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Regional cooperation

Regional cooperation in the economic, social and related fields

Report of the Secretary-General*

Addendum

Matters calling for action by the Economic and Social Council or brought to its attention: Economic Commission for Europe and Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

Summary

The present addendum to the report of the Secretary-General on regional cooperation in the economic, social and related fields contains information on the resolutions and decisions adopted or endorsed by the Economic Commission for Europe at its sixty-eighth session, held in Geneva on 9 and 10 April 2019, and the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific at its seventy-fifth session, held in Bangkok from 27 to 31 May 2019. The full texts of the resolutions and decisions are available at www.regionalcommissions.org/our-work/regional-commissions-sessions-resolutions-and-decisions.

* The present report was submitted after the deadline so as to include the most recent information.



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I. Matters calling for action by the Economic and Social Council

Economic Commission for Europe

1. At its sixty-eighth session, held in Geneva on 9 and 10 April 2019, the Economic Commission for Europe adopted decisions C (68), D (68), E (68), F (68), H (68), J (68) and K (68), on the basis of which the following draft resolutions are submitted for action by the Economic and Social Council:

Draft resolution I Revised terms of reference of the Committee on Environmental Policy

The Economic and Social Council,

Taking note of Economic Commission for Europe decision C (68) of 10 April 2019, by which the Commission approved the revised terms of reference of the Committee on Environmental Policy,

Endorses the revised terms of reference of the Committee on Environmental Policy of the Economic Commission for Europe, as set out in the annex to the present resolution.

Annex

Revised terms of reference of the Committee on Environmental Policy

1. The Committee on Environmental Policy concentrates its efforts on preventing environmental damage, including from climate change, promoting sustainable management of environmental resources and contributing towards the development of cooperation in the field of the environment among countries of the Economic Commission for Europe region, thereby leading to improvements in the region's environment.
2. In particular, the Committee, as a multilateral forum for cooperation in the area of the environment in the Commission region, will:
 - (a) Serve as an instrument for member States to provide policy direction in the region and to launch international initiatives, including the preparation of ministerial meetings in the region to review environmental priorities and adopt a strategic environmental policy;
 - (b) Act as the convening body for the preparatory processes for the Environment for Europe ministerial conferences and implement relevant outcomes of the ministerial conferences;
 - (c) Promote and define the modalities of environmental performance reviews in interested countries, using a country needs-based approach, adopt the conclusions and recommendations of the reviews and assist member States in their implementation;
 - (d) Oversee the development and implementation of the Shared Environmental Information System in support of a regular process of environmental assessment in the region;
 - (e) Promote and strengthen environmental information and observation capacity and the use of indicators to assess progress, particularly in countries of the

Caucasus, Central Asia and Eastern and South-Eastern Europe and other member countries of the Commission, as appropriate, in order to provide reliable and relevant information on the state of the environment as a basis for improved policymaking and public awareness;

(f) Consider the need for and develop, as appropriate, legally binding instruments, recommendations, methodologies and guidelines with a view to improving environmental management in member countries;

(g) Conduct and support international activities that:

(i) Promote environmental protection and sustainable development in the region at the subregional and transboundary levels;

(ii) Facilitate the contribution of the work of the Committee to the United Nations Environment Assembly at the global level;

(iii) Promote effective and cost-efficient cooperation among all parties concerned in the areas of its mandate;

(iv) Encourage public participation in environmental decision-making with the involvement of civil society, including the private sector, in accordance with the United Nations procedures and the national practice of Commission member States;

(h) Promote cooperation and share experience among the environmental conventions of the Commission, supporting effective implementation of these instruments;

(i) Promote implementation of policy instruments and tools and the legally binding instruments of the Commission with a view to strengthening the capabilities of countries in the Caucasus, Central Asia and Eastern and South-Eastern Europe, through technical assistance, advisory missions and capacity-building upon the request of a member State;

(j) Assist member States, as necessary, to integrate environmental considerations into other policies, to promote cross-sectoral approaches and to use indicators to assess progress, as appropriate;

