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Regional cooperation

Regional cooperation in the economic, social and related fields

Report of the Secretary-General

Addendum

Matters calling for action by the Economic and Social Council or brought to its attention: Economic Commission for Africa, Economic Commission for Europe, Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean and Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

Summary

The present addendum to the report of the Secretary-General on regional cooperation in the economic, social and related fields contains the draft resolutions recommended by the Economic Commission for Africa, the Economic Commission for Europe, the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean and the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific for adoption by the Economic and Social Council, as well as information on the resolutions and decisions adopted by the Commissions in 2024 and 2025, which are brought to the attention of the Council.



I. Matters calling for action by the Economic and Social Council

A. Economic Commission for Africa

1. At its fifty-seventh session, held in Addis Ababa on 17 and 18 March 2025, the Economic Commission for Africa adopted resolution 2025/1 and decision 2025/100, on the basis of which the following draft resolutions are submitted for action by the Economic and Social Council:

Draft resolution I

Strengthening the capacity of the Economic Commission for Africa to fulfil its mandates and to provide its members with transformational, results-oriented policy and technical support

The Economic and Social Council,

Noting the adoption by the Conference of African Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development during the fifty-seventh session of the Economic Commission for Africa, held in Addis Ababa on 17 and 18 March 2025, of resolution 2025/1 on a request to strengthen the capacity of the Commission to fulfil its mandates and to provide its members with transformational, results-oriented policy and technical support, in which the Conference of Ministers requested the Secretary-General to strengthen the capacity of the Commission to fulfil its mandates and to provide its members with relevant, tailor-made capacity-building assistance and with transformational, results-oriented policy and technical support, by enhancing its convening, think tank and operational functions, in order to accelerate implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,¹ in particular in the strategic focus areas of the Commission, pursuant to its realigned programme of work,

Endorses resolution 2025/1 of the Conference of African Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development, annexed to the present resolution.

Annex

Resolution 2025/1

Request to strengthen the capacity of the Economic Commission for Africa to fulfil its mandates and to provide its members with transformational, results-oriented policy and technical support

The Conference of Ministers,

Recalling Economic and Social Council resolution [671 A \(XXV\)](#) of 29 April 1958, on the establishment of an Economic Commission for Africa,

Recalling also Economic and Social Council resolution [2018/23](#) of 24 July 2018, by which the Council endorsed the new strategic directions of the Commission,

Recalling further the realignment of the programme of work of the Commission to address emerging African development priorities and aspirations, approved by its resolution 2024/3 of 5 March 2024 on the reorganization of the work of the Commission, with a focus on the principal transformations that are necessary to

¹ General Assembly resolution [70/1](#).

accelerate implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development² and Agenda 2063: The Africa We Want, of the African Union,

Noting the vital, catalytic role of the Commission within the United Nations development system in the promotion of the socioeconomic development of its members, in the fostering of international cooperation on African development, pursuant to its mandates, and in the translation of global commitments, including the 2030 Agenda, into action at the regional, subregional and national levels,

Recognizing that Africa continues to be adversely affected by recurrent crises and conflicts, within and outside the region, resulting in increased vulnerability to shocks and to rapid socioeconomic and environmental change, and requiring urgent action to prevent the further exacerbation of the effects of those events,

Noting the need to address the effects of the crises through sustainable development, economic transformation, and strengthened and inclusive growth that facilitates job creation,

Cognizant of the Pact for the Future and its annexes, the Global Digital Compact and the Declaration on Future Generations,³

Recognizing that sustainable development, in all three of its dimensions, is a central goal in itself,

Reaffirming the need for the accelerated achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, leaving no one behind, including through practical political steps and significant resource mobilization, with a particular focus on meeting the needs of vulnerable population groups and on creating opportunities for young people,

Acknowledging the partnership between the African Union and the United Nations development system on the fulfilment of the 2030 Agenda and the second 10-year implementation plan (2024–2033) of Agenda 2063, through the “two agendas, one framework” approach, and the strategic role of the Economic Commission for Africa in supporting the Regional Collaborative Platform for Africa, including the work of the opportunity and issues-based coalitions, the resident coordinators and the United Nations country teams, in advancing implementation of the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063,

