

**ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE**

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

108th meeting  
Geneva, 16 December 2019

Item 11

Informal Document No. **2019/52**

**Extrabudgetary project**

**Towards 2030:**

**Strengthening mechanisms for peer learning, policy exchange  
and progress assessment on sustainable development in the UNECE region**

**UNITED NATIONS ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE**  
**TECHNICAL COOPERATION PROJECT FORM**

<b>Project title:</b> Towards 2030: Strengthening mechanisms for peer learning, policy exchange and progress assessment on sustainable development in the UNECE region		
<b>Expected timing/ duration:</b> January 2020 – July 2021		
<b>Objective and brief summary of the project:</b> The project aims to strengthen the capacity of UNECE member States to implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development by providing an annual platform for peer learning and policy exchange as well as preparing an annual report to assess regional progress in implementing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The Regional Forum on Sustainable Development has proven to be a fast-growing platform for practical peer-learning on SDG solutions; the number of participants increased by more than 50% and the number of round tables tripled compared to the 2017's Regional Forum. The Forums mobilized governments from more than 50 member States as well as civil society, academia and international partners from across the UNECE region. The objective of the project will be achieved by implementing the following activities: A1.1. Organization of the annual Regional Forum on Sustainable Development for the UNECE region, consisting of a high-level dialogue and thematic round tables to enhance peer learning and policy exchange among UNECE member States and other stakeholders, including civil society, the private sector and academia (concrete modalities to be determined by member States), in Geneva in 2020 and 2021; A2.1. Preparation of an annual report to assess progress towards the 2030 Agenda in the UNECE region, including the assessment of regional trends, advances and gaps in the realization of the Agenda, using existing data sets and statistics.		
<b>Expected results of the project:</b> EA1. Enhanced policy dialogue and peer learning on sustainable development in the UNECE region by organizing the Regional Forum on Sustainable Development in 2020 and 2021; EA2. Improved understanding of progress on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in the UNECE region.		
<b>Target group and beneficiaries of the project:</b> Target group: UNECE policy-makers in areas related to sustainable development, other international organizations, civil society, business and academia. Beneficiary countries: UNECE member States.		
<b>Justification of project and its relationship to the programme of work:</b> At its 67 <sup>th</sup> session (26-27 April 2017), the Commission decided to establish the Regional Forum on Sustainable Development for the UNECE 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 (Decision B(67), E/2017/37, E/ECE/1480). At its 68 <sup>th</sup> session (9-10 April 2019), the Commission decided to continue to convene annual sessions of the Regional Forum in the years 2020 and 2021. The Commission also requested the secretariat to publish a yearly report on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for the UNECE region (Decision B(68), E/2019/37, E/ECE/1488).		
<b>Estimated UN regular budget resources (work months of RB staff/level of Staff):</b> 2 months of D1/RB, 3 months of P5/RB, 5 months of a P4/RB for the project duration. In addition, 10 months of a JPO for the project duration		
<b>Estimated extra budgetary resources:</b>		
<b>Donor</b>	<b>Amount (US\$)</b>	
<b>Total estimated budget</b>	<b>211,310 (TBC)</b>	
Russian Federation	25,000	
Switzerland	TBC	
Expected contributions from other UNECE member States	TBC	
<b>Project Manager:</b> Monika Linn  05.12.2019	<b>Section/Division:</b> Sustainable Development and Gender Unit Office of the Executive Secretary	
<b>Cleared by Programme Management Unit:</b> Catherine Haswell <b>Chief</b>  05.12.2019	<b>Approved by EXCOM<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>16.12.2019</b>

<sup>1</sup> See paragraph 31 (a) of Commission decision A(65).

**Annex**  
**Results-based budget for the extra-budgetary project**

Expected Accomplishments	Planned activities	Estimated costs (US\$)
EA1. Enhanced policy dialogue and peer learning on sustainable development in the UNECE region by organizing the Regional Forum on Sustainable Development in 2020 and 2021	A1.1. Organization of the annual Regional Forum on Sustainable Development for the ECE region, consisting of a high-level dialogue and thematic round tables to enhance peer learning and policy exchange among ECE member States and other stakeholders, including civil society, the private sector and academia (concrete modalities to be determined by member States), in 2020 and 2021. Travel of 5 speakers x \$2,500 x 2 years Travel of 10 participants x \$2,500 x 2 years Venue x \$20,000 x 2 years Contractual services (interpretation, sign language interpretation and captioning security) x \$21,000 x 2 years	157,000 (TBC*)  25,000 50,000 40,000 42,000
EA2. Improved understanding of progress on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda in the UNECE region	A2.1. Preparation of an annual report, jointly with the regional UN system, to assess progress towards the 2030 Agenda in the ECE region, including the assessment of regional trends, advances and gaps in the realization of the Agenda. 1 international consultant to provide substantive inputs for report preparations x 4 months x \$7,500	30,000 (TBC*)
Budget summary		187,000 (TBC*)
13% of Programme Support Costs		24,310
<b>Total estimated budget (awaiting confirmation from other UNECE Member State donors)</b>		<b>211,310 (TBC*)</b>

\* to be adjusted pending the final confirmation of pledges.