(k) Contribute to the Commission region's implementation of the environmental dimension of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development¹ and support the regional meetings, such as the Regional Forum on Sustainable Development for the region, organized in preparation for meetings of the high-level political forum on sustainable development;

(l) Regularly review its programme of work to ensure the coherence of its activities with the overall objectives of the Commission, develop synergies and propose to the Commission modalities for cooperation with other sectoral committees on issues of common concern;

(m) Facilitate the achievement of synergies in the implementation of regional environmental programmes, including those developed through regional economic integration organizations, and cooperate with other United Nations regional commissions, international organizations and other relevant bodies, including financing institutions, to avoid duplication of work and enhance synergies;

(n) Promote and support member States' efforts to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals.

¹ General Assembly resolution 70/1.

Draft resolution II

Revised terms of reference of the Steering Committee on Trade Capacity and Standards

The Economic and Social Council,

Taking note of Economic Commission for Europe decision D (68) of 10 April 2019, by which the Commission approved the revised terms of reference of the Steering Committee on Trade Capacity and Standards,

Endorses the revised terms of reference of the Steering Committee on Trade Capacity and Standards of the Economic Commission for Europe, as set out in the annex to the present resolution.

Annex

Revised terms of reference of the Steering Committee on Trade Capacity and Standards

The Steering Committee on Trade Capacity and Standards is an intergovernmental body that oversees and guides the development of international norms and standards, procedures and best practices that reduce the costs associated with export and import processes and increase the efficiency, predictability and transparency of trade regulations and procedures and the movement of goods and services.

The Steering Committee shall:

1. Review and endorse standards and recommendations developed by the Working Party on Regulatory Cooperation and Standardization Policies (Working Party 6) and the Working Party on Agricultural Quality Standards (Working Party 7).
2. Draft the programme of work on trade capacity and standards and review and endorse the workplans of Working Party 6 and Working Party 7, and recommend these to the Executive Committee of the Economic Commission for Europe for approval.
3. Review the results of demand-driven studies (financed by extrabudgetary resources) that identify procedural and regulatory barriers to trade in member States in coordination and cooperation with other relevant international organizations. Capacity-building and technical assistance activities to help countries in the region to implement standards developed under the subprogramme may be decided in accordance with paragraph 18 (a) of Commission decision A (65) of 11 April 2013. Support the achievement of Sustainable Development Goals 8 and 9² by reviewing the systemic issues emerging from the studies and the regulatory work of Working Party 6 and Working Party 7.
4. Liaise and coordinate its work with other committees and relevant subsidiary bodies of the Commission, in particular the Committee on Innovation, Competitiveness and Public-Private Partnerships, and coordinate its work with other relevant United Nations programmes and agencies, as well as other relevant organizations and stakeholders and international standards-setting organizations in order to achieve synergies and to avoid possible overlap and duplication.
5. Meet once a year for a maximum of one and a half days in a session that is open to all relevant international organizations and other stakeholders and held, as feasible, back-to-back with the annual session of either Working Party 6 or Working Party 7.

² See General Assembly resolution 70/1.

6. Elect its own Bureau, which includes the Chairs of Working Party 6 and Working Party 7 as ex officio members.
7. Report to the Executive Committee.
8. Operate under the rules of procedure of the Commission and the guidelines on procedures and practices for Commission bodies, as agreed in Commission decision A (65).

Draft resolution III

Change of name of the Committee on Housing and Land Management

The Economic and Social Council,

Taking note of Economic Commission for Europe decision E (68) of 10 April 2019, by which the Commission decided to change the name of the Committee on Housing and Land Management to “Committee on Urban Development, Housing and Land Management”,

Endorses the change of name of the Committee on Housing and Land Management of the Economic Commission for Europe to “Committee on Urban Development, Housing and Land Management”.

Draft resolution IV

Change of name and revised terms of reference of the Working Group on Ageing

The Economic and Social Council,

Taking note of Economic Commission for Europe decision F (68) of 10 April 2019, by which the Commission decided to change the name of the Working Group on Ageing to “Standing Working Group on Ageing” and approved the revised terms of reference of the Standing Working Group,

Endorses the change of name and the revised terms of reference of the Standing Working Group on Ageing of the Economic Commission for Europe, as set out in the annex to the present resolution.

