

ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Eighty-ninth meeting
Geneva, 1 February 2017

Item 4

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**Preparations for the 2017 Commission Session
Provisional agenda of the 2017 Commission session
-For approval-**

**Economic and Social Council**

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Economic Commission for Europe**Sixty-seventh session**

Geneva, 26–27 April 2017

Item 1 of the provisional agenda

Adoption of the agenda**UNECE at 70: Economic integration and cooperation towards 2030****Annotated provisional agenda for the sixty-seventh session**

To be held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva, starting at 10 a.m. on Wednesday, 26 April 2017

I. Provisional agenda

1. Opening and adoption of the agenda.

A. High-level segment**UNECE at 70: Economic integration and cooperation towards 2030**

2. High-level dialogue.
3. High-level thematic discussions:
 - (a) Strengthening cross-sectoral action in support of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.
 - (b) Mobilizing resources in support of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.
4. Discussion and endorsement of the high-level statement.

B. General segment

5. Report on activities of the Executive Committee.
6. Other issues calling for decision by the Commission.
7. Election of officers.
8. Other business.
9. Adoption of the report of the session.

II. Annotations to the provisional agenda

1. Opening and adoption of the agenda

Documentation: E/ECE/1479

1. The Commission will adopt its agenda.

A. High-level segment:

UNECE at 70: Economic integration and cooperation towards 2030

2. High-level dialogue

Documentation: E/ECE/14XX

2. In 2017, the Economic Commission for Europe marks its 70th anniversary. The 67th session of the Commission provides an opportunity to reflect upon the significant transitions in the ECE region and the historical mandate and role of ECE to facilitate concerted action for the economic development and integration of the region raising the level of economic activity, and maintaining and strengthening the economic relations of the member States, both among themselves and with other countries of the world. This reflection will look back on the achievements of ECE, as well as a look forward, to help chart the course for ECE's future role in support of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

3. Over seven decades, ECE's work has yielded significant results for the region and has established a notable amount of public goods in the form of norms, standards and conventions, a broad body of knowledge, and a wealth of expertise that is available to member States and to interested stakeholders, including beyond the region.

4. Today, new challenges are emerging for our region. We live in uncertain times with strong secular forces and global processes at play. In these circumstances, it is particularly important to collectively develop a vision of the future, of the existing opportunities and pitfalls in the search for sustainable development in our region. Amid this uncertainty, the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda provides a reference framework that defines our ambitions and is shaping policy actions – at the national, regional and global levels.

5. The Commission is invited to reflect on what the region should look like in 2030, including how greater economic integration and cooperation can maintain and strengthen the economic relations of the European countries, both among themselves and other countries of the world, and support the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. An important task of the economic dialogue is to promote a sustainable, inclusive, peaceful and prosperous future across the region, guided by the purposes and principles of the UN Charter, including the full respect for international law. Covering the broad spectrum of ECE activities, this visioning exercise will identify both opportunities and challenges that need to be addressed in future policy planning, as well as ways and means for ECE to effectively support member States in the implementation of the Agenda 2030

6. The high-level dialogue will be opened by a keynote address of the Secretary-General (tbc). Different facets of a vision for the future will be articulated in a ministerial-level panel discussion. Key messages from the Regional Forum on Sustainable Development will be presented. An interactive session among participants will follow. A background note will raise possible issues for discussion. These will include:

- What could the key steps to achieve a vision towards 2030 in our region? What could integration and cooperation in support of sustainable development look like in the ECE region towards 2030?
- What role can ECE play to help countries convene and cooperate to create an enabling environment to ensure the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in a way that leaves nobody behind? How could ECE's work on norms, standards and conventions be leveraged?
- How to create the necessary conditions for additional synergies and laying the foundation for greater economic integration in the ECE region?

3. High-level thematic discussions

Documentation: E/ECE/14XX

7. The integrated, universal and transformative nature of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) requires a cross-sectoral approach in their implementation. It also requires the mobilization of additional resources from multiple sources in support of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. Two high-level thematic discussions will address key questions related to integrated cross-sectoral action and resource mobilisation, including through the development and strengthening of partnerships and engaging additional actors.

(a) Strengthening cross-sectoral action in support of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda

8. With its diverse programmes and in multiple partnerships, ECE is already pursuing a cross-sectoral approach to address the inextricable linkages between transport, health and the environment, and between water, food, energy and ecosystems, to name but two examples. Effective implementation of the SDGs will require an approach for all SDGs that goes beyond individual sectors, addresses interdependencies and realizes potential synergies, where appropriate. Cross-sectoral work is most effective when it builds on creativity, innovation, cooperation and exchange of information.