Bearing in mind the additional responsibilities assumed by the Commission in supporting the African Union upon its accession to membership of the Group of 20, as one of the designated knowledge partners of the Union, and in contributing to other critical initiatives at the international level, such as the reform of the global financial architecture and the curbing of illicit financial flows from Africa,

Noting that, in 2025, the Commission is conducting a spending review, pursuant to paragraph 20 of General Assembly resolution [77/262](#), aimed at enhancing joint integrated resource planning and promoting a culture of efficiency and effectiveness in the use of human, material and financial resources,

Expressing appreciation for the recognition and support received from the members of the Commission, bilateral and multilateral development partners, entities of the United Nations development system, regional intergovernmental bodies and the African Union and its organs,

1. *Calls upon* the Economic Commission for Africa to address the effects of the recurrent crises and conflicts through sustainable development, economic transformation and inclusive growth, which can be achieved by:

² General Assembly resolution [70/1](#).

³ General Assembly resolution [79/1](#).

- (a) Scaling up macroeconomic policies and innovative development financing, designed to position Africa as a leading player on the global stage;
- (b) Using the African Continental Free Trade Area as a platform for boosting regional integration and competitiveness;
- (c) Strengthening climate action, food security and sustainable natural resources management at all levels, with the aim of enhancing resilience to shocks and disasters;
- (d) Accelerating resource-driven industrialization and economic diversification;
- (e) Strengthening infrastructure development, including in the energy sector, to support inclusive socioeconomic development;
- (f) Harnessing the potential of science, emerging and frontier technologies and innovation for enhanced digital transformation, productive capabilities, competitiveness, governance and accountability;
- (g) Pursuing support for the provision of credible data and statistics for evidence-based analysis and decision-making;
- (h) Fostering the mainstreaming of social dimensions into all workstreams to promote social inclusion, ensure that no one is left behind, and reduce poverty and inequality;
- (i) Strengthening capacity development to support members of the Commission in accelerating the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and Agenda 2063: The Africa We Want, of the African Union, on the basis of the strategic priorities of the Commission;

2. *Requests* the Secretary-General to strengthen the capacity of the Commission to fulfil its mandates and to provide its members with relevant, tailor-made capacity-building assistance and with transformational, results-oriented policy and technical support, by enhancing its convening, think tank and operational functions, in order to accelerate implementation of the 2030 Agenda, in particular in the strategic focus areas of the Commission, pursuant to its realigned programme of work;

3. *Decides* to transmit to the Economic and Social Council a draft resolution on this issue for consideration and possible adoption.

Draft resolution II

Venue and theme of the fifty-eighth session of the Economic Commission for Africa

The Economic and Social Council,

Taking note of decision 2025/100 of 18 March 2025 adopted by the Economic Commission for Africa Conference of African Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development, by which the Commission recommended that its fifty-eighth session be held in Morocco in 2026,

Expressing its gratitude to the Government of Morocco for its generous offer to host the session,

Approves the holding of the fifty-eighth session of the Economic Commission for Africa in Morocco under the theme “Growth through innovation: harnessing data and frontier technologies for the economic transformation of Africa”.

B. Economic Commission for Europe

2. At its seventy-first session, held in Geneva on 9 and 10 April 2025, the Economic Commission for Europe adopted decisions C (71), D (71) and E (71), on the basis of which the following draft resolutions are submitted for action by the Economic and Social Council:

Draft resolution I Strengthening the United Nations Forum of Mayors

The Economic and Social Council,

Noting the adoption by the Economic Commission for Europe at its seventy-first session, held in Geneva on 9 and 10 April 2025, of decision C (71) on strengthening the United Nations Forum of Mayors,

Endorses Economic Commission for Europe decision C (71), annexed to the present resolution, and requests the Secretary-General to strengthen the secretariat resources and establish dedicated new additional capacities to support the Forum of Mayors with a view to advancing the effective implementation of the mandate of the Committee on Urban Development, Housing and Land Management of the Commission.