Annex

Revised terms of reference of the Standing Working Group on Ageing

A. Mandate

1. The Standing Working Group on Ageing is an intergovernmental body which is subsidiary to the Executive Committee and reports regularly to the Executive Committee on its work programme and achievements. The Standing Working Group builds on the 10-year effective and fruitful experience of the Working Group on Ageing instituted in December 2008.

2. The mandate of the Standing Working Group emanates from the following recent resolutions and global agendas: General Assembly resolution [72/144](#) of 19 December 2017 on the follow-up to the Second World Assembly on Ageing, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,³ the World Health Organization global

³ General Assembly resolution [70/1](#).

strategy and action plan on ageing and health 2016–2020⁴ and the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development⁵ beyond 2014.

B. Objectives

3. The Standing Working Group aims to help all countries in the region of the Economic Commission for Europe to mainstream population ageing into their policy and regulatory framework in order to adjust to demographic changes and create an environment conducive to the full realization of the individual and societal potential of living longer. The Working Group supports the realization of the policy principles set out in the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, 2002⁶ and its Regional Implementation Strategy and the subsequent ministerial declarations on ageing among the Commission member States. It strives for synergies in the activities related to the implementation and monitoring of the Madrid Plan of Action/Regional Implementation Strategy and those related to the regional/national follow-up of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and other population-related international frameworks such as the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development beyond 2014 and the World Health Organization global strategy and action plan on ageing and health 2016–2020.

C. Membership

4. The membership of the Standing Working Group consists of national focal points on ageing representing the member States of the Commission region. National focal points are expected to be appointed for a longer period, if possible, and be able to inform all related ministries and agencies about initiatives and activities of the Working Group. In addition, representatives of relevant international organizations, non-governmental organizations, the private sector and academia can also be invited as observers, in compliance with the rules and practices of the United Nations in this respect.

D. Activities

5. The Standing Working Group, acting within the framework of the policies of the United Nations, is entrusted with the implementation of the population component of the Housing, land management and population subprogramme of the Commission. The work of the Working Group is demand-driven, focuses on issues of population ageing and intergenerational relations, and aims to contribute to the effective implementation of commitments made by member States at international summits on population issues, in particular the commitments of the Madrid Plan of Action/Regional Implementation Strategy and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, by:

(a) Promoting international cooperation, exchange of experience and policy discussion on ageing and intergenerational relations taking into account the situation and different needs of individual countries;

(b) Developing guidelines and policy recommendations for Governments on population ageing issues;

⁴ See World Health organization, document WHA69/2016/REC/1.

⁵ *Report of the International Conference on Population and Development, Cairo, 5–13 September 1994* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.95.XIII.18), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

⁶ *Report of the Second World Assembly on Ageing, Madrid, 8–12 April 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.02.IV.4), chap. I, resolution 1, annex II.

(c) Supporting monitoring activities and coordinating the five-year review and appraisal exercises of implementation of the Madrid Plan of Action/Regional Implementation Strategy;

(d) Providing demand-driven policy advisory services and other capacity-building activities;

(e) Raising awareness of population ageing and its implications throughout the Commission region;

(f) Creating synergies with related policy agendas and collaboration within and outside the Commission.

6. The Standing Working Group operates in accordance with a multi-year programme of work anchored in the periodic review and appraisal of implementation of the Madrid Plan of Action/Regional Implementation Strategy as well as the implementation of and follow-up to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

7. The Standing Working Group cooperates and determines its activities in close contact with other United Nations agencies and international governmental and non-governmental organizations active in the field of ageing to avoid duplication and to focus on challenges of specific interest to Commission member States. It promotes cooperation with international organizations and encourages partnership among the public and private sectors in addressing the implications of population ageing.

