

Economic Commission for Europe

Committee on Urban Development, Housing and Land Management

Eighty-third session

Geneva, 4-5 April 2022 (Part I); and San Marino, 3-6 October 2022 (Part II)

Item 2 of the provisional agenda

Second Forum of Mayors

Item 6 of the provisional agenda

Report on the outcomes of the second Forum of Mayors and related recommendations

Draft recommendations from the Committee on Urban Development, Housing and Land Management 83rd session to EXCOM

Note by the Committee Bureau

Summary

At its 112th session, the Executive Committee (EXCOM) of the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) mandated the Steering Committee (SC) of the Forum of Mayors to evaluate the 2020 session of the Forum and submit the results for the consideration of the Committee on Urban Development, Housing and Land Management (CUDHLM) at its eighty-third session. The results of the evaluation are to provide the basis for the session's deliberations on the objectives, format and frequency of the Forum, if extended beyond 2022, with a view to submitting a proposal on the future of the Forum for endorsement by EXCOM in 2022 and/or by the seventieth session of the ECE Commission in 2023 (ECE/EX/2020/L.16).

To feed into the evaluation, and pursuant to a decision by the SC, the secretariat commissioned an independent expert to assist in drawing up a forward-looking scenario for the future of the Forum. The future scenario of the Forum, as informally approved at the Second Forum of Mayors, is contained in document ECE/HBP/2022/1. The document reflects the views and suggestions of the participating mayors from the ECE region and is transmitted to the Committee for its consideration. The main conclusions and recommendations emerging from the evaluation is contained in document ECE/HBP/2020/4 and the entire evaluation report is contained in information document ECE/HBP/2022/Inf. 1.

To facilitate member States' discussions about the future of the Forum of Mayors during CUDHLM eighty-third session, the Bureau requested the secretariat to commission an independent expert to prepare a third document that would contain proposals for reconciling and implementing the recommendations contained in documents ECE/HBP/2022/1 and ECE/HBP/2020/4.

The third document was submitted for the consideration of the ECE missions in Geneva on 5 September 2022 during an informal briefing that was held in a hybrid format. The document was revised to take into account the outcome of the discussions. The scenario was submitted for a second round of discussions during a subsequent informal briefing, which was held in a hybrid format on 14 September 2022. The outcome of the second round of discussions was duly incorporated by the secretariat and submitted for a third round of discussions, which was held on 22 September 2022 in a hybrid format. The outcome of the third round of discussions was duly incorporated by the secretariat in a "Draft recommendations from the Committee on Urban Development, Housing and Land Management (CUDHLM) 83rd session to EXCOM".

This document contains the "Draft recommendations from the Committee on Urban Development, Housing and Land Management (CUDHLM) 83rd session to EXCOM", with a view to facilitating the deliberations of the Committee on the future of the Forum of Mayors.

In line with EXCOM decision ECE/EX/2020/L.16, and based on the results of the evaluation of the Forum of Mayors, the CUDHLM is recommending to:

1. Continue the Forum beyond 2022.

2. Have the following as objectives of the Forum:

- a. To allow for the participation of local authorities and to integrate their strategic plans, actions and joint initiatives for addressing regional and global challenges, including implementing the SDGs, in the UNECE intergovernmental processes;**
- b. To support the implementation of the UNECE Housing and Land Management component of the subprogramme¹;**
- c. To promote human-centred solutions for supporting the successful implementation the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;**
- d. To facilitate the sharing of experiences from cities, including success stories and challenges, in line with the topic of the Forum and within the mandate of the Committee;**
- e. To contribute to achieving coherence and complementarity between the local, regional and global levels in furtherance of a stronger, more networked and inclusive multilateral system.**

3. Format:

CUDHLM to recommend one of the options contained in ANNEX I.

4. Frequency:

Convene the Forum annually [[back-to-back with] [on the first day of] the CUDHLM's session in the same venue as the annual session of the CUDHLM].

5. Additional elements:

For the Secretariat, provide elements from Annex II for the consideration of the EXCOM, depending on the option chosen, as appropriate.

¹ Subprogramme 8 aims to strengthen member State-owned and city-level programmes and policies promoting decent, adequate, affordable, energy-efficient and healthy housing for all, smart sustainable cities, sustainable urban development and land management.

