General Assembly

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Items 141 and 142 of the preliminary list*

Proposed programme budget for 2021

Programme planning

Proposed programme budget for 2021

Part V
Regional cooperation for development

Section 20
Economic development in Europe

Programme 17
Economic development in Europe

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* A/75/50.

** In keeping with paragraph 11 of resolution 72/266 A, the part consisting of the programme plan and programme performance information is submitted through the Committee for Programme and Coordination for the consideration of the General Assembly.

*** In keeping with paragraph 11 of resolution 72/266 A, the part consisting of the post and non-post resource requirements is submitted through the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions for the consideration of the General Assembly.

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Foreword

Since I assumed leadership of the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) in 2017, we have streamlined the work of ECE aimed at facilitating the economic development of the region and promoting closer integration of its economies, with the ultimate goal of improving the lives of citizens in our member States. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development provided a solid framework for implementing the ECE mandate to support member States in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.

In advancing this work in our region, the ECE convening power stems from some 200 intergovernmental and expert bodies and the ability to leverage the know-how of close to 18,000 experts with multisectoral expertise. With a broad normative base comprising 59 transport conventions, 5 multilateral environmental agreements and some 590 standards and recommendations on trade facilitation, e-business, agricultural quality, statistics, sustainable energy and public-private partnerships, ECE is a knowledge hub for the region, with transboundary expertise. We actively collaborate with United Nations system partners at the regional and country levels. The Commission is signatory to all 17 United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Frameworks in the region and cooperates with United Nations country teams and other partners to accelerate the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals by providing bespoke technical cooperation to our member States.

Let me share one encouraging result of our recent work that contributes to saving lives. The World Forum for Harmonization of Vehicle Regulations, serviced by ECE, developed the United Nations Regulation for Advanced Emergency Braking Systems for cars, which entered into force in January 2020. According to estimates by the European Commission, the Regulation could save more than 1,000 lives annually in the European Union alone. The European Union and Japan have announced that the Regulation systems will become mandatory for all new cars and light commercial vehicles (mandatory in the European Union as of 6 July 2022). This means that more than 15 million new cars in the European Union (sales data for 2018) and more than 4 million new cars in Japan (sales data for 2018) would be equipped with the life-saving braking systems technology annually. This is just one example of how ECE works to improve the lives of citizens in our region and beyond.

The General Assembly, in its resolution 72/279, reaffirmed the role and functions of the United Nations development system at the regional level and underlined the need for continued efforts to ensure that this system is fit for purpose in supporting the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. In 2021, the implementation of the reform initiative of the Secretary-General for the United Nations offers a unique opportunity to increase the effectiveness of the Organization's support for the efforts of Member States to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals. In this context, member States recognized the relevance of the unique strength of ECE as a standard-setting body and a platform for enhancing regional harmonization and economic cooperation and the provision of demand-driven technical assistance.

These reforms are intended to increase and focus the impact of development efforts at the country level. In 2021, ECE will leverage its in-house expertise towards the transformational shift needed to meet the ambitious goals of the 2030 Agenda by fostering greater internal cross-sectoral synergies and strengthening its network of knowledge partnerships with a wide range of actors. In that context, ECE remains committed to assisting in accelerating sustainable development in the countries of the ECE region.

(*Signed*) Olga **Algayerova**
Executive Secretary, Economic Commission for Europe

A. Proposed programme plan for 2021 and programme performance for 2019

Overall orientation

Mandates and background

20.1   The Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) is responsible for facilitating economic integration and cooperation among its member States and promoting sustainable development and economic prosperity in the ECE region. The mandate derives from the priorities established in relevant Economic and Social Council resolutions, including on the workplan on reform of ECE and the outcome of the review of the 2005 reform of ECE (resolutions 2006/38 and 2013/1, respectively), and Council resolution 36 (IV). The ECE region continues to face economic and environmental challenges in addressing the complexity of achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, which remain a source of primary concern to member States. The Commission provides a regional intergovernmental platform from which to address these challenges, such as promoting sustained economic growth and sustainable mobility in the region, facilitating trade and economic integration, protecting the environment, ensuring a flexible and efficient energy supply, strengthening the capacity for measuring sustainable development and addressing the implications of demographic trends. The work of the Commission is grounded in many of its conventions, norms and best practices that provide sustainable solutions to problems, including those spanning national borders. Apart from serving as a platform for Governments and other stakeholders to collaborate in developing legal instruments and formulating policies for sustainable development, ECE provides specialized and demand-driven technical assistance to build the capacity of countries in order to implement these instruments, policies and best practices, and facilitates their uptake. ECE support aimed at developing the capacity of Governments to formulate and implement policies for sustainable development is also provided through the implementation of capacity-building activities and projects under the regular programme of technical cooperation and the United Nations Development Account.

Strategy and external factors for 2021

20.2   The ECE strategy is aimed at promoting regional cooperation and integration as a means of achieving sustainable development in the ECE region. The strategy of the programme is based on the implementation of core interlinked functions that are consistent with the legislative mandates of ECE, namely, policy dialogue, normative work and technical cooperation. In line with the principles of the reform of the United Nations development system at the regional level, in implementing its strategy in 2021, ECE will provide a neutral platform for policy dialogue to tackle multi-country, transboundary and regional economic and environmental issues among its 56 member States. The normative work of the programme will focus on the development and implementation of international legal instruments, norms and standards and the identification and dissemination of best practices within and outside the region. Through technical cooperation in its areas of expertise, the programme will provide integrated policy advice, normative support and capacity-building towards the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals at the country level.

20.3   The work of the ECE subprogrammes is aligned with specific Sustainable Development Goals. The intergovernmental bodies of ECE, notably the Commission and its sectoral committees, provide the foundation for ECE support for national Governments and other stakeholders in advancing the achievement of the Goals. By convening the annual Regional Forum on Sustainable Development, ECE also provides a region-wide multi-stakeholder platform for the follow-up and review of the Goals, focusing on peer learning and the exchange of practical solutions for achieving sustainable development. The work of ECE is also aligned with the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development, the Vienna Declaration and the Vienna Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries for the Decade 2014–2024 and the New Urban Agenda.

20.4   The strategy of the programme is achieved through an integrated approach to sustainable development, which builds on synergies among and the results-oriented work of its eight subprogrammes, namely, environment; transport; statistics; economic cooperation and integration; sustainable energy; trade; forests and the forest industry; and housing, land management and population.

20.5   ECE leverages its integrated approach by providing multisectoral policy advice and capacity-building through cross-sectoral collaboration among its eight subprogrammes in four nexus areas at which multiple Sustainable Development Goals converge, namely: (a) the sustainable use of natural resources; (b) sustainable and smart cities for all ages; (c) sustainable mobility and smart connectivity; and (d) measuring and monitoring progress towards achieving the Goals. This collaboration enables ECE to maximize existing synergies and increase the efficiency of its work, and has a multiplying effect on its action to support countries in achieving the Goals.

20.6   With regard to external factors, the overall plan for 2021 is based on the following planning assumptions:

   (a)   Member States continue to support the work of ECE and give high priority to regional and subregional cooperation and integration, with a view to achieving sustainable development;

   (b)   All relevant stakeholders at the national level have the political will to cooperate in implementing the ECE legal instruments, norms and standards;

   (c)   Voluntary resources continue to be available.

20.7   ECE integrates a gender perspective in its operational activities, deliverables and results, as appropriate. Its work in this area is intended to support member States in the achievement of Sustainable Development Goal 5. In 2021, all sectoral committees governing the ECE subprogrammes will include gender mainstreaming in their work agendas, all ECE technical cooperation projects will be assessed against their impact on gender and the Commission will continue its work on gender and economy, including capacity-building activities for women entrepreneurs from Central Asia. Furthermore, subprogramme 6 will continue to work on gender-responsive standards, to promote the participation of women in the setting of standards and the representation of their interests in the standards themselves. Work on sex-disaggregated data and gender statistics will continue to improve the monitoring of gender equality in all its dimensions throughout the region.

20.8   With regard to cooperation with other entities, ECE will build on its close cooperation with international and regional organizations and other regional actors, such as the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, the European Union and the Eurasian Economic Union. ECE will also strengthen its partnerships with the private sector and civil society organizations, think tanks and the academic sector in order to facilitate the Commission's policy dialogue and normative work and to engage them in the implementation by member States of the 2030 Agenda.

20.9   With regard to inter-agency coordination and liaison, ECE will continue to play a key role in coordinating regional United Nations system entities. By hosting the meeting of the regional United Nations system for Europe and Central Asia back-to-back with the Regional Forum on Sustainable Development, ECE will continue to promote cooperation among United Nations regional entities and their partners in addressing regional, cross-cutting policy issues and providing regional perspectives at the global level. ECE will continue its strategic partnerships established with other United Nations entities and international financial institutions, for example, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), the United Nations Environment Programme, the United Nations Development Programme, the International Trade Centre, the World Trade Organization and the World Bank. Cooperation with other regional commissions will be pursued through joint initiatives, programmes and projects so as to strengthen knowledge management. The United Nations Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia, implemented jointly by ECE and the Economic and

Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), will serve as the major framework for cooperation with other relevant stakeholders in Central Asia. At the country level, ECE will further strengthen its efforts as part of the 17 United Nations country teams in the region through the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Frameworks, to reach the furthest behind. The programme will also promote interregional, including South-South, and triangular cooperation.

Legislative mandates

20.10   The list below provides all mandates entrusted to the programme.

General Assembly resolutions

66/288	The future we want
67/10	Cooperation between the United Nations and the Eurasian Economic Community
67/290	Format and organizational aspects of the high-level political forum on sustainable development
69/277	Political declaration on strengthening cooperation between the United Nations and regional and subregional organizations
69/313	Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development (Addis Ababa Action Agenda)
70/1	Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development
70/133	Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and full implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly
70/221	Operational activities for development of the United Nations system
71/14	Cooperation between the United Nations and the Shanghai Cooperation Organization
71/16	Cooperation between the United Nations and the Economic Cooperation Organization
71/162	Implementation of the outcome of the World Summit for Social Development and of the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly
71/243	Quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system

72/230	Development cooperation with middle-income countries
72/234	Women in development
72/237	South-South Cooperation
72/279	Repositioning of the United Nations development system in the context of the quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system
73/10	Cooperation between the United Nations and the Central European Initiative
73/13	Cooperation between the United Nations and the Black Sea Economic Cooperation Organization
73/14	Cooperation between the United Nations and the Organization for Democracy and Economic Development – GUAM
73/16	Cooperation between the United Nations and the Commonwealth of Independent States
73/195	Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration
73/231	Disaster risk reduction
73/236	Ensuring access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all
74/216	Implementation of Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 and the outcomes of the World Summit on Sustainable Development and of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development

Economic and Social Council resolutions

1998/46	Further measures for the restructuring and revitalization of the United Nations in the economic, social and related fields
2006/38	Workplan on reform of the Economic Commission for Europe and revised terms of reference of the Commission

2013/1	Outcome of the review of the 2005 Reform of the Economic Commission for Europe

Economic Commission for Europe decisions

A (64)	The Work of the Economic Commission for Europe	A (68)	High-level statement
A (65)	Outcome of the review of the 2005 reform of ECE	B (68)	Extension of the mandate of the Regional Forum on Sustainable Development
A (66)	Endorsement of the High-level statement on the post-2015 development agenda and expected sustainable development goals in the ECE region		

Deliverables

20.11   Table 20.1 lists the crosscutting deliverables, by category and subcategory, for the period 2019–2021.

Table 20.1
Cross-cutting deliverables for the period 2019–2021, by category and subcategory

Category and subcategory	2019 planned	2019 actual	2020 planned	2021 planned
A. Facilitation of the intergovernmental process and expert bodies				
Parliamentary documentation (number of documents)	**28**	**35**	**23**	**33**
1. Documentation for the Economic Commission for Europe	6	6	–	10
2. Documentation for meetings related to follow-up of global conferences or to cross-sectoral issues	4	11	3	3
3. Documentation for the ECE Executive Committee	18	18	20	20
Substantive services for meetings (number of three-hour meetings)	**23**	**21**	**13**	**19**
4. Meetings of the Economic Commission for Europe	4	4	–	4
5. Meetings related to follow-up of global conferences or to cross-sectoral issues	7	7	3	3
6. Meetings of the ECE Executive Committee	7	6	5	7
7. Meetings of the SPECA Working Group on Gender and SDGs of the United Nations Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia	2	1	2	2
8. Meetings of the Fifth Committee	1	1	1	1
9. Meetings of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions	1	1	1	1
10. Meetings of the Committee for Programme and Coordination	1	1	1	1
B. Generation and transfer of knowledge				
Seminars, workshops and training events (number of days)	**28**	**–**	**28**	**28**
11. Training courses for government officials and private sector (women entrepreneurs) on women's entrepreneurship	28	–	28	28
Publications (number of publications)	**2**	**–**	**3**	**3**
12. Publication on the regional implementation of, follow-up on and review of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development	1	–	1	1
13. Publication on gender for sustainable development	1	–	1	1
14. Publication on technical cooperation for the 2030 Agenda	–	–	1	–
15. ECE annual report	–	–	–	1
C. Substantive deliverables				

Consultation, advice and advocacy: advisory services to countries implementing the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework process and "One United Nations" programme.

Category and subcategory	2019 planned	2019 actual	2020 planned	2021 planned

D. Communication deliverables

Outreach programmes, special events and information materials: annual set of information and promotional materials (CD-ROMs, brochures, banners, panels, posters and postcards); annual set of films on ECE activities.

External and media relations: annual set of ECE weekly newsletter (1); annual set of press conferences on ECE activities (1); annual set of press releases on ECE activities (1).

Digital platforms and multimedia content: update and maintenance of the website of the Executive Committee, the gender website and the technical cooperation activities website; update and maintenance of the website providing access to information and documents related to ECE as a whole; annual set of news on ECE activities on social media.

Evaluation activities

20.12   The following self-evaluations completed in 2019 have guided the programme plan for 2021:

(a)   Self-evaluation of gender mainstreaming in ECE (programme level);

(b)   Self-evaluation of the Environmental Performance Reviews (subprogramme 1);

(c)   Self-evaluation of ECE support for the advancement of regulatory cooperation and standardization policies in member States (subprogramme 6).

20.13   The findings of the self-evaluations referenced above paragraph been considered for the programme plan for 2021. At the programme level, 30 concrete and actionable recommendations were formulated to improve gender mainstreaming in ECE. For subprogramme 1, the evaluation of the Environmental Performance Reviews resulted in recommendations, among others, that the Environmental Performance Review Unit should increase the role of the Reviews in supporting the achievement and monitoring of Review-relevant Sustainable Development Goals. ECE accepted the recommendation and will, in 2020, begin to revise the structure of the chapters of the Environmental Performance Reviews in order to integrate the Goals more deeply and coherently and design capacity development activities and materials to support countries in their implementation of the relevant recommendations (more details can be found in result 2 of subprogramme 1 in paragraphs 20.27 to 20.30). For subprogramme 6, the evaluation of ECE support for the advancement of regulatory cooperation and standardization policies in member States contained recommendations, among others, to update and reflect the work of the ECE Working Party on Regulatory Cooperation and Standardization Policies, in line with the 2030 Agenda. ECE accepted the recommendation and the secretariat of the Working Party will assist the Bureau in preparing updated terms of reference for discussion at the 2020 session of the Working Party and for subsequent review by the ECE Steering Committee on Trade Capacity and Standards in 2021. ECE will continue to strengthen the role of evaluation findings in programme design, delivery and policy directives. Since 2017, the Commission reports on key results of evaluations to the Executive Committee on an annual basis. The annual report on evaluation contains summaries of key evaluations, plans and recommendations for future action.

20.14   The following self-evaluations are planned for 2021:

(a)   Review of ECE engagement with the private sector (programme level);

(b)   Self-evaluations of extrabudgetary projects at the end of their cycles.

Programme of work

Subprogramme 1
Environment

Objective

20.15   The objective, to which this subprogramme contributes, is to improve environmental governance and performance for safeguarding the environment and health.

Strategy

20.16   The strategy of the subprogramme is based on the implementation of the core interlinked functions of international policy dialogue, normative work, capacity-building and the dissemination of good practices and lessons learned in the areas of air quality, water, industrial safety, public participation, impact assessment, environmental monitoring and assessment, environmental performance, education for sustainable development and mainstreaming of environmental concerns into other dimensions of sustainable development. Through its work, the subprogramme will contribute to the four ECE nexuses, as reflected in paragraph 20.5 above.

20.17   To contribute to improving environmental governance and performance for safeguarding the environment and health, the subprogramme will support the implementation of outcomes of global and regional summits and conferences on environment and sustainable development, including by supporting Governments in the achievement of all the Sustainable Development Goals, given that the environment represents one of the dimensions of sustainable development. The subprogramme will support and promote the implementation by countries of the ECE multilateral environmental agreements contributing to achieving mainly Goals 3 (good health and well-being), 6 (clean water and sanitation), 9 (industry, innovation and infrastructure), 11 (sustainable cities and communities), 12 (responsible consumption and production), 13 (climate action), 15 (life on land) and 17 (partnerships for the Goals). In addition, it will support and promote the implementation by countries of the ECE policy tools that include the ECE Environmental Performance Review Programme, contributing to achieving mainly Goals 6, 11, 12, 13 and 15; the ECE Environmental Monitoring and Assessment Programme, contributing to achieving mainly Goal 17; the ECE Strategy for Education for Sustainable Development, contributing to achieving Goals 4 (quality education) and 12; and the Transport, Health and Environment Pan-European Programme, contributing to achieving mainly Goals 3, 11, 13 and 17. Furthermore, the subprogramme will support and promote the sharing of information (e.g., through the Shared Environmental Information System), experiences and good practices in the ECE region, which is expected to result in strengthened integration of environmental concerns into sectoral policies in the ECE member States. The subprogramme will continue to promote synergies between ECE multilateral environmental agreements, which are expected to result in enhanced cross-border cooperation between countries and effective international and national cooperation.

20.18   To contribute to improving environmental governance and performance for safeguarding the environment and health, the subprogramme will also continue to conduct Environmental Performance Reviews, assisting countries in the implementation of the recommendations from those Reviews and monitoring the impact of the recommendations on national policies. Using a country needs-based approach, the subprogramme will support countries, with a focus on those in the Caucasus, Central Asia and Eastern and South-Eastern Europe, in environmental policymaking, monitoring, assessment and management, including by providing an intergovernmental platform for representative policymaking and decision-making, organizing workshops and training events and providing advisory services, which are expected to result in strengthened capacities of countries for the effective development and implementation of environmental legislation and policy. Work will also be undertaken with interested non-ECE countries, in particular those wishing to join the multilateral environmental agreements that are open to global accession.

20.19   Past results in these areas include: (a) pragmatic road maps from the "Words into Action" series to guide policymakers, technical working groups, international organizations and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in their work on disaster risk reduction, in particular on water-related disasters and transboundary cooperation, and on man-made and technological hazards; (b) a midterm review of the establishment of a Shared Environmental Information System in Europe and Central Asia, based on self-assessments of member States for selected environmental indicators; (c) gap analysis reviews of the establishment of the System, environmental data and information to cover the production of regional or international environmental indicators for seven countries in Central Asia, the Caucasus and South-Eastern Europe; (d) progress in ECE member States in moving towards more environmentally friendly and healthy transport thanks to the studies done under the Transport, Health and Environment Pan-European Programme, which highlighted the potential job creation of cycling promotion and the use of public transportation, and relay-race workshops, organized in Rimini, Italy, and Kazan, Russian Federation, in 2019, which continued to provide the link between the national and local levels; (e) reducing fuel consumption and, therefore, pollution and expenditures by using eco-driving methods, which is another result achieved in some ECE countries, such as Austria, through Pan-European Programme partnerships; (f) reinforcing transboundary cooperation agreements in transboundary water basins through accession of the first countries from outside the ECE region, namely, Chad and Senegal, and an announcement of interest by another 15 countries from outside the Pan-European region during the eighth session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes, held in Astana (now Nur-Sultan) from 10 to 12 October 2018, to ratify the Convention; and (g) establishing legally binding emissions reduction commitments for 2020 and beyond for the major air pollutants (sulphur dioxide, nitrogen oxides, ammonia, volatile organic compounds and fine particulate matter) through the entry into force, on 7 October 2019 in 18 countries in Europe and North America, of amendments to the Protocol to the 1979 Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution to Abate Acidification, Eutrophication and Ground-level Ozone, negotiated under the Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution and adopted in 2012.

Programme performance in 2019 against planned result

20.20   A planned result for 2019, which is the strengthened national capacity for environmental monitoring and assessment systems in the countries of Eastern Europe, the Caucasus, Central Asia and South-Eastern Europe, as referred to in the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2018–2019, was achieved, as evidenced by the increased percentage of implementation of ECE recommendations on environmental monitoring by member States, from 54 per cent in 2016–2017 to 77 per cent in 2018–2019, exceeding the target of 52 per cent set for the biennium 2018–2019. Self-assessments by countries of their national establishment of the Shared Environmental Information System for selected indicators confirm that many States have continued to harmonize relevant data flows and improve the quality of the selected environmental indicators since 2016. Results reveal that the "air pollution and ozone depletion" theme has the highest performance scores, followed by "biodiversity" and "water". At the same time, the use of the indicators in state-of-the-environment reporting needs improvement. Nearly all countries highlighted limitations in comparing data flows across subregions or between countries. Further efforts are therefore needed to harmonize data flows throughout the region, including in view of sound policymaking, reporting obligations and for use in thematic assessments at different geographical levels, such as for transboundary ecosystems or river basins.

Programme performance in 2019: 40 years of cooperation result in improved air quality throughout the ECE region

20.21   The year 2019 marked the fortieth anniversary of the entry into force of the Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution in 1979. Over the past 40 years, ECE has facilitated negotiations under the Convention, convening countries to discuss policies to reduce air pollution and negotiate

new emission targets. Subprogramme support for the implementation of the Convention assisted in the development of international environmental law and created the essential framework for controlling and reducing the damage to human health and the environment caused by transboundary air pollution. The collective effort of ECE and the parties to the Convention has led to a reduction by up to 80 per cent in emissions of a series of harmful substances in the region since 1990. For example, the decrease in sulphur emissions has led to healthier forest soils. The science-policy interface under the Convention has created a common scientific understanding among parties.

20.22   In 2019, parties discussed milestones under the Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution, reviewed progress in the region and agreed on visions for the future development of the Convention. A high-level event in December 2019 launched the global forum for cooperation on clean air. Capacity development activities will nevertheless remain a key focus in order to enhance skills and improve the use of existing capacity, share lessons learned and transfer knowledge related to air quality monitoring, emission inventories and projections and abatement strategies, so that countries can adopt the best-available techniques and implement emission reduction commitments. The capacity-building programme managed by the secretariat with support from several parties, has helped countries to develop emission inventories in accordance with the requirements under the Convention and assisted them in analysing and identifying gaps in their national air quality management legislation. Increasing awareness of the importance of addressing air pollution for health and environmental reasons and the availability of cost-effective tools for doing so remains key. The Batumi Action for Cleaner Air has helped to raise awareness at the political level of the need to improve air quality, inspired national action and promoted additional collaboration within and beyond the ECE region.

20.23   The work done under the Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution supports countries' efforts to maintain a high rate of reporting by facilitating the sharing of experience and knowledge transfer. It helps countries to develop expertise in emissions inventories, thereby enhancing their ability to report at the same time as driving improvements in air quality. Capacity development activities enabled a stable and high rate of reporting emission inventories by parties to the Convention during the past five years.

20.24   The work under the Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution also supports countries' efforts to implement the 2030 Agenda and achieve the Sustainable Development Goals, in particular Goals 2 (zero hunger), 3 (good health and well-being), 7 (affordable and clean energy), 9 (industry, innovation and infrastructure), 11 (sustainable cities and communities), 12 (responsible consumption and production), 13 (climate action), 14 (life below water), 15 (life on land) and 17 (partnerships for the Goals) by reducing air pollution through setting targets and emission limit values for air pollutants, providing a legally binding framework to reduce the broader spectrum of short-lived climate pollutants and providing a regional platform for sharing knowledge and expertise.

*Progress towards the attainment of the objective, and performance measure*

20.25   This work contributed to improved environmental governance and performance for safeguarding the environment and health, as demonstrated by more than 90 per cent of countries reporting a reduction in air pollutant emissions in the region, as shown by the emission inventories submitted by countries up to 2019, the development of which was supported by ECE. Regular reporting by countries of their emissions inventories enables the assessment of emission reduction trends and emission control strategies in support of informed policymaking and decision-making. In that regard, in the 2016 Scientific Assessment Report of ECE, it was detailed how particulate matters concentrations at European measurement sites and in the United States of America had declined by approximately one third between 2000 and 2012 and declined by 4 per cent in Canada. The number of days exceeding the World Health Organization guideline level for ozone concentrations is now some 20 per cent lower than in 1990. Other benefits made possible by improved environmental governance include the decoupling of economic growth and air pollution trends, which has prevented 600,000 premature deaths annually. The average life expectancy has increased by 12 months, thanks to emission reductions. Notwithstanding the progress made under the Convention on Long-range Transboundary

Air Pollution, air pollution in the region continues to cause significant environmental and health problems, and new challenges continue to emerge.

Figure 20.I
Performance measure: Countries, out of 51 parties, reporting a reduction in air pollutant emissions under the Convention
(Percentage)
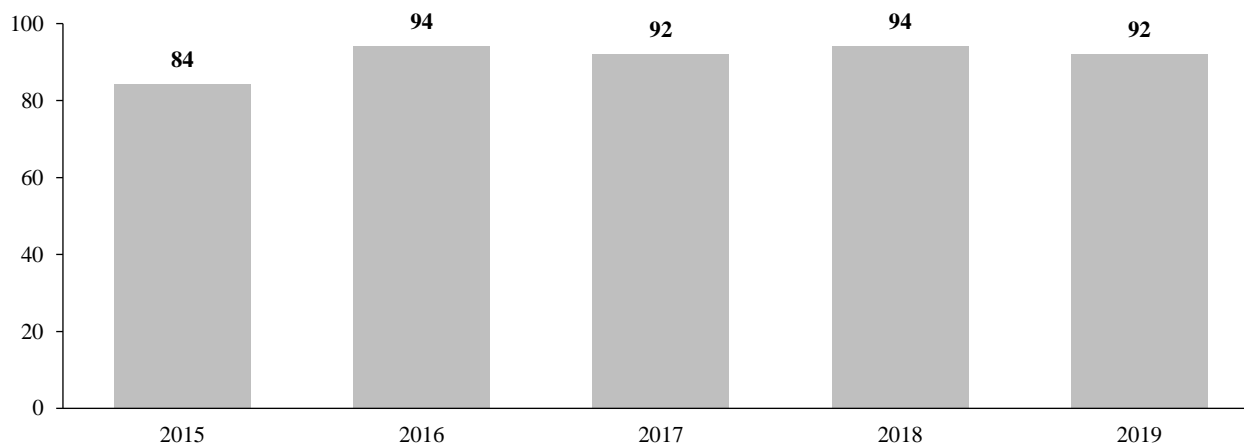
Planned results for 2021

Result 1: extension of the life of nuclear power plants (result carried over from 2020)

20.26   The subprogramme will continue the work related to the extension of the nuclear power plants, in line with its mandate, and will assist countries in widely disseminating and applying the guidelines to decisions on the extension of nuclear power plants, which is expected to be demonstrated by the performance measure for 2021 below. For 2020, a proxy performance measure is indicated, to reflect that the General Assembly, in its resolution 74/251, approved a programme narrative at the subprogramme level that is composed solely of the objectives.

Table 20.2
Performance measure

2017	*2018*	*2019*	*2020*	*2021*
N/A	Absence of guidance on extending the life of nuclear power plants	Development of guidance on extending the life of nuclear power plants	Adoption of guidance on extending the life of nuclear power plants	Wide dissemination and application by countries of the guidance on extending the life of nuclear power plants

Abbreviation: N/A, not applicable.

Result 2: enhanced environmental performance in the Economic Commission for Europe region (new result)

20.27   The subprogramme has been supporting countries in improving their environmental governance and performance by conducting Environmental Performance Reviews, assisting countries in the

implementation of the recommendations from those Reviews and monitoring the impact of the recommendations on national policies. Since the beginning of the third cycle of Reviews, in 2012, 16 countries have requested ECE to conduct a Review of their environmental performance. During the period 2012–2017, third-cycle Reviews were conducted in the Republic of Moldova (2013), Montenegro (2014), Serbia (2014), Georgia (2015), Belarus (2015), Tajikistan (2017), Bulgaria (2017), Albania (2017) and Bosnia and Herzegovina (2017). In 2018, third-cycle Reviews were conducted in Kazakhstan and North Macedonia. Romania and Uzbekistan were undergoing their Reviews in 2019. Requests for further Reviews have been received from Azerbaijan, Morocco and Ukraine, which are expected to be conducted during the period 2020–2021. Reviews take 12 to 18 months to complete and are published in the following year.

20.28   The efficiency and effectiveness of the Environmental Performance Review methodology have attracted the attention of countries outside the ECE region, leading to requests for a transfer of know-how from ECE to other United Nations regional commissions. Morocco was the first country outside the ECE region for which a review was carried out, in 2012, by ECE in cooperation with the Economic Commission for Africa, followed by Mongolia in 2017 in cooperation with ESCAP.

20.29   Third-cycle Environmental Performance Reviews focus on environmental governance and financing in a green economy context, countries' cooperation with the international community and environmental mainstreaming in priority sectors. The subprogramme assists, on an ad hoc basis upon request, reviewed countries in their efforts to implement recommendations from their Reviews by organizing regional and subregional workshops focused on specific topics addressed in the Reviews (e.g., on environment and transport or environment and energy) and capacity development work at the national level, including through implementing United Nations Development Account projects.

20.30   Since 2017, Environmental Performance Reviews have addressed relevant Sustainable Development Goals and targets therein. The Reviews have the potential to address up to 137 relevant targets under all the Goals. The coverage of targets is tailored to the content of each Review, which, in turn, is being determined in consultation with the Government concerned. While relevant targets of the Goals have been addressed in the Reviews conducted since 2017, the most covered are Goals 6 (clean water and sanitation), 11 (sustainable cities and communities), 12 (responsible consumption and production), 13 (climate action) and 15 (life on land).[1]

Internal challenge and response

20.31   The challenge for the subprogramme, as identified in the 2019 evaluation of the Environment Performance Review Programme carried out at the request of ECE, was to establish a more effective and structured approach to support efforts by countries in achieving and monitoring the Sustainable Development Goals and their targets covered by the Reviews. In response, the subprogramme will work with the ECE Expert Group on Environmental Performance Reviews to revise the structure of the chapters in order to integrate the Goals more deeply and coherently, to design capacity development activities and materials to support countries in their implementation of the relevant recommendations and to extend the cooperation with other United Nations entities and other international organizations.

Expected progress towards the attainment of the objective, and performance measure

20.32   This work is expected to contribute to improved environmental governance for safeguarding the environment and health in the reviewed countries, which would be demonstrated by the number of Sustainable Development Goals and relevant targets covered by Environmental Performance Reviews. Figure 20.II illustrates the coverage of the Sustainable Development Goals by the Reviews in countries reviewed since 2017. The number of targets covered by future Reviews will depend on the topics chosen for their Review by the countries concerned, but are expected to remain close to one third of all 169 targets in the 2030 Agenda.

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[1] The coverage of the Sustainable Development Goals and their targets can be viewed at www.unece.org/env/epr.