E. Officers

8. The Standing Working Group elects a Bureau and a Chair in accordance with section V of the guidelines on procedures and practices for Commission bodies.⁷

F. Meetings

9. The Standing Working Group meets annually. In between sessions, its work is guided by the Bureau as provided in section VI of the guidelines on procedures and practices for Commission bodies. The Working Group and its Bureau are serviced by the Commission secretariat.

Draft resolution V Framework Guidelines for Energy Efficiency Standards in Buildings

The Economic and Social Council,

Taking note of Economic Commission for Europe decision H (68) of 10 April 2019, by which the Commission decided to transmit the Framework Guidelines for Energy Efficiency Standards in Buildings to the Economic and Social Council for its consideration and possible endorsement,

Endorses the Framework Guidelines for Energy Efficiency Standards in Buildings of the Economic Commission for Europe, as set out in the annex to the present resolution.

⁷ Resolution 2013/1, appendix III.

Annex

Framework Guidelines for Energy Efficiency Standards in Buildings

I. Introduction

1. Buildings are central to meeting the sustainability challenge. In the developed world, buildings consume over 70 per cent of the electrical power generated and 40 per cent of primary energy and are responsible for 40 per cent of carbon dioxide emissions from combustion. While developing countries will need to accommodate 2.4 billion new urban residents by 2050, in Europe 75 to 90 per cent of buildings standing today are expected to remain in use in 2050. Renewable energy technology alone cannot meet those requirements, despite recent improvements. The energy performance of buildings must be managed, but the capability to meet this challenge is in place.

2. Standards are an effective instrument for addressing energy efficiency in buildings. Development and deployment of standards support the achievements of the targets set by several international initiatives such as the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,⁸ the Sustainable Energy for All initiative and the Geneva Charter on Sustainable Housing. The concepts set forth herein go well beyond the incremental, components approach of existing building standards. Rather, they represent a principles-based performance guidance for building energy standards that is outcome-based, anchored in energy actually consumed, and that is designed to project a vision of holistically designed and operated, ultra-high-performance buildings as part of an integrated sustainable energy system.

II. Goal

3. Economic growth and the quality of indoor environments have depended on increased primary energy use. Shifting that reliance to renewables requires a holistic, systems approach to building design, delivery and operation and a paradigm that envisions buildings as energy producers and not solely or primarily as energy sinks. At costs equal or close to those of traditional buildings, it is possible with today's technology to transform buildings to align with the highest standards of health, comfort, well-being and sustainability, including improving energy productivity and reducing carbon dioxide emissions.

4. The energy required by buildings can be reduced to a level that can be supplied largely, perhaps exclusively, by non-carbon-based energy. While further improvement in renewable energy technology and electrical and thermal storage is to be expected, the results will be more immediate and robust if buildings are transformed fundamentally in terms of their energy performance. Limiting building heating and cooling requirements to 25 kWh/m²a (final energy in conditioned space) each reduces energy needs sufficiently to permit renewable energy or zero carbon sources to meet most or all of the remaining space conditioning energy requirements. Total primary energy use in buildings' conditioned spaces, including heating, ventilation, cooling and hot water, can be limited to 45 kWh/m²a or, including plug-in loads (appliances), to 90 kWh/m²a. Over time, with improvements in technology and materials and with enhanced connections to the built environment, these targets could be improved further. In parallel, there will be need for effective controls for generation, distribution, and emission at full and partial demand loads to match energy use with building and occupant needs.

⁸ General Assembly resolution 70/1.

III. The principles

5. The principles required for an era of truly sustainable buildings emerge from building science, materials science, digital science, information and communications technology and more. They reflect accumulated lessons learned and best practices of building owners, designers, engineers, builders, managers, policymakers and more. The principles shift the building industry paradigm from fragmented and serial to holistic and integrated.

6. The principles cannot be prescriptive because of the vast diversity of circumstances and conditions experienced around the world. Rather, the principles provide guidance for planners, builders and the entire building delivery and management chain as elements of innovative sustainability strategy.

