

United Nations  Nations Unies
INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM MEMORANDUM INTERIEUR

to: Ms. Tatiana Molcean
A: Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission
for Europe

21/12/2024

REFERENCE:

THROUGH:

S/C DE:

CA Monier
FROM: Christophe Monier, Director
DE: Programme Planning and Budget Division
OPPFB/DMSPC

SUBJECT: **Oral Statement of programme budget implications arising from the
OBJET: **draft decision C (71) on strengthening the UN Forum of Mayors for
advancing multilevel governance****

I would be grateful if the text of the attached oral statement could be read and distributed prior to adoption of the draft decision C (71) on strengthening the UN Forum of Mayors for advancing multilevel governance.

cc: Mr. Ramanathan
Mr. Sylver

Oral Statement by the Secretariat in connection with the draft decision on strengthening the UN Forum of Mayors for advancing multilevel governance

1. This statement is made in accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly and rule 31 of the rules of procedure of ECOSOC.

A. Request contained in the draft resolution

2. Under operative paragraphs 1 and 2 of the draft decision C (71), the Executive Commission of Europe would:
 - (a) Request the Secretary-General to strengthen the secretariat resources and establish dedicated new additional capacities to support the Forum of Mayors;
 - (b) Transmit to the Economic and Social Council at its session of 2025 a draft resolution on this issue for consideration and possible adoption.

B. Relationship of the request to the proposed programme budget

3. The request contained in the draft decision C (71) on strengthening the UN Forum of Mayors for advancing multilevel governance falls under the overall programme of work of ECE. In particular, the request is relevant to subprogramme 8, Housing, land management and Population. The request also falls under programme 1, General Assembly and Economic and Social Council affairs and conference management, and programme 25, management and support services.

C. Activities by which the request would be implemented

4. The background to the request is set out in the preambular paragraphs of the draft decision C (71).
5. In 2023, the Forum of Mayors was established as a subsidiary body (a team of specialists) to the ECE Committee on Urban Development, Housing and Land Management through decision ECE/EX/2023/L.4¹ of the Executive Committee of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe at its 126th meeting (Geneva, 13 January 2023). No dedicated additional capacity or resources to service the new body was provided.
6. The Forum of Mayors would become a team of specialist of a standing nature to be reviewed and extended every two years, reporting to the ECE Committee on Urban Development, Housing and Land Management, and facilitating the participation of mayors in the ECE region to address regional and global challenges, including the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals, at the local level. The revised terms of reference of the Forum of Mayors are contained in the annex to the decision L.16 adopted by the Executive Committee on 9 December 2024, as amended in the room².

¹ Also reflected in the Chair's conclusions of the 126th Meeting, [EXCOM/CONCLU/126](#)

² To be also reflected in the Chair's conclusions of the 137th Meeting, EXCOM/CONCLU/137, to be available in the coming weeks.

7. The new additional capacities supporting the Forum of Mayors would be located within the Housing Unit of the Forests, Land and Housing Division, supporting the implementation of the Programme of Work of Programme 17, Economic development in Europe, subprogramme 8, component (a) Housing and land management.
8. The activities by which the request would be implemented are the following:

Plan, organize and service annual meetings of the Forum of Mayors, and the monthly meetings of its Bureau, and follow-up on their outcomes, to allow for the participation of local and regional authorities in the work of ECE; and to support the localization of the Sustainable Development Goals; and multilevel governance for addressing local, regional and global challenges.

The related actions include:

- (a) To provide local leaders access to the UNECE intergovernmental process, through a dedicated body which is tasked with developing topical documents and research, adopt declarations, develop recommendations for member States, and statements on relevant selected topics in consultation with and for agreement by the Bureau and the participating Mayors/Vice Mayors; and bring them to the attention to the parent body and other relevant UNECE and UN bodies and other intergovernmental partner organizations;
- (b) To exchange knowledge amongst cities, organize plenary panel discussions and thematic side events;
- (c) To promote awareness and advocate for the Forum of Mayor's objectives and meeting outcomes, widely disseminate related information through the website, press releases and conferences, newsletters, social media, as well as organize dedicated briefings of the senior managers, member States and partner organizations;
- (d) To promote multilevel networking, organize events bringing together local and national stakeholders as well as senior managers of Geneva-based intergovernmental organizations;
- (e) To raise awareness and strengthen technical capacities amongst cities, provide advisory services, develop and deploy tools and guidance and fund-raise for technical assistance and capacity building projects;
- (e) To ensure the optimal participation of Mayors within and beyond the UNECE region, liaise with member States, UN Regional Commissions and the Bureau for the selection of cities; and follow-up with local governments for the participation of Mayors;
- (f) To promote gender parity, encourage participation of women Mayors and continue organizing side events dedicated to them.

D. Financial implications of the request

9. The implementation of the request in the draft decision would have additional cost implications for the proposed programme budget of the United Nations for 2026 and annually thereafter. These requirements amount to \$449,600, of which \$447,500 are recurrent and \$2,100 are non-recurrent, and comprise:

Recurrent requirements:

- a. Additional resources: (i) in the amount of \$32,400 for the reclassification of the existing post of the Head of unit, Environmental Affairs Officer at the P-4 level to the P-5 level, to continue serving as Secretary of the Committee on Urban Development, Housing and Land Management and guide its subsidiary bodies, including the Forum of Mayors as a new Standing Subsidiary Body; (ii) in the amount of \$208,500 for a new post of Economic Affairs officer at the P-3 level to support specifically the Forum of Mayors; (iii) in the amount of \$81,900 for 6 months of a GS-OL Administrative Assistant general temporary assistance position; (iv) in the amount of \$20,000 for travel of staff to promote multilevel networking, raise awareness on the Forum of Mayors and strengthen technical capacities amongst cities; (v) in the amount of \$20,000 for consultants; and (vi) in the amount of \$5,000 for office and IT supplies, to be funded under section 20: Economic development in Europe of the programme budget.
- b. Additional resources, in the amount of: (i) \$64,500 for four parliamentary documents to be translated in two additional languages (English, French, and Russian); and (ii) \$11,900 for interpretation in three languages for four additional meetings, over two days, would be required under section 2, General Assembly and Economic and Social Council affairs and conference management, of the programme budget.
- c. Additional resources, in the amounts of \$1,900 for utilities and maintenance, and \$1,400 for sound technicians for the four additional meetings over two days, to be funded under section 29E: Administration, Geneva of the programme budget.

Non-recurrent requirements:

- a. Additional resources, in the amount of \$2,100 for acquisition of office automation equipment to be funded under section 20: Economic development in Europe of the programme budget.

E. Summary

10. Should the Commission approve the draft decision, the Economic and Social Council would be requested to endorse the decision, after which additional programme budget appropriations for the year 2026, amounting to \$447,500 (recurrent) and \$2,100 (non-recurrent) would be requested in the context of the report of the Secretary-General on revised estimates resulting from resolutions and decisions of ECOSOC adopted during its 2025 session.
11. An additional amount of \$58,600 would arise under section 36, Staff assessment, and would also be requested in the context of the report of the Secretary-General on revised estimates resulting from resolutions and decisions of ECOSOC adopted during its 2025 session to be offset by an equivalent amount under income section 1, Income from staff assessment.
