable Cities (U4SSC) initiative, including:

(a) The publishing of smart sustainable city profiles, including for the cities of Almaty (Kazakhstan) and Podgorica (Montenegro), developed under the United Nations Development Account (UNDA) 12th tranche project “Sustainable Smart Cities with Innovative Financing;”

(b) The outcomes the next U4SSC annual meeting, scheduled to be held in Madrid, on 19 September 2024.

17. The Committee will be invited to:

(a) Take note of the information provided;

(b) Welcome the publication of smart sustainable city profiles for the cities of Almaty (Kazakhstan) and Podgorica (Montenegro).

**(c) Building urban resilience through action plans, nature-based solutions, and innovative and green financing**

*Documentation: Principles for Green Financing for Sustainable Real Estate, Infrastructure and Urban Transformation Projects (ECE/HBP/2023/3)*

18. The Committee will be informed of activities to promote urban resilience and access to financing for sustainable responses and recovery from crises, including:

(a) Activities to build capacity of selected cities and local governments to identify and access funding, under the United Nations Development Account (16-tranche) funded project “Supporting Member States in urban economic resilience building for inclusive responses and recovery regarding natural, man-made disasters, climate change, internal and external shocks” implemented by ECE and the other United Nations Regional Commissions,

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the Pacific (ESCAP) and UN-Habitat; and the project “Enhance capacity of countries in Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia in developing and implementing policies and strategies for sustainable housing and sustainable smart cities” funded by the Russian Federation.

in collaboration with UN-Habitat, the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, the United Nations Development Fund and Global Cities Hub (2024–2025);

(b) A webinar to promote the implementation of the “Principles for Green Financing for Sustainable Real Estate, Infrastructure and Urban Transformation Projects” adopted by the Committee at its last session (ECE/HBP/2023/3), and related follow-up actions proposed by the Committee’s Bureau, such as the development of key performance indicators (KPIs) for the implementation of the Principles;

(c) Webinars and e-learning courses on urban economic resilience and formalization of informal settlements.

19. The Committee will also be informed of work on nature-based solutions conducted under the ECE Committee on Forests and Forest Industry, including the Trees in Cities Challenge<sup>7</sup> and the Trees in Dry Cities Coalition.<sup>8</sup>

20. The Committee will be invited to:

(a) Take note of the work under the project “Supporting member States in urban economic resilience-building for inclusive responses and recovery regarding natural, man-made disasters, climate change, internal and external shocks” (2024–2025);

(b) Note the outcomes of the webinars on urban economic resilience; formalization of informal settlements and on the implementation of “Principles for Green Financing for Sustainable Real Estate, Infrastructure and Urban Transformation Projects” and agree to develop key performance indicators for the implementation of the Principles in cooperation with the Real Estate Market Advisory Group;

(c) Take note of the work of the ECE Committee on Forests and Forest Industry and invite cities in their respective countries to join the Trees in Cities Challenge and the Trees in Dry Cities Coalition, as appropriate.

**(d) Activities of the network of the Geneva Charter Centres for Sustainable Housing and Smart Sustainable Cities**

*Documentation: Activities of the Geneva UN Charter Centres of Excellence (ECE/HBP/2024/Inf.4)*

21. The Committee will be informed of the activities of the network of Centres of Excellence<sup>9</sup> which support the Committee in the implementation of the Geneva UN Charter on Sustainable Housing and the “Place and Life in the ECE – A Regional Action Plan 2030”. It will also be informed of the establishment of a new Centre of Excellence in Armenia, within the National University of Architecture and Construction of Armenia.

22. The Committee will be invited to:

(a) Welcome the activities of the Geneva UN Charter Centres of Excellence that support the Committee in the implementation of the Geneva UN Charter on Sustainable Housing and the Regional Action Plan 2030;

(b) Welcome the establishment of the new Centre of Excellence in Armenia;

(c) Reiterate the central role of the Centres of Excellence in the implementation of the programmes of work of the housing and land management component of the Housing, Land Management and Population subprogramme;

(d) Invite the Centres of Excellence to continue their activities, in coordination with the secretariat, in line with relevant ECE guidance documents.

<sup>7</sup> See: <https://treesincities.unece.org/>.

<sup>8</sup> See: <https://unece.org/forests/trees-dry-cities-coalition>.

<sup>9</sup> <https://unece.org/housing/charter-centres>.

**(e) Land administration and management**

*Documentation: Ecosystems and security for future land administration arrangements (ECE/HBP/2024/Inf.5)*

23. The Chair and Vice-Chairs of the Working Party on Land Administration will inform the Committee about activities of the Working Party carried out since its eighty-fourth session and planned for, including the preparations for the fourteenth session of the Working Party (Geneva, 28–29 April 2025).