A. Strategic – Buildings must be:

- **Science-based:** design, construction and management.
- **Financed:** through policies recognizing the value of better buildings.
- **Service-oriented:** meet the sustainability demands of the populations served.
- **Integrated:** with their built environment life cycle to connect buildings as energy generators and consumers.
- **Cost-effective:** to mobilize private investment and entrepreneurs.
- **Performance-monitored:** with feedback loops to operations and design tools.
- **Performance-based:** evaluated by system outcomes, not component prescriptions.

B. Design and construction – Conception/delivery of buildings must be:

- **Holistic and integrated:** recognize buildings and their environment are part of a system.
- **Affordable:** high-performance buildings costing the same as or less than in 2016.
- **Validated:** based on energy models that reliably predict actual building performance.
- **Sustainable:** made using sustainable materials, equipment, construction, management and retirement practices.
- **Code-driven:** with local adaptation of global building standards.
- **Skills-based:** develop workforces to provide technology/skills needed for design, construction and operation.

C. Management – Buildings must be maintained over their life cycle:

- **Commissioning:** with commissioning and recommissioning of active systems.
- **Performance-based:** with ongoing benchmarking, monitoring and reporting of performance data.
- **Certification:** maintain certification or labelling to ensure that energy performance is incorporated into asset value.
- **Managed:** professionally managed large or complex buildings with ethos of sustainability and social responsibility.

- **Data-linked:** with advanced building information management capacity, where public infrastructure permits.
- **Evaluated:** ongoing performance evaluation and improvement.
- **City-scaled:** information analysis and outcomes.
- **Life cycle-based:** with long-term analysis.

IV. Implementation

7. Transformative change in buildings is possible, and the capabilities to create a new world of buildings and energy is in hand or within reach. Already today we have the techniques to achieve climate neutrality in the building sector until 2050/2060. Progress will require follow on action in five areas to support the Framework and make its vision a reality:

(a) **Dissemination:** national, regional and municipal leaders in the public, private, research and education sectors must be made aware of the Framework – its vision, logic, practicality and advantages;

(b) **Education:** information, guidance, instruction and avenues to ongoing dialogue and knowledge resources must be provided to policy, market and knowledge stakeholders to foster local development of building standards, codes and practices aligned with the Framework;

(c) **Research:** through collaborations among leaders in science and technology, focused on the frontier challenges in such areas as (1) building components and materials; (2) building design, construction and monitoring; (3) energy generation and distribution; (4) integrated urban systems and life cycle management; and (5) strategies for each country and climate zone to be carbon-free in 2050/2060;

(d) **Consultation:** formal and informal channels with local policy, market and knowledge stakeholders for evaluation of impact, dialogue on impact strategy, addressing discovered or unanticipated challenges, and cultivating global consensus in support of the Framework;

(e) **Participation:** networks of support and engagement among leading corporations, foundations, universities, professions, civil society and others with the array of resources – intellectual, experiential, financial, and relational – that will be required to make transformation a grass-roots or deep market movement.

Draft resolution VI Revised terms of reference of the Inland Transport Committee

The Economic and Social Council,

Taking note of Economic Commission for Europe decision J (68) of 10 April 2019, by which the Commission approved the revised terms of reference of the Inland Transport Committee,

Endorses the revised terms of reference of the Inland Transport Committee of the Economic Commission for Europe, as set out in the annex to the present resolution.

Annex

Revised terms of reference of the Inland Transport Committee

(a) The Inland Transport Committee is a unique United Nations centre providing a comprehensive platform for consideration of all aspects of inland transport development and cooperation, with special attention to global regulatory governance through the United Nations transport conventions and other means;

(b) States members of the Economic Commission for Europe participate in the Committee sessions as full members with voting rights. Non-member States have the right to participate as full members in the segments of the Committee session that deal with legal instruments to which they are contracting parties and remain in a consultative capacity in other parts;

(c) The Committee provides a forum for its members and contracting parties for (i) cooperation and consultation based on the exchange of information and experiences, (ii) the analysis of transport trends and economics and transport policy trends and (iii) coordinated action designed to achieve an efficient, coherent, balanced and flexible transport system in the Commission region and beyond which is based on principles of market economy, pursues the objectives of safety, environmental protection and energy efficiency in transport and takes into account transport developments and policy of Committee members;

