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ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

Forty-eighth session
Agenda item 6

DRAFT DECISION ON PREPARATION FOR AND
ORGANIZATION OF THE ANNUAL SESSION

The Economic Commission for Europe,

Mindful of its role to review the economic situation and major developments in the region, to evaluate the activities of its subsidiary bodies, to formulate policy regarding future ECE activities and to ensure the coordination of its work and the rational use of its resources,

Stressing the need to ensure an adequate information flow between the Commission and its Subsidiary Bodies,

Underlining the necessity of a proper preparation of the annual session of the Commission,

Seeking to strengthen the efficiency of the Commission and its Subsidiary Bodies,

1. Decides that its annual session will be composed of a "Policy Segment" and a "Programme and Coordination Segment";
2. Decides that the "Policy Segment" of its annual session will perform the same tasks as the former Plenary session;
3. Decides that the "Programme and Coordination Segment" of its annual session will replace the former Sessional Committee and follow the guidelines contained in Annex 1;

4. Decides, in accordance with decision P (45), to make use in the preparation of its annual session of the Ad Hoc Informal Meetings to be held in January and March, of the "Report of the Chairman" on his consultations with the Bureaux of the PSBs, and of the "Summary Document" prepared by the secretariat. 1/

5. Requests the Executive Secretary to make available to the member Governments and their Permanent Representatives in Geneva the reports of the Ad Hoc Informal Meetings of January and March of each year as working documents for the Annual Sessions of the Commission;

6. Requests the Executive Secretary to make available to the member Governments and their Permanent Representatives in Geneva the Final Report of the consultations held in accordance with decision B (47), paragraph 4, as well as the Summary Document referred to in decision .. (48), as working documents for the Annual Sessions of the Commission;

7. Decides that this decision supersedes paragraph 9 of resolution 5 (XXIV) and complements decision P (45).

1/ See the "Report of the Working Group on the Reorganization of the Annual Session of the Economic Commission for Europe (UN/ECE)" (ECE/AC.20/93(1)/2), in particular its point 3, pp.2-6.

Annex 1

Guidelines for the "Programme and Coordination Segment"

- The "Programme and Coordination Segment" will be chaired by one of the Vice-Chairpersons, designated by the Bureau of the Commission, who will report on the results of the discussion during the "Policy Segment".
- The Commission should review the work of the Commission and its PSBs on the basis of their reports. The review should also take account of the final report of consultations during the year between the Chairperson of the Commission and the Bureaux of the PSBs, which might, in due course, be extended to include representatives of the Member States, if they so wish. The statements by delegates and Bureaux representatives, as well as exchange of views at Ad Hoc Informal Meetings, should also be taken into account.
- The "Programme and Coordination Segment" will also examine any other question which could be transmitted to it by the "Policy Segment".