24. The Committee will be invited to:

(a) Note with appreciation the activities implemented by the Working Party on Land Administration since the Committee's last session, including the organization of a workshop and four webinars, as well as the plans for the Working Party's fourteenth session;

(b) Welcome the completion of the report on "Ecosystems and security for future land administration arrangements", which the Committee had endorsed an earlier version of (ECE/HBP/2023/Inf.3), at its last session, as well as comment on the report.

**(f) Activities of the Real Estate Market Advisory Group for Sustainable, Climate-Neutral and Energy-Efficient Buildings and Cities**

*Documentation: Programme of work and terms of reference of the Real Estate Market Advisory Group for Sustainable, Climate-Neutral and Energy-Efficient Buildings and Cities for 2025–2026 (ECE/HBP/2024/8)*

25. The Real Estate Market Advisory Group for Sustainable, Climate-Neutral and Energy-Efficient Buildings and Cities supports the Committee and the Working Party on Land Administration in the implementation of their work programmes. The Chair of the Advisory Group will report on the Group's activities since the last session of the Committee. She will also present for the Committee's consideration the draft programme of work and the terms of reference of the Advisory Group for the period 2025–2026, as contained in section I and II of ECE/HBP/2024/8, respectively.

26. The Committee will be invited to:

(a) Take note of the report on the Advisory Group's activities since the last session of the Committee;

(b) Welcome the activities of the Advisory Group supporting the implementation of the programmes of work of the housing and land management component of the Housing, Land Management and Population subprogramme;

(c) Endorse the terms of reference of the Advisory Group for 2025–2026;

(d) Adopt the programme of work of the Advisory Group for 2025–2026;

(e) Recommend that the ECE Executive Committee renew the mandate and approve the terms of reference of the Advisory Group until the end of 2026 and approve its programme of work for the period 2025–2026.

**(g) Country profiles on urban development, housing and land management**

*Documentation: Draft country profile on urban development, housing and land management of Armenia: Executive Summary (ECE/HBP/2024/9)*

*Draft country profile on urban development, housing and land management of Armenia (ECE/HBP/2024/Inf. 6)*

*Country profile on urban development, housing and land management of Albania (ECE/HBP/226)*

27. The secretariat will inform the Committee about its recent activities and plans to develop country profiles on urban development, housing and land management as well as further requests to develop country profiles to be addressed by the secretariat. The Committee will be informed of the main conclusions and recommendations contained in the country

profile of Armenia developed jointly by ECE and UN-Habitat, as well as the plans regarding the country profiles of Montenegro and Uzbekistan.

28. The Committee will be invited to:

(a) Welcome the finalization of the joint ECE-UN-Habitat country profile of Armenia and approve its publication as an official publication;

(b) Note the preparations for the development of the country profile of Montenegro by the end of 2025 with support from the Council of Europe Development Bank;

(c) Note the initial plans to develop a country profile of Uzbekistan.

29. The Committee will also be invited to consider any other requests for the development of a country profile. It may wish to invite member States and other stakeholders to provide financial and in-kind support for the development of country profiles.

**(h) Affordable, carbon-neutral and energy-efficient housing in the region of the Economic Commission for Europe**

*Documentation: #Housing2030: Effective policies for affordable housing in the UNECE region (ECE/HBP/204)*

*Work Plan of the Group of Experts on Energy Efficiency for 2024–2025 (ECE/ENERGY/2023/10)*

*Place and Life in the ECE – A Regional Action Plan 2030: Tackling challenges from the COVID–19 pandemic, climate and housing emergencies in the region, city, neighbourhood and homes (ECE/HBP/215)*

30. Representative of the ECE Sustainable Energy Division will inform the Committee about the progress of the Joint Task Force on Energy Efficiency Standards in Buildings of the ECE Region (established in 2017 and renewed until 2025) since the Committee's last session.

31. Representatives of member States and stakeholders may wish to inform the Committee of their activities for the implementation of the *#Housing2030: Effective policies for affordable housing in the UNECE region (ECE/HBP/204)* and *Place and Life in the ECE – A Regional Action Plan 2030: Tackling challenges from the COVID–19 pandemic, climate and housing emergencies in the region, city, neighbourhood and homes (ECE/HBP/215)* that have not been covered earlier in the programme.

32. The Committee will be invited to:

(a) Take note of the relevant activities since the Committee's last session;

(b) Note the outcomes of the work of the Joint Task Force since the Committee's last session.