Figure 20.II
Performance measure: number of targets of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development covered by Environmental Performance Reviews
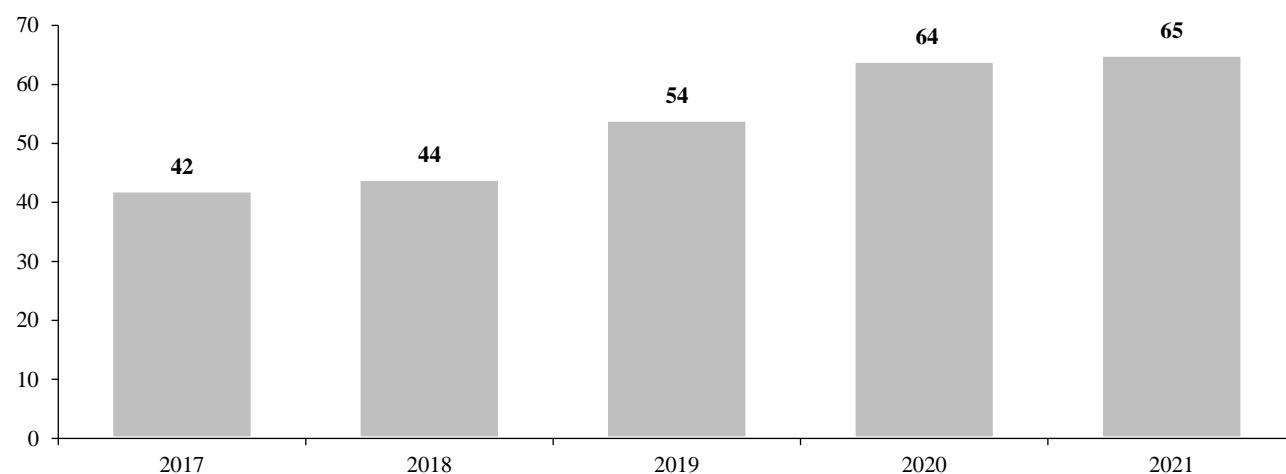
Legislative mandates

20.33   The list below provides all mandates entrusted to the subprogramme.

General Assembly resolutions

2994 (XXVII)	United Nations Conference on the Human Environment	70/169	The human right to safe drinking water and sanitation
47/193	Observance of World Day for Water	70/209	United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development (2005–2014)
62/68	Consideration of prevention of transboundary harm from hazardous activities and allocation of loss in the case of such harm	71/222	International Decade for Action, "Water for Sustainable Development", 2018–2028
64/200	International Strategy for Disaster Reduction	71/313	Work of the Statistical Commission pertaining to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development
67/291	Sanitation for All	72/222	Education for sustainable development in the framework of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development
69/172	Human rights in the administration of justice		
69/215	International Decade for Action, "Water for Life", 2005–2015, and further efforts to achieve the sustainable development of water resources	73/226	Midterm comprehensive review of the implementation of the International Decade for Action, "Water for Sustainable Development", 2018–2028
69/235	Industrial development cooperation		

Economic Commission for Europe decisions

CEP/AC.13/ 2005/2	Report of the High-level meeting of Environment and Education Ministries (2005) adopting the UNECE Strategy for Education for Sustainable Development	ECE/AC.21/ 2014/2	Report of the High-level Meeting on Transport, Health and Environment, 2014
ECE/BELGRADE. CONF/2007/ 4/Add.1	Statement on Education for Sustainable Development by the Ministers of Education and of the Environment of the UNECE region adopted at the joint session on education for development of the Sixth Ministerial Conference entitled "Environment for Europe", 2007	ECE/ASTANA. CONF/2011/2/ Add.1	Declaration: "Save water, grow green!" by ministers of the region of ECE, report of the Seventh Ministerial Conference, entitled "Environment for Europe", 2011
		ECE/BATUMI. CONF/2016/2/ Add.1	Declaration: "Greener, cleaner, smarter!" by ministers of the region of ECE, report of the Eighth Environment for Europe Ministerial Conference, 2016

ECE/BATUMI.
CONF/2016/2/
Add.2

Batumi Ministerial Statement on Education
for Sustainable Development adopted by
the High-level Meeting of Education and
Environment Ministries of the region of the
United Nations Economic Commission for
Europe, report of the Eighth Environment
for Europe Ministerial Conference, 2016

Relevant decisions of the governing bodies of the multilateral environmental agreements of the Economic Commission for Europe

ECE/EB.AIR/144
and Add.1 and
Add.2

Report of the Executive Body for the
Convention on Long-range Transboundary
Air Pollution on its thirty-ninth session

ECE/MP.PRTR/
2017/6 and Add.1

Report of the Meeting of the Parties to the
Protocol on Pollutant Release and Transfer
Registers to the Convention on Access to
Information, Public Participation in
Decision-making and Access to Justice in
Environmental Matters on its third session

ECE/MP.PP/2017
/2 and Add.1

Report of the Meeting of the Parties to the
Convention on Access to Information,
Public Participation in Decision-making
and Access to Justice in Environmental
Matters (Aarhus Convention) on its sixth
session

ECE/MP.PP/
2017/16-
ECE/MP.PRTR/
2017/2 and Add.1

Report of the Joint High-level Segment of
the Meeting of the Parties to the
Convention on Access to Information,
Public Participation in Decision-making
and Access to Justice in Environmental
Matters (Aarhus Convention) on its sixth
session, and the Meeting of the Parties to
the Protocol on Pollutant Release and
Transfer Registers on its third session, and
the Budva Declaration on Environmental
Democracy for Our Sustainable Future,
adopted at the two Meetings of the Parties

ECE/MP.EIA/
23-ECE/MP.EIA/
SEA/7 and Add.1,
Add.2 and Add.3

Report of the Meeting of the Parties to the
Convention on Environmental Impact
Assessment in a Transboundary Context on
its seventh session, and of the Meeting of
the Parties to the Convention on
Environmental Impact Assessment in a
Transboundary Context serving as the
Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol on
Strategic Environmental Assessment on its
third session

ECE/MP.EIA/
27-ECE/MP.EIA/
SEA/11 and
Add.1

Report of the Meeting of the Parties to the
Convention on Environmental Impact
Assessment in a Transboundary Context
and of the Meeting of the Parties to the
Convention on Environmental Impact
Assessment in a Transboundary Context
serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the
Protocol on Strategic Environmental
Assessment on their intermediary sessions

ECE/CP.TEIA/38
and Add.1

Report of the Conference of the Parties to
the Convention on the Transboundary
Effects of Industrial Accidents on its tenth
meeting

ECE/MP.WAT/54
and Add.1 and
Add.2

Report of the Meeting of the Parties to the
Convention on the Protection and Use of
Transboundary Watercourses and
International Lakes on its eighth session,
including the Strategy for the
implementation of the Water Convention at
the global level

ECE/MP.WH/19
and Add. 1 and 2

Report of the Meeting of the Parties to the
Protocol on Water and Health to the
Convention on the Protection and Use of
Transboundary Watercourses and
International Lakes on its fifth session

Deliverables

20.34   Table 20.3 lists all deliverables, by category and subcategory, for the period 2019–2021 that contributed and are expected to contribute to the attainment of the objective stated above.

Table 20.3
Subprogramme 1: deliverables for the period 2019–2021, by category and subcategory

Category and subcategory	2019 planned	2019 actual	2020 planned	2021 planned
A. Facilitation of the intergovernmental process and expert bodies				
Parliamentary documentation (number of documents)	**231**	**160**	**211**	**190**
1. Documentation for the Committee on Environmental Policy and subsidiary bodies	85	35	82	30
2. Documentation for the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes and subsidiary bodies and Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol on Water and Health and subsidiary bodies	34	22	8	30
3. Documentation for the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents and subsidiary bodies	–	–	18	–
4. Documentation for the Executive Body for the Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution and subsidiary bodies	34	39	34	34
5. Documentation for the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context and subsidiary bodies and Meeting of the Parties to the Convention serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol on Strategic Environmental Assessment to the Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context and subsidiary bodies	22	29	24	10
6. Documentation for the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters and subsidiary bodies and Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol on Pollutant Release and Transfer Register to the Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters and subsidiary bodies	45	26	38	71
7. Documentation for the High-level Meeting on Transport, Health and Environment and subsidiary bodies	11	9	7	4
8. Documentation for the Steering Committee on Education for Sustainable Development	N/A[a]	N/A	N/A	11
Substantive services for meetings (number of three-hour meetings)	**283**	**240**	**251**	**243**
9. Meetings of the Committee on Environmental Policy and subsidiary bodies	50	32	40	30
10. Meetings of the Parties to the Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes and subsidiary bodies and Meetings of the Parties to the Protocol on Water and Health and subsidiary bodies	57	47	47	48
11. Meetings of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents and subsidiary bodies	21	14	30	17
12. Meetings of the Executive Body for the Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution and subsidiary bodies	30	34	30	31
13. Meetings of the Parties to the Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context and subsidiary bodies and Meetings of the Parties to the Convention serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol on Strategic Environmental Assessment to the Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context and subsidiary bodies	50	39	33	34
14. Meetings of the Parties to the Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters and subsidiary bodies and Meetings of the Parties to the Protocol on Pollutant Release and Transfer Register and subsidiary bodies	69	69	67	74
15. Meetings of the High-level Meeting on Transport, Health and Environment and subsidiary bodies	6	5	4	3
16. Meetings of the Steering Committee on Education for Sustainable Development	N/A[b]	N/A	N/A	6

Category and subcategory	2019 planned	2019 actual	2020 planned	2021 planned
B. Generation and transfer of knowledge				
Seminars, workshops and training events (number of days)	**46**	**84**	**48**	**71**
17. Workshops on environmental issues, including on air quality, water, industrial safety, public participation, environmental assessment, monitoring and performance and education for sustainable development, for government officials and other stakeholders in the ECE region to improve environmental governance and performance	46	84	48	71
Publications (number of publications)	**14**	**9**	**11**	**11**
18. Guidance, policy briefs, good practice publications on environmental issues and multilateral environmental agreements administered by the subprogramme	8	7	6	6
19. Progress reports and performance reviews on environmental issues	2	2	2	2
20. Multilateral environmental agreements administered by the subprogramme, after amendments enter into force	1	–	1	1
21. Publications on the multilateral environmental agreements administered by the subprogramme	3	–	2	2

C. Substantive deliverables

Consultation, advice and advocacy: advisory services for government officials and other stakeholders of States members of the United Nations Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia on water, energy and other environmental issues (6).

D. Communication deliverables

Outreach programmes, special events and information materials: environmental performance review (synopsis (2) and highlights (2)); Electronic newsletter of the Working Group on Environmental Monitoring and Assessment.

External and media relations: press releases on environmental issues (5).

Digital platforms and multimedia content: update and maintenance of the website of the subprogramme.

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[a] In the proposed programme budget for 2020, the data on the documentation for the Steering Committee on Education for Sustainable Development were included under deliverable 1. Documentation for the Committee on Environmental Policy and subsidiary bodies.

[b] In the proposed programme budget for 2020, the data on the meetings of the Steering Committee on Education for Sustainable Development were included under deliverable 9. Meetings of the Committee on Environmental Policy and subsidiary bodies.

Subprogramme 2
Transport

Objective

20.35   The objective, to which this subprogramme contributes, is to advance a regionally and globally sustainable inland transport (road, rail, inland waterway and intermodality) system by making it safer, cleaner, more efficient and more affordable, both for freight transport and people's mobility.

Strategy

20.36   The ECE transport subprogramme is carried out by the programme of work adopted by the Inland Transport Committee through its role, enshrined in the Committee's strategy until 2030 (see ECE/TRANS/288/Add.2), as the United Nations platform for inland transport to help to efficiently address regional and global needs in inland transport. Through, among others, its 20 working parties and 14 administrative committees, the Economic and Social Council Committee of Experts and more than 50 formal and informal networks bringing together some 6,000 registered experts, the subprogramme promotes regionally and globally sustainable transport systems.

20.37   The core pillar of its work is to administer the international regulatory framework for inland transport, which currently includes 59 United Nations legal instruments on safety, pollution, efficiency and effectiveness (normative function), by developing new and updating existing legal instruments, as necessary.

20.38   At the request of member States and contracting parties, the subprogramme services the institutional platform for national Governments and other key transport stakeholders to maintain this regulatory framework, complemented by policy dialogue, analytical work, technical assistance and capacity-building activities. This work is expected to contribute to all four ECE nexuses, namely, sustainable mobility and smart connectivity, sustainable use of natural resources, sustainable and smart cities, and monitoring and measuring the Sustainable Development Goals.

20.39   To contribute to the advancement of a regionally and globally sustainable inland transport (road, rail, inland waterway and intermodality) system by making it safer, cleaner, more efficient and more affordable, both for freight transport and people's mobility, the subprogramme will:

(a)   Intensify its standard-setting and regulatory activities as the United Nations platform for inland transport conventions, ensuring that they remain up-to-date and open to all United Nations Member States. These activities are expected to support Governments in making progress towards the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, notably Goals 3, 6, 7, 8, 9, 11, 12 and 13;

(b)   Work towards ensuring that: (i) its regulatory functions are keeping pace with cutting-edge technologies driving transport innovation, especially in the areas of intelligent transport systems, autonomous vehicles and digitalization; (ii) the different amendment processes for the different conventions do not cause fragmentation; and (iii) the dangers of stifling progress due to premature regulation are avoided;

(c)   Provide a platform for policy dialogue to review emerging challenges in inland transport and proposals for improving infrastructure and operation at the annual session of the Inland Transport Committee;

(d)   Provide an institutional platform supporting regional and interregional connectivity, developing new or building on existing initiatives, agreements or corridors, which is expected to result in more efficient cross-border flows of goods and people.

20.40   These actions are expected to result in improvements in inland transport, leading to safer, cleaner, more efficient and more affordable systems for the main beneficiaries of the subprogramme, which are the ECE member States and United Nations Member States that are contracting parties to United Nations inland transport conventions.

20.41   Past results in this area include a strengthened regulatory framework for sustainable inland transport systems, including: (a) the adoption of 100 new United Nations vehicle regulations and updates to existing ones, contributing to the 360-degree approach to road safety of the Inland Transport Committee, as well as the adoption of two United Nations global technical regulations on electric cars and on electric-powered two-wheeled vehicles to promote the decarbonization of transport; these regulatory changes are legally binding, affect the global production of vehicles and, accordingly, have an immediate impact on road safety and environmental performance; (b) the adoption of provisions on the transport of dangerous goods for the Agreement concerning the International Carriage of Dangerous Goods by Inland Waterways (ADN) that are focused on strengthening explosion protection on-board inland waterway vessels; (c) the adoption of a set of amendments to the European Agreement concerning the International Carriage of Dangerous Goods by Road (ADR), which addresses emerging safety and environmental issues resulting from the increasing development of transport and use of lithium batteries and of vehicles powered by cleaner fuels (e.g., liquefied or compressed natural gas or hydrogen fuel cells); and (d) the acceleration of the computerization of the TIR (transport internationaux routiers) system, e-TIR, which resulted in the increased attractiveness of TIR in countries with fast-growing economies and those striving towards paperless administration. E-TIR operations in pilot projects between Iran and Turkey, as

well as Georgia and Turkey, provided evidence of the system's functionality in a real-time environment. The effectiveness of these activities is evidenced by the increased accession to the Customs Convention on the International Transport of Goods under Cover of TIR Carnets by Asian and Middle Eastern countries. Among the most recent contracting parties are China, India and Pakistan, which alone account for 40 per cent of the global population.

Programme performance in 2019 against planned result

20.42   A planned result for 2019, which is a strengthened legal and regulatory framework for international land transport (road, rail, inland waterway and intermodal transport), transport infrastructure, border-crossing facilitation, transport of dangerous goods, vehicle construction and other transport-related services, as referred to in the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2018–2019, was achieved, as evidenced by the adoption of 149 new vehicle regulations and amendments that are legally binding, affecting the global production of vehicles and, accordingly, have a direct impact on road safety and environmental performance (well over the target of 100 during the period 2018–2019).

Programme performance in 2019: strengthened cooperation in road safety contributing to fewer road accident fatalities

20.43   Mindful of the shortfalls in achieving by 2020 the target of the Sustainable Development Goals on road safety owing to the growing trend of road fatalities globally, in 2019, the subprogramme adopted a 360-degree approach – regulatory, policy dialogue, analytical, capacity-building and technical assistance – to road safety in order to reap more benefits for its main beneficiaries. The approach comprises the following:

(a)   Outreach to increase the number of countries acceding to its conventions, as evidenced by four new accessions to core road safety conventions in 2019, which support countries' efforts to develop sound national road safety systems;

(b)   Continued development of the international legal framework and its incorporation into the production and manufacturing of safer vehicles. This is evidenced by the adoption, during the biennium 2018–2019, of 149 new United Nations vehicle regulations and updates to existing ones, which are legally binding, affecting the global production of vehicles and, accordingly, have an immediate impact on road safety. A special case of strategic importance is the adoption of a technical resolution on highly automated driving, expected to pave the way for the comprehensive development and deployment of cutting-edge technologies in the future;

(c)   Dedicated work on amendments to the European Agreement concerning the International Carriage of Dangerous Goods by Road, including its further globalization, which make it easier for countries to accede and contribute to reducing disastrous road safety risks;

(d)   National road safety performance reviews that systematically identify country-specific needs, thereby supporting evidence-based system-wide analysis, policy prioritization and high-impact interventions. This is evidenced by recommendations in Georgia and the preparation of two new reviews, in Ethiopia and Zimbabwe (forthcoming);

(e)   Capacity-building workshops in six countries involving representatives of 18 countries.

20.44   To accelerate improvements in road safety globally, the subprogramme mobilized political and policy support for road safety through the Special Envoy for Road Safety. A new landmark in 2019 was the operationalization of the United Nations road safety trust fund, which adopted all its founding documents and began financing five road safety projects in low- and middle-income countries.

Progress towards the attainment of the objective, and performance measure

20.45   This work contributed to the advancement of regionally and globally sustainable inland transport by making it safer, as demonstrated by the continuing decrease in road accident fatalities in the ECE region, dropping by nearly 10,000 fatalities between 2010 and 2017, with a 2,603 reduction between 2016 and 2017, although progress was not evenly distributed among all ECE subregions. Data for 2018 are already available for 22 countries, with 16 evidencing reductions, resulting in a total available weighted average decrease of 5.4 per cent for 2018 compared with 2017. Given that the data for 2019 are not yet available, it has been estimated to equal the figure for 2018.

Figure 20.III
Performance measure: annual road traffic accident fatalities in the Economic Commission for Europe region

(Thousands)
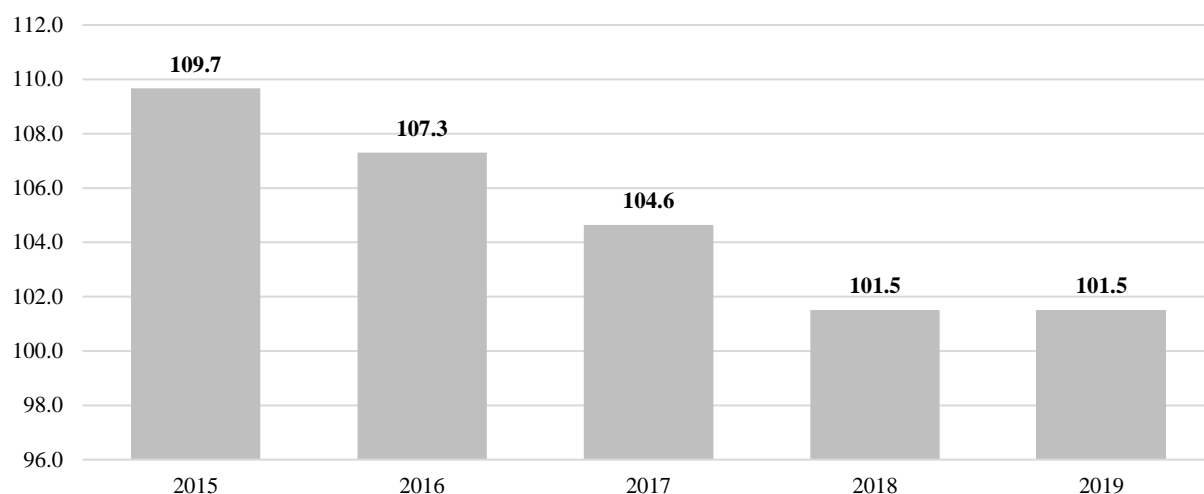
Planned results for 2021

Result 1: enhanced regulatory framework for sustainable inland transport systems (result carried over from 2020)

20.46   The subprogramme will continue the work related to the transport legal instruments, in line with its mandate, and will assist countries in becoming contracting parties to the various legal instruments administered by ECE, which is expected to be demonstrated by the performance measure for 2021 below. For 2020, a proxy performance measure is indicated, to reflect that the General Assembly, in its resolution 74/251, approved a programme narrative at the subprogramme level that is composed solely of the objectives.

Figure 20.IV
Performance measure: total number of contracting parties to United Nations legal instruments on transport administered by the Economic Commission for Europe
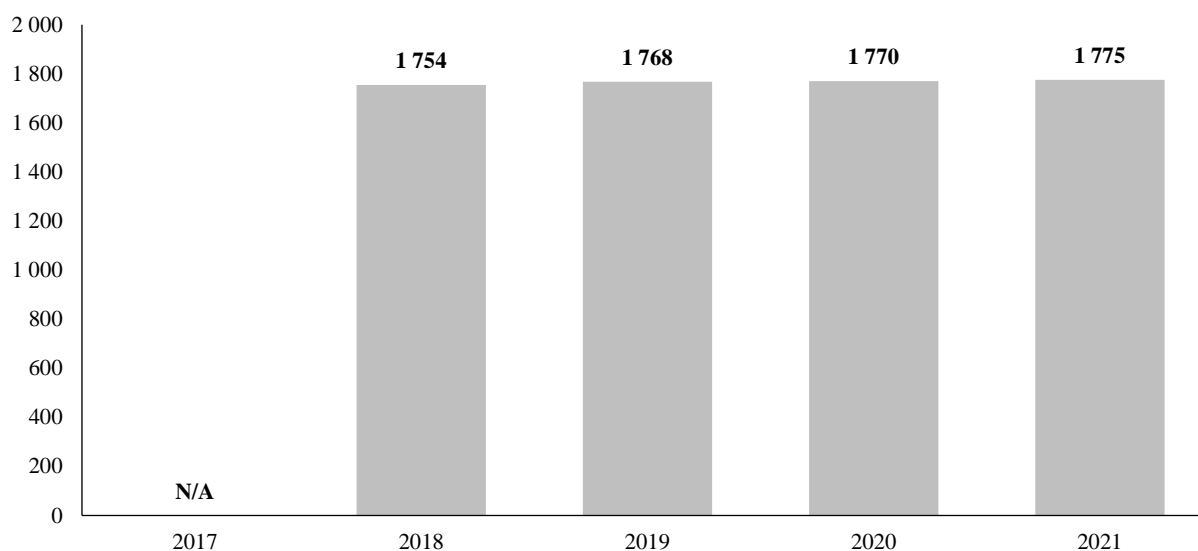
Abbreviation: N/A, not applicable.

Result 2: enhanced regulatory framework for sustainable inland transport systems that are safer, cleaner and more efficient (new result)

20.47   It was concluded in the *Sustainable Development Goals Report 2017* that, while considerable progress had been made over the past decade across all areas of development, the pace of progress was insufficient to fully meet the targets of the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030. A clear illustration is road safety. In 2018, the General Assembly concluded that target 3.6, of halving global deaths and injuries from road traffic accidents by 2020, would likely not be met, notwithstanding global efforts, including overall improvements in the ECE region.

Internal challenge and response

20.48   The challenge for the subprogramme was, further to requests from Member States outside the ECE region, in keeping with existing mandates, to provide highly technical capacity-building in support of States outside the ECE region in their implementation of the United Nations transport conventions. This pertains in particular to: (a) reducing the 1.35 million global road traffic deaths annually; (b) improving the environmental performance of the inland transport systems, including in the area of transport of perishable foodstuffs; and (c) enhancing efficiency and connectivity, including through digitalization and e-docs in transport. In response, the subprogramme will encourage the participation of countries from outside the ECE region in the activities of the Inland Transport Committee and its subsidiary bodies and scale up outreach and capacity-building activities, including through partnerships with the United Nations system and external stakeholders and participation in regional and global initiatives. At the same time, the subprogramme faces challenges in meeting new demands from Member States, including new emerging areas, such as regulatory work on automated/autonomous vehicles, digitalization and intelligent transport systems, and the need to address the overwhelming challenge in road safety, requiring the subprogramme to enhance its international regulatory work and assistance to United Nations Member States in the implementation of the United Nations legal instruments. In addition, the subprogramme would need to meet the increasing technical support requirements for the Special Envoy for Road Safety and the United Nations road safety trust fund.

Expected progress towards the attainment of the objective, and performance measure

20.49   This work is expected to contribute to advancing a regionally and globally sustainable inland transport (road, rail, inland waterway and intermodality) system by making it safer, cleaner, more efficient and more affordable, both for freight transport and people's mobility, Evidence shows that countries with a higher number of accessions to conventions and agreements have, for example, a better road safety performance record, owing to the legally binding nature and best practices of these legal instrument which, in turn, trigger favourable changes nationally. When aggregated, individual accessions create a more harmonized legal and regulatory framework nationally and internationally, which supports the development of sustainable inland transport systems. The number of total contracting parties (1,768) to United Nations legal instruments under the subprogramme's purview is continuously growing but remains insufficient to achieve stronger harmonization and the transition to sustainable inland transport systems. Therefore, the expected result of the enhanced role of the subprogramme to support the development of sustainable inland transport systems internationally would be the strengthened legal and regulatory framework for sustainable inland transport. The contribution to the result will be demonstrated by increased worldwide accessions to conventions and agreements, especially by countries outside the ECE region. As also shown in figure 20.V, in 2019, 148 Member States, including 92 non-ECE Member States, were contracting parties to at least one convention administered by the subprogramme. In 2018, Cabo Verde and Oman became contracting parties for the first time by acceding to conventions on road safety and border-crossing facilitation, respectively. The same year, Nigeria became a contracting party to five core United Nations road safety conventions. In 2019, Myanmar became a contracting party for the first time by acceding to two of the core road safety conventions.

Figure 20.V
Performance measure: total number of Economic Commission for Europe member States and United Nations Member States that are contracting parties to United Nations inland transport conventions under the purview of the Commission
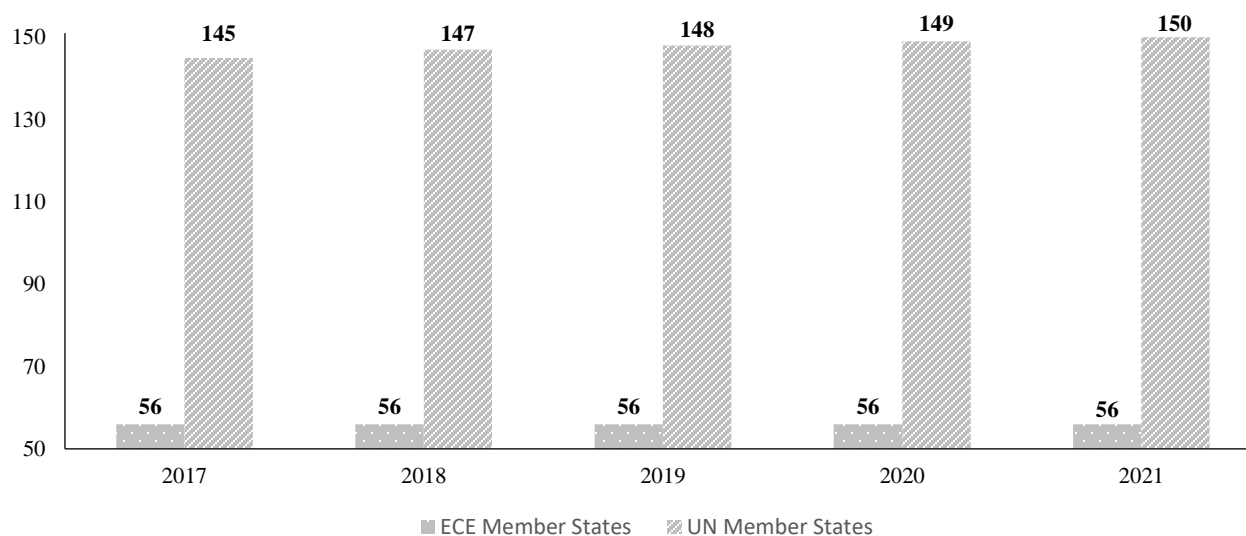
Legislative mandates

20.50   The list below provides all mandates entrusted to the subprogramme.

General Assembly resolutions

58/9	Global road safety crisis	70/217	Follow-up to the second United Nations Conference on Landlocked Developing Countries
68/269	Improving global road safety		
69/137	Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries for the Decade 2014–2024	72/212	Strengthening the links between all modes of transport to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals
69/213	Role of transport and transit corridors in ensuring international cooperation for sustainable development	72/271	Improving global road safety
		73/243	Follow-up to the Second United Nations Conference on Landlocked Developing Countries
70/197	Towards comprehensive cooperation among all modes of transport for promoting sustainable multimodal transit corridors		

Economic and Social Council resolutions

| 1999/65 | Reconfiguration of the Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods into a Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods and on the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals | 2013/7 | Europe-Africa fixed link through the Strait of Gibraltar |
| | | 2019/7 | Work of the Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods and on the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals |

Economic Commission for Europe decisions

ECE/AC.21/2014/2	Report of the High-level Meeting on Transport, Health and Environment on its fourth session	ECE/TRANS/270	Report of the Inland Transport Committee on its seventy-ninth session (Ministerial Resolution on embracing the new era for sustainable inland transport and mobility)
ECE/TRANS/224	Report of the Inland Transport Committee on its seventy-fourth session ("UNECE Road Map for promoting ITS-20 global actions 2012–2020")	ECE/TRANS/274	Report of the Inland Transport Committee on its eightieth session
ECE/TRANS/236	Report of the Inland Transport Committee on its seventy-fifth session (Joint Declaration on the promotion of Euro-Asian rail transport and activities towards unified railway law; and Joint Statement on Future Development of Euro-Asian Transport Links)	ECE/TRANS/288	Report of the Inland Transport Committee on its eighty-first session (adopting Ministerial Resolution on enhancing cooperation, harmonization and integration in the era of transport digitalization and automation; Inland Transport Committee resolution No. 265 on Ministerial declaration "Inland Navigation in a Global Setting" and on facilitating the development of the inland water transport; and Inland Transport Committee strategy until 2030)
ECE/TRANS/248	Report of the Inland Transport Committee on its seventy-seventh session		
ECE/TRANS/254	Report of the Inland Transport Committee on its seventy-eighth session	B (66)	Endorsement of the Geneva Charter on Sustainable Housing

Decisions of the treaty bodies of United Nations transport agreements

E/ECE/TRANS/505/Rev.3	1958 Agreement Concerning the Adoption of Harmonized Technical United Nations Regulations for Wheeled Vehicles, Equipment and Parts which can be Fitted and/or be Used on Wheeled Vehicles and the Conditions for Reciprocal Recognition of Approvals Granted on the Basis of these United Nations Regulations	ECE/TRANS/132	1998 Agreement concerning the establishment of global technical regulations for wheeled vehicles, equipment and parts which can be fitted and/or used on wheeled vehicles
		ECE/TRANS/ADN/CONF/10/Add.1	European Agreement concerning the International Carriage of Dangerous Goods by Inland Waterways
ECE/RCTE/CONF/4	1997 Agreement concerning the adoption of uniform conditions for periodical technical inspections of wheeled vehicles and the reciprocal recognition of such inspections	ECE/TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/125	Report of the Administrative Committee for the TIR Convention 1975 on its sixty-first session (annex II, "Joint statement on the computerization of the TIR procedure")

Deliverables

20.51   Table 20.4 lists all deliverables, by category and subcategory, for the period 2019–2021 that contributed and are expected to contribute to the attainment of the objective stated above.

