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ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

Forty-eighth session
Agenda item 5

**DRAFT DECISION ON THE PROVISION OF ADEQUATE RESOURCES
FOR THE SERVICING OF THE PRIORITY AND OTHER SECTORS
OF THE ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE**

The Economic Commission for Europe,

Recalling decisions O (45), P (45), B (47) and resolution 1 (1992-S),

Conscious that the effective and efficient management of the ECE, like that of other UN organizations, depends upon the reliable provision of resources, both financial and human, including skilled professionals,

Aware that the increased membership, which has risen from 34 in 1990 to 45 at present, has expanded the ECE's activities and has imposed extra demands on its tightly-stretched resources,

Noting that unfilled vacancies have required the secretariat to discharge its functions with far fewer professional staff than one year ago,

Concerned that documents for meetings and follow-up are being unduly delayed, often preventing member States from preparing properly for meetings,

Concerned that unfilled vacancies at the professional level in the priority sectors and other sectors are seriously impeding both technical and practical work of importance to the member States, as well as the ability of the secretariat to respond to the growing needs of countries in transition,

Concerned that the continuing procedural difficulties in recruiting qualified personnel on a timely basis detract from the effective management and optimal utilization of valuable budgeted resources deployed throughout the ECE secretariat,

Noting that lack of delegated authority and its negative effects on the ECE run counter to the principle of decentralization and strengthening of the regional commissions;

Mindful of the decisions of the General Assembly and the Secretary-General which affect recruitment procedures throughout the United Nations system,

1. Reaffirms the importance attached by member States to urgent action to provide resources necessary to maintain the ECE's efficiency and effectiveness;

2. Invites the Executive Secretary regularly to provide information on the deployment of resources both under the regular budget and from extra-budgetary contributions to Permanent Missions in Geneva and to the Principal Subsidiary Bodies;

3. Requests the Executive Secretary to bring this decision to the attention of the Secretary-General of the United Nations and to report on action taken at the next Ad Hoc Informal Meeting of the Commission.