**6. Update on technical cooperation activities**

*Documentation: Activities of the Committee on Urban Development, Housing and Land Management since its eighty-fourth session (ECE/HBP/2024/6)*

33. The secretariat and representatives of beneficiary countries will inform the Committee of technical cooperation activities since the last Committee session. In particular, the Committee will be informed on activities under the “UN4UkrainianCities” project (“Enhancing urban planning in the cities of Kharkiv and Mykolaiv in Ukraine by supporting the implementation of the new master plans and facilitating investments in sustainable urban infrastructure”)<sup>10</sup> funded by Germany (June 2023–December 2024). The secretariat will also provide updates on possible next steps for follow-up activities in Ukraine.

<sup>10</sup> See: <https://unece.org/housing/un4ukrainiancities>.



34. The Committee will be invited to take note of the activities and, as relevant, provide advice and for their implementation or follow-up.

## **7. Programme of work of the housing and land management component of the Housing, Land Management and Population subprogramme for 2025 and recommendations on key components of the programme of work for 2026**

*Documentation: Activities of the Committee on Urban Development, Housing and Land Management since its eighty-fourth session (ECE/HBP/2024/6)*

*Draft programme of work of the housing and land management component of the Housing, Land Management and Population subprogramme for 2025 (ECE/HBP/2024/10)*

*Planning of official publications and promotional materials for 2026 of the housing and land management component of the Housing, Land Management and Population subprogramme (ECE/HBP/2024/11)*

*Outline of key components of the programme of work of the housing and land management component of the Housing, Land Management and Population subprogramme for 2026 (ECE/HBP/2024/Inf.8)*

35. The secretariat will present the draft programme of work for 2025, an outline of key components of this programme and a proposal for official publications and promotional materials for 2026.

36. The Committee will be invited to:

(a) Adopt the draft programme of work 2025 and recommend its submission to the Executive Committee of ECE for subsequent approval;

(b) Approve the detailed list of proposed activities to implement the 2025 programme of work of the housing and land management component of the Housing, Land Management and Population subprogramme, as presented in ECE/HBP/2024/10;

(c) Review the key components of the work programme of the housing and land management component of the Housing, Land Management and Population subprogramme for 2026;

(d) Approve the proposal for official publications and promotional materials of the housing and land management component of the Housing, Land Management and Population subprogramme for 2026.

## **8. Election of the Bureau**

37. The Committee will elect Bureau members, including its Chair and two Vice-Chairs, who will hold office until the end of the Committee's eighty-sixth session in 2025.

## **9. Other business**

38. Member States wishing to raise other issues under this agenda item are invited to contact the secretariat as soon as possible ahead of the meeting.

## **10. Adoption of the report**

39. The Chair will summarize the major decisions taken by the Committee. The Committee is invited to adopt its report based on a draft prepared by the secretariat.

40. The Chair will inform the Committee of the expected date of the next Committee session (tentatively scheduled to be held in Geneva on 8–10 October 2025).

### III. Tentative timetable

<i>Date</i>	<i>Time</i>	<i>Agenda item</i>	
Wednesday, 2 October	10:00–10:15	1	Adoption of the agenda
	10:15–13:00 and 15:00–18:00	2	Workshop on housing affordability
Thursday, 3 October	10:00–11:00	3	Forum of Mayors: outcomes of the fourth meeting, mandate and terms of reference
		4	Matters arising since the last Committee session
	11:00–11:15	4 (a)	Recent developments in the United Nations and the Economic Commission for Europe
	11:15–11:30	4 (b)	Recent developments in other organizations
		5	Review of the implementation of the programmes of work 2023 and 2024
	11:30–12:30	5 (a)	Voluntary Local Reviews: measuring progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals at the local level
	12:30–13:00	5 (b)	Implementation of the United for Smart Sustainable Cities initiative
	15:00–15:45	5 (c)	Building urban resilience through action plans, nature-based solutions, and innovative and green financing
	15:45–17:15	5 (d)	Activities of the network of the Geneva UN Charter Centres for Sustainable Housing and Smart Sustainable Cities
	17:15–18:00	5 (e)	Land administration and management
Friday, 4 October	10:00–10:30	5 (f)	Activities of the Real Estate Market Advisory Group for Sustainable, Climate-Neutral and Energy-Efficient Buildings and Cities
	10:30–11:30	5 (g)	Country profiles on urban development, housing and land management
	11:30–11:45	5 (h)	Affordable, carbon-neutral and energy-efficient housing in the region of the Economic Commission for Europe
	11:45–13:00	6	Update on technical cooperation activities
	15:00–16:30	7	Programme of work of the housing and land management component of the Housing, Land Management and Population subprogramme for 2025 and recommendations on key components of the programme of work for 2026
	16:30–17:00	8	Election of the Bureau
	17:00–17:30	9	Other business
	17:30–18:00	10	Adoption of the report