Table 20.4
Subprogramme 2: deliverables for the period 2019–2021, by category and subcategory

Category and subcategory	2019 planned	2019 actual	2020 planned	2021 planned
A. Facilitation of the intergovernmental process and expert bodies				
Parliamentary documentation (number of documents)	**1 515**	**1 507**	**1 660**	**1 264**
1. Documentation for the Inland Transport Committee	1 320	1 312	1 331	1 071
a. Inland Transport Committee	31	31	31	31
b. World Forum for Harmonization of Vehicle Regulations	837	837	840	580
c. Working Party on the Transport of Perishable Foodstuffs	33	33	33	33
d. Working Party on the Transport of Dangerous Goods	214	214	214	214
e. Working Party on Transport Trends and Economics	25	17	32	20
f. Working Party on Transport Statistics	14	14	14	14
g. Working Party on Road Transport	9	9	10	10
h. Global Forum for Road Traffic Safety	16	16	16	16
i. Working Party on Rail Transport	12	12	12	26
j. Working Party on Intermodal Transport and Logistics	11	11	11	15
k. Working Party on Inland Water Transport	47	47	47	41
l. Working Party on Customs Questions Affecting Transport	71	71	71	71
2. Documentation for the Economic and Social Council	190	190	324	190
a. Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods and on the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals	1	1	5	1
b. Subcommittee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods	157	157	257	157
c. Subcommittee of Experts on the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals	32	32	62	32
3. Documentation for the High-level Meeting on Transport, Health and Environment	5	5	5	3
Substantive services for meetings (number of three-hour meetings)	**354**	**368**	**369**	**364**
4. Meetings of the Inland Transport Committee	317	331	327	327

Category and subcategory	*2019 planned*	*2019 actual*	*2020 planned*	*2021 planned*
a. Inland Transport Committee	16	16	16	16
b. World Forum for Harmonization of Vehicle Regulations	111	111	111	111
c. Working Party on the Transport of Perishable Foodstuffs	8	8	8	8
d. Working Party on the Transport of Dangerous Goods	68	68	58	68
e. Working Party on Transport Trends and Economics	12	26	32	22
f. Working Party on Transport Statistics	6	6	6	6
g. Working Party on Road Transport	6	6	6	6
h. Global Forum for Road Traffic Safety	14	14	14	14
i. Working Party on Rail Transport	6	6	6	6
j. Working Party on Intermodal Transport and Logistics	6	6	6	6
k. Working Party on Inland Water Transport	18	18	18	18
l. Working Party on Customs Questions Affecting Transport	46	46	46	46
5. Meetings of the Economic and Social Council	35	35	40	35
a. Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods and on the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals	–	–	1	0
b. Subcommittee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods	25	25	29	25
c. Subcommittee of Experts on the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals	10	10	10	10
6. Meetings of the High-level Meeting on Transport, Health and Environment	2	2	2	2
B. Generation and transfer of knowledge				
Field and technical cooperation projects (number of projects)	**2**	**2**	**2**	**2**
7. Project on the Trans-European North-South Motorway	1	1	1	1
8. Project on the Trans-European Railway	1	1	1	1
Seminars, workshops and training events (number of days)	**11**	**11**	**13**	**13**
9. Workshops for government officials and other stakeholders in the ECE region and in contracting parties to legal instruments under the purview of the Inland Transport Committee on intelligent transport systems; transport statistics and trends; road, rail, inland water, intermodal and intersectoral transport issues; and vehicle agreements and regulations	7	7	9	9
10. Seminars for national coordinators, experts, customs officials and transport industry on the Customs Convention on the International Transport of Goods under Cover of TIR Carnets and the Trans-European North-South Motorway and Trans-European Railway projects	4	4	4	4
Publications (number of publications)	**14**	**14**	**13**	**12**
11. Publications on transport of dangerous goods and special cargoes	4	4	3	3
12. Publications on transport of perishable foodstuffs	–	–	–	1
13. Publications on transport facilitation	3	3	–	1
14. Publications on green and safe transport and cross-cutting issues	4	4	8	5
15. Publications on vehicle regulations	1	1	1	1
16. Publications on statistics	2	2	1	1
Technical materials (number of materials)	**2**	**2**	**2**	**2**
17. Fact sheet: what you should know about tires	1	1	–	–
18. Fact sheet: what you should know about safety belts	–	–	1	–
19. Fact sheet: what you should know about advanced driver assistance systems	–	–	–	1
20. Transport statistics – country profiles	1	1	1	1

	2019 planned	*2019 actual*	*2020 planned*	*2021 planned*
Category and subcategory				

C. Substantive deliverables

Consultation, advice and advocacy: set of advisory services for contracting parties of United Nations transport conventions administered by ECE on legal instruments relating to inland transport; facilitation of transport; border crossing; road safety; vehicle construction; and transport of dangerous goods and other special cargo (1).

Databases and substantive digital materials: update and maintenance of the International TIR Data Bank, which includes the list of transport companies authorized to use the TIR system, the online register of customs sealing devices and customs stamps, the list of customs offices operational for TIR, and, potentially, TIR certificates of approval; TIR and e-TIR websites; Internet-based inventory of standards on inland water infrastructure; web-based inventory of existing European Agreement on Main International Railway Lines and European Agreement on Important International Combined Transport Lines and Related Installations standards and parameters; databases on transport statistics, road traffic accidents, transport of dangerous goods, transport of perishable foodstuffs, urban transport and transport and environment; development and maintenance of the web-based Rail Security Observatory; digitalized signs and signals (E-CoRSS) under the Convention on Road Signs and Signals; smart and sustainable connectivity e-learning platform (8).

D. Communication deliverables

Outreach programmes, special events and information materials: information materials on legal instruments and activities of the subprogramme (4).

External and media relations: annual set of press releases for the subprogramme (1).

Digital platforms and multimedia content: digital platforms and multimedia content on sustainable transport and mobility (5); update and maintenance of the website of the subprogramme (1).

Subprogramme 3
Statistics

Objective

20.52   The objective, to which this subprogramme contributes, is to advance official statistics at the national and international levels for evidence-based policymaking and assessing progress towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals and to ensure the coordination of statistical activities in the ECE region under the Conference of European Statisticians.

Strategy

20.53   The strategy of the subprogramme is based on the implementation of the core interlinked functions, namely, the streamlining of international statistical work in the ECE region by promoting dialogue at the Conference of European Statisticians and expert meetings; methodological work to develop and promote guidelines and recommendations to enhance the quality of statistics; statistical capacity development of ECE member States with fewer developed statistical systems, in particular to measure progress towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals; and the maintenance and development of the ECE statistical database. ECE statistical work is strongly anchored to the 2030 Agenda, which contains calls for a follow-up on and review of the achievement of the Goals and their targets based on evidence, informed by high-quality, accessible, timely, reliable and disaggregated data. Through its work, the subprogramme will contribute to the ECE nexuses on measuring and monitoring the Goals and on the sustainable use of natural resources. The work conducted under this subprogramme deals mainly with statistical methodology and capacity-building, and the main national partners are national statistical offices of member States.

20.54   To contribute to advancing official statistics at the national and international levels for evidence-based policymaking and assessing progress towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals and to ensure the coordination of statistical activities in the ECE region under the Conference of European Statisticians, the subprogramme will continue to promote methodological work to develop statistical models, guidelines and recommendations to enhance the quality of statistics, and to

promote the use of official statistics. This will be done through regional and country-specific initiatives aimed at disseminating the statistical models, guidelines and recommendations and promoting their use. Closer partnerships will be built between geospatial experts and statisticians to support the integration of statistical and geospatial information. The activities will be coordinated and implemented in cooperation with statistical departments of other regional entities such as Eurostat, OECD, the European Free Trade Association, the Interstate Statistical Committee of the Commonwealth of Independent States and the Eurasian Economic Commission, as well as international specialized agencies active in the region. To support the development of the statistical capacity of member States, the subprogramme will facilitate the exchange of experiences in the field of population and housing censuses and provide support to countries in planning and conducting their census. All member States were requested to conduct at least one census between 2015 and 2024 (Economic and Social Council resolution 2015/10), which was also called the "2020 census round". The majority of the countries in the ECE region will conduct the census in 2021. These actions are expected to result in an increasing number of countries that will conduct their census through innovative and efficient approaches, in compliance with the Conference of European Statisticians recommendations for the 2020 round of population and housing censuses.

20.55   Past results in these areas include ECE member States that, over the past few years, increasingly developed and adopted innovative methods to conduct their population and housing censuses, thanks also to the exchange of experiences and the increase in statistical capacity obtained by attending the expert meetings and workshops organized by the ECE Statistical Division. While, during the 2010 census round, only 35 per cent of ECE member States conducted a census adopting an innovative method (using register data), information collected in 2019 showed that, for the 2020 census round, the percentage was expected to increase to approximately 55 per cent. The result for beneficiaries of the use of innovative methods to conduct their census is improved cost-efficiency, coverage, accuracy, comparability and timeliness of dissemination of the census results.

Programme performance in 2019 against planned result

20.56   A planned result for 2019, which is streamlined international statistical work in support of monitoring the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, as referred to in the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2018–2019, was fully achieved, as evidenced by six new statistical areas reviewed in depth by the Bureau of the Conference of European Statisticians in 2018–2019. The Bureau regularly reviews selected statistical areas in depth. The aim of the reviews is to improve the coordination of statistical activities in the ECE region, identify gaps or duplication of work and address emerging issues. The reviews focus on strategic issues and highlight concerns of statistical offices of both a conceptual and a coordinating nature. The reviews often lead to new methodological work for the benefit of all ECE member States.

Programme performance in 2019: more countries using common models to modernize the production of official statistics

20.57   To be able to monitor the progress towards implementing the 2030 Agenda, an unprecedented amount of data and a large number of new and/or further disaggregated indicators need to be produced. Given that resources are constrained, this can be achieved only by rationalizing the production of statistics and by using new data sources. To prevent duplication and to establish synergies between producers of official statistics, the subprogramme has established the High-level Group for the Modernization of Official Statistics. Various modernization standards and models were developed under the subprogramme by the High-level Group. Examples are the Generic Statistical Business Process Model, the Generic Statistical Information Model, Generic Activity Model for Statistical Organizations and the Common Statistical Production Architecture. They all provide a common language and tool to map all activities within and between statistical organizations to a common model. Implementing these models makes it possible to identify resources involved and reveals duplication of activity or areas

where efficiency gains can be achieved. It allows for statistical organizations to collaborate and facilitates the exchange of information and the sharing of statistical services.

Progress towards the attainment of the objective, and performance measure

20.58   This work contributed to the advancement of official statistics at the national and international levels for evidence-based policymaking and assessing progress towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, and to ensuring the coordination of statistical activities in the ECE region under the Conference of European Statisticians, as demonstrated by the fact that, in 2019, 51 countries (91 per cent of the total) were using the Generic Statistical Business Process Model to modernize their statistical systems, including. Georgia, the Republic of Moldova, Tajikistan, Ukraine and Uzbekistan, which began to use the Model in 2019. Usage in other regions of the world continues, making it the global model for modernizing statistical production. This contributes to more timely and further disaggregated statistics being available to policymakers, businesses and the general public. The Model can be used for multiple purposes and in multiple ways. For example, the Central Statistics Office of Ireland not only uses the Model to map their staffing across various domains in their office, but also aligned its training programme with it and applied the Model to the activities of its national platform for the Goals in 2019.

20.59   For 2019, the need to further integrate and align the various models was identified as a key area of focus. Several countries participated in this work, and the first offices have begun to implement multiple models in an integrated way. The sharing nature of the Common Statistical Production Architecture was also restated in 2019, making sharing statistical services even easier. This led to 10 more services being shared in the public Architecture catalogue and made available for use by any statistical organization. Many more services are to be shared in the near future.

Figure 20.VI
Performance measure: Economic Commission for Europe countries using the Generic Statistical Business Process Model

(Percentage)
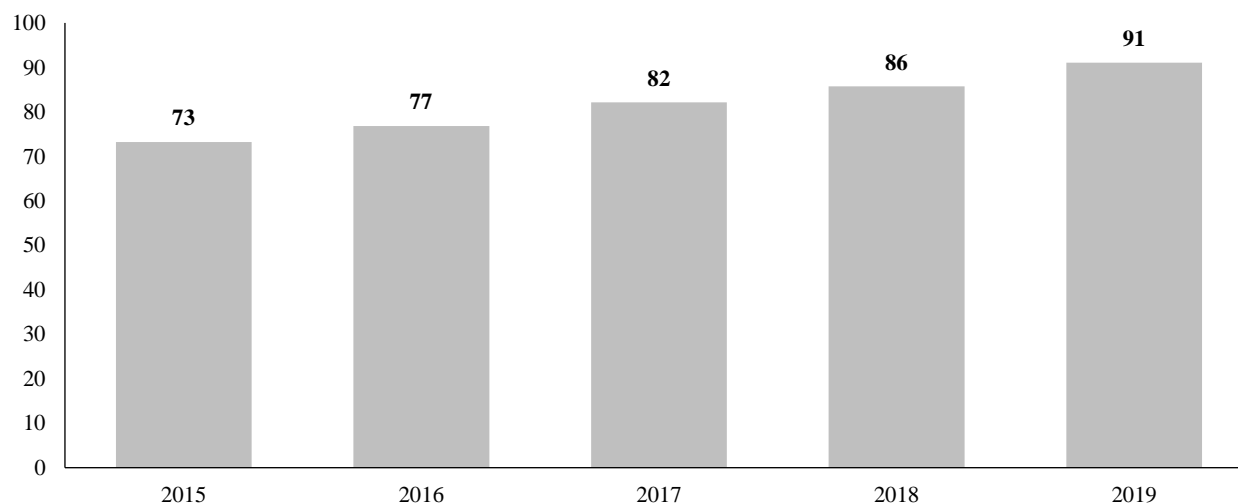
Planned results for 2021

Result 1: increasing the number of countries producing improved statistics for the Sustainable Development Goals (result carried over from 2020)

20.60   The subprogramme will continue the work related to statistics for sustainable development, in line with its mandate, and will assist countries in setting up national reporting platforms on statistics for sustainable development, which is expected to be demonstrated by the performance measure for

2021 below. For 2020, a proxy performance measure is indicated, to reflect that the General Assembly, in its resolution 74/251, approved a programme narrative at the subprogramme level that is composed solely of the objectives.

Figure 20.VII
Performance measure: number of national reporting platforms on statistics for Sustainable Development Goals in use by member States
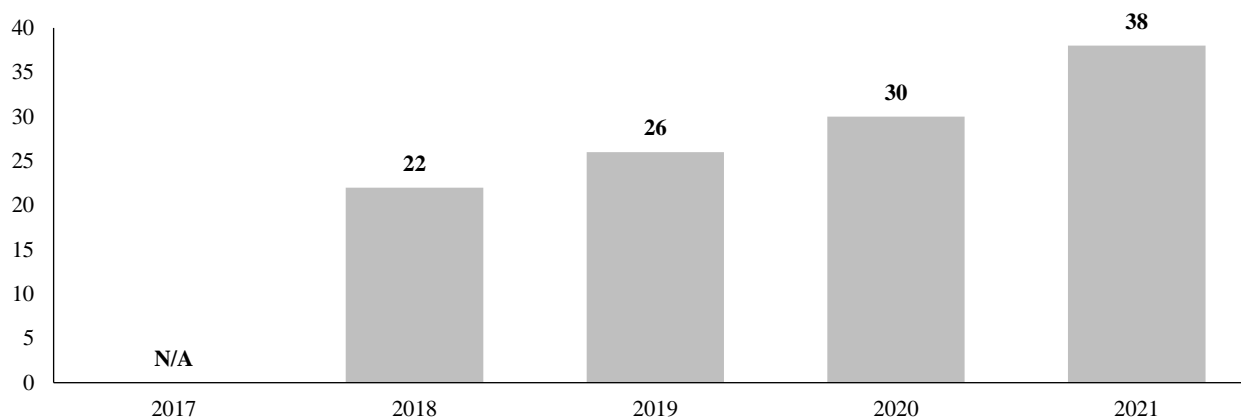
Abbreviation: N/A, not applicable.

Result 2: conducting a new population and housing census that provides cost-effective and better-quality results (new result)

20.61   The subprogramme has been working to support Member States in the planning and conduction of the 2020 round of population and housing census. Conducting a census is requested by the Economic and Social Council (resolution 2015/10) and is one of the targets of the 2030 Agenda (target 17.19 of the Sustainable Development Goals). Between 2012 and 2015, the subprogramme coordinated the preparation of the new Conference of European Statisticians recommendations for the 2020 round in the ECE region. The recommendations provide guidance to countries on census methodology and survey content so that the census results produced are relevant and comparable across countries. Since 2015, the subprogramme has organized yearly expert meetings, capacity-building workshops and created an online platform[2] to facilitate the exchange of experiences and provide support to countries in planning and conducting their census.

Internal challenges and response

20.62   The challenge for the subprogramme was to support national statistical institutes in adopting good census practices in compliance with the Conference of European Statisticians recommendations, in terms of improved cost-efficiency, coverage, accuracy and timeliness of dissemination of the census results. In response, the subprogramme will: (a) facilitate the exchange of experiences among countries, which allows Member States to learn from the experiences of other countries; and (b) produce methodological material, including on the use of registers and administrative data for population censuses.

Expected progress towards the attainment of the objective, and performance measure

20.63   This work is expected to contribute to advancing official statistics at the national and international levels for evidence-based policymaking, which would be demonstrated by 84 per cent of ECE member States having conducted a population and housing census in compliance with the

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[2] See https://statswiki.unece.org/display/censuses.

Conference of European Statisticians recommendations by 2021, resulting for beneficiaries in the improved cost-efficiency, coverage, accuracy and timeliness of dissemination of the census results.

Figure 20.VIII
Performance measure: Economic Commission for Europe countries having conducted a census in compliance with the Conference of European Statisticians recommendations
(Percentage)
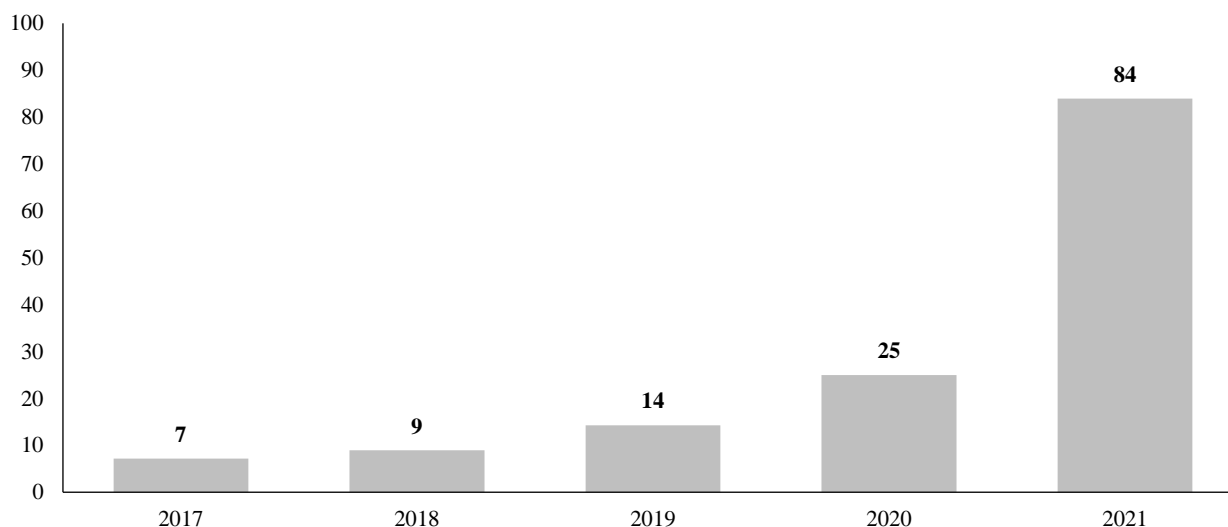
Legislative mandates

20.64   The list below provides all mandates entrusted to the subprogramme.

General Assembly resolutions

67/144	Intensification of efforts to eliminate all forms of violence against women	73/148	Intensification of efforts to prevent and eliminate all forms of violence against women and girls: sexual harassment
68/261	Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics		
69/210	Entrepreneurship for development	73/195	Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration
69/282	World Statistics Day		
72/234	Women in development		

Economic and Social Council resolutions

2006/6	Strengthening statistical capacity	2017/7	Work of the Statistical Commission pertaining to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development
2014/7	Further implementation of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, 2002		
2015/10	2020 World Population and Housing Census Programme	2018/5	Strategies for eradicating poverty to achieve sustainable development for all
2016/27	Strengthening institutional arrangements on geospatial information management	2018/7	Mainstreaming a gender perspective into all policies and programmes in the United Nations system

Economic and Social Council decisions

2011/245	Report of the Statistical Commission on its forty-second session and venue and dates of and provisional agenda and documentation for its forty-third session (Statistical Commission decision 42/107: Short-term economic indicators)
2012/230	Report of the Statistical Commission on its forty-third session and provisional agenda and dates for the forty-fourth session of the Commission (Statistical Commission decision 43/115: Regional statistical development in Europe)
2013/235	Report of the Statistical Commission on its forty-fourth session and the provisional agenda and dates for the forty-fifth session of the Commission (Statistical Commission decision 44/105: Environment statistics)
2014/219	Report of the Statistical Commission on its forty-fifth session and the provisional agenda and dates for the forty-sixth session of the Commission (Statistical Commission decision 45/101: Implementation of the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics)
2014/219	Report of the Statistical Commission on its forty-fifth session and the provisional agenda and dates for the forty-sixth session of the Commission (Statistical Commission decision 45/103: Programme review: broader measures of progress)
2014/219	Report of the Statistical Commission on its forty-fifth session and the provisional agenda and dates for the forty-sixth session of the Commission (Statistical Commission decision 45/110: Big data and modernization of statistical systems)
2015/216	Report of the Statistical Commission on its forty-sixth session and the provisional agenda and dates for its forty-seventh session (Statistical Commission decision 46/101: Data in support of the post-2015 development agenda
2015/216	Report of the Statistical Commission on its forty-sixth session and the provisional agenda and dates for the forty-seventh session of the Commission (Statistical Commission decision 46/102: Population and housing censuses)
2015/216	Report of the Statistical Commission on its forty-sixth session and the provisional agenda and dates for the forty-seventh session of the Commission (Statistical Commission

	decision 46/107: International trade and economic globalization statistics)
2016/220	Report of the Statistical Commission on its forty-seventh session and provisional agenda and dates for the forty-eighth session of the Commission (Statistical Commission decision 47/102: High-level Group for Partnership, Coordination and Capacity-Building for Statistics for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development)
2016/220	Report of the Statistical Commission on its forty-seventh session and provisional agenda and dates for the forty-eighth session of the Commission (Statistical Commission decision 47/104: Big data for official statistics)
2016/220	Report of the Statistical Commission on its forty-seventh session and provisional agenda and dates for the forty-eighth session of the Commission (Statistical Commission decision 47/106: Environmental-economic accounting)
2016/220	Report of the Statistical Commission on its forty-seventh session and provisional agenda and dates for its forty-eighth session (Statistical Commission decision 47/112: Climate change statistics)
2017/228	Report of the Statistical Commission on its forty-eighth session and provisional agenda and dates for its forty-ninth session (Statistical Commission decision 48/101: Global indicator framework for the Sustainable Development Goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development)
2017/228	Report of the Statistical Commission on its forty-eighth session and provisional agenda and dates for its forty-ninth session (Statistical Commission decision 48/103: Transformative agenda for official statistics)
2017/228	Report of the Statistical Commission on its forty-eighth session and provisional agenda and dates for its forty-ninth session (Statistical Commission decision 48/104: Regional statistical development)
2017/228	Report of the Statistical Commission on its forty-eighth session and provisional agenda and dates for its forty-ninth session (Statistical Commission decision 48/107: Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics)
2017/228	Report of the Statistical Commission on its forty-eighth session and provisional

	agenda and dates for its forty-ninth session (Statistical Commission decision 48/108: Integration of statistical and geospatial information)		indicators for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development)
2017/228	Report of the Statistical Commission on its forty-eighth session and provisional agenda and dates for its forty-ninth session (Statistical Commission decision 48/111: National accounts)	2018/227	Report of the Statistical Commission on its forty-ninth session and provisional agenda and dates for its fiftieth session (Statistical Commission decision 49/108: Regional statistical development)
2017/228	Report of the Statistical Commission on its forty-eighth session and provisional agenda and dates for its forty-ninth session (Statistical Commission decision 48/114: Business registers)	2018/227	Report of the Statistical Commission on its forty-ninth session and provisional agenda and dates for its fiftieth session (Statistical Commission decision 49/109: National accounts)
2018/227	Report of the Statistical Commission on its forty-ninth session and provisional agenda and dates for its fiftieth session (Statistical Commission decision 49/101: Global indicator framework for the Sustainable Development Goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development)	2018/227	Report of the Statistical Commission on its forty-ninth session and provisional agenda and dates for its fiftieth session (Statistical Commission decision 49/113: Climate change statistics)
		2018/227	Report of the Statistical Commission on its forty-ninth session and provisional agenda and dates for its fiftieth session (Statistical Commission decision 49/114: Statistical classifications)
2018/227	Report of the Statistical Commission on its forty-ninth session and provisional agenda and dates for its fiftieth session (Statistical Commission decision 49/102: Data and		

Deliverables

20.65   Table 20.5 lists all deliverables, by category and subcategory, for the period 2019–2021 that contributed and are expected to contribute to the attainment of the objective stated above.

Table 20.5
Subprogramme 3: deliverables for the period 2019–2021, by category and subcategory

Category and subcategory	2019 planned	2019 actual	2020 planned	2021 planned
A. Facilitation of the intergovernmental process and expert bodies				
Parliamentary documentation (number of documents)	**81**	**81**	**81**	**81**
1. Documentation for the Conference of European Statisticians	43	43	43	43
2. Documentation for expert bodies	38	38	38	38
Substantive services for meetings (number of three-hour meetings)	**85**	**85**	**85**	**85**
3. Meetings of the Conference of European Statisticians and its Bureau	13	13	13	13
4. Meetings of expert bodies	72	72	72	72
B. Generation and transfer of knowledge				
Field and technical cooperation projects (number of projects)	**1**	**1**	**1**	**1**
5. Project on social and economic statistics	1	1	1	1
Seminars, workshops and training events (number of days)	**6**	**6**	**6**	**6**
6. Workshops on social and economic statistics	3	3	3	3
7. Workshops on innovating statistical production	3	3	3	3
Publications (number of publications)	**4**	**6**	**9**	**7**

Category and subcategory	2019 planned	2019 actual	2020 planned	2021 planned
8.　Publications on topics covering multiple statistical areas	1	1	1	1
9.　Publications on social, environmental and economic statistics	3	5	8	6

C. Substantive deliverables

Consultation, advice and advocacy: advisory services for government officials (staff of national statistical systems) and other stakeholders of countries of Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia and South-Eastern Europe on economic, social, demographic and environment statistics, statistics for the Sustainable Development Goals, geospatial statistics and institutional issues and modernization of official statistics (4).

Databases and substantive digital materials: update and maintenance of ECE statistical databases (population and gender statistics database; economic statistics database; transport database; forestry database) (4).

D. Communication deliverables

Outreach programmes, special events and information materials: leaflets and other promotional materials (2).

External and media relations: articles for the "UNECE Weekly" and "EnvStats" newsletters (15).

Digital platforms and multimedia content: interactive digital workspaces (wikis, including the ECE census wiki); update and maintenance of the website of the subprogramme (1).

Subprogramme 4
Economic cooperation and integration

Objective

20.66　The objective, to which this subprogramme contributes, is to strengthen policies on innovation, competitiveness and public-private partnerships in the ECE region.

Strategy

20.67　The strategy of the subprogramme is based on the implementation of the core interlinked functions, namely, international policy dialogue on innovation, competitiveness and public-private partnerships; normative work on the same subjects; and capacity-building and the sharing of best practices and lessons learned in all areas of the subprogramme's work. Through its work, the subprogramme contributes to the ECE nexuses on sustainable mobility and smart connectivity and on sustainable and smart cities for all ages. The subprogramme's two areas of work, innovation and competitiveness, and public-private partnerships, are complementary. The work on innovation and competitiveness policies promotes sustainable development by supporting member States in creating a business climate that encourages and rewards innovative solutions to sustainable development challenges. The work on public-private partnerships for infrastructure development supports the same objective by promoting innovative ways of financing, building and managing infrastructure critical for sustainable development. In doing so, the subprogramme, among other things, contributes to Sustainable Development Goal 9, which is to build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation, and Goal 17, which is to strengthen the means of implementation, including by ensuring access to science, technology and innovation for all, and by encouraging effective public, public-private and civil society partnerships. The subprogramme also contributes to other Goals in which innovation and infrastructure investment is important, such as Goal 8 (sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth) and Goal 12 (sustainable consumption and production patterns).

20.68　To contribute to strengthening policies on innovation and competitiveness in the ECE region, the subprogramme will hold regional multi-stakeholder dialogues to identify good practices on how innovation can advance sustainable development and how Governments can support this; carry out and publish analyses of national innovation policies, upon request, and make recommendations for policy reforms; and build capacity through workshops and training seminars at the national and

subregional levels to implement innovation policy reforms. This work is expected to result in helping to develop a shared and improved understanding among member States on policy options available to harness the power of innovation for sustainable development, and support national innovation policy reforms, in line with international good practice and ECE recommendations. Past results in this area include the completion of an Innovation for Sustainable Development Review of Kyrgyzstan with tailored recommendations, resulting in the enhanced understanding of policymakers on how they can promote innovative solutions to national sustainable development priorities; improved innovation policies in support of national sustainable development priorities in Belarus and Kazakhstan as a result of ECE capacity-building and an expanded evidence base for innovation policy for sustainable development as a result of several new international good practices developed through the Commission's international policy dialogue.

20.69 To contribute to strengthening policies on public-private partnerships in the ECE region, the subprogramme will develop international guiding principles and standards on how to design regulatory frameworks for these partnerships in various sectors and how to design partnership projects; develop a methodology to assess partnership projects on whether they contribute to sustainable development ("people-first" public-private partnerships) and certify qualifying projects on request; and provide policy advice and capacity-building to support member States in creating regulatory frameworks and partnership project pipelines to help to close the Sustainable Development Goal infrastructure financing gap. This work is expected to result in a shared and improved understanding among member States and investors on how to design and operate public-private partnerships that contribute to sustainable development and will lead to more "people-first" projects (i.e., projects that not only deliver value for money, but also are ecologically sustainable and socially inclusive, for example, by requiring that the projects comply with advanced noise reduction standards or projects that provide a specific number of jobs for the local community or for socially disadvantaged groups). Past results in this area include the incorporation of ECE guiding principles on people-first public-private partnerships for the Sustainable Development Goals into the national laws and regulations of Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan; the enhanced capacity of Belarus to identify and select partnership projects that promote sustainable development, in line with the ECE people-first approach; and an expanded evidence base on the implementation of Goals-compliant projects in roads, railways and renewable energy as a result of international standards developed through the ECE Working Party on Public-Private Partnerships.

Programme performance in 2019 against planned result

20.70 A planned result for 2019, which is enhanced national implementation of ECE policy recommendations and standards on promoting a policy, financial and regulatory environment conducive to sustained economic growth, innovative development and greater competitiveness, as referred to in the propose programme budget for the biennium 2018–2019, was achieved, as evidenced by 12 new policy measures taken by member States to implement ECE policy recommendations in the areas of innovation, competitiveness and public-private partnerships (compared with a target of 12). In addition to the United Nations Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia innovation strategy, examples of such policy measures include a new technology foresight programme to inform policy design, the streamlining of interministerial coordination processes, increased funding for innovation projects and revised public-private partnership and public procurement laws. To support member States in implementing policy recommendations, the subprogramme organized 20 policy advisory and capacity-building activities in six countries, with more than 800 participants.

Programme performance in 2019: Central Asian countries agree for the first time to cooperate on innovation for sustainable development

20.71 Innovation, defined by OECD as the successful commercial application of new knowledge and technology, including from abroad, has a key role to play in helping economies to diversify, to

increase their competitiveness and to drive sustainable development more broadly. The subprogramme's work on identifying international good practices on innovation policy has shown that cooperation across borders in education, science, research and development, financing and product commercialization can significantly speed up innovation processes. For example, in 2010, the European Union decided to create an "Innovation Union" and to place innovation at the heart of its Europe 2020 strategy, recognizing that, without cooperation across borders, innovation was being held back by excessive fragmentation and duplication. Cooperation facilitates knowledge and technology transfer, avoids reinventing the wheel, creates economies of scale and helps companies and countries to participate and move up in international value chains.

20.72   Innovation, and cooperation on innovation is particularly important for the landlocked economies of Central Asia. The national innovation reviews that ECE has carried out, together with the Governments of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan, recommended policies to promote cross-border cooperation, including, for example, scholarship programmes for students and researchers, tax incentives for knowledge-intensive inward direct investment and capacity-building for enterprises to move up in international value chains. At the 2017 session of the Governing Council of the United Nations Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia, member States emphasized the need to step up regional cooperation on innovation and to create a subregional strategy for this purpose. In response, the subprogramme, in cooperation with ESCAP, developed a strategy on innovation for sustainable development for the countries of the Special Programme, which defines policy priorities for the subregion and identifies areas for potential subregional cooperation.

Progress towards the attainment of the objective, and performance measure

20.73   This work contributed to strengthened policies on innovation in the countries of the United Nations Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia, as demonstrated by the adoption of the strategy by the Governing Council of the Special Programme in 2019. This marks the first time that the countries of Central Asia committed to cooperation and agreed to joint action to promote innovation for sustainable development.

Table 20.6
Performance measure

| 2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Tajikistan embarks on innovation policy reforms following recommendations in the ECE Innovation Review of the country, including recommendations to enhance cross-border cooperation on innovation	At the eleventh session of the Governing Council of the United Nations Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia, there are calls for reinforcing progress on innovation as a crucial driver of economic growth and sustainable development and calls for transboundary cooperation	Governing Council emphasizes the need for more regional cooperation on innovation and calls for developing a strategy on innovation for sustainable development	Road map and draft outline of the innovation strategy approved by Governing Council; Kyrgyzstan steps up innovation policy reforms following recommendations in the ECE Innovation Review of the country, including recommendations to enhance cross-border cooperation on innovation	Strategy on innovation for sustainable development adopted by all seven States members of the of the United Nations Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia at the Governing Council

Planned results for 2021

Result 1: innovation policy outlook for the effective analysis of innovation policies and institutions (result carried over from 2020)

20.74   The subprogramme will continue the work related to the innovation policy outlook, in line with its mandate, and will assist countries in developing new policies that foster innovation projects for accelerated sustainable development, which is expected to be demonstrated by the performance measure for 2021 below. For 2020, a proxy performance measure is indicated, to reflect that the General Assembly, in its resolution 74/251, approved a programme narrative at the subprogramme level that is composed solely of the objectives.

