

ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

115th meeting
Geneva, 5 March 2021

Item 9

Informal Document 2021/8

**Sequential review of the proposed programmes
of work of ECE subprogrammes**

(for approval)

Sequential review of the proposed programmes of work of ECE subprogrammes

Note by the Secretariat

1. In General Assembly resolution 72/266 “Shifting the management paradigm in the United Nations”, Member States approved the proposed change from a biennial to an annual budget period on a trial basis, beginning with the programme budget for 2020, and requested the Secretary-General to conduct a review of changes to the budgetary cycle in 2022, following the completion of the first full budgetary cycle. The General Assembly also decided to review at its seventy-seventh session, with a view to taking a final decision, the implementation of the annual budget.

2. The ECE proposed programme budget serves as the basis for the preparation of the programmes of work (PoW) of ECE subprogrammes. In line with Regulations and Rules Governing Programme Planning, the Programme Aspects of the Budget, the Monitoring of Implementation and the Methods of Evaluation (ST/SGB/2018/3), “The programmes of work submitted by programme managers to specialized intergovernmental organs should contain activities and output specifications identical to those set out in the programme portion of the proposed programme budget. This does not preclude the addition of further information and detail if required by the specialized intergovernmental organs” (Rule 105.7 (c)).

3. The PoWs of ECE subprogrammes for a next year are adopted by sectoral governing bodies (Sectoral Committees and the Standing Working Group on Ageing) at their annual meetings during the current year, with the exception of the Inland Transport Committee which adopts the PoW for the current year at its annual meeting held at the beginning of that year.

4. At the 112th meeting of the Executive Committee in December 2020, member States requested to ensure that when considering their draft PoW for the next year, sectoral governing bodies could also provide recommendations on key elements of their future PoWs so that these recommendations could be reflected in the draft ECE proposed programme plan presented to the EXCOM in December of the current year.

5. The secretariat develops the draft ECE proposed programme plan for “Year+2” (where “Year” is the current year) during the period of October-November and submits it to the EXCOM meeting in December of the current year. Based on this timeline and bearing in mind the annual schedule of meetings of the ECE sectoral governing bodies, the abovementioned request should be addressed as follows:

(a) The provisional agenda of an annual meeting of an ECE sectoral governing body should include item “Programme of work for “Year+1” and recommendations on key components of the programme of work for “Year+2””. Under this item, the secretariat should submit a document entitled “Draft programme of work of subprogramme X for “Year+1”” which follows the PoW template, as approved by EXCOM (document 2010/5) and further updated in line with the annual programme budget format;

(b) The secretariat should also submit an information document entitled “Outline of key components of the programme of work of subprogramme X for “Year+2””. This document should present an outline of key components (objective, strategy and deliverables) of the programme of work, with any modified or new elements highlighted in track changes. A sectoral governing body will be invited to consider this information and provide recommendations on these components, as necessary. Those recommendations which are agreed by the governing body and included in the meeting report should be reflected in the proposed programme plan of the respective subprogramme for “Year+2”; and

(c) In addition, Secretaries of sectoral governing bodies whose meetings are scheduled in October or November shall seek possible comments on key components of the PoW for “Year+2” from the Bureaus of those bodies in advance, to ensure that their comments could be taken into account where appropriate when preparing the proposed programme plan of the respective subprogramme for “Year+2”.