Annex

Decision C (71) Strengthening the United Nations Forum of Mayors

The Economic Commission for Europe,

Recalling decisions ECE/EX/2023/L.4 and ECE/EX/2024/L.16 of the Executive Committee of the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) to establish and extend the Forum of Mayors as a subsidiary body of the Committee on Urban Development, Housing and Land Management, in the form of a team of specialists of a standing nature, to be convened annually, in Geneva, immediately prior to the Committee session,

Noting the unique nature of the Forum of Mayors as a United Nations body for enhancing coherence and complementarity between the local, regional and global levels in the furtherance of a stronger, more networked and inclusive multilateral system,

Recognizing the existence of other relevant United Nations and other international processes addressing urban issues and the importance of cooperating with them,

Taking note of the Pact for the Future,

Acknowledging that the organization of the meetings of the Forum of Mayors requires adequate funding,

1. *Requests* the Secretary-General to strengthen the secretariat resources and establish dedicated new additional capacities to support the Forum of Mayors;
2. *Decides* to transmit to the Economic and Social Council at its session of 2025 a draft resolution on this issue for consideration and possible adoption.

Draft resolution II
Strengthening integration of statistics and geography

The Economic and Social Council,

Noting the adoption by the Economic Commission for Europe at its seventy-first session, held in Geneva on 9 and 10 April 2025, of decision D (71) on strengthening integration of statistics and geography,

Endorses Economic Commission for Europe decision D (71), annexed to the present resolution, and requests the Secretary-General to strengthen interlinkages between the statistical and geospatial communities, and develop interoperability methodologies for integrating statistics/data and geography under the Statistics subprogramme of the Commission.

Annex

Decision D (71)
Strengthening integration of statistics and geography

The Economic Commission for Europe,

Considering Economic and Social Council resolution 2011/24 on establishing the United Nations Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management (UN-GGIM), and resolutions [2016/27](#) on strengthening institutional arrangements on geospatial information management and [2022/24](#) on enhancing global geospatial information management arrangements,

Noting, at its seventy-first session, the critical importance of geospatially referenced information for evidence-based decision-making,

Recalling that the regular budget support for the ECE Statistics subprogramme, including staffing, has remained unchanged for the past many years,

1. *Requests* the Secretary-General to strengthen the role of the ECE secretariat in strengthening interlinkages between the statistical and geospatial communities, and in developing interoperability methodologies for integrating statistics/data and geography under the Statistics subprogramme of ECE;

2. *Decides* to transmit to the Economic and Social Council a draft resolution on this issue for consideration and possible adoption.

Draft resolution III
Multilingualism in meetings under the Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes

The Economic and Social Council,

Noting the adoption by the Economic Commission for Europe at its seventy-first session, held in Geneva on 9 and 10 April 2025, of decision E (71) on multilingualism in meetings under the Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes,⁴

Endorses Economic Commission for Europe decision E (71), annexed to the present resolution, and requests the Secretary-General to provide translation and interpretation services into Arabic, Chinese and Spanish, in addition to English, French and Russian, at future sessions of the Meeting of the Parties and other meetings under the Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes from the United Nations regular budget,

⁴ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1936, No. 33207.

including the translation of official documents and publications of the Convention into Arabic, Chinese and Spanish, in order to enable effective and equal participation by all Member States.

Annex

Decision E (71)

Multilingualism in meetings under the Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes

The Economic Commission for Europe,

Recognizing the significant progress made since the entry into force in 1996 of the Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes (Water Convention), which has provided a sound legal framework and an effective intergovernmental platform for the promotion of cooperation and the sustainable management of water resources at the basin, regional and international levels that are key for peaceful and sustainable development,

Recalling decision III/1⁵ of the Meeting of the Parties to the Water Convention opening the Convention to accession by all United Nations Member States and its entry into force in 2013,