Figure 20.IX
Performance measure: number of national innovation policy measures taken by pilot project member States (cumulative)
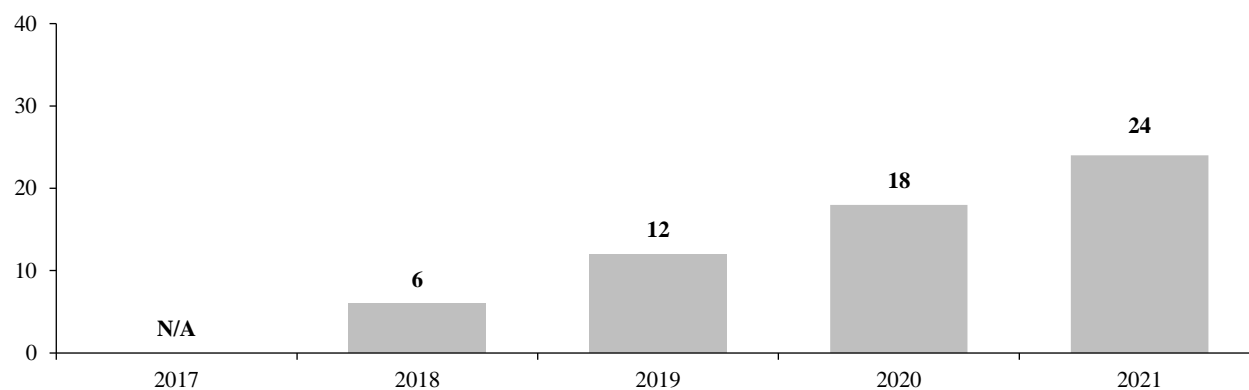
Abbreviation: N/A, not applicable.

Result 2: people-first public-private partnerships to finance sustainable development (new result)

20.75   The subprogramme has been supporting member States in creating and improving legal frameworks and implementing regulations for public-private partnerships as a mode to design, finance, build and operate critical infrastructure. Initially, the focus of this work had been on delivering optimal value for money. With the adoption of the 2030 Agenda, the focus was broadened to support mobilizing the enormous investment needed to achieve sustainable development. Standards, guidelines and policy recommendations were developed for people-first public-private partnerships.

Internal challenge and response

20.76   The focus of the subprogramme's work has been on developing guidelines and standards for people-first public-private partnerships. These guidelines and standards need to be implemented in country-level projects so that they have a tangible effect in generating more public-private partnership investment in infrastructure that supports the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. The challenge for the subprogramme was to create a framework that would allow for public-private partnership projects to be assessed against ECE guidelines and standards in a verifiable, objective way. In response, the subprogramme will create an online project impact assessment tool that will allow Governments and investors to assess whether public-private partnership projects and project proposals meet the ECE people-first criteria. The Commission will further train independent evaluators, drawing on its existing network of national public-private partnership centres of excellence, who will provide independent project assessments against the people-first criteria, at the request of Governments. By using a set of objective and measurable criteria developed by ECE, this

initiative will help Governments to design infrastructure projects that contributed to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. By certifying that public-private partnership projects meet sustainability criteria, the initiative will also attract additional financial resources from developers aimed at achieving not only financial, but also broader social impact.

Expected progress towards the attainment of the objective, and performance measure

20.77   This work is expected to contribute to strengthened policies on public-private partnerships and their implementation, which would be demonstrated by at least 100 public-private partnership projects certified as complying with the ECE people-first criteria in 2021. Aside from differentiating high-quality public-private partnership projects that are fit for purpose for the Sustainable Development Goals from the rest, the project impact assessment tool is expected to provide member States with real evidence on the impact and performance of their infrastructure projects, which has been lacking. Such evidence will assist member States in prioritizing investment in infrastructure projects that support progress towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals and help to mobilize private finance and innovation capabilities in Goals-compatible projects.

Table 20.7
Performance measure

2017	*2018*	*2019*	*2020*	*2021*
Member States first discussed and approved the idea to develop a project impact assessment tool	Member States agreed to set up a project team to develop a project impact assessment tool	The project team was set up and work on the project impact assessment tool commenced	Member States are expected to approve the project impact assessment tool	At least 100 public-private partnership projects certified according to ECE people-first criteria

Legislative mandates

20.78   The list below provides all mandates entrusted to the subprogramme.

General Assembly resolutions

72/228	Science, technology and innovation for development	74/197	Information and communication technologies for sustainable development

Economic Commission for Europe decisions

E/ECE/1448	Economic Commission for Europe annual report (24 February 2006 – 27 April 2007)

Deliverables

20.79   Table 20.8 lists all deliverables, by category and subcategory, for the period 2019–2021 that contributed and are expected to contribute to the attainment of the objective stated above.

Table 20.8
Subprogramme 4: deliverables for the period 2019–2021, by category and subcategory

Category and subcategory	2019 planned	2019 actual	2020 planned	2021 planned
A. Facilitation of the intergovernmental process and expert bodies				
Parliamentary documentation (number of documents)	**18**	**18**	**18**	**18**
1. Documentation for the Committee on Innovation, Competitiveness and Public-Private Partnerships and its subsidiary bodies	18	18	18	18
Substantive services for meetings (number of three-hour meetings)	**19**	**19**	**19**	**19**
2. Meetings of the Committee on Innovation, Competitiveness and Public-Private Partnerships and its subsidiary bodies	18	18	18	18
3. Meetings of the Project Working Group on Knowledge-Based Development	1	1	1	1
B. Generation and transfer of knowledge				
Field and technical cooperation projects (number of projects)	**2**	**2**	**2**	**2**
4. Project on capacity-building for civil servants from countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States on innovation and competitiveness	1	1	1	1
5. Project on capacity-building for civil servants from countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States on public-private partnerships	1	1	1	1
Seminars, workshops and training events (number of days)	**24**	**24**	**24**	**16**
6. Capacity-building and policy advisory workshops, seminars and training on innovation and competitiveness policies for sustainable development	12	12	12	8
7. Capacity-building and policy advisory workshops, seminars and training on people-first public-private partnerships	12	12	12	8
Publications (number of publications)	**3**	**3**	**3**	**3**
8. Publication on Innovation for Sustainable Development Reviews	1	1	1	1
9. Publication on comparative reviews on innovation policy and/or public-private partnership readiness	2	2	2	2

C. Substantive deliverables

Consultation, advice and advocacy: advisory services by the Public-Private Partnership Business Advisory Board and the Team of Specialists on Innovation and Competitiveness Policies for government officials and other stakeholders (4).

Fact-finding, monitoring and investigation missions: preparatory and fact-finding missions for Innovation for Sustainable Development Reviews and public-private partnership readiness assessments (4).

Databases and substantive digital materials: digital collection of case studies on people-first public-private partnerships (1).

D. Communication deliverables

Outreach programmes, special events and information materials: newsletter on people-first public-private partnerships (1).

External and media relations: press releases and launch events for the above publications (6).

Digital platforms and multimedia content: update and maintenance of the subprogramme's website (1).

Subprogramme 5
Sustainable energy

Objective

20.80   The objective, to which this subprogramme contributes, is to improve access to affordable and clean energy for all and to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and the carbon footprint of the energy sector in the region.

Strategy

20.81   The strategy of the subprogramme is based on the implementation of core interlinked functions, namely, international policy dialogue and cooperation among Governments, energy industries and other stakeholders to foster sustainable energy development; the development and deployment of ECE policy recommendations, norms, standards, guidelines and tools on energy-related issues; and capacity-building and assistance to member States, at their request, through training programmes, advisory services and technical cooperation projects. Through its work, the subprogramme will contribute to the four ECE nexus areas described in paragraph 20.5.

20.82   To contribute to the improvement in access to affordable and clean energy for all and to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and the carbon footprint of the energy sector in the region, the subprogramme will assist countries in integrating the objectives of Sustainable Development Goal 7 (improve access to affordable and clean energy for all) and Goal 13 (reduce greenhouse gas emissions, including CO_2 and methane, and the carbon footprint of the energy sector) by reducing the environmental footprint of energy (e.g., by developing recommendations for the deployment of carbon capture and storage, high-efficiency low emissions technology and best practice guidance for methane management in the extractive industries), accelerating deep transformation of the energy sector to meet future needs (through exploring the reinvention of energy as a service industry, of which the high-performance buildings initiative is an example), ensuring the sustainable management of resources (by deploying the United Nations Framework Classification for Resources and the Resource Management System) and assisting member States in assessing their options to ensure energy for sustainable development, including tracking progress (through the work on pathways to sustainable energy). The subprogramme will also promote policy dialogue and cooperation among member States, regional entities and other partners on sustainable energy issues, in particular energy efficiency, cleaner electricity systems, renewable energy, coal mine methane, resource management, natural gas and energy security through regional and country-specific initiatives aimed at improving cooperation among countries. The initiatives include the establishment of centres of excellence (to disseminate ECE best practice guidance on methane management, ECE Framework Guidelines on Energy Efficiency Standards in Buildings and United Nations Framework Classification for Resource) and the conduct of dialogues on pathways at meetings of the Committee on Sustainable Energy and its subsidiary bodies and at in-country and in-region workshops and forums. The subprogramme will also provide technical assistance, disseminate best practices, improve information-sharing and provide guidance on energy-related topics in ECE member States. These actions are expected to result in the more effective integration of sustainable energy across the 2030 Agenda, national policies and normative frameworks. In addition, the subprogramme will actively promote the participation of and collaboration among public and private sectors that are key to implementing national and regional policies. The promotion includes the engagement of stakeholders in the development of normative instruments and the activation of private and public actors in the deployment and dissemination of the instruments. The result will be enhanced dialogue and cooperation among all energy actors to boost transformational investment in the energy sector and, consequently, accelerate the modernization of the energy system to meet countries' development and climate commitments.

20.83   Past results in these areas include the extension of the United Nations Framework Classification for Resources to embrace solar, wind and anthropogenic resources and to develop a United Nations resource management system to help decision-makers to manage resources, in line with the 2030 Agenda. As a result of this work and related training activities, the European Union has decided to use the Framework Classification to manage critical raw materials, African countries have launched a Framework Classification-based resource management system throughout the continent and Central Asian and the BRICS countries (Brazil, Russian Federation, India, China and South Africa) have decided to use the Framework Classification to enhance investment prospects in their resource sectors. A further result is the ECE project, "Pathways to Sustainable Energy", which investigated alternative pathways to achieve energy for sustainable development, enhanced the understanding of ECE member States of sustainable energy policy drivers, informed a high-level policy dialogue,

raised awareness of different outcomes that could emerge over time and developed an instrument for a scenario analysis of alternative pathways to sustainable energy in the ECE region. In addition, the subprogramme organized "renewable energy hard talks" aimed at formulating concrete recommendations for policies to overcome policy, legal, regulatory and technical barriers to investment in renewable energy. As a result, Kazakhstan established its green technology centre and implemented renewable energy auctions, in line with ECE policy recommendations. Furthermore, the subprogramme developed and disseminated products in methane management in the extractive industries (best practice guidance for effective methane recovery and use from abandoned coal mines, with additional guidance on abandoned mine methane, and best practice guidance for monitoring, reporting, verifying and remediating methane emissions from the oil and gas sector). In 2018–2019, China and Poland launched two centres of excellence to disseminate the ECE guidance on methane recovery, which have undertaken extensive capacity-building in their areas of work. Lastly, in 2018–2019, the subprogramme organized two international forums on energy for sustainable development. The forums were a collaboration among the United Nations regional commissions that brought together energy experts, representatives from Governments, United Nations entities, international organizations and other stakeholders. They raised awareness of trade-offs involved in attaining energy for sustainable development, improved the capacity of countries to develop sustainable energy policies and aligned the activities of the United Nations system to support member States in achieving energy-related Sustainable Development Goals.

Programme performance in 2019, against planned result

20.84   A planned result for 2019, which is strengthened implementation of ECE recommendations/ guidelines, best practices and other normative instruments for sustainable energy development, as referred to in the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2018–2019, was achieved, as evidenced by experts trained in the application the Best Practice Guidance for Effective Methane Drainage and Use in Coal Mine Mines from an additional three countries, namely, Canada, Georgia and Germany (representing a 15 per cent increase in the number of member States). Those countries strengthened their capacity to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and the carbon footprint of the energy sector in the region.

Programme performance in 2019: reduction in greenhouse gas emissions through methane management in the extractive industries

20.85   In response to global efforts to phase out coal and close coal mines, the subprogramme is tackling the challenge of so-called "abandoned" coal mines. All underground coal mines will one day cease operations and become abandoned. If no remedial measures are taken, methane emissions from the inoperative mines will continue. Abandoned coal mines require continued attention and investment to minimize fugitive emissions of methane. The subprogramme is the only platform in the wider United Nations system that supports Member States in the management of abandoned coal mines. Through its advocacy work on methane emissions from mines, the subprogramme coordinates international efforts to tackle this climate, economic and social challenge. The Best Practice Guidance for Effective Methane Recovery and Use from Abandoned Coal Mines, prepared by ECE, provides guidance on and support for the development of post-mining projects to reduce overall emissions by optimizing the recovery and use of methane that would otherwise be released into the atmosphere. The Guidance identifies measures and technologies that prevent emissions from abandoned mines and advanced methane detection technologies that verify results achieved in real time. Recognizing the uniqueness of the subprogramme's best practices on methane, the Economic and Social Council, in its decision 2011/222, invited all actors to consider taking appropriate measures to ensure the application of the best practice guidance in countries worldwide.

20.86   The subprogramme supports the operations of two centres of excellence on methane that deal with active and abandoned coal mines. Additional centres are under consideration. The centres support capacity-building activities in United Nations Member States and serve as a platform for discussion

on the safety, environmental and economic aspects of coal mine methane and abandoned mine methane. Apart from facilitating the exchange of knowledge and experiences, hosting visits of experts, organizing professional training sessions and contributing to further development of the Best Practices Guidance for Effective Methane Drainage and Use in Coal Mines, the centres also cooperate with governments, NGOs and industry in research activities. In this context, they actively engage in gathering and compiling information on coal mine methane and abandoned mine methane management that helps Member States to reconcile environmental, social and economic priorities.

20.87   The subprogramme has organized a number of capacity-building events to disseminate previously identified best practices in methane capture and use in active mines. These events are held in various ECE member States, with participation open to a global audience. More than 200 experts from member States and mining companies were trained during three workshops held in 2019. Among them were government officials and policymakers who were provided with a tested blueprint on how to make coal mining safer and less harmful to the environment.

Progress towards the attainment of the objective, and performance measure

20.88   This work contributed to improving access to affordable and clean energy for all and to help to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and the carbon footprint of the energy sector in the region, as demonstrated by the number of countries with closed coal mines benefiting from adopting ECE best practices on abandoned mine methane management and the growth in expert networks, as shown in figure 20.X. This activity showcases how the work of ECE and its dissemination paved the way for addressing methane emissions from the coal industry along the entire life cycle, including after the cessation of extractive activities. Lastly, the capacity-building seminars and workshops on coal mine methane continue to improve the capacity of member States to prevent deadly methane-related underground accidents by creating the technical, financial and regulatory environment for capturing and utilizing methane rather than venting this pollutant to the atmosphere.

Figure 20.X
Performance measure: number of experts trained in the application of Economic Commission for Europe best practice guidelines in methane management
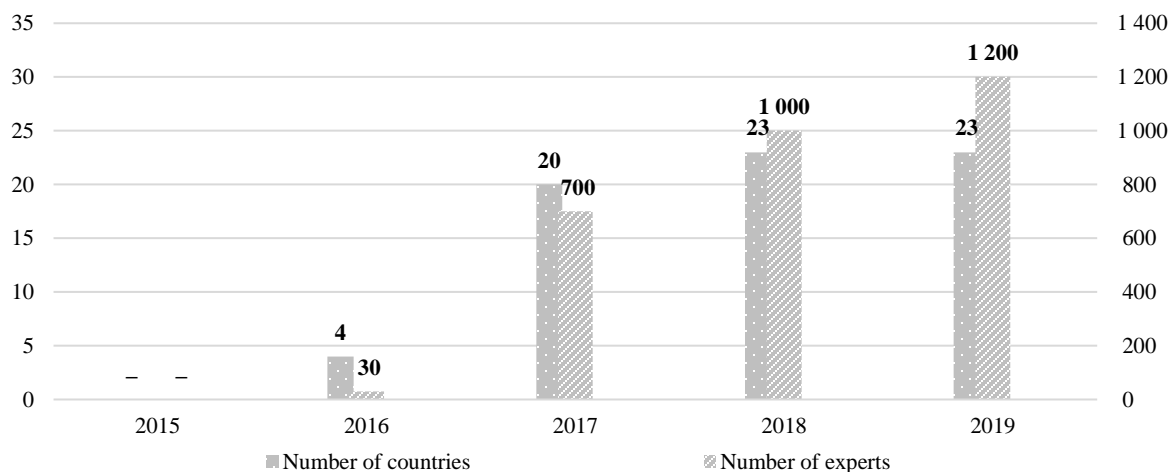
Planned results for 2021

Result 1: achieving a step change in the efficiency with which natural resources are used (result carried over from 2020)

20.89   The subprogramme will continue the work related to the sustainable management of natural resources, in line with its mandate, and will assist countries in applying the United Nations

Framework Classification for Resources and in developing a resource management system to promote the more efficient use of natural resources, in line with the 2030 Agenda, which is expected to be demonstrated by the performance measure for 2021 below. For 2020, a proxy performance measure is indicated, to reflect that the General Assembly, in its resolution 74/251, approved a programme narrative at the subprogramme level that is composed solely of the objectives.

Figure 20.XI
Performance measure: number of member States applying the United Nations Framework Classification for Resources
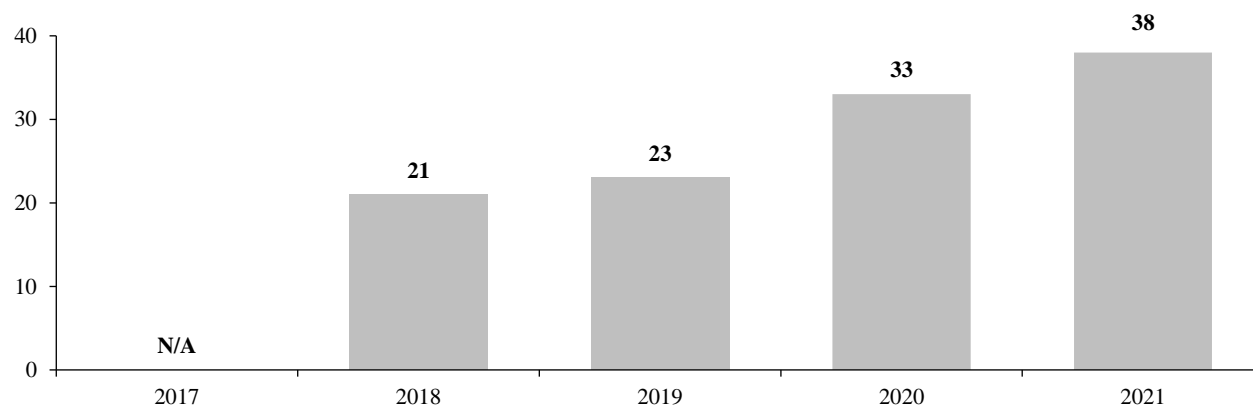
Abbreviation: N/A, not applicable.

Table 20.9
Performance measure

2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
N/A	Work on development of a resource management system initiated	Draft outline of the eventual resource management system produced	First draft of the resource management system documentation produced	Member States reviewing the pre-final draft of the resources management system documentation

Abbreviation: N/A, not applicable.

Result 2: reduced carbon footprint and improved quality of life with high-performance buildings (new result)

20.90 Buildings are central to meeting the sustainability challenge. In the developed world, buildings consume more than 70 per cent of the electric power generated and 40 per cent of primary energy and are responsible for 40 per cent of CO2 emissions from the energy services that they require. In Europe, 75 to 90 per cent of buildings will continue to be in use in 2050. Developing countries will need to accommodate 2.4 billion new urban residents by 2050. Renewable energy technology alone cannot meet these requirements, notwithstanding recent improvements in it. The energy performance of buildings benefits from good management. The capability to meet the challenge exists today.

20.91 High-performance buildings are key to achieving the objectives of the 2030 Agenda. They help to achieve many of the Sustainable Development Goals in areas that include promoting sustainable urban development by recognizing buildings as complex systems embedded in community, city and country-level energy networks; tackling poverty by reducing energy bills; accelerating the sustainable energy transition by improving the efficiency with which buildings' energy services are

provided; and supporting climate action by reducing the energy requirements of buildings to a point at which residual needs can be met by no or low-carbon energy sources.

20.92   The subprogramme has been working to support Governments, the private sector and other key stakeholders in increasing awareness of the potential for improving the energy performance of buildings through dissemination, capacity-building, demonstration and education activities. The subprogramme conducts research on energy efficiency standards and technologies in buildings in the ECE region and, in 2017, developed the Framework Guidelines for Energy Efficiency Standards in Buildings. ECE also issued a study on mapping energy efficiency standards and technologies in buildings in the ECE region in 2018 and another on the mapping of existing technologies to enhance energy efficiency in buildings in the ECE region in 2019. A compendium of best practices on standards and technologies for energy efficiency in buildings in the ECE region was finalized in 2019.

Internal challenge and response

20.93   The challenge for the subprogramme was to accelerate support for the uptake of the Framework Guidelines for Energy Efficiency Standards in Buildings among national and international actors to meet the challenge of energy for sustainable development. In response, the subprogramme will deploy the three pillars of its initiative for high-performance buildings, which is aimed at a radical reduction in the global carbon footprint of buildings and a dramatic improvement in the health and quality of life provided by buildings through:

(a)   A network of international centres of excellence that provides implementation-oriented education and assistance to building developers, contractors, architects and engineers, as well as regulatory and planning officials. The subprogramme is at the heart of the network, having established memorandums of understanding for each centre, criteria for who can become a centre and terms of reference for what the centres are expected to deliver. The subprogramme provides coordination of activities across the centres. The network will provide community-centric knowledge development and knowledge-sharing, connecting with resources and accelerating the use of high-performance buildings;

(b)   A global building network of leading universities that undertakes research and advanced education in building materials, design and construction for current and future architects, engineers, policymakers and other stakeholders. As was the case with the centres of excellence, the subprogramme provides a central coordinating role for the global building network. The network will promote sustainable high-performance buildings worldwide in support of both the Framework Guidelines and the international centres of excellence;

(c)   Case studies prepared by the subprogramme that illustrate the application of the Framework Guidelines in countries around the world to demonstrate their validity in different climates, stages of development and regulatory, legislative and physical infrastructure. The case studies will be available for reference and to support training and education activities.

Expected progress towards the attainment of the objective, and performance measure

20.94   This work is expected to contribute to improved access to affordable and clean energy for all and to reduced carbon footprint of the energy sector, which would be demonstrated by the increased network and support mechanisms at national and regional levels. By 2021, the subprogramme expects to have expanded the number of centres of excellence to seven, with corresponding activities under their terms of reference, to have 40 local authorities in 10 ECE countries whose building codes are aligned with the Framework Guidelines for Energy Efficiency Standards in Buildings and to have put in place mechanisms and indicators to establish baselines for tracking progress on energy and carbon efficiency. The subprogramme expects to have 10 universities collaborating globally within the Global Building Network and 100 case studies on the application of the Framework Guidelines developed. The networks have begun in North America and Western Europe but will expand quickly to include South-Eastern Europe and the Caucasus. ECE will work collaboratively with other United Nations regional commissions to further extend these networks. Through the actions of these networks, beneficiaries will improve building energy performance, reduce greenhouse gas emissions

and improve indoor air quality, and transform the global supply chain for the construction business in order to enhance "carbon storage" and reduce the embedded carbon of building materials.

Table 20.10
Performance measure

2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Development of vision, framework and forward plan for the centres of excellence	Discussions with candidate hosts of the centres of excellence advanced; 1 centre established	Commitments approved by the hosts of the centres of excellence; 3 centres established	Negotiations and agreement with countries/contact with institutions; 5 centres of excellence established	7 centres of excellence created

Legislative mandates

20.95   The list below provides all mandates entrusted to the subprogramme.

General Assembly resolutions

69/225	Promotion of new and renewable sources of energy	72/224	Ensuring access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all
70/213	Science, technology and innovation for development		

Economic and Social Council decisions

1997/226	United Nations International Framework Classification for Energy Reserves/Resources: Solid Fuels and Mineral Commodities	2011/222	Best Practice Guidance for Effective Methane Drainage and Use in Coal Mines
2004/233	United Nations Framework Classification for Fossil Energy and Mineral Resources		

Deliverables

20.96   Table 20.11 lists all deliverables, by category and subcategory, for the period 2019–2021 that contributed and are expected to contribute to the attainment of the objective stated above.

Table 20.11
Subprogramme 5: deliverables for the period 2019–2021, by category and subcategory

Category and subcategory	2019 planned	2019 actual	2020 planned	2021 planned
A. Facilitation of the intergovernmental process and expert bodies				
Parliamentary documentation (number of documents)	**60**	**60**	**60**	**60**
1. Documentation for the Committee on Sustainable Energy and related subsidiary bodies	60	60	60	60
Substantive services for meetings (number of three-hour meetings)	**38**	**38**	**38**	**40**
2. Meetings of the Committee on Sustainable Energy, its Bureau and related subsidiary bodies	38	38	38	40

Category and subcategory	2019 planned	2019 actual	2020 planned	2021 planned
B. Generation and transfer of knowledge				
Field and technical cooperation projects (number of projects)	**6**	**7**	**6**	**4**
3. Project on pathways to sustainable energy	1	1	1	1
4. Project on global tracking framework	–	–	1	–
5. Project on energy efficiency in buildings	1	1	1	1
6. Project on the application of the United Nations Framework Classification for Resources in Central Asia	1	1	–	–
7. Project on the United Nations resource management system	–	–	1	1
8. Projects on methane management	2	3	2	1
9. Project on transboundary cooperation on renewable energy	1	1	–	–
Seminars, workshops and training events (number of days)	**10**	**13**	**10**	**10**
10. Workshops for experts and government officials on the application of United Nations Framework Classification for Resources	2	5	2	2
11. Capacity-building seminars on energy efficiency measures, accelerators and standards	2	2	2	2
12. International capacity-building seminars on renewable energy development and policy reforms for climate change mitigation	2	2	2	2
13. International Forum on Energy for Sustainable Development	4	4	4	4
Publications (number of publications)	**10**	**10**	**2**	**2**
14. Publications on the best practice guidelines, case studies and other publications related to sustainable energy	10	10	2	2

C. Substantive deliverables

Consultation, advice and advocacy: advisory services for government officials and other stakeholders of countries of the ECE region on pathways to sustainable energy and national action plans related to the subprogramme's programme of work (4).

D. Communication deliverables

Outreach programmes, special events and information materials: booklets on sustainable energy and related topics (6).

External and media relations: press releases, key note speeches and articles (10).

Digital platforms and multimedia content: update and maintenance of subprogramme's website (1).

Subprogramme 6
Trade

Objective

20.97   The objective, to which this subprogramme contributes, is to strengthen trade facilitation and electronic business, regulatory cooperation and standardization policies, agricultural quality standards and trade-related economic cooperation in the ECE region and beyond.

Strategy

20.98   The strategy of the subprogramme is based on the implementation of the following core interlinked functions: (a) international policy dialogue on reducing regulatory and procedural barriers to trade that hamper market access, including those caused by cumbersome procedures and substantial paperwork; differences in trade procedures, standards and documents; and divergent regulatory approaches and product standards; (b) normative work to develop standards and recommendations in the areas of trade facilitation and e-business, agricultural quality standards and regulatory

cooperation; and (c) capacity-building and the sharing of best practices and lessons learned in all areas of work. Through its work, the subprogramme will contribute to the ECE nexuses on sustainable mobility and smart connectivity, the sustainable use of natural resources and sustainable and smart cities for all ages.

20.99 To contribute to the strengthening of trade facilitation and electronic business in the ECE region and beyond, the subprogramme will continue to promote simple, transparent and effective processes for global commerce. The subprogramme will also continue its normative work to develop standards and recommendations in the areas of trade facilitation and electronic business and facilitate international policy dialogue on establishing paperless trading environments and ensuring compliance with the requirements of the multilateral trading system, and dissemination of the instruments such as standards, recommendations and guidelines. The subprogramme will also integrate sustainable value chain initiatives and enhance recycling approaches and initiatives, minimizing waste and maximizing the use of natural resources using instruments and lessons learned from extrabudgetary projects, and this action is expected to result in the increased transparency and traceability of the value chains. All of the above contribute to achieving Sustainable Development Goals 8, 12 and 17. For example, improving trade facilitation leads to greater productivity (Goal 8) and increasing transparency in value chains promotes sustainable consumption and production patterns (Goal 12). In effect, these efforts help to facilitate trade as a means for achieving Goal 17 (strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development). Past results in this area include the fact that many countries in the ECE region, such as North Macedonia, Ukraine and the States members of the Eurasian Economic Union, have been implementing United Nations Centre for Trade Facilitation and Electronic Business standards to digitalize and automate trade procedures and thereby cutting red tape for export-import procedures. The implementation of such standards provides a common framework that allows data to be shared and reused across applications, enterprises and community boundaries, which will lead to the harmonized exchange of trade-related information between countries. The countries in the ECE region have begun to use these standards for assessing potential use cases for improving regulatory and commercial processes.

20.100 To contribute to the strengthening of regulatory cooperation and standardization policies in the ECE region and beyond, the subprogramme will continue to promote a predictable and harmonized regulatory environment through strengthening regulatory cooperation and promoting standards and best practices in regulatory frameworks, risk management, conformity assessment and market surveillance. This action is expected to result in greater uptake of international standards by countries, in order to enable the implementation of internationally harmonized regulatory processes. The subprogramme will also continue to disseminate gender-responsive standards, thus contributing to achieving gender equality and Sustainable Development Goal 5. Past results in this area include a strengthened policy dialogue leading, for example, to the development of a new common regulatory framework for the cybersecurity sector, which recommends the use of international standards and requires a determination of the type and level of conformity assessment that should be used to ensure that the requirements are met. In addition, in 2018, the Working Party on Regulatory Cooperation and Standardization Policy adopted two new recommendations on "standards and regulations for sustainable development" and on "gender-responsive standards", the latter incorporating the Declaration on Gender Responsive Standards and Standards Development, which had been signed by 56 international, regional and national standardization bodies as of January 2020, including from 22 countries beyond the ECE region. The adoption of standards-based regulatory approaches is a key component for the reduction in technical barriers to trade, but policymakers may not be leveraging the utilization of the standards in full, in particular for sustainable development. To tackle this challenge, in addition to organizing capacity-building and awareness-raising events, the Working Party developed a portal on "standards for the Sustainable Development Goals", which helps policymakers to identify voluntary standards and presents them according to the relevant Goals and their targets.

20.101 To contribute to the strengthening of agricultural quality standards in the ECE region and beyond, being mindful of 1.6 billion tonnes of food lost or wasted while more than 800 million people suffer

from hunger worldwide, the subprogramme will continue to promote up-to-date agricultural quality standards and explanatory guidelines through its normative work to develop standards and recommendations in these areas. The subprogramme will also continue to address food loss and waste, thus contributing to Sustainable Development Goals 12 (ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns, in particular target 12.3, to reduce food loss and waste by half by 2030) and 15 (protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss). The work on food loss and waste is expected to result in the availability of more food in supply chains by reducing wastage. Past results in this area include the adoption by member States of action plans and strategies and the development of more holistic approaches to tackle food loss and waste. These results are based on continued policy dialogue and the development by ECE of new prevention awareness-raising and training strategies based on unique guidance material during 2018–2019. It is also the result of the design of an ECE digital smart food loss and waste management system that began in 2019. This system was designed to help to prevent losses on the supply side of agricultural trade and to empower all stakeholders to effectively use available resources and distribute discarded produce through digital platforms.

20.102 To contribute to the strengthening of trade-related economic cooperation in the ECE region and beyond, the subprogramme will continue to develop its analytical evidence-based studies to identify regulatory and procedural barriers to trade and assist Governments in setting action-oriented recommendations for implementing the above-mentioned instruments, which is expected to result in more uptake of "trade as means of implementation", as envisaged under Sustainable Development Goal 17 (strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development). Past results in this area include action-oriented recommendations for removing regulatory and procedural barriers to trade in Armenia and Georgia, mapped against Goals 7 (ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all), 16 (promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels) and 17 and related targets to which they directly contribute. The recommendations were adopted by the Governments of Armenia and Georgia as a way to orient trade to serve as a means of implementing the 2030 Agenda. Follow-up activities involved the development of a joint ECE-UNCTAD policy paper to ensure the full and complete capitalization of growth opportunities offered by ports in Georgia, in line with the recommendations emerging from the study.