(d) The Committee promotes the harmonization and improvement of technical and operational regulations, standards and recommendations in the various fields of inland transport, particularly in road safety, road vehicles, the transport of dangerous goods, border crossing facilitation, infrastructures and combined transport;

(e) It promotes the facilitation of international road, rail and inland waterway transport, particularly through the simplification and harmonization of administrative border crossing procedures and physical and electronic documentation;

(f) It promotes the coordinated development of infrastructures for road, rail and inland waterway transport as well as for combined transport with a view to achieving coherent international transport connectivity;

(g) The Committee pursues the objective of sustainable transport development by means of promoting both the reduction of the negative impact of transport on the environment and the utilization of environmentally sound modes of transport, including the development of combined transport;

(h) With a view to achieving the above objectives and ensuring the above functions, the Inland Transport Committee elaborates, administers and, where appropriate, revises agreements, conventions and other international legally binding instruments in the various fields of inland transport;

(i) It acts as a centre for supporting new technologies and innovations in inland transport, by providing a platform for digitalization, automated driving and intelligent transport systems;

(j) It develops appropriate methodologies and definitions for the collection, compilation and harmonization of transport statistics for the purposes of comparability and consistency. It also evaluates the need for the collection and coordination of statistics at the international level and reviews ways to improve their collection, presentation and quality;

(k) Upon request, the Committee advises and assists its member countries, particularly those facing major economic changes, through workshops, training and other appropriate means on transport matters of specific interest, in particular in

developing sustainable transport systems and infrastructures that are compatible with those of their neighbouring countries;

(l) The Committee undertakes the study of problems at the interface of inland transport with maritime and air transport;

(m) In line with the Committee Strategy, in carrying out its mandate, the Committee cooperates closely through established channels with other United Nations bodies and regional commissions, subsidiary bodies of the Commission, the European Union and the Eurasian Economic Union, as well as other regional economic integration organizations, and intergovernmental organizations, regional and subregional organizations for economic cooperation, financial institutions, as well as with non-governmental organizations active in the field of inland transport;

(n) The Bureau of the Committee will be composed of Commission member States. The Committee shall adopt the terms of reference and rules of procedure of its Bureau and may amend these as necessary. The Committee shall adopt the terms of reference and rules of procedure of its subsidiary bodies;

(o) The Committee may establish subsidiary bodies or convene meetings as it deems necessary to assist it in carrying out the above mandate, in line with existing Commission rules.

Draft resolution VII

Implementation of the Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes at the global level

The Economic and Social Council,

Taking note of Economic Commission for Europe decision K (68) of 10 April 2019 on the implementation of the Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes (the Water Convention)⁹ at the global level, by which the Commission recommended to the Economic and Social Council that it endorse the decision,

Endorses Economic Commission for Europe decision K (68) on the implementation of the Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes⁹ at the global level.

II. Matters brought to the attention of the Economic and Social Council

A. Economic Commission for Europe

2. At its sixty-eighth session, held in Geneva on 9 and 10 April 2019, the Economic Commission for Europe adopted the high-level statement and a number of decisions relating to its programme of work, summaries of which are set out below for the attention of the Economic and Social Council.

⁹ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1936, No. 33207.

Decision A (68)

High-level statement

3. The Commission adopted the high-level statement, in which the contributions made by the Commission for over 70 years to the economic development and integration of the region were underlined. Recognizing that advancing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development would require strengthened cooperation to mobilize actions and resources across the public and private sectors, emphasis was placed on the role of the Commission as a solid platform for Governments and other stakeholders to collaborate and engage to develop norms, standards and legal instruments. The intergovernmental convening power of the Commission was also recognized, as was its role in providing specialized and demand-driven technical assistance to countries.

