

COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Ninety-first Meeting
Geneva, 24 March 2017
Item 8

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Update on evaluation activities

Note by the Secretariat

1. In line with the UN rules, regular evaluation is mandatory for all UN Secretariat departments (ST/SGB/2000/8 of 19 April 2000 Regulations and Rules Governing Programme Planning, the Programme Aspects of the Budget, the Monitoring of Implementation and the Methods of Evaluation).
2. UNECE has undertaken continued efforts to strengthen its evaluation framework following the approval of the UNECE Evaluation Policy, and the first biennial evaluation workplan which were submitted to the 68th meeting of EXCOM on 30 April 2014. During its 68th meeting, EXCOM welcomed the Evaluation Policy as contained in document 2014/10 and expressed appreciation to the secretariat for its efforts to strengthen the independence, accountability, credibility and usefulness of its evaluations.
3. EXCOM has considered the matter on 18 January 2016 and recommended inter alia UNECE should include evaluation as an agenda item in the programme of work of the EXCOM and the Commission session to enhance the participation and ownership of the evaluation work by its member states.
4. At its 86th meeting on 16 September 2016, EXCOM considered a report on the evaluations for 2014-2015, amendments to the Evaluation Workplan for 2016-2017, and the Evaluation Work Plan for 2018-2019. EXCOM reiterated the importance of the inclusion of evaluations in EXCOM's agenda (EXCOM/CONCLU86) in line with commitments made by the Secretariat on improving transparency on the activities and results of evaluations in UNECE.
5. In light of the above and in pursuit of further strengthening the evaluation function at UNECE, the delegation of Switzerland would like to propose the following draft decision for EXCOM's consideration:

“EXCOM requests the secretariat to prepare, within existing resources, an annual report of evaluations, containing information of implementation rates, status and information on completed and ongoing evaluations and programmatic changes generated by the implementation of relevant recommendations, and present it to EXCOM every year at its first session after the completion of the year. EXCOM members are encouraged to contribute extrabudgetary resources to ensure that UNECE is able to engage the best evaluation consultants to continue to enhance the quality and utility of evaluation efforts in UNECE. EXCOM also encourages the secretariat and member States to continue sharing knowledge and experiences on this topic with relevant stakeholders.”