Programme performance in 2019, against planned result

20.103 A planned result for 2019, which is increased consensus on and strengthened implementation of ECE recommendations, norms, standards, guidelines and tools for trade facilitation and electronic business, as referred to in the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2018–2019, was achieved, as evidenced by 22 new or revised recommendations, norms, standards and tools for trade facilitation and electronic business adopted by the United Nations Centre for Trade Facilitation and Electronic Business. In addition, 25 new or revised recommendations and standards on agricultural produce and 2 recommendations and guidelines for regulatory cooperation were adopted. Furthermore, four new measures were introduced by member States to implement ECE trade recommendations, norms, standards, guidelines and tools, as a follow-up to ECE studies on regulatory and procedural barriers to trade.

Programme performance in 2019: increased consensus on gender-responsive standards

20.104 In one of the areas of its work, the subprogramme implemented activities that increased the participation of women in economic decision-making, including in the development of standards. Standards not only define the language the technologies of the world that we live in today, but also form the basis of the transformational changes required to achieve the Sustainable Development

Goals, in particular target 5.5 on ensuring "women's full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of decision-making in political, economic and public life".

20.105   The preliminary analysis of the subprogramme in 2016 revealed that only an estimated 10 per cent of experts involved in the development and implementation of standards were women. Methodologies for assessing whether a standard contributes to or undermines women's empowerment are yet to be developed. Most standards bodies lack a policy for mainstreaming gender into their activities and into the management of their organizations, as well as for disaggregating data on participation on the basis of gender.

20.106   Therefore, a task force under the Working Party on Regulatory Cooperation and Standardization Policies, with the participation of standardization bodies, that is, institutions that propose, develop, monitor or coordinate standards in any sector, regulatory authorities, academia and NGOs, as well as business, drafted the Declaration for Gender Responsive Standards and Standards Development. Enshrined in recommendation U of the subprogramme, it was unanimously approved by ECE member States in 2019. The results of that work were further bolstered by an awareness-raising campaign to all standards-setting bodies globally. Through the Declaration, standards-setting bodies pledged to create and implement gender action plans. Among others, the national standards body of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, BSI, created a diversity and inclusivity action plan that sets numerical targets and measures of success. Likewise, the Standards Council of Canada approved a gender action plan, as did CEN/CENELEC and the International Organization for Standardization. A number of bodies reported on actual measures that they had undertaken, such as involving organizations representing vulnerable women in the development of standards, developing a standard to tackle the gender pay gap and the inclusion of a gender lens in standards related to agricultural machinery and protective professional equipment.

20.107   In addition, the subprogramme provided an evidence-based framework for ascertaining the impediments to increasing the participation of women-owned enterprises in trade as part of a recent study produced by the subprogramme on regulatory and procedural barriers to trade in Armenia. The recommendations contained in the study, which were adopted by the Government, serve as an example for greater uptake by countries to use trade as a means of implementation. One example includes targeted efforts to increase outreach to women-owned enterprises through clustering and networking programmes.

20.108   Furthermore, results from the United Nations Global Survey on Digital and Sustainable Trade Facilitation conducted by all United Nations regional commissions show that the average implementation rate increased from approximately 10 per cent in 2017 to 32 per cent in 2019 globally for a specific policy action related to trade facilitation measures aimed at women traders.[3] This means, in general, that countries are taking more action to make trade facilitation services more accessible.

Progress towards the attainment of the objective, and performance measure

20.109   This work contributed to strengthened regulatory cooperation and standardization policies in the ECE region and beyond, as demonstrated by the signature in September 2019 of the Declaration for Gender Responsive Standards and Standards Development by 55 international, regional and national standardization bodies, of which 21 are from ECE member States.

20.110   This will have a direct impact on and increase the participation of women in the setting of standards and the representation of their interests in the standards themselves. For example, Sweden committed to gender responsive standards in its newly adopted "feminist trade policy", aimed at integrating gender-responsive standards, in 2019. This includes a commitment to integrating a gender perspective into international standards development.

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[3] See www.untfsurvey.org.

Table 20.12
Performance measure

2015	*2016*	*2017*	*2018*	*2019*
Working Party on Regulatory Cooperation and Standardization Policies agrees to initiate work to further contribute to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals	Member States agree to give a mandate to the Bureau of the Working Party and the ECE secretariat to initiate consultations on developing a road map and a recommendation on mainstreaming gender into standards	Working Party recommends further development of the proposed draft "pledge for action" (as the declaration was referred to at that time)	Working Party adopts the Declaration for Gender Responsive Standards and Standards Development and decides to include it in ECE recommendation U	Declaration is signed by 55 international, regional and national standardization bodies as of September 2019

Planned results for 2021

Result 1: enhancing trade efficiency in Central Asia (result carried over from 2020)

20.111   The subprogramme will continue the work related to trade facilitation and electronic business, in line with its mandate, and will, as part of its broader mandate to support ECE member States, assist Central Asian countries in implementing recommendations that are conducive to increased connectivity to markets and reduced barriers to trade, which is expected to be demonstrated by the performance measure for 2021 below. In 2021, the Central Asian member States will integrate or adopt two additional standards and tools for trade facilitation and electronic business. For 2020, a proxy performance measure is indicated, to reflect that the General Assembly, in its resolution 74/251, approved a programme narrative at the subprogramme level that is composed solely of the objectives.

Figure 20.XII
Performance measure: average trade facilitation implementation rate of Central Asian States members of the Economic Commission for Europe

(Percentage)
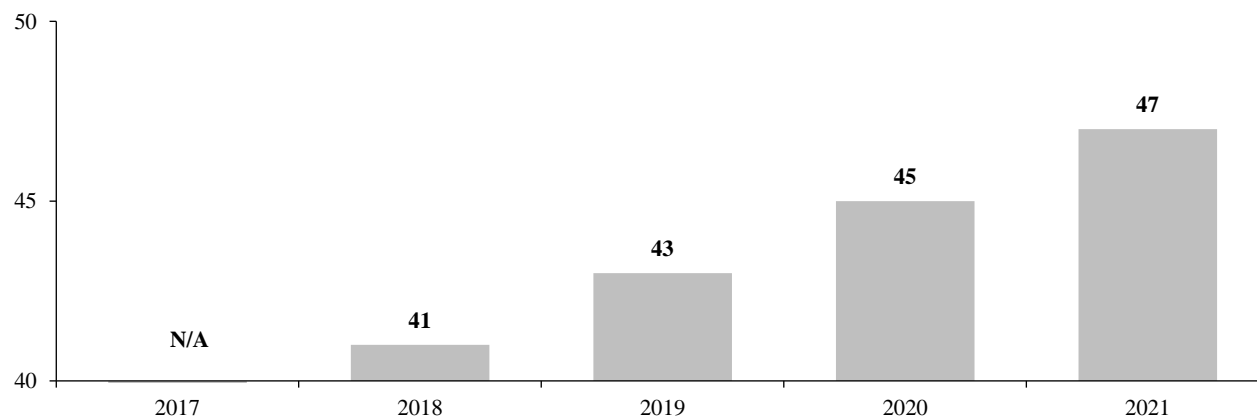
Abbreviation: N/A, not applicable.

Result 2: Improved traceability in the garment sector (new result)

20.112   The subprogramme has been working on traceability for the agri-food and fishery value chains since 2016. In 2019, the subprogramme expanded its work to cover traceability for due diligence in the garment and footwear industry. The garment and footwear industry generate $3 trillion in annual revenue, produces 80 billion garment pieces annually and employs more than 60 million workers globally. Its value chain is both global and complex, with production facilities across the globe. At the same time, its environmental, social and health risks are well documented, while there are no global framework and tools for ensuring the transparency and traceability of products, operations and their impact. As one of its focus areas, the subprogramme is developing a transparency and traceability system through the development of policy recommendations, standards, implementation guidelines and the conduct of pilot projects in the industry.

Internal challenge and response

20.113   The challenge for the subprogramme was to identify appropriate ways to develop a framework to address complex challenges in traceability and transparency for the garment and footwear industry, building on the previous ECE work on traceability for the agri-food and fishery value chains. The garment and footwear industry is extremely labour and resource-intensive, with complex and fragmented global value chains and markets served primarily by developing countries. According to a recent ECE study, key actors in the industry have identified traceability and transparency as crucial enablers of more responsible production and consumption patterns, and a core priority for immediate action. In response, the subprogramme will develop a sectoral framework for traceability and transparency of the value chain based on global standards, which is interoperable and scalable. It would allow for an effective connection between producers and firms, brands and retailers, and provide a rigorous way of collecting and exchanging information related to operations and products along the entire value chain. The contexts in developing countries are heterogenous, and the market dynamics of the global value chains may be affected by other factors that are not within the scope of the subprogramme to address (e.g., specific environmental or social risks). However, the subprogramme will have the option of customizing the transparency and traceability system on the basis of such local contexts. A network of experts will also be mobilized to address the specific challenges.

Expected progress towards the attainment of the objective, and performance measure

20.114   This work is expected to contribute to strengthened trade facilitation and electronic business, which would be demonstrated by implementation of the transparency and traceability system in at least three countries, resulting in the enhanced capacity of countries and companies to take risk-informed decisions and operate along a set of internationally agreed practices that increase the traceability and transparency of value chains, vis-à-vis all actors, including workers and final consumers. This, in turn, is expected to enhance the transparency and traceability of the garment value chain, as part of efforts to improve due diligence by industry players. In addition, it is also expected to result in the improved connectivity and enhanced capacity of retailers, brands and manufacturers along the value chain to source more sustainably. ECE is best placed to carry out this work because of its significant experience in developing electronic business standards, which support greater transparency and interoperability. Most of these standards are considered best practices and adopted globally.

Table 20.13
Performance measure

2017	*2018*	*2019*	*2020*	*2021*
Launch of the discussion by ECE/ United Nations/United Nations Centre for Trade Facilitation and Electronic Business experts on the need for improved transparency and traceability in the garment supply chains	European Union, International Labour Organization, International Trade Centre and ECE agreed to develop transparency and traceability system for sustainable supply chains	Development of the transparency and traceability system by ECE/United Nations/United Nations Centre for Trade Facilitation and Electronic Business experts and partners	Piloting of the transparency and traceability system in multiple countries and businesses	Implementation of the transparency and traceability system by three countries

Legislative mandates

20.115   The list below provides all mandates entrusted to the subprogramme.

General Assembly resolutions

69/137	Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries for the Decade 2014–2024	71/239	Follow-up to the second United Nations Conference on Landlocked Developing Countries
69/213	Role of transport and transit corridors in ensuring international cooperation for sustainable development	71/242	Industrial development cooperation
		73/253	Agriculture development, food security and nutrition
70/217	Follow-up to the second United Nations Conference on Landlocked Developing Countries		

Economic and Social Council resolution

1991/76	Promotion of interregional cooperation in the area of international trade facilitation

Economic and Social Council decision

1997/225	Economic Commission for Europe Recommendation 25, entitled "Use of the UN/EDIFACT Standard"

Deliverables

20.116   Table 20.14 lists all deliverables, by category and subcategory, for the period 2019–2021 that contributed and are expected to contribute to the attainment of the objective stated above.

Table 20.14

Subprogramme 6: deliverables for the period 2019–2021, by category and subcategory

Category and subcategory	2019 planned	2019 actual	2020 planned	2021 planned
A. Facilitation of the intergovernmental process and expert bodies				
Parliamentary documentation (number of documents)	**110**	**106**	**110**	**110**
1. Documentation for the Steering Committee on Trade Capacity and Standards	13	12	13	13
2. Documentation for the Working Party on Regulatory Cooperation and Standardization Policies	13	13	13	13
3. Documentation for the Working Party on Agricultural Quality Standards	60	55	60	60
4. Documentation for the United Nations Centre for Trade Facilitation and Electronic Business	24	26	24	24
Substantive services for meetings (number of three-hour meetings)	**89**	**88**	**91**	**91**
5. Meetings of the Steering Committee on Trade Capacity and Standards and its Bureau	7	6	7	7
6. Meetings of Working Party on Regulatory Cooperation and Standardization Policies	5	5	5	5
7. Meetings of Working Party on Agricultural Quality Standards and its specialized sections	29	21	26	26
8. Meetings of the United Nations Centre for Trade Facilitation and Electronic Business	48	56	53	53
B. Generation and transfer of knowledge				
Field and technical cooperation projects (number of projects)	**4**	**5**	**4**	**4**
9. Projects on trade facilitation	3	4	3	3
10. Project on food loss and agriculture	1	1	1	1
Seminars, workshops and training events (number of days)	**15**	**16**	**18**	**18**
11. Seminars for standardization and inspection agencies and other stakeholders in transition economies and developing countries in the ECE region or beyond on ECE agricultural quality standards	6	6	6	6
12. Seminars for policymakers and experts in transition economies and developing countries in the ECE region or beyond on support for the implementation of trade-related standards, recommendations and guidelines	9	9	9	9
13. Workshops for policymakers and experts in low- and middle-income countries in the ECE region on trade procedures, supply chain management, conformity assessment and market surveillance and women's entrepreneurship	–	1	3	3
Publications (number of publications)	**9**	**9**	**7**	**10**
14. Publication on the summary of ECE trade facilitation best practice and recommendations	1	1	1	1
15. Publications on the guides on trade standards in the following areas: traceability and risk management; e-business; education; and sustainable development	3	3	2	1
16. Publications on the trade facilitation recommendations, standards and strategies to support policymakers	2	2	2	5
17. Publication on agricultural trade and supply chains	1	1	1	1
18. Publication on the regulatory and procedural barriers to trade in a country to be decided	1	1	1	1
19. Publication on risk-based inspections and disaster and sustainable development	1	1	–	1
Technical materials (number of materials)	**8**	**10**	**8**	**8**
20. Standards and guidelines on agricultural quality	5	5	4	4

Category and subcategory	2019 planned	2019 actual	2020 planned	2021 planned
21. Training material on trade facilitation and electronic business	1	1	1	1
22. Material on trade standards	2	4	2	2
23. Guidelines on cross-border trade	–	–	1	1

C. Substantive deliverables

Consultation, advice and advocacy: advisory services to government officials and other stakeholders in ECE member States on trade facilitation and electronic business, agricultural quality standards, regulatory cooperation and standardization and regulatory and procedural barriers to trade (4).

Fact-finding, monitoring and investigating missions: fact-finding missions in ECE member States on trade facilitation and electronic business, agricultural quality standards, regulatory cooperation and standardization and regulatory and procedural barriers to trade (4).

D. Communication deliverables

Outreach programmes, special events and information materials: booklets, fact sheets and information brochures (3).

External and media relations: annual set of press releases for the subprogramme (1).

Digital platforms and multimedia content: update and maintenance of the website and databases of the subprogramme (10).

Subprogramme 7[4]
Forests and the forest industry

Objective

20.117   The objective, to which this subprogramme contributes, is to strengthen the sustainable management of forests and enhance the contribution of forests and forest products to sustainable development in the ECE region.

Strategy

20.118   The strategy of the subprogramme is based on the implementation of the core interlinked functions, namely, analytical and normative work, international policy dialogue, capacity-building and communication. Through its work, the subprogramme will contribute to the ECE nexus area on the sustainable use of natural resources. As part of its implementation strategy, the subprogramme will carry out its work in partnership with FAO and other relevant organizations and processes (e.g., International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), World Agroforestry and Forest Europe).

20.119   To contribute to the strengthening of the sustainable management of forests and enhancing the contribution of forests and forest products to sustainable development in the ECE region, the subprogramme will continue to assist and promote cooperation with member States, regional entities and other partners for sustainable forest management, forest landscape restoration and the sustainable use of forest products. The subprogramme will also be collecting, validating and disseminating information and results of research and analysis related to sustainable forest management and the sustainable production and consumption of wood products. The subprogramme will further facilitate the exchange of national experiences and best practices and monitor progress on achieving sustainable forest management using key forest sector indicators. This work is expected to result in restored ecosystems, forest goods and services to benefit society and other aspects of managing forest resources in a sustainable and integrated way. The subprogramme will support member States in making progress in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, notably Goals 12 (responsible consumption and production) and 15 (life on land), as well as in implementing the United Nations strategic plan for forests 2017–2030 (General Assembly resolution 71/285).

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[4] The Economic Commission for Europe decided to change the name of subprogramme 7 from "Forestry and timber" to "Forests and the forest industry". See E/2019/15/Add.2 Decision G (68).

20.120   Past results in these areas include the organization of a ministerial round table on forest landscape restoration and the Bonn Challenge[5] in the Caucasus and Central Asia, held in Astana (now Nur-Sultan) on 21 and 22 June 2018. The ECE secretariat prepared a study on restoration and afforestation opportunities that was shared with and discussed among forest stakeholders at the gathering. Following the ministerial round table, ECE, together with FAO, IUCN, the World Resources Institute and the World Bank, launched the ECCA30 initiative in September 2019 which is intended to restore 30 million ha of degraded and deforested land in Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia by 2030. As a result, the capacity of member States to provide statistical data on sustainable forest management and the sustainable production and consumption of wood products in the Corporate Database for Substantive Statistical Data database was significantly increased. Fifty per cent of the datapoints in this database are provided by ECE member States. Owing to cooperation between ECE and FAO, the coverage of the ECE member States reporting on indicators of sustainable forest management increased significantly in 2019, compared with the planned value.

Programme performance in 2019 against planned result

20.121   A planned result for 2019, which is improved monitoring and assessment of the forest sector to support sustainable forest management, as referred to in the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2018–2019, was achieved, as evidenced by an increased percentage of ECE member States that are able to provide satisfactory data on qualitative and quantitative indicators of sustainable forest management. The planned performance measures – 71 per cent of ECE member States for qualitative indicators and 75 per cent of them for quantitative indicators – were both surpassed significantly, with 89 per cent of ECE member States providing satisfactory data on qualitative and quantitative indicators of sustainable forest management in 2019 for the 2020 reporting cycle. With the planned result, the subprogramme contributed to the achievement of global forest goal 1 (Reverse the loss of forest cover worldwide through sustainable forest management, including protection, restoration, afforestation and reforestation, and increase efforts to prevent forest degradation and contribute to the global effort of addressing climate change) of the United Nations strategic plan for forests 2017–2030, and Sustainable Development Goal 15.

Programme performance in 2019: strengthened capacity on forest monitoring in the Caucasus and Central Asia

20.122   Forest and other wooded land area of the eight countries of the Caucasus and Central Asia exceeds 30 million ha, which is less than 6 per cent of land area, much lower than the global average (30.6 per cent). For that reason and considering that the Caucasus and Central Asia are two subregions with a harsh climate and fragile ecosystems, forests constitute a precious component of the ecosystems and are essential for the people and economy of the subregions. Forests are vital in combating erosion and desertification, host a rich biodiversity and provide livelihoods for the rural population, who have few other sources of revenue. Forests also serve as important sources of wood for energy. Until now, however, there have been little data and information available to the national and international community regarding the state of forests and their management in both subregions.

20.123   In this context, the subprogramme undertook a series of comprehensive activities to assist countries of this region. In 2019, the subprogramme focused on capacity-building for the forest sector in the Caucasus and Central Asia, which included three main components: (a) monitoring forests; (b) reporting the state of the forests; and (c) promoting forest landscape restoration. To strengthen its capacity-building work, the subprogramme supported officially designated national correspondents from each member State in their work on compiling data submission for the Global Forest Resources Assessment and closely worked with ministries and experts in the Caucasus and Central Asia for an in-depth study on forest resources, threats facing forests, policies and institutions. The study, titled *State of Forests of the Caucasus and Central Asia* and published in 2019, is the first regional overview of the forest sector in the countries of the region since their independence in the

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[5] An international effort to restore 350 million ha of the world's deforested and degraded lands by 2030.

1990s. The study provides findings on the status and trends in forest resources and on forest policies and institutions, serves as a basis for comprehensive policymaking (which considers the specificity of services provided by forests and related funding), improves the visibility of the region's forests and strengthens countries' potential in mobilizing funding and technical support.

20.124   With the support of a United Nations Development Account project, titled "Accountability systems for sustainable forest management in the Caucasus and Central Asia", capacity to develop monitoring systems for sustainable forest management was built in Armenia, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan. The focus of the project was to develop national-level criteria and indicator sets that were to serve as a backbone of forest monitoring systems. In this regard, the subprogramme organized participatory stakeholder processes with 277 staff from national authorities, academia and NGOs, who were provided with relevant skills and knowledge on the monitoring of forests and their sustainable management. The established criteria covered many aspects of forests, including forest area, the carbon cycle, forest health, biodiversity, employment in the forest sector, education and protective functions, such as erosion control or prevention of desertification. This allowed countries to monitor progress towards achieving their forest policy targets, make evidence-based decisions and communicate progress and achievements in sustainable forest management.

20.125   By providing a platform for countries of the region to showcase their political commitment towards an increase in forest area and the restoration of forest landscapes, the subprogramme enabled an additional pledge towards the Bonn Challenge. The work of the subprogramme also contributed to the achievement of targets 15.1, 15.2 and 15.3 of the Sustainable Development Goals and global forest goal 1 of the United Nations strategic plan for forests 2017–2030.

Progress towards the attainment of the objective, and performance measure

20.126   This work contributed to the strengthening of the sustainable management of forests and the contribution of forests and forest products to sustainable development in the ECE region, as demonstrated by the development of national criteria and indicator sets for sustainable forest management. Four of five target countries finalized sets (Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan). The fifth target country, Armenia, plans to finalize theirs by 2020. The project contributed to an increase in the share of countries in the Caucasus and Central Asia with criteria and indicator sets from 13 per cent in 2015 to 50 per cent in 2019.

Figure 20.XIII
Performance measure: countries in Central Asia and the Caucasus with national criteria and indicator sets and reporting to the Global Forest Resources Assessment
(Percentage)

■ Share of countries with criteria and indicator sets

▨ Percentage of countries reporting to the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
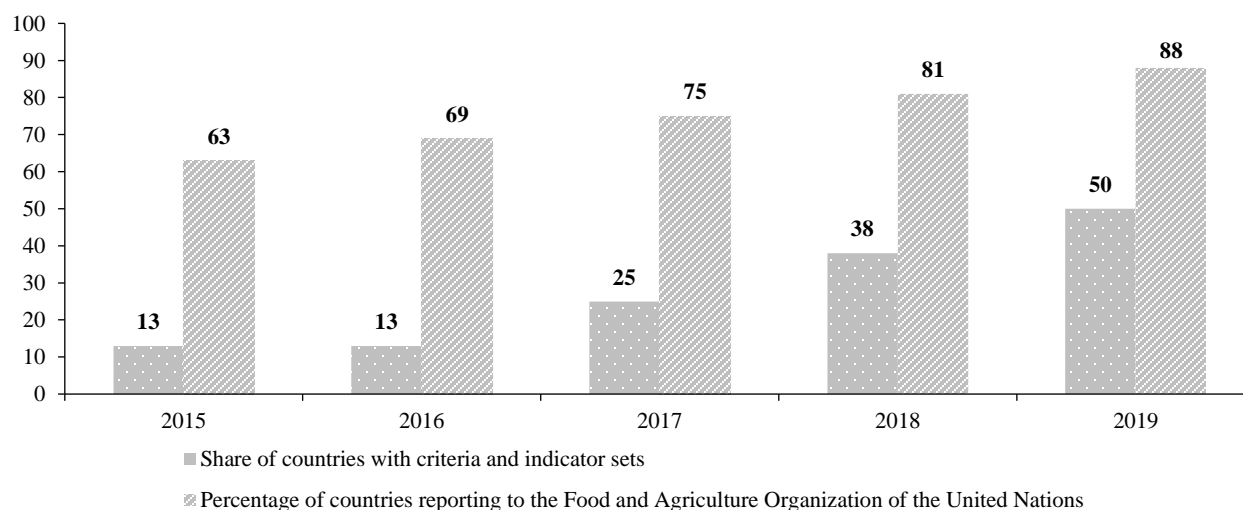
Planned results for 2021

Result 1: are we there yet? Measuring sustainable forest management under Sustainable Development Goal 15 (result carried over from 2020)

20.127 The subprogramme will continue the work related to the measurement of reporting under Sustainable Development Goal 15, in line with its mandate, and will assist countries in reporting on sustainable forest management targets, which is expected to be demonstrated by the performance measure for 2021 below. For 2020, a proxy performance measure is indicated, to reflect that the General Assembly, in its resolution 74/251, approved a programme narrative at the subprogramme level that is composed solely of the objectives.

Figure 20.XIV
Performance measure: number of Economic Commission for Europe member States that report data on targets 15.1 and 15.2 of the Sustainable Development Goals
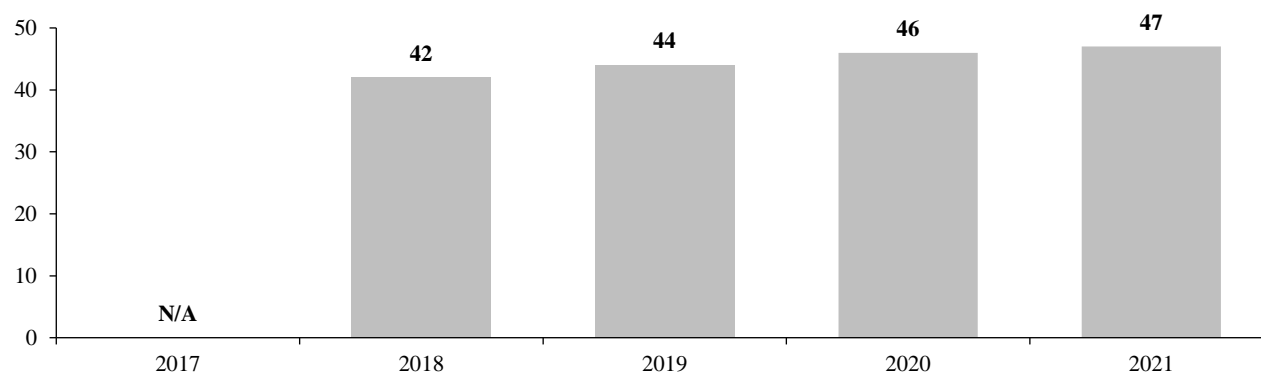
Abbreviation: N/A, not applicable.

Result 2: strengthening capacity and political commitment for ecosystem restoration in Eastern and South-Eastern Europe (new result)

20.128 The subprogramme has been actively involved in raising awareness of the Bonn Challenge among ECE member States working since 2018 with countries in the Caucasus and Central Asia to support Governments in determining potential areas for landscape restoration and to increase the political commitment to restore degraded lands under the Bonn Challenge. In line with General Assembly resolution 73/284, in which the Assembly declared 2021–2030 the United Nations Decade on Ecosystem Restoration, the subprogramme builds on this momentum to increase the country commitments on forest landscape restoration to work to support countries in Eastern and South-Eastern Europe in aligning their efforts on ecosystem restoration with international initiatives. The subprogramme plans to expand ECCA30, allowing for regional cooperation and the joining of forces for forest landscape restoration, in line with the Bonn Challenge. The ECCA30 initiative will bundle all pledges towards ecosystem restoration in Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia and targets to realize the commitments made by countries to restore 30 million ha of degraded land by 2030. The subprogramme will be working closely with ministries and stakeholders responsible for ecosystems, specifically for forest restoration, to mobilize funds and increase capacities for restoration.

Internal challenge and response

20.129 The challenge for the subprogramme was to build partnerships with international organizations that have extensive experience and expertise in the area of ecosystem restoration, to better support member States in Eastern and South-Eastern Europe, build their capacity and increase the awareness of ecosystem restoration. The political development and commitment made by member States preceding the adoption of General Assembly resolution 73/284 helped the subprogramme to identify

this topic as a major opportunity for Eastern and South-Eastern Europe to strengthen their capacities in ecosystem restoration from the forest perspective. In response, in order to improve communication, the subprogramme developed strong partnerships with organizations that have extensive experience and expertise in this area (IUCN, the United Nations Forum on Forests and the secretariat of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification) and involved United Nations resident coordinators in the target countries. Furthermore, the subprogramme worked closely with member States to define which capacities were required. The subprogramme also reached out to member States that are more advanced in ecosystem restoration to support countries in Eastern and South-Eastern Europe in analysing their restoration potential and to build capacities for monitoring landscape restoration and degradation at the national level and for reporting on the Sustainable Development Goals.

Expected progress towards the attainment of the objective, and performance measure

20.130   This work is expected to contribute to the strengthening of the sustainable management of forests and enhance the contribution of forests and forest products to sustainable development in the ECE region, which would be demonstrated by national commitments made towards ecosystem restoration, increasing the total area for the Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia region committed under the Bonn Challenge from 7 million ha in 2020 to at least 10 million ha in 2021. National or regional restoration commitments are announced at a high-level meeting and formalized with a letter of the Government to the Bonn Challenge secretariat, which is hosted by IUCN.

Figure 20.XV
Performance measure: commitments to ECCA30
(Millions of hectares)
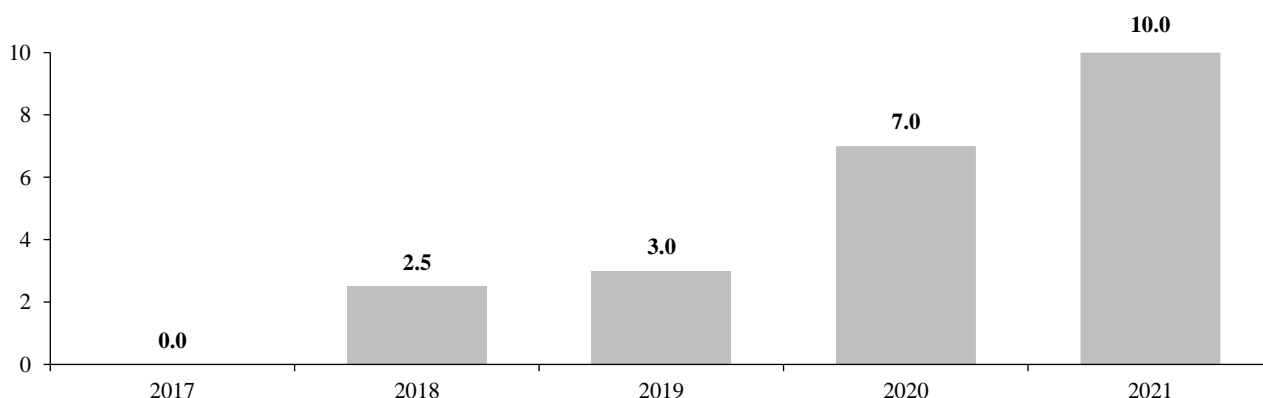
Legislative mandates

20.131   The list below provides all mandates entrusted to the subprogramme.

General Assembly resolutions

62/98	Non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests	71/286	United Nations forest instrument
67/200	International Day of Forests	73/284	United Nations Decade on Ecosystem Restoration (2021–2030)
71/285	United Nations strategic plan for forests 2017–2030		

Economic and Social Council resolutions

2007/40	Non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests	2017/4	United Nations strategic plan for forests 2017–2030 and quadrennial programme of work of the United Nations Forum on Forests for the period 2017–2020
2015/33	International arrangement on forests beyond 2015		

Deliverables

20.132   Table 20.15 lists all deliverables, by category and subcategory, for the period 2019–2021 that contributed and are expected to contribute to the attainment of the objective stated above.

Table 20.15
Subprogramme 7: deliverables for the period 2019-2021, by category and subcategory

Category and subcategory	2019 planned	2019 actual	2020 planned	2021 planned
A. Facilitation of the intergovernmental process and expert bodies				
Parliamentary documentation (number of documents)	**16**	**28**	**18**	**24**
1. Documentation for the Committee on Forests and the Forest Industry/European Forestry Commission	14	26	12	18
2. Documentation for the Joint FAO/ECE Working Party on Forest Statistics, Economics and Management	2	2	6	6
Substantive services for meetings (number of three-hour meetings)	**45**	**45**	**26**	**32**
3. Meetings of the Committee on Forests and the Forest Industry/European Forestry Commission	14	16	8	16
4. Meetings of the Bureau of the Committee on Forests and the Forest Industry	6	2	4	2
5. Meetings of the Joint FAO/ECE Working Party on Forest Statistics, Economics and Management and of teams of specialists	25	27	14	14
B. Generation and transfer of knowledge				
Seminars, workshops and training events (number of days)	**10**	**19**	**10**	**15**
6. Capacity-building events for policymakers, experts and relevant stakeholders from countries in the ECE region on topics related to the ECE/FAO integrated programme	10	19	10	15
Publications (number of publications)	**6**	**6**	**7**	**7**
7. *Forest Products Annual Market Review*	1	1	1	1
8. Publication on sustainable forest management and forest products	5	5	6	6
C. Substantive deliverables				

Consultation, advice and advocacy: forest policy dialogues at the request of countries and support for forest policy issues (1).

Databases and substantive digital materials: update and maintenance of databases on forest resources forest policies and institutions; forest products; production, consumption and trade, including prices; and wood energy (6).

D. Communication deliverables

Outreach programmes, special events and information materials: International Day of Forests (1); brochures on different forest-related topics (1); presentations at round tables and discussions at international forest-related events (2).

External and media relations: annual set of press releases for the subprogramme (1).

