

ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

138th meeting

Geneva, 15 January 2025

Item 6 of the provisional agenda

Informal document 2025/6

Draft decision “Climate action and resilient infrastructure for a sustainable future”

EXCOM is invited to submit the draft decision contained in this background note to the seventy-first 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.)

A. Draft decision

“Climate action and resilient infrastructure for a sustainable future”

The Economic Commission for Europe (ECE),

Recalling Resolution A/Res/79/1, Pact for the Future,

Further recalling the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change,

Further recalling the Paris Agreement and the outcomes of all previous Conferences of the Parties,

Reaffirming the importance of accelerating action to address and counter the adverse impacts of climate change and multiple sustainability crises and promote sustainable, inclusive, resilient economic growth,

Reaffirming the commitment to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,

Recognizing the measures for facilitating concerted action for the economic development and integration of the ECE region, in particular, the normative, standard-setting and policy work already undertaken by the Economic Commission for Europe to address climate change and its implications across multiple sectors, including in connection with the design, deployment and maintenance of resilient infrastructure in different contexts,

Further recognizing also that infrastructure development contributes to better connectivity within the ECE region,

1. *Emphasizes* the need to further strengthen the work of the Commission in support of climate action and resilient infrastructure, within its mandate and subject to the availability of resources, ensuring that no one is left behind and that the transition to a net-zero greenhouse gas emissions/carbon-neutral economy is inclusive, just and fair;
2. *Requests* the relevant Sectoral Committees and bodies reporting directly to the Executive Committee, and their subsidiaries, to consider how to enhance the impact of relevant existing ECE instruments, in order to foster climate action and resilient infrastructure for a just and sustainable future, including by proposing ways to identify, assess and fill gaps in governance, develop good practices and strengthen coherence;
3. *Stresses* the importance of international cooperation in support of climate action and promotion of resilient infrastructure and invites these subsidiary bodies to replicate and scale up existing approaches that facilitate broad and effective use of the appropriate instruments, including through capacity-building and knowledge-sharing activities;
4. *Further invites* these subsidiary bodies, as appropriate, to consider developing proposals in their respective programmes of work, including possible collaboration across subprogrammes, for impactful and measurable solutions that promote climate action and resilient infrastructure and that can facilitate attaining the objectives of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development by addressing actual and potential climate risks in an integrated and forward-looking manner;

5. *Requests* the Secretariat to systematically integrate a climate mitigation and adaptation perspective within its work on assisting ECE countries on infrastructure planning to help improve their resilience to the impacts of climate change and related economic vulnerabilities.
6. *Requests* the secretariat to further promote partnerships related to climate action and resilient infrastructure, including within the United Nations system, other international organizations, non-governmental organizations, academia and the private sector, to explore opportunities for synergies to broaden the use of relevant ECE instruments;
7. *Requests* the secretariat to present a progress report on the work of the Commission on climate action and resilient infrastructure for a sustainable future, as outlined in the above decision, for consideration at its seventy-second session.