ANNEX I. Alternative formats of the Forum of Mayors (FoM)

Options	Subsidiarity and reporting	Costs /budget ²	Linkages with work of member States /UN	Status of mayors	Follow-up
<i>Option 1 FoM as part of CUDHLM, (as in 2020)</i>	The FoM will be held on the first day of the CUDHLM and report to it.	Meeting costs are covered by the RB as part of CUDHLM sessions. The HLM Unit services both processes. Additional help could be provided by XB funds (currently consultants only)	Mayors would be mainly interacting with representative of mS present at the CUDHLM. Results of the FoM would be considered by the CUDHLM.	Whether mayors are there as experts or country delegates needs to be clarified and decided. If not otherwise decided, they will be part of the delegation (CUDHLM session).	Follow-up will automatically rest with CUDHLM through its decisions.
<i>Option 2 Subsidiary body : Working Party (ECE/EC/1)</i>	The FoM will be subsidiary to and report to the CUDHLM.	Additional RB costs attached to it to hold sessions for document preparation and interpretation (unless otherwise decided – see ECE/EC/1 para 1 (d)) To make it budget neutral a decision should be taken not to have translation of documents and interpretation. Also, the meeting needs to be back-to-back with the CUDHLM, which will be shortened by one day.	Vertical integration between the local and national level as well as enhanced horizontal coherence (through regional cooperation). Specifically, this option enables direct exchange of views between mayors and member States, with the outcome feeding into the work under CUDHLM.	This will be a body composed of mayors as country delegates.	Follow-up of the WP recommendations/decision will be transmitted to and considered by CUDHLM (subsidiarity)

² A JPO was provided by the Italian Government for the next 2/3 years and would cover all options as far as personnel is concerned

<p>Option 3 Subsidiary body : Team of Specialists (ECE/EX.2/ rev.1)</p>	<p>The FoM will be subsidiary to and report to the CUHLM .</p>	<p>No additional costs on meeting organization if held in English and documents are informal (see forest programme).</p> <p>If translation/interpretation needed it could be XB.</p>	<p>Vertical integration between the local and national level as well as enhanced horizontal coherence (through regional cooperation). Specifically, this option enables the exchange of views between mayors and member States, with the outcome feeding into the work under CUDHLM. In addition, mayors would contribute as experts to the best practice guidelines and tools developed under the Committee.</p>	<p>“Teams of specialists are comprised of governmental experts, and they can also include eminent specialists or representatives of international organizations, NGOs and the private sector, in compliance with the UN rules and practices in this respect” (ECE/EX.2/rev.1)</p>	<p>Follow-up of the Team of Specialists recommendations/decision will be transmitted to and considered by CUDHLM (subsidiarity)</p>
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Annex II: Suggestions on the Terms of Reference of the Forum of Mayors for discussion by EXCOM

A. Steering Committee:

1. Proposed composition of the Steering Committee and term of office: To ensure intergovernmental guidance from the CUDHLM while empowering the voices of the mayors and other local authorities and including other relevant UN entities, NGOs in consultative status with ECOSOC and other representatives of civil society, the Steering Committee (SC) should include:

- a. For the CUDHLM: Chairperson and two Vice-Chairpersons of the CUDHLM;
- b. For the FoM: Chairperson and two Vice-Chairpersons of the FoM (with a representative as alternate if the mayor cannot be present).

In selecting members of the SC, due attention to be paid to the gender and geographical balance.

Decisions shall be taken by the consensus.

c. Observers:

- A representative of any relevant UN organ or other UN organization invited by the CUDHLM and/or the ExCom
- A representative of the UN Regional Economic Commissions
- A representative of the NGO community
- A representative of civil society with an established record and relevant expertise in supporting cities.

The term of the Steering Committee will be one year, the time needed for the organization of the relevant Forum of Mayors session. A new SC can be established for the following session.

2. Proposed functions of the Steering Committee: To ensure institutional structure and constitutional coherence, the Steering Committee should be tasked to:

- a. [Advise the Secretariat on the selection of cities for proposal to Member States, in accordance with the procedure under point 5 below].
- b. Decide the theme for each annual session of the Forum;
- c. Decide on the programme and assist in the preparations of the Forum;
- d. Identify and request relevant ECE Divisions to assist in the preparations and contribute to the Forum of Mayors in accordance with the theme selected for each Forum; and

- e. Decide on the designation of the Champion of the Forum.

B. Proposed Terms of Reference of the Forum on Mayors

1. Functions/mandate:

- a. To provide advice to the CUDHLM on matters within its competence;
- b. To submit recommendations for the consideration and, upon the proposal of any Member of the CUDHLM, for action by the Committee;
- c. To agree on and adopt declarations [in line with point D3 of this document];
- d. Decide on the FoM plan of activities [in case of Option 2 or 3].

2. Outcomes:

- a. Advice to the CUDHLM provided;
- b. Recommendations developed for the consideration of CUDHLM;
- c. Declarations are drafted and adopted;
- d. Experiences are shared during the Forum;
- e. Activities of the Forum are agreed upon [in case of Option 2 or 3].

3. Participation and attendance:

- a. No more than one mayor for each UNECE Member State will participate in the Forum -while seeking to ensure gender diversity and diversity of experience based on the criteria and selection process in paragraph 5 below;
- b. All other mayors from UNECE member States will be invited to attend the Forum, either physically or remotely.