Digital platforms and multimedia content: update and maintenance of the website of the subprogramme (1); videos on forest-related topics (1).

Subprogramme 8
Housing, land management and population

Objective

20.133   The objective, to which this subprogramme contributes, is to strengthen member State-owned programmes and policies promoting decent, adequate, affordable, energy-efficient and healthy housing for all, smart sustainable cities, sustainable urban development and land management, and to advance evidence-based population and social cohesion policies.

Strategy

20.134   The subprogramme comprises two components: (a) housing and land management; and (b) population.

20.135   The strategy of the subprogramme is based on the implementation of the core interlinked functions, namely, international policy dialogue, normative work and capacity-building and the sharing of best practices and lessons learned in all areas of the subprogramme's work. Through its work, the subprogramme will contribute to the four ECE nexuses, as reflected in paragraph 20.5.

20.136   To contribute to the strengthening of member State-owned programmes and policies promoting decent, adequate, affordable, energy-efficient and healthy housing for all, smart sustainable cities, sustainable urban development and land management, the subprogramme will continue to support member States, including national, regional and local governments and other key stakeholders, in the review of progress in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, including the implementation of measures to accelerate the achievement of the Goals, and in exchanging experiences and best practices in these areas. The subprogramme will also support local governments in the assessment of achievement of the Goals at the local level through the application of the ECE/International Telecommunication Union (ITU) key performance indicators on smart sustainable cities. The subprogramme will provide technical assistance and disseminate best practices on the achievement of the housing, city and land-related Goals, especially Goal 11 (make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable), and, to a lesser extent, Goals 3 (ensure healthy lives and promote well-being of all ages), 5 (achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls), 7 (ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all), 9 (build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation) and 12 (ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns). This will be done through the development of country profiles on urban development, housing and land management, smart sustainable cities profiles, pilot projects on innovative financial mechanisms for smart sustainable cities and thematic studies on affordable decent housing for all, sustainable urban development and land management. Furthermore, it will support Governments in the development of their national evidence-based urban policies and land administration. It will also organize a forum of mayors to discuss the challenges that local authorities/governments face in achieving sustainable urban development. Due consideration will be given to the integration of climate change measures into urban policies, strategies and planning. Furthermore, the subprogramme will facilitate the maintenance, management and refurbishment of existing housing stock in ECE member States, which is expected to result in improved housing affordability and accessibility for all, improved energy efficiency and climate-neutrality of buildings, and increased support for the development of sustainable real estate markets that integrate the concepts of the 2030 Agenda and the Geneva Charter on Sustainable Housing.

20.137   Past results in these areas include the development of evidence-based affordable and energy-efficient housing and urban policies and programmes at the national level, including the development of the national programmes for social housing and for low-cost housing in Albania, the new laws on spatial planning, architectural and construction activities and key provisions of regulating territorial use and development in Georgia, the adoption of the national strategy for the construction sector until 2030

in Kyrgyzstan and the formulation of the draft housing code in Ukraine according to recommendations of the ECE/United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) guidelines for data-collection processes for evidence-based housing and urban development policies. A second key result is the development of the city development plan for the city of Voznesensk, Ukraine, based on the recommendations of the smart sustainable city profile of the city, and the city performance evaluation using ECE/ITU key performance indicators on smart sustainable cities. The city government also developed a city action plan and concrete investment projects on promoting energy efficiency in buildings and improving health services, which supported the improvement in the social and economic situation in Voznesensk and the quality of life of its population. A third key result is the preparation of the national programme for affordable housing construction in Belarus based on the recommendations of the country profile on housing and land management of Belarus. Following the recommendations, the Government of Belarus, with the assistance of ECE, initiated a pilot project on innovating financial mechanisms to promote smart sustainable city solutions in the city of Grodno.

20.138   To contribute to the advancement of evidence-based population and social cohesion policies, the subprogramme will continue to facilitate cooperation between member States, regional agencies and other partners. It will support the review and follow-up activities to assess progress in implementing the ECE regional strategy for the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing at the national and regional levels. The strategy was adopted by ECE member States at the ECE Ministerial Conference on Ageing held in Berlin on 11 September 2002 as a follow-up to the Second World Assembly on Ageing. In an effort to have ageing mainstreamed into all policy fields, the strategy outlines commitments in 10 priority areas. The subprogramme will provide a platform for intergovernmental policy debate on matters related to mainstreaming ageing and will facilitate communication with a wider network of experts and NGOs. It will support evidence-based policymaking and monitoring of the implementation of the strategy by coordinating data collection on active ageing indicators and policy-oriented research on ageing and intergenerational and gender relations. The subprogramme will also support the development of national capacities for policy formulation through its policy seminars/master classes and policy briefs that focus on specific policy challenges and possible policy solutions, showcasing good practices from across the region. This work is expected to result in helping member States to implement the 2030 Agenda, in particular with regard to its core principle of leaving no one behind. The situation of current and future older persons will be improved thanks to the design and implementation of integrated policies for active and healthy ageing in which older persons are continuously recognized as an asset to a sustainable and inclusive society for all ages. The four components of the Active Ageing Index, namely, employment, participation in society, independent, healthy and secure living, and capacity and an enabling environment to remain active into old age, encapsulate such an integrated approach and allow for the monitoring of progress.

20.139   Past results in this area included the adoption of a more holistic approach to population ageing by the ECE countries in developing and/or revising population-related strategies and programmes. The use of the Active Ageing Index as a monitoring tool and a framework for integrated policymaking expanded owing to ECE operational support and technical guidelines on the Index's development for non-European Union countries and for the subnational and local levels. In addition, ECE countries have increasingly adopted innovative solutions to address some specific policy challenges (e.g., role of informal carers and ageism in the labour market) through the exchange of experiences and knowledge gained at ECE policy briefs, policy seminars and other capacity-building activities.

Programme performance in 2019 against planned result

20.140   A planned result for 2019, which is enhanced national formulation and implementation of evidence-based policies on population ageing and intergenerational and gender relations, as referred to in the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2018–2019, was achieved, as evidenced by at least 3 additional member States adjusting their policies or introducing new measures contributing to the implementation of the ECE regional strategy for the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing and the achievement of the 2017 Lisbon ministerial declaration goals (recognizing the potential of

older persons, encouraging longer working life and ability to work, and ensuring ageing with dignity) to meet the target number of 39 member States. For example, in 2019, at the request of Belarus and Kazakhstan, ECE prepared road maps on mainstreaming ageing for these countries that were tailored to their national contexts in order to support the preparation of national strategies/plans of action on ageing. The subsequent national strategies and/or plans of action introduce measures to: facilitate older persons' engagement in the paid economy by providing incentives to employers to hire/keep older employees, stimulating lifelong learning and entrepreneurship; lay the groundwork for active social participation and social inclusion through support for volunteering and community activities; invest in an age-friendly environment (e.g., green public spaces, mobility and barrier-free access); and make adjustments to the long-term care system.

Programme performance in 2019: evidence-based housing and urban development policies at the national and local levels to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals and promote liveable cities and human settlements

20.141   The enhanced capacity of national Governments to develop and implement evidence-based housing and urban development policies would allow for improved access by the population to affordable, healthy and energy-efficient housing and inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable cities. There is a need to assist national and local governments in providing advice and building capacities for the development of evidence-based policies and supporting them in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, the New Urban Agenda, the Geneva Charter on Sustainable Housing and the Geneva Ministerial Declaration on Sustainable Housing and Urban Development. The subprogramme supported the development and implementation of evidence-based housing and urban development policies in six countries: Albania, Belarus, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Ukraine. This was done through the preparation of the ECE guidelines for evidence-based housing and urban development policies. The guidelines include best practices from countries in the ECE region and policy recommendations for ways to, among other things, better align policies and policy monitoring frameworks, streamline national efforts of data collection and analysis, promote intersectoral cooperation for data collection and analysis and approaches to connecting data producers, and ensure data quality.

20.142   To support the implementation of the guiding principles and recommendations, ECE developed training materials based on the guidelines, provided specific expert support to the six above-mentioned countries in drafting specific laws, regulations and programmes, and conducted national and regional training workshops.

20.143   The subprogramme also conducted an analysis of the housing, urban development and land management situation and legal and financial frameworks in Belarus and Ukraine and prepared the country profile on housing, urban development and land management of Belarus and the smart sustainable city profile of Voznesensk, Ukraine. Following the recommendations contained in both documents, the Government of Belarus developed measures for the provision of affordable and accessible housing and the city government of Voznesensk developed the city development plan up to 2027 and obtained investment to improve the energy efficiency of the building and the health system.

20.144   Capacity-building activities, relevant research and outreach to support the evidence-based policies were conducted by the ECE centres of excellence for the implementation of the Geneva Charter on Sustainable Housing. In 2019, in addition to the existing centres of excellence in Glasgow, United Kingdom, Tallinn, Vienna and Tirana, centres were established in Trondheim, Norway, and Geneva. The Centre in Estonia formulated and conducted a training curriculum in English and Russian on the management of multiapartment buildings for housing managers in countries with economies in transition. The Centre in Glasgow developed methodological studies to promote the liveability of cities by improving housing affordability and urban design. The centres were established jointly by the relevant cities, in cooperation with the private sector and academia. These centres of excellence

promote the ECE instruments, including guidelines and standards, with regard to the national and local policies and action programmes and ensure their ownership in countries.

Progress towards the attainment of the objective, and performance measure

20.145   This work contributed to strengthening member State-owned programmes and policies promoting decent, adequate, affordable, energy-efficient and healthy housing for all, smart sustainable cities, sustainable urban development and land management, as demonstrated by 12 ECE member States that have applied ECE evidence-based policies and tools for urban development, housing and land management at the national and local levels, as shown in figure 20.XVI. In particular, in 2019, the Government of Albania developed a programme on municipal housing to provide affordable housing for vulnerable groups of the population and Georgia developed a programme on urban planning and a draft law on key provisions of regulating territorial use and development. Overall, there was an increase in the number of ECE member States that apply the subprogramme's guidelines on sustainable smart cities, housing and land management at the national and local levels, from 10 in 2018 to 12 in 2019.

Figure 20.XVI
Performance measure: number of Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) member States that applied ECE evidence-based policies and tools for urban development, housing and land management
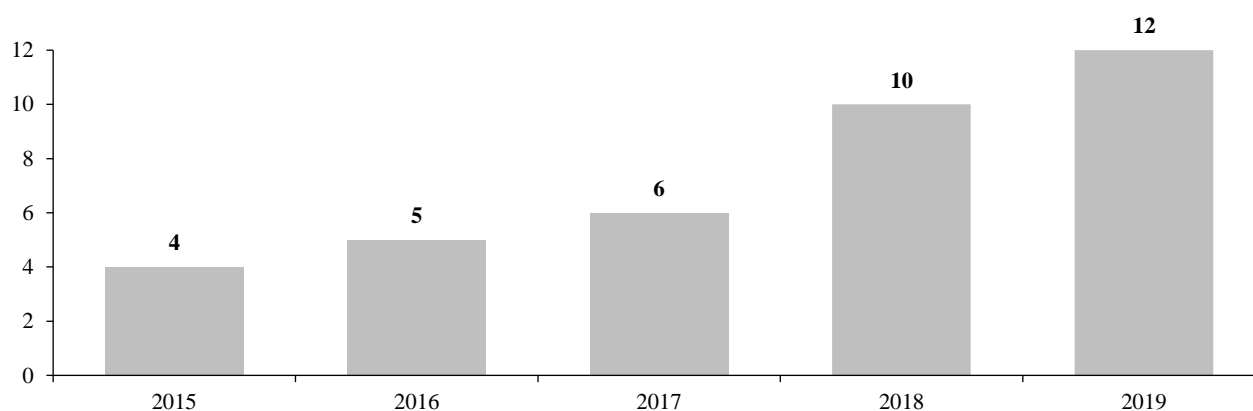
Planned results for 2021

Result 1: regional observatory on urban-related Sustainable Development Goals (result carried over from 2020)

20.146   The subprogramme will continue the work related to sustainable urban development, sustainable smart cities, housing and land management, in line with its mandate, and will assist Governments in strengthening their capacity to develop evidence-based policies in support of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda by applying ECE guidelines on urban development, sustainable smart cities, housing and land management, which is expected to be demonstrated by the performance measure for 2021 below. For 2020, a proxy performance measure is indicated, to reflect that the General Assembly, in its resolution 74/251, approved a programme narrative at the subprogramme level that is composed solely of the objectives.

Figure 20.XVII

Performance measure: number of Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) member States that apply ECE guidelines on urban development, housing and land management at the national and local levels
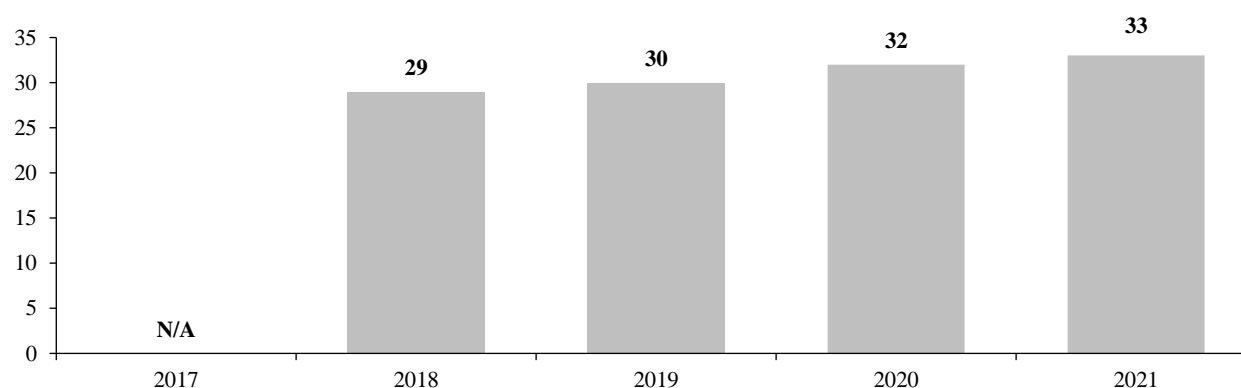
Abbreviation: N/A, not applicable.

Result 2: countries launch new guidelines on how to mainstream ageing to achieve a society for all ages (new result)

20.147   The ECE region is at the forefront of a global demographic transformation from population growth to population ageing. The region accounts for 17 per cent of the world's population and has approximately 30 per cent of the world's people who are 65 years of age and above. Adapting to population ageing may be challenging to the socioeconomic environment and intergenerational relations. The concept of mainstreaming ageing is to bring societies and economies into harmony with the ongoing demographic change, the aim of which is to achieve an inclusive society for all ages.

20.148   Since 2011, the subprogramme has been working on the development of road maps on mainstreaming ageing, at the request of member States (Armenia, Belarus, Georgia and the Republic of Moldova). On the basis of that experience, in 2018, the ECE Standing Working Group on Ageing decided to develop guidelines on mainstreaming ageing that would benefit policymakers in all ECE member States. On the basis of a comprehensive stocktaking exercise on mainstreaming policies, tools and practice developed by member States since 2002, the Working Group prepared guidelines in 2019 and 2020 to enhance the capacity of member States to mainstream ageing across policy fields. Given that ageing is a cross-cutting, multisectoral policy challenge with implications for labour markets, economies, health-care systems, social services, intergenerational relations and social cohesion, it cannot be addressed through one policy field alone.

20.149   The subprogramme will prepare a launch programme for the guidelines, including a special launch event for leading stakeholders and will pilot a training workshop on the use of a toolkit. The launch of new guidelines and a toolkit, and the convening of the first capacity-building workshop on using the guidelines and toolkit, in 2021, will guide national policymakers on how to promote age mainstreaming at the national level.

Internal challenge and response

20.150   The challenge for the subprogramme was to scale up activities in countries where the awareness of and policy response to the impact of this major demographic shift was still at its inception. Promoting the guidelines and toolkit among the countries with already established strategies and programmes on ageing may require a more targeted approach. In response, the subprogramme will tailor capacity-building efforts on the use of guidelines on mainstreaming ageing by taking into consideration the different policymaking contexts across the region.

Expected progress towards the attainment of the objective, and performance measure

20.151   This work is expected to contribute to the strengthening of member State-owned programmes and policies promoting decent, adequate, affordable, energy-efficient and healthy housing for all, smart sustainable cities, sustainable urban development and land management, and to the advancement of evidence-based population and social cohesion policies, which would be demonstrated by the launch of the implementation of the guidelines by member States and their readiness to use the toolkit and guidelines on mainstreaming ageing into future policymaking. This will build the capacity of member States to mainstream ageing across all relevant policy areas.

Table 20.16
Performance measure

2017	*2018*	*2019*	*2020*	*2021*
The 2017 Lisbon ministerial declaration adopted by ECE member States stresses the importance of further mainstreaming ageing into relevant policy areas (para. 10 of the declaration)	Member States decide to develop guidelines and to establish a task force to lead this work	The task force commences its work on developing guidelines and pilots a stocktaking exercise on mainstreaming practices in several countries	Member States are expected to review and adopt guidelines on mainstreaming ageing to benefit policymakers across the region	Member States are expected to launch the implementation of guidelines and support the development of a toolkit

Legislative mandates

20.152   The list below provides all mandates entrusted to the subprogramme.

General Assembly resolutions

65/234	Follow-up to the International Conference on Population and Development beyond 2014	71/256	New Urban Agenda
		72/144	Follow-up to the Second World Assembly on Ageing
70/107	International cooperation on humanitarian assistance in the field of natural disasters, from relief to development	72/226	Implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements and on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development and strengthening of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat)
71/235	Implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III) and strengthening of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat)	73/143	Follow-up to the Second World Assembly on Ageing

Economic and Social Council resolutions

2014/7	Further implementation of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, 2002	2016/25	Future organization and methods of work of the Commission on Population and Development
2015/5	Modalities for the third review and appraisal of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, 2002	2018/6	Third review and appraisal of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, 2002

Economic and Social Council decision

2014/239	Report of the Commission on Population and Development on its forty-seventh session and provisional agenda for its forty-eighth session (Commission on Population and Development resolution 2014/1,		Assessment of the status of implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development)

Economic Commission for Europe decisions

ECE/AC.23/2002/2/ Rev.6	Regional Implementation Strategy for the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, 2002	B (66)	Endorsement of the Geneva Charter on Sustainable Housing
ECE/AC.30/2007/2	Report of the UNECE Ministerial Conference on Ageing: "A Society for All Ages: Challenges and Opportunities"	ECE/HBP/190	Report of the Committee on Housing and Land Management on its seventy-eighth session (Geneva Ministerial Declaration on Sustainable Housing and Urban Development)
ECE/AC.30/2012/3	2012 Vienna Ministerial declaration: "Ensuring a society for all ages: Promoting quality of life and active ageing"	ECE/AC.30/2017/2/ Rev.1	Revised report of the Ministerial Conference on Ageing: "A Sustainable Society for All Ages: Realizing the Potential of Living Longer" (2017 Lisbon ministerial declaration)
ECE/HBP/173	Report of the Committee on Housing and Land Management on its seventy-fourth session, which adopted the Strategy for Sustainable Housing and Land Management in the ECE region for the period 201401502020 (ECE/HBP/2013/3)		

Deliverables

20.153   Table 20.17 lists all deliverables, by category and subcategory, for the period 2019–2021 that contributed and are expected to contribute to the attainment of the objective stated above.

Table 20.17
Subprogramme 8: deliverables for the period 2019–2021, by category and subcategory

Category and subcategory	*2019 planned*	*2019 actual*	*2020 planned*	*2021 planned*
A. Facilitation of the intergovernmental process and expert bodies				
Parliamentary documentation (number of documents)	**17**	**24**	**15**	**24**
1. Documentation for the Committee on Urban Development, Housing and Land Management	6	11	10	12
2. Documentation for the Working Party on Land Administration	7	8	–	7
3. Documentation for the Standing Working Group on Ageing	4	5	5	5
Substantive services for meetings (number of three-hour meetings)	**32**	**27**	**29**	**29**
4. Meetings of the Committee on Urban Development, Housing and Land Management and its Bureau	14	10	14	12
5. Meetings of the Working Party on Land Administration and its Bureau	11	10	8	10
6. Meetings of the Standing Working Group on Ageing	7	7	7	7
B. Generation and transfer of knowledge				
Field and technical cooperation projects (number of projects)	**1**	**2**	**2**	**2**
7. Projects on country profiles on housing, land administration and spatial planning	1	1	2	1
8. Road map for mainstreaming ageing project for a specific country	–	1	–	1

Category and subcategory	2019 planned	2019 actual	2020 planned	2021 planned
Seminars, workshops and training events (number of days)	**5**	**8**	**5**	**6**
9. Workshops, seminars and training courses for policymakers and/or experts in the ECE region on housing and land administration (including real estate) and spatial planning	4	4	4	4
10. Workshops and policy seminars on population ageing issues for policymakers, experts, practitioners and other stakeholders in countries of the ECE region	1	4	1	2
Publications (number of publications)	**5**	**6**	**5**	**7**
11. Publications on housing and land management	2	2	2	3
12. Publications on population	3	4	3	4
Technical materials (number of materials)	**1**	**2**	**1**	**3**
13. Technical guidelines on housing and land management	1	2	1	2
14. Guidelines on mainstreaming ageing	–	–	–	1

C. **Substantive deliverables**

Consultation, advice and advocacy: generations and gender programme – support for the council of partners (1); country microdata submission and researchers' access agreements; advisory services for policymakers, in preparation for and follow-up to the country profiles on housing, land administration and spatial planning (2); advisory services for government officials and other stakeholders, to develop national capacities in designing and implementing ageing-related policies and programmes (1).

Fact-finding, monitoring and investigation missions: fact-finding missions for policymakers in preparation for and follow-up to the country profiles on housing, land administration and spatial planning (2); fact-finding missions for government officials and other stakeholders, to develop national capacities in designing and implementing ageing-related policies and programmes (1).

Databases and substantive digital materials: update and maintenance of the active ageing indicators data set (1).

D. **Communication deliverables**

Outreach programmes, special events and information materials: booklet/fact sheets of the Committee on Urban Development, Housing and Land Management and the Working Party on Land Administration (1); booklet of the Standing Working Group on Ageing (1).

External and media relations: annual sets of press releases related to housing, land management and population activities (2).

Digital platforms and multimedia content: update and maintenance of the websites related to housing, land management and population activities (2); Active Ageing Index wiki (1).

B.   Proposed post and non-post resource requirements for 2021

Overview

20.154   The proposed regular budget resources for 2021, including the breakdown of resource changes, as applicable, are reflected in tables 20.18 to 20.20

Table 20.18
Financial resources
(Thousands of United States dollars)

			Changes					2021 estimate (before recosting)	Recosting	2021 estimate (after recosting)
	2019 expenditure	*2020 appropriation*	*Technical adjustments*	*New/ expanded mandates*	*Other*	*Total*	*Percentage*			
Posts	32 355.5	31 724.7	–	–	(80.2)	(80.2)	(0.3)	31 644.5	722.2	32 366.7
Other staff costs	82.2	105.9	–	–	33.7	33.7	31.8	139.6	2.4	142.0
Consultants	71.4	137.5	–	20.0	–	20.0	14.5	157.5	2.4	159.9
Experts	8.6	43.3	–	20.0	–	20.0	46.2	63.3	1.0	64.3
Travel of staff	230.0	242.5	–	–	–	–	–	242.5	4.3	246.8
Contractual services	217.8	708.4	–	–	(21.9)	(21.9)	(3.1)	686.5	11.7	698.2
General operating expenses	3.3	75.6	–	–	(6.4)	(6.4)	(8.5)	69.2	1.1	70.3
Hospitality	7.1	12.7	–	–	–	–	–	12.7	0.2	12.9
Supplies and materials	3.8	50.1	–	–	–	–	–	50.1	0.8	50.9
Furniture and equipment	76.9	189.3	–	–	28.3	28.3	14.9	217.6	3.7	221.3
Fellowships, grants and contributions	531.7	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Total	**33 588.4**	**33 290.0**	**–**	**40.0**	**(46.5)**	**(6.5)**	**(0.0)**	**33 283.5**	**749.8**	**34 033.3**

Table 20.19
Post changes[a]

	Number	*Level*
Approved for 2020	188	1 USG, 1 D-2, 8 D-1, 23 P-5, 35 P-4, 36 P-3, 21 P-2/1, 6 GS (PL), 57 GS (OL)
Abolishment	(1)	1 GS (PL) under subprogramme 2
Establishment	1	1 P-3 under programme support
Proposed for 2021	188	1 USG, 1 D-2, 8 D-1, 23 P-5, 35 P-4, 37 P-3, 21 P-2/1, 5 GS (PL), 57 GS (OL)

[a] Details on justifications for post changes are reflected in annex III.

Note: The following abbreviations are used in tables and figures: GS (OL), General Service (Other level); GS (PL), General Service (Principal level); USG, Under-Secretary-General.

Table 20.20
Post resources

| Category | 2020 approved | Changes | | | | | 2021 proposed |
		Technical adjustments	New/expanded mandates	Other	Total		
Professional and higher							
USG	1	–	–	–	–		1
D-2	1	–	–	–	–		1
D-1	8	–	–	–	–		8
P-5	23	–	–	–	–		23
P-4	35	–	–	–	–		35
P-3	36	–	–	1	1		37
P-2/1	21	–	–	–	–		21
Subtotal	**125**	**–**	**–**	**1**	**1**		**126**
General Service							
Principal level	6	–	–	(1)	(1)		5
Other level	57	–	–	–	–		57
Subtotal	**63**	**–**	**–**	**(1)**	**(1)**		**62**
Total	**188**	**–**	**–**	**–**	**–**		**188**

20.155 Additional details on the distribution of proposed resources for 2021 are reflected in tables 20.21 to 20.23 and figure 20.XVIII.

20.156 As reflected in table 20.21 (1) and 20.22 (1), the overall resources proposed for 2021 amount to $33,283,500 before recosting, reflecting a net decrease of $6,500 (or 0.0 per cent) compared with the appropriation for 2020. Resource changes result from two factors, namely: (a) new and expanded mandates; and (b) other resource changes. The proposed level of resources provides for the full, efficient and effective implementation of mandates.

Table 20.21
Evolution of financial resources by component and subprogramme
(Thousands of United States dollars)

(1) *Regular budget*

| | 2019 expenditure | 2020 appropriation | Changes | | | | | 2021 estimate (before recosting) | Recosting | 2021 estimate (after recosting) |
			Technical adjustments	New/ expanded mandates	Other	Total	Percentage			
A. Executive direction and management	4 558.7	4 212.2	–	40.0	–	40.0	0.9	4 252.2	89.8	4 342.0
B. Programme of work										
1. Environment	5 392.6	5 248.1	–	–	–	–	–	5 248.1	120.1	5 368.2
2. Transport	6 695.0	6 437.4	–	–	(165.7)	(165.7)	(2.6)	6 271.7	144.9	6 416.6
3. Statistics	4 368.8	4 459.8	–	–	–	–	–	4 459.8	104.4	4 564.2
4. Economic cooperation and integration	1 882.9	1 956.0	–	–	–	–	–	1 956.0	46.5	2 002.5
5. Sustainable energy	2 293.7	2 063.9	–	–	–	–	–	2 063.9	50.0	2 113.9

		2019 expenditure	2020 appropriation	Changes					2021 estimate (before recosting)	Recosting	2021 estimate (after recosting)
				Technical adjustments	New/ expanded mandates	Other	Total	Percentage			
6.	Trade	3 185.9	3 351.8	–	–	–	–	–	3 351.8	78.5	3 430.3
7.	Forests and the forest industry	1 315.1	1 413.3	–	–	–	–	–	1 413.3	31.2	1 444.5
8.	Housing, land management and population	1 135.0	1 090.3	–	–	–	–	–	1 090.3	22.3	1 112.6
	Subtotal, B	**26 269.1**	**26 020.6**	**–**	**–**	**(165.7)**	**(165.7)**	**(0.6)**	**25 854.9**	**597.90**	**26 452.80**
C.	Programme support	2 760.6	3 057.2	–	–	119.2	119.2	3.9	3 176.4	62.1	3 238.5
	Subtotal, 1	**33 588.4**	**33 290.0**	**–**	**40.0**	**(46.5)**	**(6.5)**	**(0.0)**	**33 283.5**	**749.8**	**34 033.3**

(2) *Extrabudgetary*

		2019 expenditure	2020 estimate	2021 estimate
A.	Executive direction and management	177.4	164.3	41.1
B.	Programme of work			
1.	Environment	11 141.3	17 116.7	15 784.5
2.	Transport	3 122.3	3 065.3	3 125.5
3.	Statistics	447.4	586.9	230.3
4.	Economic cooperation and integration	911.6	1 678.1	868.3
5.	Sustainable energy	977.8	204.4	–
6.	Trade	648.9	743.9	1 057.5
7.	Forests and the forest industry	585.7	286.0	–
8.	Housing, land management and population	753.2	363.4	236.0
	Subtotal, B	**18 588.2**	**24 044.7**	**21 302.2**
C.	Programme support	924.9	1 694.0	1 736.0
	Subtotal, 2	**19 690.6**	**25 903.0**	**23 079.3**
	Total	**53 279.0**	**59 193.0**	**57 112.6**

Table 20.22
Evolution of post resources by component and subprogramme

(1) *Regular budget*

	2020 approved	Changes				2021 proposed
		Technical adjustments	New/ expanded mandates	Other	Total	
A. Executive direction and management	22	–	–	–	–	22
B. Programme of work						
1. Environment	31	–	–	–	–	31

	2020 approved	Changes				2021 proposed
		Technical adjustments	*New/ expanded mandates*	*Other*	*Total*	
2. Transport	39	–	–	(1)	(1)	38
3. Statistics	27	–	–	–	–	27
4. Economic cooperation and integration	11	–	–	–	–	11
5. Sustainable energy	11	–	–	–	–	11
6. Trade	20	–	–	–	–	20
7. Forests and the forest industry	8	–	–	–	–	8
8. Housing, land management and population	7	–	–	–	–	7
Subtotal, B	**154**	**–**	**–**	**(1)**	**(1)**	**153**
C. Programme support	12	–	–	1	1	13
Subtotal, 1	**188**	**–**	**–**	**–**	**–**	**188**

(2)   *Extrabudgetary*

	2020 estimate	2021 estimate
A. Executive direction and management	–	–
B. Programme of work		
1. Environment	27	27
2. Transport	16	16
3. Statistics	–	–
4. Economic cooperation and integration	1	1
5. Sustainable energy	–	–
6. Trade	1	1
7. Forests and the forest industry	–	–
8. Housing, land management and population	–	–
Subtotal, B	**45**	**45**
C. Programme support	6	7
Subtotal, 2	**51**	**52**
Total	**239**	**240**

Table 20.23
Evolution of financial and post resources by category

(Thousands of United States dollars/number of posts)

				Changes				
	2019 expenditure	*2020 appropriation*	*Technical adjustments*	*New/ expanded mandates*	*Other*	*Total*	*Percentage*	*2021 estimate (after recosting)*
Financial resources by main category of expenditure								
Post	32 355.5	31 724.7	–	–	(80.2)	(80.2)	(0.3)	31 644.5
Non-post	1 232.9	1 565.3	–	40.0	33.7	73.7	4.7	1 639.0
Total	**33 588.4**	**33 290.0**	**–**	**40.0**	**(46.5)**	**(6.5)**	**0.0**	**33 283.5**
Post resources by category								
Professional and higher		125	–	–	1	1	0.8	126
General Service and related		63	–	–	(1)	(1)	(1.6)	62
Total		**188**	**–**	**–**	**–**	**–**	**–**	**188**

Figure 20.XVIII
Distribution of proposed resources for 2021 (before recosting)

(Number of posts/thousands of United States dollars)
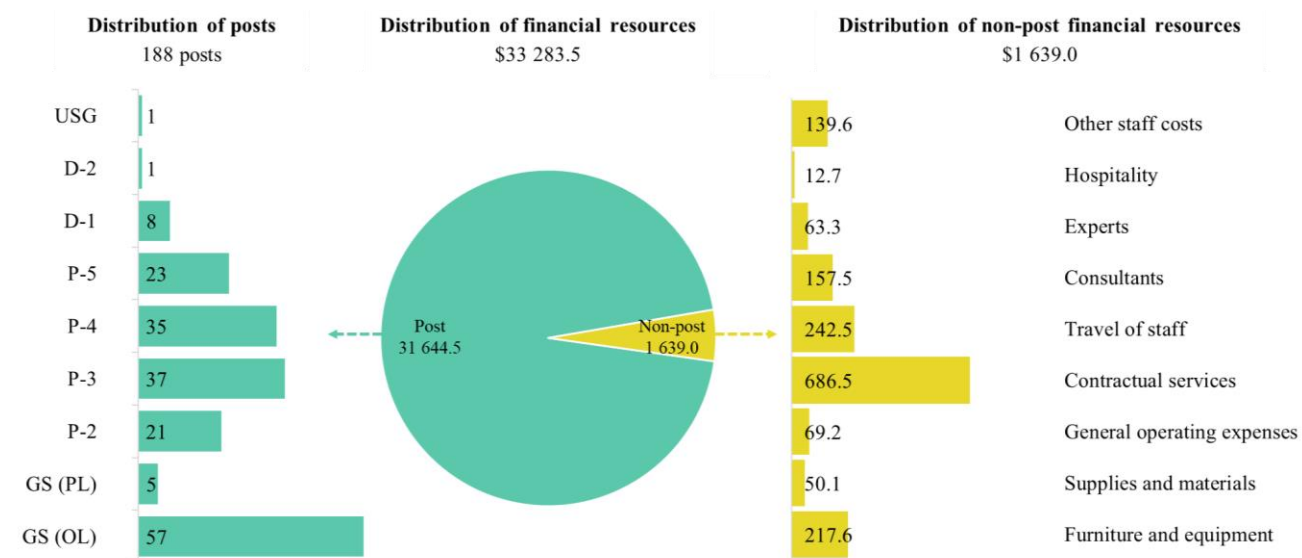
Variance analyses by component and subprogramme

Overall resource changes

New and expanded mandates

20.157   As reflected in tables 20.21 (1) and 20.22 (1), resource changes reflect a net increase of $40,000 under executive direction and management, as follows:

Executive direction and management. The increase in non-recurrent requirements in the amount of $40,000 relates to the holding of the sixty-ninth session of ECE, in 2021, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 62/225 and paragraph 9 of annex I to Economic and Social Council resolution 2006/38, and consists of requirements under travel of experts ($20,000) and consultants ($20,000). These amounts are proposed to further strengthen the integrated approach to sustainable development and the effective implementation of the 2030 Agenda. ECE has decided on a cross-cutting theme for the high-level segment of its session, for which additional resources of $20,000 are proposed under travel of experts. To prepare analytical reference materials, including a review of the sustainable use of natural resources and the circular economy in the ECE region, an additional amount of $20,000 is proposed to fund the related consultancy capacity. The sessions of the Commission are held on a biennial basis.

