

ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

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Item 5

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**Draft Decision of the Economic Commission for Europe on the Establishment of the
Regional Forum on Sustainable Development**

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The Economic Commission for Europe,

Welcoming General Assembly resolution 70/1, entitled “Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”, in which member States adopted a comprehensive, far-reaching and people-centred set of universal and transformative Sustainable Development Goals and targets, and reaffirmed their commitment to working tirelessly for the full implementation of this Agenda by 2030,

Recalling that the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, inter alia, recognizes the importance of building on existing follow-up and review mechanisms at the regional level and encourages all Member States to identify the most suitable regional forum in which to engage, as well as United Nations regional commissions to continue supporting Member States in this regard,

Recalling also General Assembly resolution 67/290, which, inter alia, acknowledges the importance of the regional dimension of sustainable development, and invites the United Nations regional commissions to contribute to the work of the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development, including through annual regional meetings, with the involvement of other relevant regional entities, major groups and other relevant stakeholders, as appropriate,

Recalling furthermore General Assembly resolution 70/299, which encourages member States to identify the most suitable regional or sub-regional forums and formats for the follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda, and welcomes the steps taken in this regard,

Taking into account the Ministerial Declaration of the 2016 High-level Political Forum (E/HLPF/2016/3/Add.2), which recognizes the important role the regional and subregional forums can have in supporting the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and welcomes the identification, development and convening of appropriate regional and subregional forums on sustainable development,

1. *Decides* to establish the Regional Forum on Sustainable Development for the ECE region, which, while retaining its intergovernmental character, would serve as a regional mechanism to follow-up and review the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and to convene it annually in Geneva in the years 2018 and 2019, in close cooperation with the entities of the regional UN system,
2. *Decides also* that the Regional Forum will focus on practical value added, taking into account the work of existing regional bodies and mechanisms, including peer review mechanisms, while avoiding additional reporting burdens for member States, and contribute to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development by:
 - (a) creating a space for ECE member States for peer learning and the exchange of policy experiences and good practices in SDG implementation

(b) providing a regional and subregional overview of progress and challenges in implementation that would complement analogous reports at the global level

(c) enhancing regional and subregional cooperation and addressing transboundary issues

(d) providing a platform for the participation and contributions of all relevant stakeholders, including international and regional organisations, civil society, academia and the private sector, following the relevant provisions of the 2030 Agenda and the Economic and Social Council.

3. *Requests* the secretariat to develop the agenda of each Regional Forum in close consultation with member States, and to align it with the respective themes and programme of work of the High-level Political Forum, with a focus on those aspects that are particularly relevant to the ECE region, and taking into account lessons learnt from previous Regional Forums.
4. *Decides* to submit the outcome of the Regional Forum, in the form of a summary produced by its Chair, to the High-level Political Forum, as part of the regional contributions to the global follow-up and review process of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.
5. *Furthermore decides* to review this decision as appropriate, but at the latest at the 68th session of the Commission with a view to keeping the Regional Forum aligned with the follow-up and review process at the global level.