9. A high level panel, including senior representatives of different portfolios (e.g. health, transport, energy, environment, trade, gender equality etc.), will share experiences, lessons and good practices to enhance cross-sectoral collaboration and highlight the necessity and the value of integrated approaches towards the implementation of the SDGs. It will be followed by an interactive session among participants. A background note will raise possible issues for discussion. These will include:

- Which kinds of linkages and interdependencies exist between different thematic sectors and what are their implications for policy towards 2030?
- What additional synergies can be achieved with an integrated approach that reaches beyond the narrow sectoral perspectives, including through the deepening of existing partnerships and outreach to even broader groups of stakeholders?
- What is required to strengthen effective cross-sectoral action in the ECE region?
- How can good governance contribute to enhancing policy coherence for sustainable development?
- How can ECE further adapt to the need for stronger cross-sectoral collaboration required by the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development?

(b) Mobilizing resources in support of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda

10. The implementation of the 2030 Agenda will require national and international efforts as well as the mobilization and effective use of resources from a wide variety of sources, including based on the collaboration between the public and the private sectors. A better understanding of emerging trends in this regard, including financing options, both domestic and international, is required to inform the development of resource mobilization strategies in support of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda that meet the specific needs in our region. The development of norms, standards and classifications by the ECE has an impact in this context, i.e. regarding possible investment decisions, and this should be taken into account. ECE also plays an important role in providing technical and expert assistance to its Member States, in particular to the Member States with economies in transition, to support the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

11. A high level panel, including senior member State representatives of different portfolios, financial institutions, the private sector, academia, etc. will discuss major trends and emerging opportunities in mobilizing resources, developing partnerships and approaches to tap multiple sources of funding in view of fulfilling Agenda 2030 in UNECE's areas of competence. A background note will raise possible issues for discussion. These will include:

- What role can the collaboration between the public and the private sectors play, including through UNECE's work on public-private partnerships for infrastructure development and the provision of public services?
- What are the key financial requirements of different sectors in support of the implementation of the SDGs?
- What role do UNECE's standards and norms play in terms of financial and resource-allocation decisions?

4. Discussion and endorsement of the high-level statement

Documentation: E/ECE/14XX

12. Member States are invited to discuss and endorse the high-level statement stating the continued relevance of the historic mandate of ECE and reiterating their commitment to implement the 2030 Agenda; building bridges through cross-border and regional cooperation, engaging all stakeholders and partners, and using ECE tools and instruments.

B. General segment

5. Report on activities of the Executive Committee

Documentation: E/ECE/14XX

13. Following the review of the ECE reform, the Executive Committee was established in 2006 to act as the governing body of ECE during the intersessional period of the Commission. Member States will be provided with a report of the activities of EXCOM since the last Commission session and will be invited to provide their views and comments on the functioning of EXCOM.

6. Other issues calling for decision by the Commission

Documentation: E/ECE/14XX

14. The Commission will be asked to approve any other decision as necessary.

7. Election of officers

15. Rule 12 of the Rules of Procedure of the Commission states: "The Commission shall, at each biennial session, elect a country from among its members to hold the chair for the period of the biennium. The representative of the elected country will be the Chairperson. The Commission will also, at the same meeting, elect two countries whose representatives will become the Vice-Chairpersons for the period of the biennium. The Chairperson and Vice-Chairpersons of the Commission will also serve as the Chairperson and Vice-Chairpersons of the Executive Committee for the period of the biennium." Accordingly, under this item, elections for the Chair and Vice-Chairs for a period of two years will be held.

8. Other business

9. Adoption of the report of the session

III. Tentative timetable

<i>Time</i>	<i>Agenda item</i>
Wednesday, 26 April 2017	
10:00–10:30	Opening and adoption of the agenda Opening remarks: - Chairperson - Executive Secretary - Other high-level officials High-level segment: UNECE at 70 -- economic integration and cooperation towards 2030
10:30–13:00	Item 2: High-level dialogue Keynote address: Secretary-General of the United Nations (tbc)
13.15- 14.45	Lunch break <i>[Lunchtime conversation with former Executive Secretaries of ECE]</i>
15:00–18:00	Item 3: High-level thematic discussions (a) Strengthening cross-sectoral action in support of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda (b) Mobilizing resources in support of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda
18:15	<i>[Myrdal Lecture and Reception]</i>
Thursday, 27 April 2017	
High-level segment (continued)	
10:00–10:30	Item 4: Discussion and endorsement of the high-level statement General segment
10:30–11:00	Item 5: Report on activities of the Executive Committee
11:00–12:00	Item 6: Other issues calling for decision by the Commission
12:00–12:30	Item 7: Election of officers
12:30–13:00	Item 8: Other business Meeting suspension to finalize the conclusions and decisions
<i>[Side events to showcase the work of ECE]</i>	
16:00–17:00	Item 9: Adoption of report of the session