Other changes

20.158 As reflected in tables 20.21 (1) and 20.22 (1), resource changes reflect a net decrease of $46,500 under subprogramme 2 and programme support, as follows:

(a) **Subprogramme 2, Transport**. The decrease of $165,700 relates to:

(i) The proposed abolishment of one post of Senior Administrative Assistant (General Service (Principal level)). This post is no longer required to perform the functions in the Sustainable Transport Division, given that the work has already been redistributed to the other existing posts in the Division. This position is on temporary loan from subprogramme 2, Transport, to programme support to perform administrative functions during 2020;

(b) **Programme support**. The net increase in requirements of $119,200 reflects:

(i) The proposed establishment of one post of Administrative Officer (P-3) ($85,500), which is aligned with the efforts of the Secretary-General to attract and develop young talent. The post will strengthen the financial monitoring, performance reporting and control of the regular budget. In addition, under the framework for the delegation of authority to heads of entity, the reinforcement of budgetary and financial management oversight and control is required. The post will also absorb the functions of the post of Senior Administrative Assistant (General Service (Principal level)), on loan from subprogramme 2, Transport, proposed for abolishment;

(ii) Increased requirement under other staff costs ($33,700) provides for general temporary assistance to fully cover the demand for the replacement of staff on maternity and paternity or extended sick leave and for general temporary assistance to support peak workload periods or unforeseen needs.

Other assessed and extrabudgetary resources

20.159 As reflected in tables 20.21 (2) and 20.22 (2), ECE receives cash extrabudgetary contributions that complement regular budget resources and continue to be vital for the delivery of its mandates. In 2021, projected extrabudgetary resources of $23,079,300, including 52 posts, will be focused on technical cooperation activities, including training, workshops, seminars and field projects. Extrabudgetary resources represent 40.9 per cent of the total resources for this programme

Policymaking organs

20.160 The governance structure of ECE has been revised in accordance with the workplan on ECE reform adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution 60/248, and the outcome of the review of the 2005 reform of ECE adopted by the Economic and Social Council in its resolution 2013/1. The Commission reports to the Council and provides strategic direction to the work of the ECE secretariat. It serves as a regional platform for high-level policy dialogue on sustainable development

in the region. It meets once every two years for up to three working days. In the intersessional period, the Executive Committee is entrusted with the implementation of the overall policy set by the Commission. It meets as often as necessary to perform its governance role with regard to programme planning and administrative and budgetary issues, including extrabudgetary funding. It reviews and approves the programmes of work and subsidiary structures of the sectoral committees, thus ensuring coherence and coordination among subprogrammes.

20.161   The following eight sectoral committees act as subsidiary bodies of the Commission and as governing bodies for the eight subprogrammes: the Committee on Environmental Policy (subprogramme 1); the Inland Transport Committee (subprogramme 2); the Conference of European Statisticians (subprogramme 3); the Committee on Innovation, Competitiveness and Public-Private Partnerships (subprogramme 4); the Committee on Sustainable Energy (subprogramme 5); the Steering Committee on Trade Capacity and Standards (subprogramme 6); the Committee on Forests and the Forest Industry (subprogramme 7); and the Committee on Housing and Land Management (subprogramme 8). These bodies meet for two to three days annually to provide guidance to ECE on work relating to their sectors. No resources are proposed for 2021 under the regular budget for those bodies.

Executive direction and management

20.162   The ECE executive direction and management component comprises the Office of the Executive Secretary, the Sustainable Development and Gender Unit and the Information Unit. It also includes the Programme Management Unit, which falls under the new Programme Management and Support Services Division.

20.163   The overall responsibilities of the executive direction and management component include the following functions:

(a)   To contribute to and facilitate debate among member States on the strategic direction of ECE and to develop a forward-looking strategy for adjusting ECE activities to respond to emerging and foreseeable priorities of its member States;

(b)   To foster relationships with member Governments and keep abreast of the needs of ECE member States;

(c)   To coordinate the planning and ensure the implementation of the ECE programme of work, to provide guidance and direction for the work of the secretariat and to promote transparency and interdivisional cooperation;

(d)   To service meetings of ECE and its Executive Committee, including the preparation of relevant documentation, to ensure follow-up to their decisions and to serve as an interface between the Executive Committee and the bureaux of the sectoral committees;

(e)   To coordinate multisectoral/intersectoral technical cooperation activities within the ECE mandate, including those developed within subregional frameworks;

(f)   To undertake regional policy reviews relating to major cross-sectoral issues, in particular sustainable development, gender, the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals;

(g)   To ensure the implementation of the resolutions and decisions of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council that are relevant to the work of ECE, including the regional follow-up to United Nations major outcomes and conferences, in accordance with the Commission's role as a regional outpost of the United Nations, pursuant to Council resolution 1998/46;

(h)   To provide clearance for ECE publications and key documents prepared for the sectoral committees and other subsidiary bodies of the Commission;

(i)   To contribute to increasing the visibility of ECE and to raising the awareness and use of ECE products through the dissemination of information about its activities;

(j)   To contribute, in close cooperation with the other regional commissions, to United Nations reform discussion and implementation, in particular in relation to improving system-wide coherence in United Nations development work;

(k)   To cooperate and coordinate with other United Nations entities active in the ECE region, in particular within the framework of the regional collaborative platform;

(l)   To promote synergies between the ECE technical cooperation activities with the work of other United Nations system entities, in particular through the resident coordinator system at the country level and the United Nations Sustainable Development Group for Europe and Central Asia at the regional level;

(m)   To contribute to relevant reports of the Secretary-General to the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and other bodies and to provide other input requested by Headquarters;

(n)   To foster gender and disability inclusion mainstreaming into ECE subprogrammes.

20.164   The Office of the Executive Secretary, which includes the Executive Secretary, the Deputy Executive Secretary and the Secretary of the Commission, has the overall responsibility for providing policy guidance and leadership in the ECE secretariat, including the coordination of the work of the Commission; overseeing and developing relations with Governments; coordination with the United Nations Secretariat; reporting to the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council; and overseeing and developing relations with other United Nations entities and with non-United Nations organizations, civil society and NGOs.

20.165   The Programme Management Unit, under the Programme Management and Support Services Division, provides guidance and ensures overall coordination of ECE programme management (planning, monitoring and reporting). The Unit also promotes synergies between the normative and operational work of the organization, provides guidance and ensures overall coordination of technical cooperation, and serves as a secretariat of the Working Group on Technical Cooperation. The Unit coordinates with other regional commissions and United Nations entities on programmatic and technical cooperation issues in support of the resident coordinator system countries within the ECE region.

20.166   The Sustainable Development and Gender Unit provides policy advice, analysis and advocacy on cross-cutting issues relating to the implementation of, follow-up on and review of the 2030 Agenda and on gender equality, in partnership with other United Nations entities and stakeholders, as relevant. The Unit convenes the annual Regional Forum on Sustainable Development for the ECE region, in cooperation with the entities of the regional United Nations system, providing the regional contribution to the global follow-up on and review of the 2030 Agenda. It plays a leading role in carrying out the functions of the regional collaborative platform, which gathers the heads of the regional offices for Europe and Central Asia of the United Nations entities. It oversees cross-sectoral activities related to the Sustainable Development Goals that are in the focus of ECE work and promotes gender mainstreaming across all subprogrammes. It provides contributions to the preparation of and the follow-up on United Nations global conferences and summits and to various reports of the Secretary-General to the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly on economic, social and environmental issues. The Unit leads the internal work on the alignment of ECE activities with the Goals through a nexus approach. This includes the development and implementation of the ECE gender policy and action plan, the gender parity strategy and capacity-building for women's empowerment in ECE member States.

20.167   The Information Unit is responsible for implementing the ECE information strategy aimed at raising awareness and mobilizing support for the work of ECE. The Unit promotes the corporate image of the Commission by managing the corporate sections of its website and ensuring its overall coherence, as well as by designing and producing promotional material on ECE activities. The Unit manages

ECE relations with the media, ensures the Commission's presence in social media and provides media monitoring and analysis. It advises the Executive Secretary, senior managers and the staff of ECE on outreach and advocacy.

20.168   Executive direction and management is also responsible for the production of cross-cutting deliverables, including the servicing of meetings and parliamentary documents for ECE and the Executive Committee, the servicing of meetings of the Working Group on Gender and Sustainable Development of the United Nations Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia, three publications and training courses for government officials and the private sector on women's entrepreneurship. In addition, executive direction and management will also implement substantive deliverables, including advisory services to countries participating in the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework process and "One United Nations" programme and provide support to countries in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. Communication deliverables will include annual sets of information materials, weekly newsletters, press releases and films on ECE activities. Programme management and technical cooperation services will include planning, monitoring and reporting.

20.169   In accordance with the 2030 Agenda, in particular target 12.6 of the Sustainable Development Goals, in which organizations are encouraged to integrate sustainability information into their reporting cycles, and in compliance with the cross-cutting mandate set out in paragraph 19 of General Assembly resolution 72/219, ECE is integrating environmental management practices into its operations. In the current budget cycle, the Commission will continue to reduce its carbon footprint by reducing its level of official travel. In 2020, a review of the servicing practices of the ECE intergovernmental architecture highlighted good practices related to remote participation and virtual consultation arrangements, with a view to broadening their uptake. The innovation task force is exploring additional means for remote participation, where possible, by using Internet or audio/videoconference facilities. With the ongoing renovation of conference rooms in Geneva under the strategic heritage plan of the United Nations Office at Geneva, it is expected that the possibility of having fully interpreted, high-quality remote presentations and participation will improve significantly. This will benefit all ECE subprogrammes.

20.170   Information on compliance with regard to the timely submission of documentation and advance booking for air travel is reflected in table 20.24. The compliance rate of 80 per cent relates to the timely submission of documentation related to ECE meetings organized through the United Nations Office at Geneva Division of Conference Management in 2019. The compliance rate of 73.1 per cent for air tickets purchased at least two weeks before the commencement of travel relates to all travel requests, including staff, participants, experts and consultants, processed by ECE in 2019 through the United Nations Office at Geneva travel processing office. To further improve compliance with the advance purchasing policy for air tickets, ECE works closely with the travel processing office to reinforce the early planning of meetings and conferences, whenever possible.

Table 20.24
Compliance rate
(Percentage)

	Planned 2019	Actual 2019	Planned 2020	Planned 2021
Timely submission of documentation	100	80.0	100	100
Air tickets purchased at least 2 weeks before the commencement of travel	100	73.1	100	100

20.171   The proposed regular budget resources for 2021 amount to $4,252,200 and reflect an increase of $40,000 compared with the appropriation for 2020. Additional details are reflected in table 20.25 and figure 20.XIX. The proposed increase of $40,000 is explained in paragraph 20.157.

Table 20.25
Executive direction and management: evolution of financial and post resources
(Thousands of United States dollars/number of posts)

			Changes					2021 estimate (before recosting)
	2019 expenditure	2020 appropriation	Technical adjustments	New/ expanded mandates	Other	Total	Percentage	
Financial resources by main category of expenditure								
Post	4 415.6	4 064.8	–	–	–	–	–	4 064.8
Non-post	143.1	147.4	–	40.0	–	40.0	27.1	187.4
Total	**4 558.7**	**4 212.2**	**–**	**40.0**	**–**	**40.0**	**0.9**	**4 252.2**
Post resources by category								
Professional and higher		12	–	–	–	–	–	12
General Service and related		10	–	–	–	–	–	10
Total		**22**	**–**	**–**	**–**	**–**	**–**	**22**

Figure 20.XIX
Executive direction and management: distribution of proposed resources for 2021 (before recosting)
(Number of posts/thousands of United States dollars)
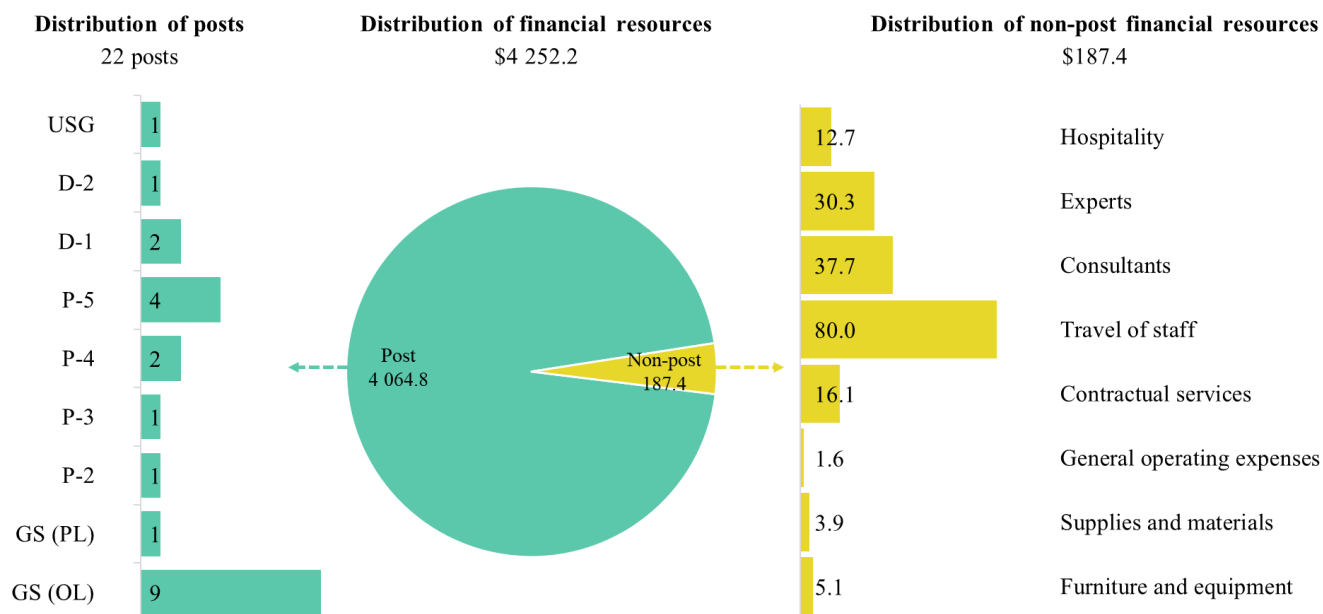
Programme of work

20.172   The proposed regular budget resources for 2021 amount to $25,854,900 and reflects a decrease of $165,700 compared with the appropriation for 2020. The proposed reduction of $165,700 is explained in paragraph 20.158 (a). The distribution of resources by subprogramme is reflected in figure 20.XX.

Figure 20.XX
Distribution of proposed resources for 2021 by subprogramme

(Millions of United States dollars)
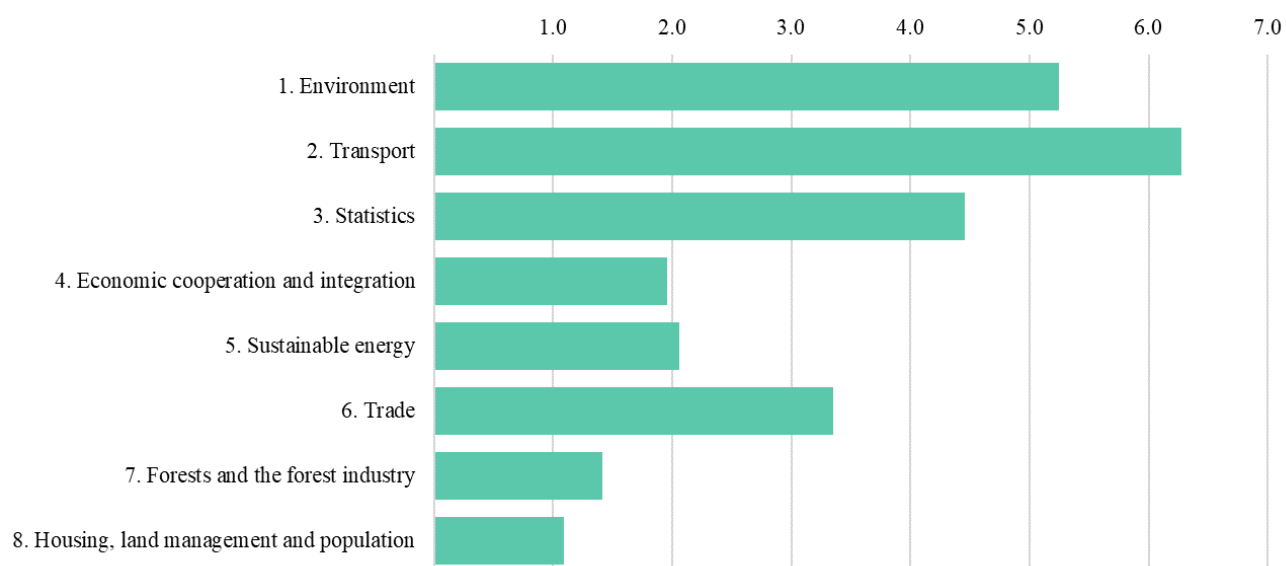
Subprogramme 1
Environment

20.173   The proposed regular budget resources for 2021 amount to $5,248,100 and reflect no change in the resource level compared with the appropriation for 2020. Additional details are reflected in table 20.26 and figure 20.XXI.

Table 20.26
Subprogramme 1: evolution of financial and post resources

(Thousands of United States dollars/number of posts)

			Changes					*2021 estimate (before recosting)*
	2019 expenditure	*2020 appropriation*	*Technical adjustments*	*New/ expanded mandates*	*Other*	*Total*	*Percentage*	
Financial resources by main category of expenditure								
Post	5 377.5	5 214.1	–	–	–	–	–	5 214.1
Non-post	15.1	34.0	–	–	–	–	–	34.0
Total	**5 392.6**	**5 248.1**	**–**	**–**	**–**	**–**	**–**	**5 248.1**
Post resources by category								
Professional and higher		22	–	–	–	–	–	22
General Service and related		9	–	–	–	–	–	9
Total		**31**	**–**	**–**	**–**	**–**	**–**	**31**

Figure 20.XXI
Subprogramme 1: distribution of proposed resources for 2021 (before recosting)

(Number of posts/thousands of United States dollars)

Subprogramme 2
Transport

20.174   The proposed regular budget resources for 2021 amount to $6,271,700 and reflect a net decrease of $165,700 compared with the appropriation for 2020. The proposed decrease of $165,700 is explained in paragraph 20.158 (a). Additional details on the distribution of resources in 2021 are reflected in table 20.27 and figure 20.XXII.

Table 20.27
Subprogramme 2: evolution of financial and post resources

(Thousands of United States dollars/number of posts)

			Changes					2021 estimate (before recosting)
	2019 expenditure	*2020 appropriation*	*Technical adjustments*	*New/ expanded mandates*	*Other*	*Total*	*Percentage*	
Financial resources by main category of expenditure								
Post	6 650.0	6 384.8	–	–	(165.7)	(165.7)	(2.6)	6 219.1
Non-post	45.0	52.6	–	–	–	–	–	52.6
Total	**6 695.0**	**6 437.4**	**–**	**–**	**(165.7)**	**(165.7)**	**(2.6)**	**6 271.7**
Post resources by category								
Professional and higher		26	–	–	–	–	–	26
General Service and related		13	–	–	(1)	(1)	(7.7)	12
Total		**39**	**–**	**–**	**(1)**	**(1)**	**(2.6)**	**38**

Figure 20.XXII
Subprogramme 2: distribution of proposed resources for 2021 (before recosting)

(Number of posts/thousands of United States dollars)

Distribution of posts
38 posts

- D-1: 1
- P-5: 4
- P-4: 7
- P-3: 9
- P-2: 5
- GS (OL): 12

Distribution of financial resources
$6 271.7

Post 6 219.1 — Non-post 52.6

Distribution of non-post financial resources
$52.6

- 16.5 Consultants
- 36.1 Travel of staff

Subprogramme 3
Statistics

20.175   The proposed regular budget resources for 2021 amount to $4,459,800 and reflect no change in the resource level compared with the appropriation for 2020. Additional details are reflected in table 20.28 and figure 20.XXIII.

Table 20.28
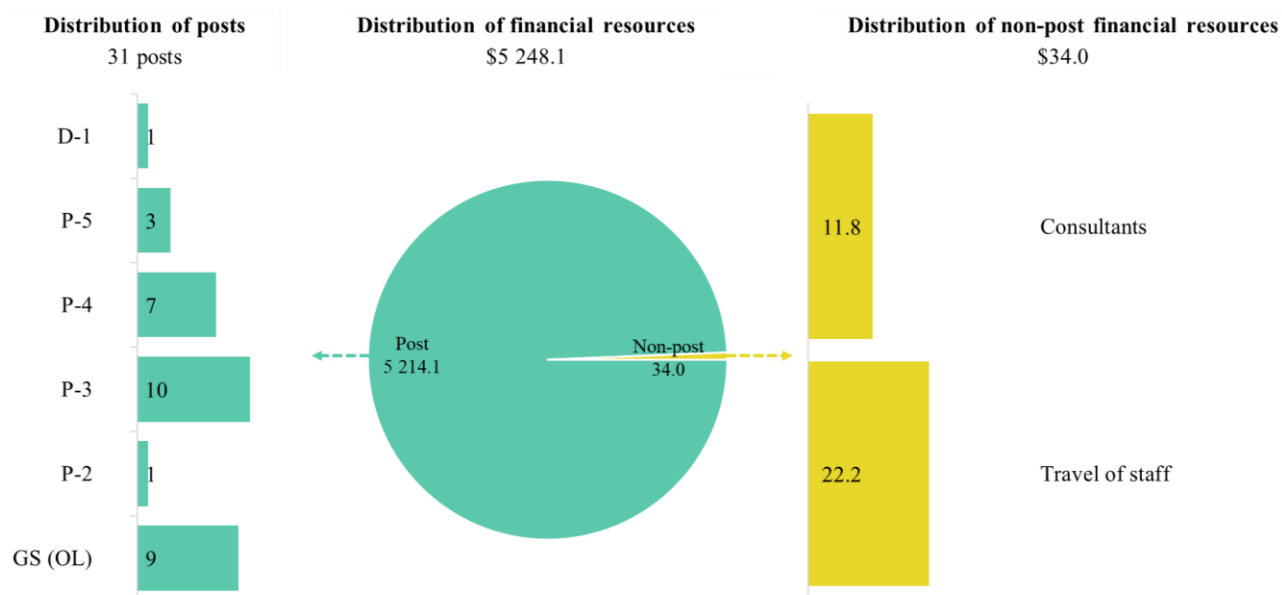**Subprogramme 3: evolution of financial and post resources**

(Thousands of United States dollars/number of posts)

| | 2019 expenditure | 2020 appropriation | Changes | | | | | 2021 estimate (before recosting) |
			Technical adjustments	New/ expanded mandates	Other	Total	Percentage	
Financial resources by main category of expenditure								
Post	4 333.8	4 417.4	–	–	–	–	–	4 417.4
Non-post	35.1	42.4	–	–	–	–	–	42.4
Total	**4 368.8**	**4 459.8**	**–**	**–**	**–**	**–**	**–**	**4 459.8**
Post resources by category								
Professional and higher		19	–	–	–	–	–	19
General Service and related		8	–	–	–	–	–	8
Total		**27**	**–**	**–**	**–**	**–**	**–**	**27**

Figure 20.XXIII
Subprogramme 3: distribution of proposed resources for 2021 (before recosting)

(Number of posts/thousands of United States dollars)

Subprogramme 4
Economic cooperation and integration

20.176   The proposed regular budget resources for 2021 amount to $1,956,000 and reflect no change in the resource level compared with the appropriation for 2020. Additional details are reflected in table 20.29 and figure 20.XXIV.

Table 20.29
Subprogramme 4: evolution of financial and post resources

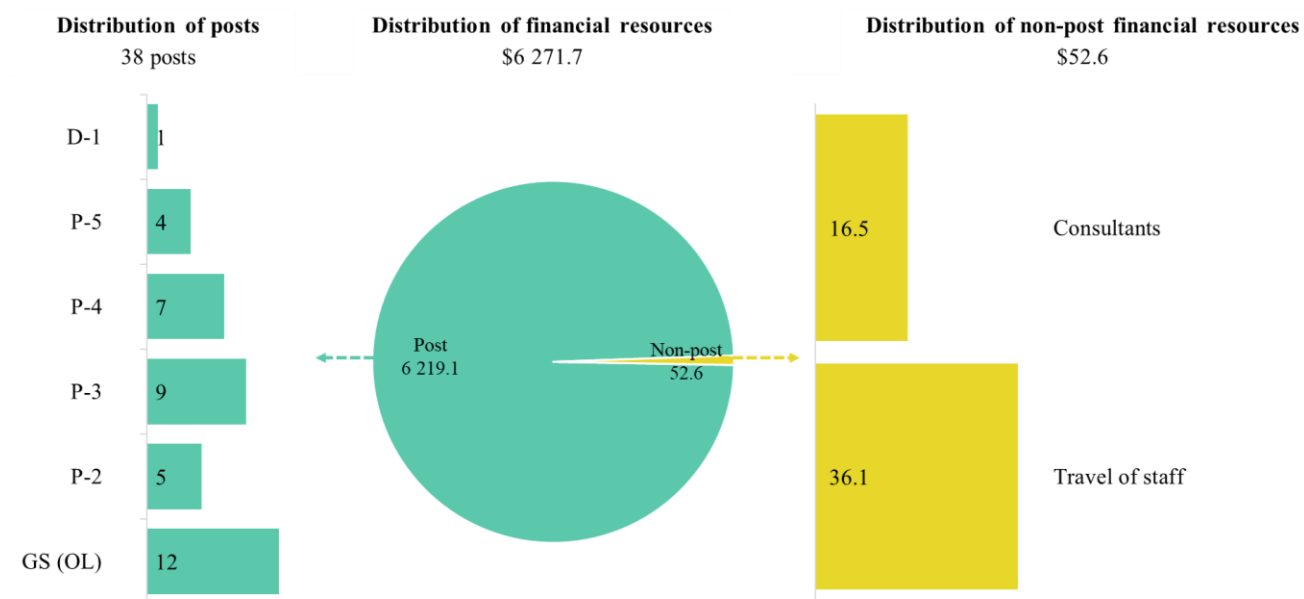(Thousands of United States dollars/number of posts)

| | | | Changes | | | | | |
	2019 expenditure	2020 appropriation	Technical adjustments	New/ expanded mandates	Other	Total	Percentage	2021 estimate (before recosting)
Financial resources by main category of expenditure								
Post	1 868.9	1 914.0	–	–	–	–	–	1 914.0
Non-post	14.1	42.0	–	–	–	–	–	42.0
Total	**1 882.9**	**1 956.0**	**–**	**–**	**–**	**–**	**–**	**1 956.0**
Post resources by category								
Professional and higher		8	–	–	–	–	–	8
General Service and related		3	–	–	–	–	–	3
Total		**11**	**–**	**–**	**–**	**–**	**–**	**11**

Figure 20.XXIV
Subprogramme 4: distribution of proposed resources for 2021 (before recosting)

(Number of posts/thousands of United States dollars)

Distribution of posts	Distribution of financial resources	Distribution of non-post financial resources
11 posts	$1 956.0	$42.0

Subprogramme 5
Sustainable energy

20.177   The proposed regular budget resources for 2021 amount to $2,063,900 and reflect no change in the resource level compared with the appropriation for 2020. Additional details are reflected in table 20.30 and figure 20.XXV.

Table 20.30
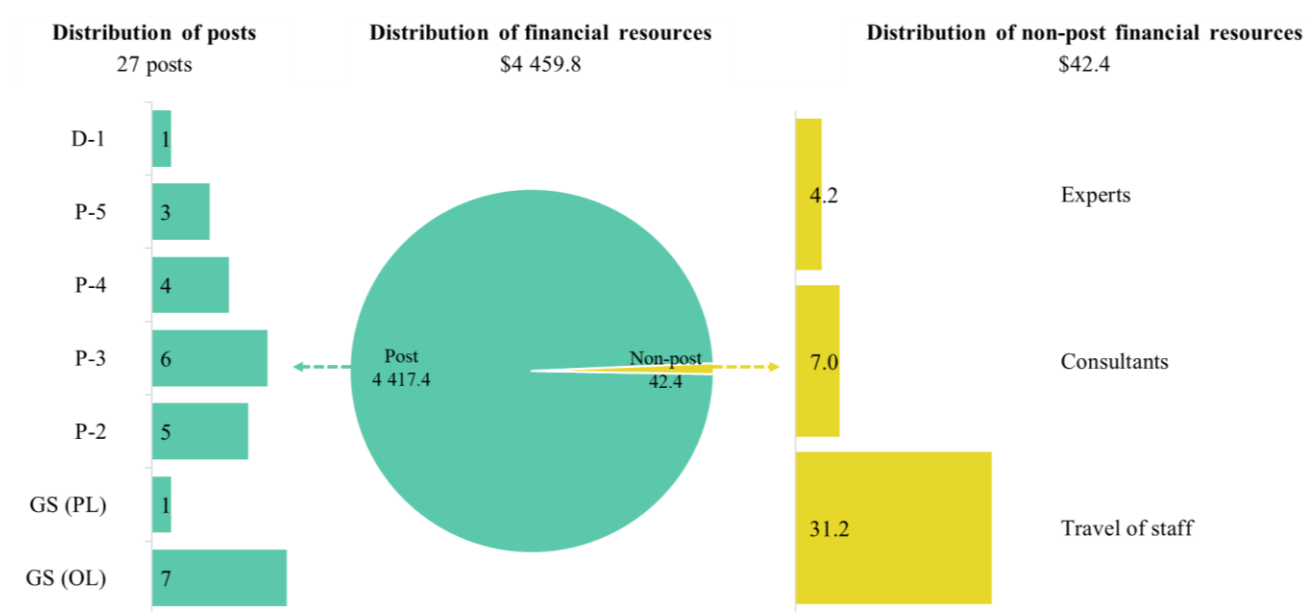**Subprogramme 5: evolution of financial and post resources**

(Thousands of United States dollars/number of posts)

			Changes					2021 estimate (before recosting)
	2019 expenditure	*2020 appropriation*	*Technical adjustments*	*New/ expanded mandates*	*Other*	*Total*	*Percentage*	
Financial resources by main category of expenditure								
Post	2 292.9	2 040.9	–	–	–	–	–	2 040.9
Non-post	0.8	23.0	–	–	–	–	–	23.0
Total	**2 293.7**	**2 063.9**	**–**	**–**	**–**	**–**	**–**	**2 063.9**
Post resources by category								
Professional and higher		8	–	–	–	–	–	8
General Service and related		3	–	–	–	–	–	3
Total		**11**	**–**	**–**	**–**	**–**	**–**	**11**

Figure 20.XXV
Subprogramme 5: distribution of proposed resources for 2021 (before recosting)

(Number of posts/thousands of United States dollars)

Subprogramme 6
Trade

20.178   The proposed regular budget resources for 2021 amount to $3,351,800 and reflect no change in the resource level compared with the appropriation for 2020. Additional details are reflected in table 20.31 and figure 20.XXVI.