4. Criteria and Selection Process:

- a. The following objective criteria shall be applicable to the selection of cities:
 - Having a minimum population (to be determined)
 - Having a concrete project or other activity currently underway with demonstrable relevance to and impact on the objectives of the CUDHLM including sustainable urban development, housing and land management
 - Having made a verifiable contribution to the theme chosen for the Forum
 - Having a commitment to the mandate of the Forum and to the Geneva Declaration of Mayors³; and
 - Having achieved advances in other areas of interest to the CUDHLM and the ECE, including the SDGs and the empowerment of women.
- b. The following process shall apply to the selection of cities:

³ The Geneva Declaration of Mayors can be found at <https://unece.org/housing/publications/geneva-declaration-mayors-2020>

OPTION 1:

- The Secretariat shall invite expressions of interest from cities that can demonstrate their eligibility and substantiate their activities and contributions based on the above-mentioned objective criteria and any others decided by the CUDHLM and/or the EXCOM
- The Secretariat shall conduct a technical screening taking into consideration the above-mentioned objective criteria and any others decided by the CUDHLM and/or the EXCOM
- The Secretariat, in consultation with the Steering Committee, shall prepare a list of up to three qualified cities in order of preference for the permanent mission of each Member State to choose
- Each ECE Member State shall select a city from the list recommended by the Secretariat, in consultation with the Steering Committee either by confirming the first choice or choosing one of the alternatives
- In the absence of any response from an ECE Member State, the Secretariat considers the first choice confirmed
- Once all the cities are selected, the Secretariat sends official invitation letters to the Forum of Mayors.

OPTION 2:

- Member States will identify cities in their respective countries that can demonstrate their eligibility and commitment to provide substantive contribution to the Forum based on the above-mentioned objective criteria and any others decided by the CUDHLM and/or the ExCom (at least 3 cities, as appropriate) and send the nominations to the Secretariat
- In consultation with the Secretariat, the Steering Committee shall select a city from the list recommended by the member State
- In the absence of any submission by the set deadline by the member State, the Secretariat will identify potential cities from that country for the consideration of the SC, for its decision
- Once all the cities are selected, the Secretariat sends official invitation letters to the Forum of Mayors.

5. Leadership: The Forum shall elect from among the participating mayors a Chairperson and two Vice-Chairpersons with due regard to gender balance and geographic representation.

- a. The FOM Chairperson shall participate in the Regional Forum on Sustainable Development and deliver a report on the outcomes of the Forum of Mayors;
- b. The FOM Chairperson and Vice-Chairpersons shall participate in the Steering Committee.
- c. Meetings of the Steering Committee will be conducted in a hybrid format.

E. Format of the session:

1. Participating mayors shall be invited to:

- a. Join one or more on-line working groups, in advance of the Forum, to elaborate the recommendations to be submitted by the Forum of Mayors to the CUDHLM;
- b. Deliver a presentation, during the Forum, on their concrete theme-related project, activity and/or case study of successful experience in overcoming urban development challenges as well as participate in policy dialogues with member States;
- c. Participate in the deliberations on and adoption of the recommendations and declarations of the Forum;
- d. Share the outcomes and recommendations of the Forum to other mayors and local authorities in their countries.

D. Other Recommendations

1. In the event that the CUHLM and/or the EXCOM decide to continue the Forum of Mayors beyond 2022, they may also wish to consider the following additional recommendations:
 - a. Three-Year Review: It would be advisable to review the continuation, scope and functioning of the Forum after three (3) years;
 - b. In the meantime, the Forum should be invited to continue to transmit its recommendations relevant to other ECE bodies to the relevant bodies for information and possible consideration (e.g., Committee on Sustainable Energy, Inland Transport Committee, etc.).
2. Other UNECE Participation: Subject to the approval of the CUDHLM and/or the ExCom, the Secretariat, in consultation with the Steering Committee, should also invite relevant ECE Divisions to assist in the preparations for and contribute to the Forum of Mayors in accordance with the theme selected for the annual session of the Forum. Relevant ECE Divisions should also be invited to organize thematic side events to be held during the Forum.
3. Declarations: Based on the precedent set by the First Forum of Mayors, the Forum may be authorized to adopt declarations on matters of shared interest to the local authorities provided they are related to the mandate of the Forum and of the CUDHLM. Such declarations should only be deemed to be official outcomes of the Forum if they are adopted by consensus.
4. Champion of the Forum: With a view to promoting awareness and harnessing support for the Forum of Mayors, the CUDHLM and/or the ExCom should authorize the Steering Committee to designate, in consultation with the Secretariat, a “Champion of the Forum” for each Forum. Such person shall not be a mayor and shall have a distinguished record of exemplary support for the objectives of the Forum of Mayors and the CUDHLM. The SC shall ensure gender and geographic diversity in the designation of the “Champion of the Forum”. The “Champion of the Forum” should be invited to give a statement during the Forum.

5. Global Segment: Building on the precedent of the 2022 Forum of Mayors where Mayors from other regions took part, it is suggested to develop a "Global segment" back-to-back” with the Forum to include mayors from all the regions, to exchange good practices among peers and with other interested stakeholders. Details of the Global Segment will be discussed with all interested stakeholders and will be shared well ahead of the Forum with all UNECE member states.