Decision B (68)

Extension of the mandate of the Regional Forum on Sustainable Development

4. The Commission decided to continue to convene annual sessions of the Regional Forum on Sustainable Development in 2020 and 2021, in close cooperation with the entities of the regional United Nations system and with the active engagement of other relevant stakeholders, and requested the secretariat to develop the agenda of each session of the 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 on sustainable development under the auspices of the Economic and Social Council, with a focus on those aspects of particular relevance to the Commission region, and taking into account lessons learned from previous meetings.

5. The Commission also requested the secretariat to publish a yearly report on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in the Commission region. In addition, the Commission requested the secretariat to prepare in 2021 an evaluation of the added value of the Regional Forum for Commission member States thus far and to identify possible improvements.

Decision G (68)

Change of name of subprogramme 7

6. The Commission, recalling paragraph 20 (b) of its decision A (65) of 11 April 2013, by which it changed the name of the Timber Committee to “Committee on Forests and the Forest Industry” to better reflect the scope of its work, and noting the endorsement by the Executive Committee of the proposal to align the name of subprogramme 7 with the name of the Committee, decided to change the name of subprogramme 7 from “Forestry and timber” to “Forests and the forest industry”.

Decision I (68)

International Year of Methane

7. Recognizing the role that growing atmospheric concentrations of methane play in climate change and the imperative for near-term remediation, the Commission recommended to the Economic and Social Council that 2020 be declared the International Year of Methane.

B. Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

8. At its seventy-fifth session, held in Bangkok from 27 to 31 May 2019, the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific adopted a number of resolutions relating to its programme of work, summaries of which are set out below for the attention of the Economic and Social Council.

Resolution 75/1

Implementation of the outcome of the Euro-Asian Regional Midterm Review of the Vienna Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries for the Decade 2014–2024

9. The Commission noted the convening of the Euro-Asian Regional Midterm Review of the Vienna Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries for the Decade 2014–2024, held in Bangkok on 11 and 12 February 2019, and the intention of the Executive Secretary to transmit the outcome as an input of the Asia-Pacific region to the comprehensive high-level midterm review on the implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action, to be held in New York in December 2019. It requested the Executive Secretary to, inter alia, continue to provide capacity-building assistance to member States towards the smooth implementation of the six priorities of the Vienna Programme of Action.

Resolution 75/2

Committing to strengthening the links between national, regional and global follow-up to and review of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific

10. The Commission emphasized the importance of strengthening the links between national, regional and global follow-up to and review of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and recognized the key role played by the Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development in providing a regional space for follow-up and review.

11. The Commission called upon its members, and urged the Economic and Social Council, to ensure that inputs emanating from the Asia-Pacific Forum were adequately reflected annually in the programme and deliberations of the high-level political forum on sustainable development. It recommitted to strong regional cooperation along the priority areas identified in the regional road map for implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific.

12. The Commission requested the Executive Secretary to consult member States on how to strengthen the link between the Asia-Pacific Forum and the high-level political forum, and invited member States to consider reviewing progress on the implementation of the regional road map, as appropriate.

Resolution 75/3

Advancing partnerships within and across regions for the sustainable development of Asia and the Pacific

13. The Commission called for the strengthening of partnerships among member States, subregional, regional and interregional organizations and frameworks, and development partners, and in particular the United Nations system, in promoting sustainable development in Asia and the Pacific.

14. The Commission recommended exploring complementarities between the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the regional road maps and development strategies and priorities of subregional, regional and interregional organizations and

frameworks, encouraged member States to identify and promote business models, best practices and home-grown approaches for implementing the 2030 Agenda and invited subregional, regional and interregional organizations and frameworks to collaborate with the Commission in promoting sustainable development in the Asia-Pacific region.

15. The Commission requested the Executive Secretary to, inter alia, assist with implementing in the Asia-Pacific region the recommendations contained in General Assembly resolution [73/291](#) of 15 April 2019, taking into account regional and subregional specificities.

Resolution [75/4](#)

Strengthening regional cooperation to tackle air pollution challenges in Asia and the Pacific

16. The Commission encouraged all members and associate members to strengthen domestic policies and measures to reduce air pollution and mitigate the impacts of air pollution on human health and invited them to share with other members and associate members their experiences of subregional and regional cooperation on various intergovernmental programmes in Asia and the Pacific concerning air pollution, including through the Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development and the Committee on Environment and Development.