Table 20.31
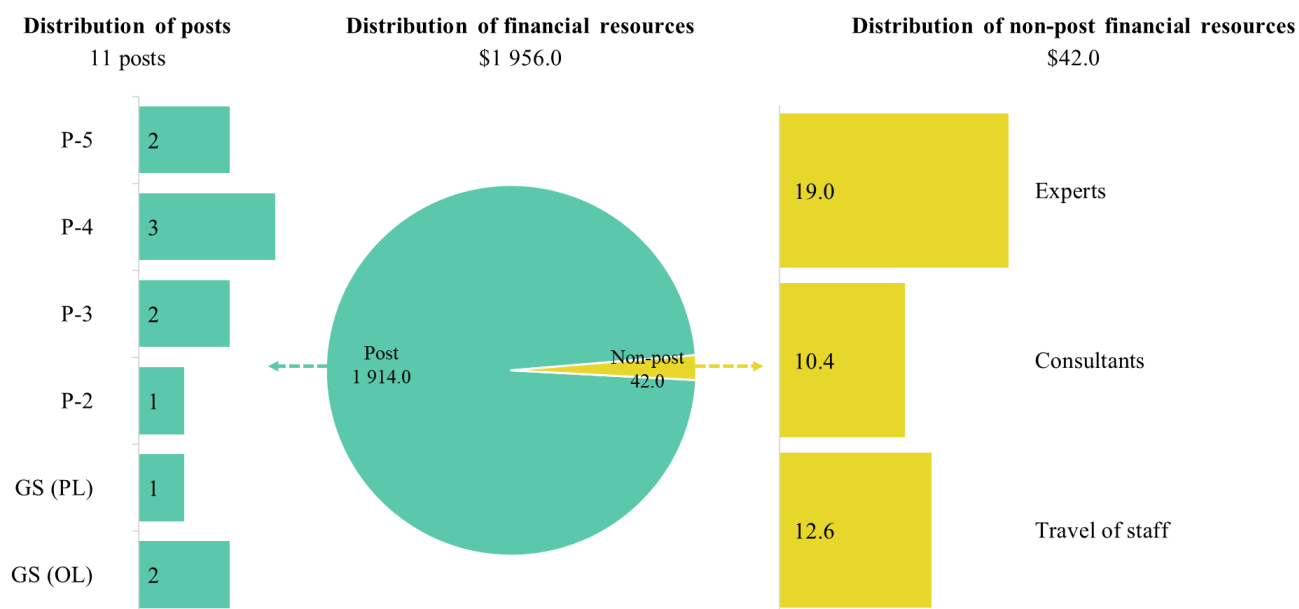**Subprogramme 6: evolution of financial and post resources**

(Thousands of United States dollars/number of posts)

			Changes					2021 estimate (before recosting)
	2019 expenditure	2020 appropriation	Technical adjustments	New/ expanded mandates	Other	Total	Percentage	
Financial resources by main category of expenditure								
Post	3 157.0	3 315.0	–	–	–	–	–	3 315.0
Non-post	28.9	36.8	–	–	–	–	–	36.8
Total	**3 185.9**	**3 351.8**	**–**	**–**	**–**	**–**	**–**	**3 351.8**
Post resources by category								
Professional and higher		14	–	–	–	–	–	14
General Service and related		6	–	–	–	–	–	6
Total		**20**	**–**	**–**	**–**	**–**	**–**	**20**

Figure 20.XXVI
Subprogramme 6: distribution of proposed resources for 2021 (before recosting)
(Number of posts/thousands of United States dollars)

Subprogramme 7
Forests and the forest industry

20.179   The proposed regular budget resources for 2021 amount to $1,413,300 and reflect no change in the resource level compared with the appropriation for 2020. Additional details are reflected in table 20.32 and figure 20.XXVII.

Table 20.32
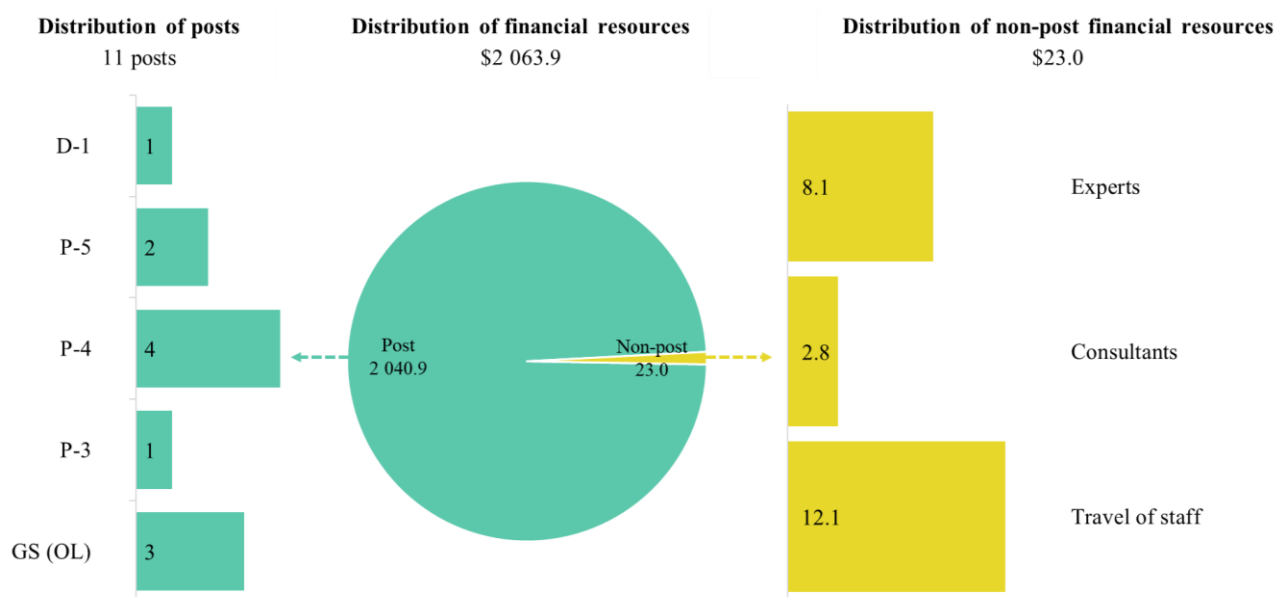**Subprogramme 7: evolution of financial and post resources**
(Thousands of United States dollars/number of posts)

			Changes					2021 estimate (before recosting)
	2019 expenditure	*2020 appropriation*	*Technical adjustments*	*New/expanded mandates*	*Other*	*Total*	*Percentage*	
Financial resources by main category of expenditure								
Post	1 302.1	1 395.0	–	–	–	–	–	1 395.0
Non-post	13.0	18.3	–	–	–	–	–	18.3
Total	**1 315.1**	**1 413.3**	**–**	**–**	**–**	**–**	**–**	**1 413.3**
Post resources by category								
Professional and higher		5	–	–	–	–	–	5
General Service and related		3	–	–	–	–	–	3
Total		**8**	**–**	**–**	**–**	**–**	**–**	**8**

Figure 20.XXVII
Subprogramme 7: distribution of proposed resources for 2021 (before recosting)

(Number of posts/thousands of United States dollars)
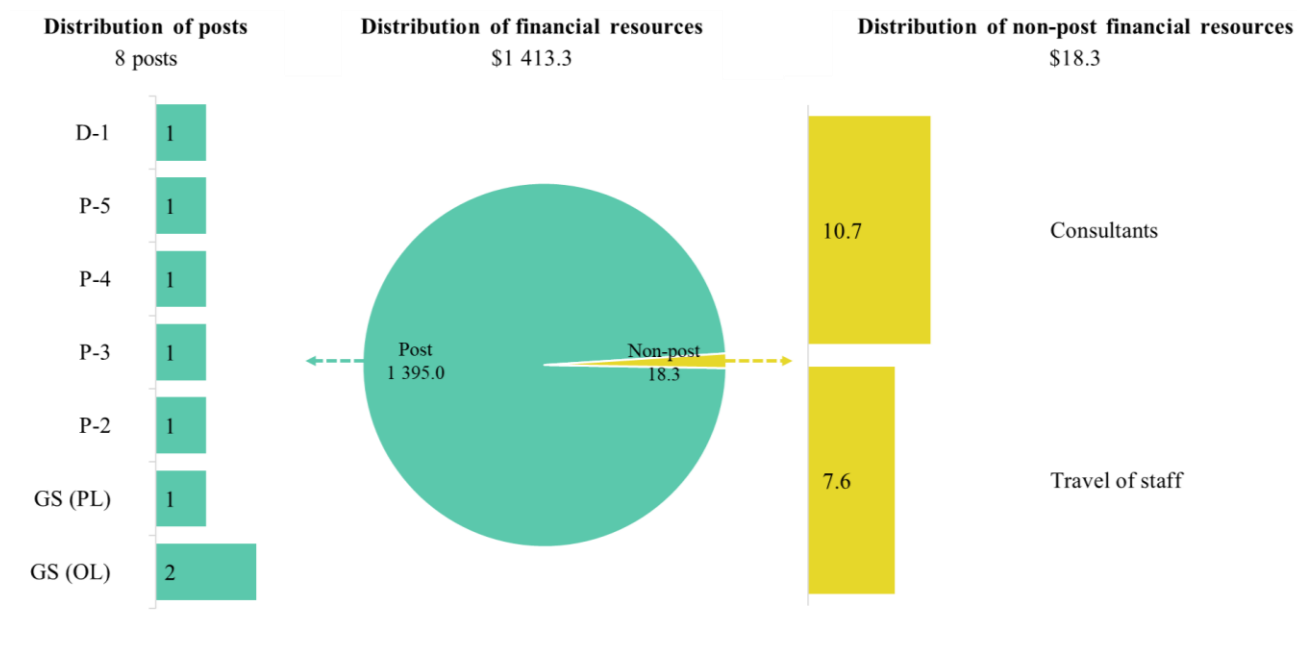
Subprogramme 8
Housing, land management and population

20.180   The proposed regular budget resources for 2021 amount to $1,090,300 and reflect no change in the resource level compared with the appropriation for 2020. Additional details are reflected in table 20.33 and figure 20.XXVIII.

Table 20.33
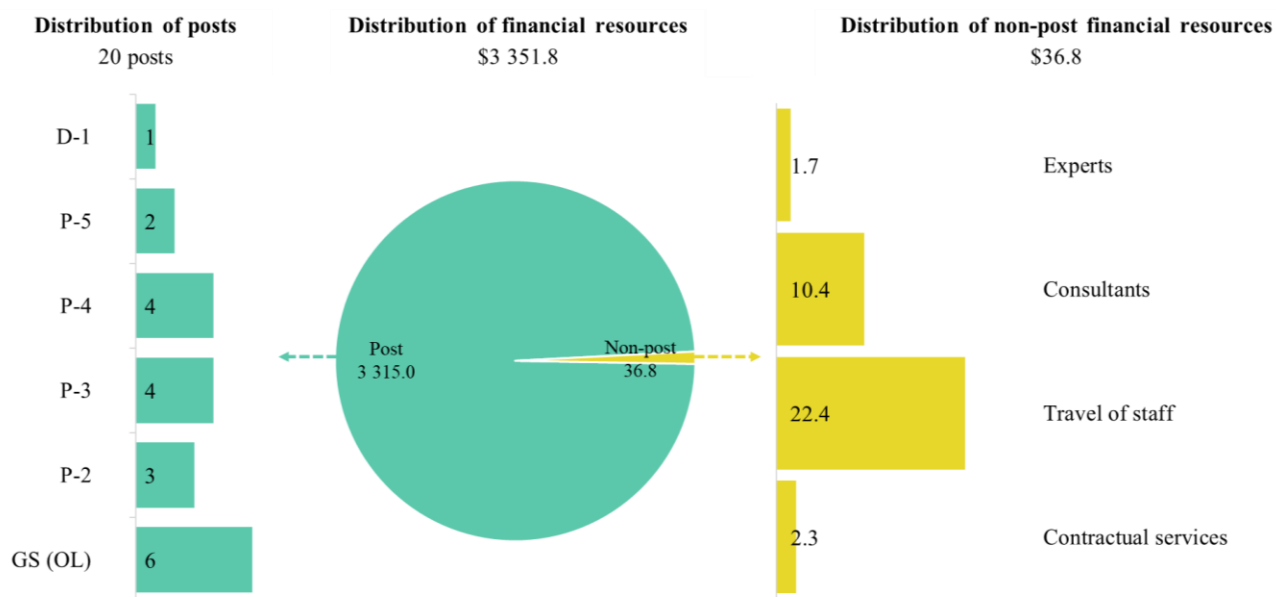**Subprogramme 8: evolution of financial and post resources**

(Thousands of United States dollars/number of posts)

| | 2019 expenditure | 2020 appropriation | Changes | | | | | 2021 estimate (before recosting) |
			Technical adjustments	New/expanded mandates	Other	Total	Percentage	
Financial resources by main category of expenditure								
Post	1 130.4	1 081.0	–	–	–	–	–	1 081.0
Non-post	4.6	9.3	–	–	–	–	–	9.3
Total	**1 135.0**	**1 090.3**	**–**	**–**	**–**	**–**	**–**	**1 090.3**
Post resources by category								
Professional and higher		4	–	–	–	–	–	4
General Service		3	–	–	–	–	–	3
Total		**7**	**–**	**–**	**–**	**–**	**–**	**7**

Figure 20.XXVIII
Subprogramme 8: distribution of proposed resources for 2021 (before recosting)
(Number of posts/thousands of United States dollars)

Distribution of posts
7 posts

P-5   1
P-4   1
P-2   2
GS (OL)   3

Distribution of financial resources
$1 090.3

Post
1 081.0

Non-post
9.3

Distribution of non-post financial resources
$9.3

4.1   Consultants

5.2   Travel of staff
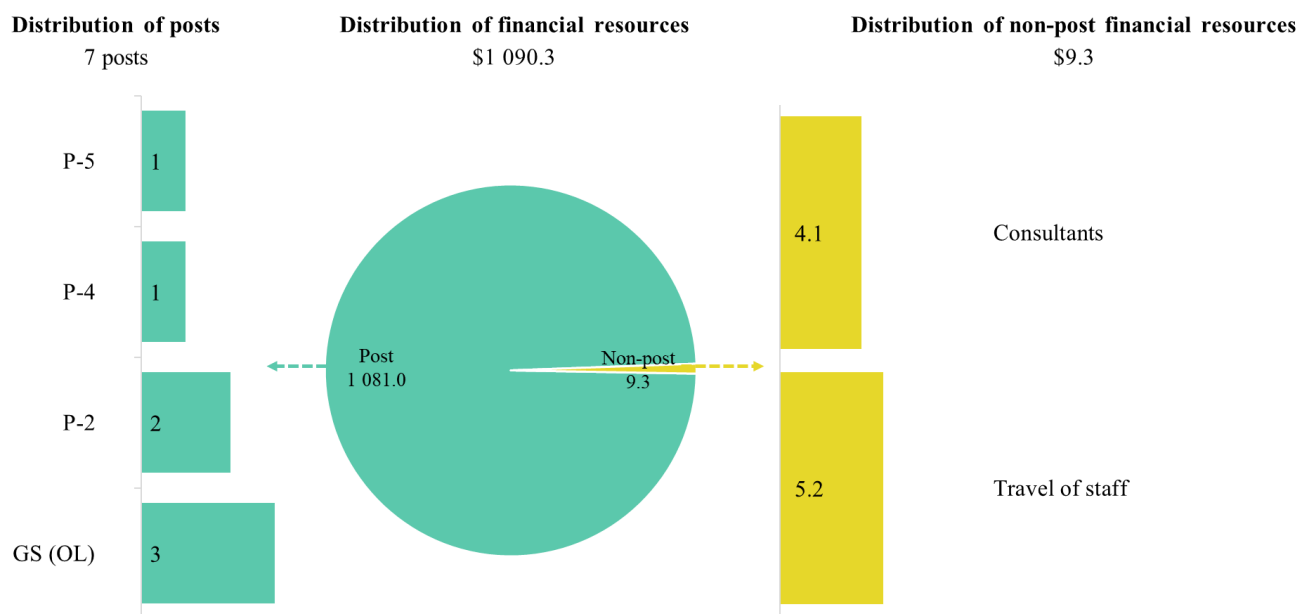
Programme support

20.181   The Programme Management and Support Services Division is comprised of the Office of the Director, the Programme Management Unit under executive direction and management, the General Administration Unit, the Budget and Finance Management Unit, the Human Resources Management Unit and the Information Systems Unit. The Division will efficiently leverage the interrelated nature of programme management and programme support functions in one dedicated division. The ECE programme of work would be further strengthened by consolidating the functions relating to strategy, programme management, oversight, evaluation, enterprise risk management, programme support and coordination of the ECE technical cooperation programme, including support for the resident coordinator countries. Lastly, the establishment of this division on 1 January 2021 would address the horizontal structure of senior management at ECE by assisting the Executive Secretary in discharging her functions by reducing the lines of accountability reporting directly to her. Building on the successful model of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), the programme management and administration support functions would be most efficiently and effectively discharged by a new centralized post (D-1) funded from extrabudgetary resources under a new consolidated Programme Management and Support Services Division.

20.182   The overall responsibilities of the new Programme Management and Support Services Division include the following functions:

(a)   The Office of the Director is headed by a Director, funded from extrabudgetary resources, who manages all aspects of programme planning, oversight and administration;

(b)   The Programme Management Unit under executive direction and management is explained in paragraph 20.165;

(c)   The General Administration Unit, which is responsible for the coordination, management and provision of general administrative services, including the coordination, drafting and promulgation of all administrative policies; travel management; enterprise application

coordination and management (including Umoja); office space management; property management oversight and control; and the organization of procurement activities. The Unit liaises with the United Nations Office at Geneva, which is the service provider, delivering back-office support to ECE;

(d)   The Budget and Finance Management Unit, which is responsible for all aspects of financial and budgetary management and annual budget preparation; budget performance reporting, including the financial processing and reporting and guidance to programme managers; the management of the ECE grants programme; the preparation of the statement of internal control; and the management of the financial delegation of authority under ECE. The Unit liaises with the United Nations Office at Geneva, which is the service provider, delivering back-office support to ECE;

(e)   The Human Resources Management Unit, which is responsible for human resources management, including staffing table management, staff selection and training, staff performance management, management of the ECE intern programme; management of consultants and individual contractors, staff welfare, management of time and attendance, flexible working arrangements and the implementation of the ECE gender policy. The Unit is also responsible for all matters related to the administration of justice system in the Secretariat. It liaises with the United Nations Office at Geneva, which is the service provider, delivering back-office support to ECE;

(f)   The Information Systems Unit, which is responsible for the provision of information and communications technology (ICT) systems and services in support of the effective delivery of the ECE programme of work. The Unit provides advisory services to the management of ICT projects and ensures that appropriate ICT solutions are delivered to the ECE subprogrammes. The Unit coordinates with the United Nations Office at Geneva, which is the service provider to ECE for personal computing services and related services such as desktop management, data hosting and storage, videoconferencing and Wi-Fi. These services, outsourced to the United Nations Office at Geneva, amount to approximately $600,000 annually.

20.183   The proposed regular budget resources for 2021 amount to $3,176,400 and reflects a net increase of $119,200 compared with the appropriation for 2020. The proposed increase of $119,200 is explained in paragraph 20.158 (b). Additional details are reflected in table 20.34 and figure 20.XXIX.

Table 20.34
Programme support: evolution of financial and post resources
(Thousands of United States dollars/number of posts)

			Changes					2021 estimate (before recosting)
	2019 expenditure	*2020 appropriation*	*Technical adjustments*	*New/expanded mandates*	*Other*	*Total*	*Percentage*	
Financial resources by main category of expenditure								
Post	1 827.4	1 897.7	–	–	85.5	85.5	4.5	1 983.2
Non-post	933.2	1 159.5	–	–	33.7	33.7	2.9	1 193.2
Total	**2 760.6**	**3 057.2**	**–**	**–**	**119.2**	**119.2**	**3.9**	**3 176.4**
Post resources by category								
Professional and higher		7	–	–	1	1	14.3	8
General Service		5	–	–	–	–	–	5
Total		**12**	**–**	**–**	**1**	**1**	**8.3**	**13**

Figure 20.XXIX
Programme support: distribution of proposed resources for 2021 (before recosting)
(Number of posts/thousands of United States dollars)

Distribution of posts	Distribution of financial resources	Distribution of non-post financial resources
13 posts	$3 176.4	$1 193.2

Distribution of posts — 13 posts

P-5	1
P-4	2
P-3	3
P-2	2
GS (PL)	1
GS (OL)	4

Distribution of financial resources — $3 176.4

Post 1 983.2
Non-post 1 193.2

Distribution of non-post financial resources — $1 193.2

139.6	Other staff costs
46.1	Consultants
13.1	Travel of staff
668.1	Contractual services
67.6	General operating expenses
46.2	Supplies and materials
212.5	Furniture and equipment

Annex I

Organizational structure and post distribution for 2021

Programme Management and Support Services Division
(executive direction and management and programme support)

RB:	XB:
2 P-5	1 D-1
3 P-4	2 P-4
4 P-3[a]	1 P-2
2 P-2	3 GS (OL)
1 GS (PL)	
5 GS (OL)	

Office of the Executive Secretary
(executive direction and management)

RB:
1 USG
1 D-2
1 D-1
1 P-2
1 GS (PL)
4 GS (OL)

Sustainable Development and Gender Unit
(executive direction and management)

RB:
1 D-1
2 P-5
1 P-4
1 GS (OL)

Information Unit
(executive direction and management)

RB:
1 P-5
3 GS (OL)

Environment Division
(subprogramme 1)

RB:	XB:
1 D-1	1 P-4
3 P-5	19 P-3
7 P-4	1 P-2
10 P-3	6 GS (OL)
1 P-2	
9 GS (OL)	

Sustainable Transport Division
(subprogramme 2)

RB:	XB:
1 D-1	1 P-5
4 P-5	5 P-4
7 P-4	5 P-3
9 P-3	1 P-2
5 P-2	4 GS (OL)
12 GS (OL)	

Statistical Division
(subprogramme 3)

RB:
1 D-1
3 P-5
4 P-4
6 P-3
5 P-2
1 GS (PL)
7 GS (OL)

Statistical Division
(subprogramme 8)

RB:
1 P-5
1 P-2
1 GS (OL)

Sustainable Energy Division
(subprogramme 5)

RB:
1 D-1
2 P-5
4 P-4
1 P-3
3 GS (OL)

Economic Cooperation and Trade Division
(subprogramme 6)

RB:	XB:
1 D-1	1 P-4
2 P-5	
4 P-4	
4 P-3	
3 P-2	
6 GS (OL)	

Economic Cooperation and Trade Division
(subprogramme 4)

RB:	XB:
2 P-5	1 P-3
3 P-4	
2 P-3	
1 P-2	
1 GS (PL)	
2 GS (OL)	

Forests, Land and Housing Division
(subprogramme 7)

RB:
1 D-1
1 P-5
1 P-4
1 P-3
1 P-2
1 GS (PL)
2 GS (OL)

Forests, Land and Housing Division
(subprogramme 8)

RB:
1 P-4
1 P-2
2 GS (OL)

Abbreviations: GS (OL), General Service (Other level); GS (PL), General Service (Principal level); RB, regular budget; USG, Under-Secretary-General; XB, extrabudgetary.

[a] Establishment.

Annex II

Summary of follow-up action taken to implement relevant recommendations of the oversight bodies

Brief description of the recommendation	*Action taken to implement the recommendation*

Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions

First report on the proposed programme budget for 2020 (A/74/7)

The Advisory Committee recommends that the General Assembly encourage the regional commissions to continue to pursue efforts to strengthen cooperation and coordination among themselves and with the resident coordinator system and that it request the Secretary-General to include an update on any related activities and achievements in his next budget submission (para. V.59).	Cooperation and coordination with regional commissions, the resident coordinator system and other entities are presented in paragraphs 20.8 and 20.9 of the present report.
The Advisory Committee welcomes the Commission's initiative to digitize its library and documentation systems, as well as the approach taken to increase the electronic distribution of its publications while ensuring the availability of alternatives in areas with limited Internet access. The Committee also welcomes the progress made in expanding outreach and increasing the dissemination of ECLAC publications. The Committee is of the view that an analysis should be conducted to determine whether the ECLAC systems and strategies can be replicated or reused at other regional commissions and in United Nations departments and offices and trusts that an update on the matter will be provided in the next budget submission (para. V.76).	Unlike the practice for the other regional commissions, the ECE budget does not include resources for administrative, conference and library services, which are provided through a direct funding arrangement with the United Nations Office at Geneva. In particular, the Office provides services related to the translation, printing and dissemination of ECE parliamentary documents and publications, including library services. To reduce the costs related to publications, the ECE publications programmes comprise only those publications, including their language and print editions, that are specifically mandated by member States. In addition, to facilitate a wider dissemination of ECE intellectual products and reduce the distribution costs, all parliamentary documents and publications produced by ECE are made available online on its website.

Office of Internal Oversight Services

Audit of the management of the Transport International Routier Trust Fund at the Economic Commission for Europe (AG2018/720/02)

ECE should propose to the Administrative Committee the possible options of mechanisms to monitor and evaluate the documentation submitted by the authorized international organization in order to strengthen governance in the TIR Convention, particularly with regard to accountability (1).	A formal document (ECE/TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/2020/8) comprising the recommendations on possible mechanisms to monitor and evaluate the documentation submitted by the international organization was submitted to the Administrative Committee of the TIR Convention 1975 at its February 2020 session for its consideration.
	ECE considers the recommendation to have been implemented, pending review by the Office of Internal Oversight Services (OIOS).

Brief description of the recommendation	*Action taken to implement the recommendation*
ECE should prepare updated terms of reference for TIR focal points for consideration and approval by the Administrative Committee in order to ensure consistency and enhance the focal points' effectiveness (2).	A formal document (ECE/TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/2020/9) was submitted to the Administrative Committee of the TIR Convention 1975 at its February 2020 session, which included the updated terms of reference for TIR focal points, for its consideration and approval.
	ECE considers the recommendation to have been implemented, pending OIOS review.
ECE should bring to the attention of the Administrative Committee the need to develop appropriate procedures concerning: (a) evaluation of qualified organizations before selection of the authorized international organization for TIR operations; and (b) periodic assessment of the authorized international organization's compliance with the stipulated conditions and requirements (3).	At its October 2019 session, the Administrative Committee of the TIR Convention 1975 concluded that the recommendation was important for the TIR system and that an appropriate mechanism needed to be put in place concerning parts (a) and (b) of the recommendation. The Committee requested the secretariat of the Convention to prepare a document covering both (a) and (b).
	A formal document (ECE/TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/2020/11) was submitted to the Administrative Committee of the TIR Convention 1975 for consideration at its February 2020 session, which included possible procedures concerning: (a) evaluation of qualified organizations before selection of the authorized international organization for TIR operations; and (b) periodic assessment of the authorized international organization's compliance with the stipulated conditions and requirements.
	ECE considers the recommendation to have been implemented, pending OIOS review.
ECE should revise its internal directive on the management of extrabudgetary resources to ensure that essential review and approval of projects relating to Conventions is performed by the respective governing bodies, such as the Administrative Committee in the case of the TIR Convention (5).	Target date: June 2020.
	On 29 November 2019, the secretariat presented a draft proposal on "XB funded activities and projects: opportunities for more operational flexibility and greater efficiency in the approval process and reporting" to ECE member States during informal consultations on ways to strengthen the work of the Commission. It included, among other things, a follow-up to this recommendation. ECE member States did not agree to amend the existing guidance on the approval process for extrabudgetary projects.
	OIOS reviewed the action initiated by ECE in January 2020 and concluded that the recommendation remained open, pending receipt of the draft proposal presented to member States.
ECE should seek the advice of the Ethics Office on the apparent conflict of interest arising from its arrangement with the external partner on the eTIR project, including the receipt of funds from the external partner to whom ECE has become accountable under the contribution agreement despite having the	At its October 2019 session, the Administrative Committee of the TIR Convention 1975 took note of the need for ECE to seek the advice of the Ethics Office and reiterated its strong support for the continuation of the e-TIR project. ECE sent a letter to the Office on

Brief description of the recommendation	*Action taken to implement the recommendation*
responsibility to assist the Executive Board in overseeing the external partner's operations and assessing its compliance with the TIR Convention (6).	20 December 2019, addressing the issue at stake and seeking its advice. OIOS reviewed the action initiated by ECE in January 2020 and concluded that the recommendation remained open, pending receipt of the response from the Ethics Office.
ECE should bring to the attention of the Administrative Committee the need to: (a) study the reasons for the decline in sale of Carnets over the years and develop an action plan to address the underlying causes; and (b) develop an appropriate alternative financing arrangement to ensure the sustainability of TIR Trust Fund operations (7).	A formal document (ECE/TRANS/WP.30/2020/3) was submitted to the Working Party on Customs Questions affecting Transport (WP.30) following a decision of the Administrative Committee of the TIR Convention 1975 on this matter (October 2019) for consideration at its February 2020 session, which included a study on the reasons for the decline in sales of Carnets over the years and an action plan to address the underlying causes. A formal document (ECE/TRANS/WP.30/2020/10) was submitted to the Administrative Committee of the TIR Convention 1975 for consideration at its February 2020 session, which included alternative financing arrangement to ensure the sustainability of TIR Trust Fund operations. ECE considers the recommendation to have been implemented, pending OIOS review.
ECE should develop an action plan for providing the required training and support to countries that have acceded to the TIR Convention to operationalize the TIR procedures in those countries (10).	A formal document (ECE/TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/2020/2) was submitted to the Administrative Committee of the TIR Convention 1975 on this matter for consideration at its February 2020 session, which includes an action plan for providing the required training and support to countries that have acceded to the TIR Convention to operationalize the TIR procedures in those countries. ECE considers the recommendation to have been implemented, pending OIOS review.
Audit of the management of trust funds at the Economic Commission for Europe (AG2018/720/01)	
ECE should review its resource mobilization strategy and multi-year plan and take appropriate steps such as: (i) incorporating measurable and quantifiable performance indicators in the strategy; (ii) instituting a process to track the progress achieved; and (iii) including the impact of resource mobilization activities in its annual report to the Executive Committee (1).	Target date: December 2020. The Executive Secretary has initiated action at the subprogramme level, which will be finalized in 2020, and a revised resource mobilization strategy will be submitted to the Executive Committee for approval.
ECE should take appropriate steps to update its policies and procedures relating to management of extrabudgetary resources with the requirement to mainstream SDGs in their activities (3).	Target date: April 2021. The review of the ECE technical cooperation strategy (2007) is in progress. Given that the strategy was approved by the Commission, the revised version will be submitted for the Commission's approval at its next session, in April 2021.

Brief description of the recommendation	*Action taken to implement the recommendation*
ECE should: (i) develop a catalogue of technical cooperation services based on available technical expertise; and (ii) institute a project intake process to ensure that projects fall within the available expertise to further enhance the effectiveness of its technical cooperation activities (6).	Target date: December 2020. ECE requested OIOS to revise the implementation date from 30 June 2019 to 31 December 2020. This is because ECE does not wish to prejudge the outcome of the results from the reform of the United Nations development system, which should be taken into account in defining the future technical cooperation services of the Commission, with the regional component of the United Nations development system reform still under way.
ECE should review the trust funds with low contributions and/or no activity and determine whether they can be closed and merged with the technical cooperation trust fund to improve trust fund management (9).	Target date: December 2021. Following review and discussions with relevant programme managers regarding the closure or the merging of the general trust funds with low contributions or few or no activities with the technical cooperation trust fund, the Executive Office has determined that four trust funds may be merged, upon the finalization of remaining commitments in 2020, in order to minimize disruption to ongoing activities. OIOS took note of the progress reported by ECE in January 2020 and requested the final closure to close the recommendation.

Annex III

Summary of proposed changes in established and temporary posts, by component and subprogramme

	Posts	Level	Description	Reason for change
Subprogramme 2 Transport	(1)	GS (PL)	**Abolishment** of 1 post of Senior Administrative Assistant	This proposed position is no longer required to perform senior administrative functions in the Sustainable Transport Division, given that the work has already been redistributed to the other existing posts in the Division. This post is on temporary loan in 2020 from subprogramme 2, Transport, to programme support to perform administrative functions.
Programme support	1	P-3	**Establishment** of 1 post of Administrative Officer	The proposed establishment of one post of Administrative Officer is aligned with the efforts of the Secretary-General to attract and develop young talent. The post will strengthen the implementation of the annual budget process and the financial monitoring, performance reporting and control of the regular budget. In addition, under the framework for the delegation of authority to heads of entity, the reinforcement of budgetary and financial management oversight and control is required. The post will also absorb the functions of the post of Senior Administrative Assistant, on loan from subprogramme 2, Transport, which is proposed for abolishment.

Abbreviation: GS (PL), General Service (Principal level).

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