Welcoming the significant global interest in acceding to the Water Convention, which since 2018 counts 12 new Parties from Africa (Cameroon, Chad, Côte d'Ivoire, the Gambia, Ghana, Guinea-Bissau, Namibia, Nigeria, Senegal, Togo, Zambia, and Zimbabwe), one from Latin America (Panama) and one from the Middle East (Iraq),

Welcoming also the fact that more than 20 other countries are in the process of acceding to the Water Convention and should soon become Parties, including five Spanish-speaking countries and two Arabic-speaking countries,

Highlighting that, in addition to the current 55 Convention Parties, around 80 other countries take part in meetings and activities under the Convention, making a total of more than 130 participating United Nations Member States,

Emphasizing that the Convention offers the only United Nations intergovernmental framework for policy and technical discussions on the sustainable management of transboundary water resources, and that its platform and work are useful to all countries sharing water resources, not only to Parties,

Recalling multiple resolutions of the General Assembly on multilingualism, including resolutions [71/328](#), [73/346](#) and [76/268](#), which emphasize the paramount importance of the equality of the six official languages of the United Nations,

Noting the adoption, at the tenth session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Water Convention (Ljubljana, 23–25 October 2024), of Decision X/3 on promoting equal and effective participation of all Parties in sessions of the Meeting of the Parties and other meetings under the Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes through translation and interpretation into Arabic, Chinese and Spanish,

1. *Decides* that translation of all official Convention documents and publications into Arabic, Chinese and Spanish shall be ensured in order to enable equal and effective participation of all current and future Parties and other countries in Convention activities;

⁵ ECE/MP.WAT/14.

2. *Also decides* that interpretation into Arabic, Chinese and Spanish at sessions of the Meeting of the Parties and other official Convention meetings shall be ensured in order to enable equal and effective participation of current and future Parties and other countries in Convention activities;

3. *Requests* the United Nations Secretary-General to provide translation and interpretation services into Arabic, Chinese and Spanish, in addition to English, French and Russian, at future sessions of the Meeting of the Parties and other meetings under the Convention from the United Nations regular budget, including the translation of official documents and publications of the Convention into Arabic, Chinese and Spanish, in order to enable effective and equal participation by all Parties and other countries;

4. *Decides* to transmit to the Economic and Social Council a draft resolution on this issue for consideration and possible adoption.

C. Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean

3. At its fortieth session, held in Lima from 9 to 11 October 2024, the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean adopted resolution 782(XL), on the basis of which the following draft resolution is submitted for action by the Economic and Social Council:

Draft resolution

Venue of the forty-first session of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean

The Economic and Social Council,

Taking note of resolution 782(XL) of 11 October 2024 of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, by which the Commission recommended that its forty-first session be held in the Dominican Republic in 2026,

Expressing its gratitude to the Government of the Dominican Republic for its generous invitation,

Approves the holding of the forty-first session of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean in the Dominican Republic in 2026.

D. Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

4. At its eighty-first session, held in Bangkok from 21 to 25 April 2025, the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific adopted decision 81/29, on the basis of which the following draft resolution is submitted for action by the Economic and Social Council:

Draft resolution

Dates, venue and theme of the eighty-second session of the Economic and Social Commission of Asia and the Pacific

The Economic and Social Council,

Taking note of decision 81/29 of 25 April 2025 of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, by which the Commission recommended that its eighty-second session be held in Baku from 20 to 24 April 2026,

Expressing its gratitude to the Government of Azerbaijan for its generous offer to host the session,

Approves the holding of the eighty-second session of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific in Baku, from 20 to 24 April 2026, under the theme “Leaving no one behind: advancing a society for all ages in Asia and the Pacific”.

II. Matters brought to the attention of the Economic and Social Council

5. At their respective sessions, held in 2024 and 2025, the Economic Commission for Africa, the Economic Commission for Europe, the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean and the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific adopted several resolutions and decisions, which are brought to the attention of the Economic and Social Council.

6. The full texts of the resolutions and decisions are available at www.un.org/regionalcommissionsnyoffice/content/un-regional-commissions-summaries-work-resolutions-and-decisions.
