

ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

126th meeting

Geneva, 13 January 2023

Item 9 of the provisional agenda

Informal document No. **2023/9**

Draft decision on “Digital and green transformations in support of the sustainable development in the region of the Economic Commission for Europe”

EXCOM is invited to submit the below draft decision to the seventieth session of the Commission for consideration under agenda item 7 “Other issues calling for decision by the Commission”.

(As per standing practice, the text will undergo technical editing before issuance to ensure alignment with UN editorial guidelines.)

Draft decision on “Digital and green transformations in support of the sustainable development in the region of the Economic Commission for Europe”

The Economic Commission for Europe,

1. *Recalling and reaffirming* the commitments, inter alia, to protect our planet and to improve digital cooperation in the Declaration on the Commemoration of the Seventy-Fifth Anniversary of the United Nations;
2. *Taking note* of the aspects relevant to digital and green transformations of the report of the Secretary-General entitled “Our Common Agenda”, welcomed by the General Assembly in its resolution 76/6 of 15 November 2021 as a basis for further consideration by Member States;
3. *Underlining* the urgent need to address, in a comprehensive and synergetic manner, climate change and the biodiversity loss in a broader context of achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, as well as importance of protecting, conserving, restoring and sustainably using nature and ecosystems for effective and sustainable climate action;
- 3bis *Noting* the importance of transition to sustainable lifestyles and sustainable patterns of consumption and production for efforts to address climate change;
- 3ter *Emphasizing* that enhanced effective climate action should be implemented in a manner that is just and inclusive while minimizing negative social and economic impacts that may arise from climate action;
4. *Noting* the outcomes of the Twenty-Sixth and Twenty-Seventh Conferences of the Parties of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change in particular the decisions relevant to the mandate of ECE;
5. *Acknowledging* the accelerated pace of digitalization, which is radically transforming many aspects of our lives and opening new possibilities for economic development, policy design and the implementation and management of public services;
6. *Noting* the multiple contributions that digitalization and related advanced technologies can make to the green transformation, including through efficiency gains, better monitoring of the use of natural resources and connectivity, enhanced systems optimization, and new channels of communication and collaboration among different stakeholders;
7. *Further noting*, in particular, the role of digital technologies in advancing circularity and sustainable use of natural resources, notably tracing materials across value chains in a precise way that enables informed decision-making by both producers and consumers, as appropriate;
8. *Acknowledging* the need to mitigate the potential negative environmental implications of digital technologies, including those related to energy and material consumption and the generation of related e-waste, by advancing decarbonization and applying circular principles more broadly in support of the green transformation;
9. *Noting* that the green and digital transformations call for determined efforts, including appropriate financing, inter alia, climate finance and innovative sources of finance, to realize their full potential to bring about enhanced cooperation, increased inclusiveness and to avoid new divides within and across countries as well as to address the existing ones;
10. *Recognizing* that digital divides persist across income groups, age groups, geography and gender and *reiterating* the need for initiatives on digital cooperation to bridge these divides in order to achieve the 2030 Agenda;

11. *Recognizing* the strengths of the Economic Commission for Europe in developing norms and standards and providing policy guidance and technical assistance in its mandated areas of activity;
12. *Emphasizes* the need to further strengthen the work of the Commission in support of digital and green transformations for sustainable development in the ECE region within its existing mandate as appropriate and subject to available resources;
13. *Requests* the relevant Sectoral Committees and bodies reporting directly to the Executive Committee, and their subsidiaries, to consider how to enhance the impact of relevant existing ECE instruments, in order to foster digital and green transformations, including by proposing ways to identify, assess and fill gaps in governance and good practices;
14. *Invites* these subsidiary bodies to replicate and scale up existing approaches that facilitate broad and effective use of the appropriate instruments, including through capacity-building and knowledge-sharing activities;
15. *Further invites* these subsidiary bodies, as appropriate, to consider developing proposals in their respective programmes of work, including possible collaboration across subprogrammes, for impactful and measurable solutions that promote digital and green transformations and that can facilitate attaining the objectives of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;
16. *Requests* the secretariat to further promote partnerships related to a digital and green transformations, including within the United Nations system, other international organizations, non-governmental organizations, academia and the private sector, to explore opportunities for synergies to broaden the use of relevant ECE instruments;
17. *Requests* the secretariat to develop and scale new capacities, as suggested in UN 2.0 Quintet of Change and subject to availability of resources, to assist the digital and green transformations in the ECE region;
18. *Requests* the secretariat to contribute to the development of the UN system's Common Blueprint for Digital Transformations, led by the Office of the UN Secretary-General's Envoy for Technology, in areas relevant to the ECE mandate, in order to support the coordinated action within the UN system on digital and green transformations;
19. *Requests* the secretariat to present a progress report on the work of the Commission on the digital and green transformations towards sustainable development in the region of the ECE, as outlined in the above decision, for consideration at its seventy-first session.