

ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
101stMeeting
Geneva, 31 October 2018

EXCOM/CONCLU/101

CHAIR'S CONCLUSIONS

FORMAL SEGMENT

Item 1 – Adoption of the agenda.

1. The revised provisional draft agenda for the 101st meeting was adopted.

Item 2 – Chair’s conclusions from the last meeting.

2. The conclusions from the 100th meeting of EXCOM (EXCOM/CONCLU/100) were adopted.

INFORMAL SEGMENT

Item 3 - Repositioning of the United Nations Development system

3. The Executive Secretary informed EXCOM that Mr. Jens Wandel had been appointed Special Advisor to the Secretary-General on Reforms. She recalled that the second phase of the reform would focus on the review of the regional assets of the UN Development System. She explained that the possible use of external consultants to carry out this review was under review at UN Headquarters on account of cost and mixed experience in the past. The latest indications she had from UN Headquarters signalled that the review may be carried out by UN staff internally. She said the discussions on the matter were ongoing and invited delegates to follow the latest developments on the website <http://reform.un.org>.

4. The Chair concluded that EXCOM thanks the secretariat for the information provided, and hopes to be kept abreast of further relevant developments.

Item 4 - Beijing +25 Regional Review Meeting

5. The Executive Secretary informed member States that a note had been sent to New York missions by UN Women on the preparation of national reviews on the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform. She encouraged all member States to complete their national reviews by 1 May 2019. On the basis of these reviews, UNECE would prepare a regional assessment report to inform its Regional Review Meeting. The meeting would review the progress and challenges in the twelve areas of concern of the Beijing Platform for Action, and in achieving gender equality in the broader context of sustainable development. It was planned to be a multi-stakeholder event taking place in the Palais des Nations on 29 and 30 October 2019. UNECE would work closely with relevant entities of the regional UN system and other partners in organizing this event. The outcome of the meeting would be a Chairperson’s conclusions, which would serve, together with the regional review report, as UNECE’s regional input into the global review meeting. UNECE would will need extrabudgetary resources on the order of about 60,000 USD to finance speakers, consultants for the regional assessment report and background notes, and to cover the travel costs of speakers and participants from Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia. The Executive Secretary encouraged all countries interested in making a contribution to contact the secretariat.

6. The Chair concluded that EXCOM decides for UNECE to hold a regional review meeting for Beijing+25, in line with ECOSOC resolution E/RES/2018/8 and in accordance with its respective mandates, subject to availability of resources. EXCOM requests the secretariat to submit an extrabudgetary proposal for approval by EXCOM at its 102nd session, and to regularly update EXCOM on the preparations for the review meeting.

Item 5 - Important new developments: briefing by the Executive Secretary

7. The Executive Secretary informed EXCOM about a Memorandum of Understanding (MoUs) planned with the Institute of Comprehensive Exploitation of Mineral Resources of the Russian Academy of Science. The purpose of the MoU was to provide a framework for setting up and running an International Centre of Excellence on Coal Mine Methane in the Russian Federation, to operate under the auspices of the UNECE Group of Experts on Coal Mine Methane.

8. The Executive Secretary informed EXCOM about the following recent meetings:

- i. 24-28 September, New York: General Assembly
- ii. 1-2 October, Geneva: UNECE Regional Conference on ICPD+25
- iii. 1-5 October, Geneva: Urban Week 2018, including a roundtable on SDG 11, the 3rd meeting of the Joint Task Force on Energy Efficiency Standards in Buildings, the 79th session of the Committee on Housing and Land Management.
- iv. 10-12 October, Astana: 8th Meeting of the Parties to the Water Convention
- v. 15 October, Vienna: 2018 OSCE Economic and Environmental Dimension Implementation Meeting
- vi. 17 October, Bratislava: EuroGeoSurveys General Assembly
- vii. 22 October, Bratislava: 3rd annual meeting of the OECD GREEN Action Task Force
- viii. 26 October, New York: Dialogue of the Executive Secretaries of the Regional Commissions with the Second Committee

9. The Executive Secretary thanked Romania, the Russian Federation, Kazakhstan and Belarus for their support to UNECE during the 26 October 2nd Committee event.

10. The Executive Secretary informed EXCOM about the following upcoming events:

- i. 7-8 November, New York: Chief Executives Board
- ii. 5-9 November, Vancouver: 76th session of the Committee on Forests and the Forest Industry
- iii. 12-15 November, Kyiv: 9th International Forum on Energy for Sustainable Development
- iv. 15-16 November, Geneva: Regional UN System Meeting
- v. 21-22 November, Geneva: 2nd meeting of the governing bodies of the Road Safety Trust Fund
- vi. 22-23 November, Prague: International Conference “European Smart and Sharing Cities” co-organized by UNECE and Czech Republic
- vii. 29-30 November: State visit to Azerbaijan
- viii. 4-6 December, Geneva: 10th session of the Conference of the Parties to the Industrial Accidents Convention
- ix. 10-14 December, Geneva: 38th session of the Executive Body of the Air Convention

11. The Executive Secretary noted that she would give a presentation to the New York delegations of UNECE member States on the work of UNECE during her November trip for the Chief Executives Board.

12. The representative of Azerbaijan looked forward to the Executive Secretary's state visit to Baku and said she was working closely with the secretariat on the programme of the visit.

Item 6 – Extrabudgetary projects (for approval)

13. The Chair concluded that EXCOM approves the extrabudgetary project contained in informal document 2018/29.

Item 7 – Other business

14. The Chair informed EXCOM that a UN/CEFACT contact group meeting would take place on 6 December in Room S1.

15. The Chair informed EXCOM that the next meeting would be held on 14 December 2018.

16. The Executive Secretary recalled that the Deputy Executive Secretary was on medical leave and said that she was exploring options to temporarily fill the position during his absence. She noted UNECE's difficulty in financing such an arrangement and encouraged member States to contact her in case of interest.