17. The Commission requested the Executive Secretary to, inter alia, facilitate the voluntary exchange of experiences of subregional and regional cooperation, including the promotion of voluntary scientific and technological cooperation to tackle air pollution in Asia and the Pacific.

Resolution [75/5](#)

Implementation of the Ulaanbaatar Declaration of the 2018 Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction

18. The Commission welcomed the Ulaanbaatar Declaration of the Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction and encouraged the fulfilment of the commitments contained therein with a view to achieving the overarching goals of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030 through enhanced regional cooperation.

19. The Commission requested the Executive Secretary to, inter alia, continue to strengthen inter-agency coordination with the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction and other United Nations bodies to enhance regional cooperation in the implementation of the Sendai Framework and to provide member States, upon request, with capacity development assistance in support of their efforts to implement the Sendai Framework, taking into account the Action Plan 2018–2020 of the Asia Regional Plan for Implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030.

Resolution [75/6](#)

Implementation of the Ministerial Declaration on Space Applications for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific and the Asia-Pacific Plan of Action on Space Applications for Sustainable Development (2018–2030)

20. The Commission endorsed the Ministerial Declaration on Space Applications for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific and the Asia-Pacific Plan of Action on Space Applications for Sustainable Development (2018–2030) and invited all members and associate members to work together closely and develop appropriate joint programmes and projects aligned with the priority themes, goals, targets and actions of the Asia-Pacific Plan of Action.

21. The Commission requested the Executive Secretary to, inter alia, accord priority to supporting the implementation of the Ministerial Declaration.

Resolution 75/7

Advancing the implementation of the Asia-Pacific Information Superhighway initiative through regional cooperation

22. The Commission invited members and associate members to cooperate in the implementation of the Master Plan for the Asia-Pacific Information Superhighway, 2019–2022, and the Asia-Pacific Information Superhighway Regional Cooperation Framework Document, 2019–2022, and to consider developing and implementing subregional implementation plans for the initiative.

23. The Commission requested the Executive Secretary to, inter alia, continue to support the ongoing activities on the implementation of the Asia-Pacific Information Superhighway initiative and to support member countries with policy advice, technical studies and capacity-building, upon request, in relation to the development and implementation of subregional implementation plans.

Resolution 75/8

Advancing science, technology and innovation for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific

24. The Commission reaffirmed that it was one of the most suitable regional forums in the United Nations system for encouraging dialogue and cooperation among member States on science, technology and innovation policies, in particular through its Committee on Information and Communications Technology, Science, Technology and Innovation, in Asia and the Pacific.

25. The Commission requested the Executive Secretary to, inter alia, raise awareness among member States of the science, technology and innovation dialogues taking place in various forums and international, regional and subregional organizations and frameworks, by acting as a bridge to facilitate cooperation and joint action when necessary, and to assist member States with the process of developing and adopting science, technology and innovation road maps, policies and strategies for the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals in cooperation with relevant organizations of the United Nations development system and other organizations and frameworks, as appropriate.

Resolution 75/9

Implementation of the Declaration on Navigating Policy with Data to Leave No One Behind

26. The Commission, welcoming the inclusive preparatory process for, the high-level participation in and the successful outcomes of the sixth session of the Committee on Statistics, held in Bangkok from 16 to 19 October 2018, endorsed the Declaration on Navigating Policy with Data to Leave No One Behind, adopted on 19 October 2018, and called upon members and associate members to make every effort to fulfil the commitments contained in the Declaration.

27. The Commission requested the Executive Secretary to, inter alia, support members and associate members in their efforts to fulfil the commitments contained in the Declaration and to report to the Commission at its eighty-first session, in 2025, on the outcomes of the midpoint review to be conducted at the ninth session of the Committee on Statistics, in 2024, to be convened at a higher decision-making level, to assess implementation of the Declaration.