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Proposed programme budget for 2020

Part V

Regional cooperation for development

Section 20

Economic development in Europe

Programme 17

Economic development in Europe

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* A/74/50.

** In keeping with paragraph 11 of resolution 72/266 A, the part consisting of the programme plan and programme performance information is submitted through the Committee for Programme and Coordination for the consideration of the General Assembly.

*** In keeping with paragraph 11 of resolution 72/266 A, the part consisting of the post and non-post resource requirements is submitted through the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions for the consideration of the General Assembly.





Foreword

When I joined the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) in 2017 during the celebrations of its seventieth anniversary, I was impressed by its significant record in generating closer cooperation in the region.

ECE is known for a wide body of conventions, norms and best practices that provide practical solutions to problems shared by countries in the region and beyond. ECE public goods also contribute to increased efficiency in both the public and the private sectors and to savings that demonstrate value for money relative to the Commission's size and budget. For example, a method for testing the safety of cars for pedestrians introduced by ECE is estimated by the German Federal Highway Research Institute to lead to annual cost savings in Germany of close to \$87 million, owing to fewer road fatalities and severe injuries. According to official estimates from the United States Department of Labor, the use of the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals will result in savings to local businesses of \$475 million in productivity improvements and \$250 million in reduced occupational risk annually.

Critically, ECE contributes to saving lives. In *Towards Cleaner Air: Scientific Assessment Report 2016*, the European Monitoring and Evaluation Programme Steering Body and Working Group on Effects of the Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution (1979) estimated that abatement measures for the reduction of air pollutants, including particulate matter, had increased the average life expectancy in Europe by one year. I was particularly encouraged by international support for our work in mobilizing all United Nations and member States' efforts to halve the number of deaths and injuries from road traffic accidents by 2020, which is critical to sustainable development in the region.

Through its efforts to promote economic development, ECE contributes to closer cooperation and to improving the living conditions of the population on the continent. However, to ensure effective support for member States in implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, our 71-year-old organization must embrace change. The global scale of the 2030 Agenda requires intensive international cooperation and partnership, which is at the centre of ECE work, prompting us to rethink the focus of our activities and working methods. Going beyond aligning the ECE programme of work with the Sustainable Development Goals, I have launched a comprehensive exercise to enhance the impact of our work and to ensure that ECE is fit for the purpose of responding to emerging needs, development challenges and opportunities in the region through 2030. This includes but is not limited to expanding cooperation with our network of over 18,000 experts, fostering greater internal synergies and building closer partnerships and collaboration with stakeholders across the region to produce practical global public goods.

The history of ECE demonstrates how international cooperation delivers positive results for people and for the planet. The budget proposal contained in the present document provides concrete information on ECE results achieved in 2018 and those planned for 2020 to address challenges in the region. In that context, ECE looks forward to serving its member States by advancing economic cooperation and integration and making progress towards the achievement of the goals set out in the 2030 Agenda in the ECE region in the years to come.

(Signed) Olga Algayerova
Executive Secretary, Economic Commission for Europe

Overall orientation

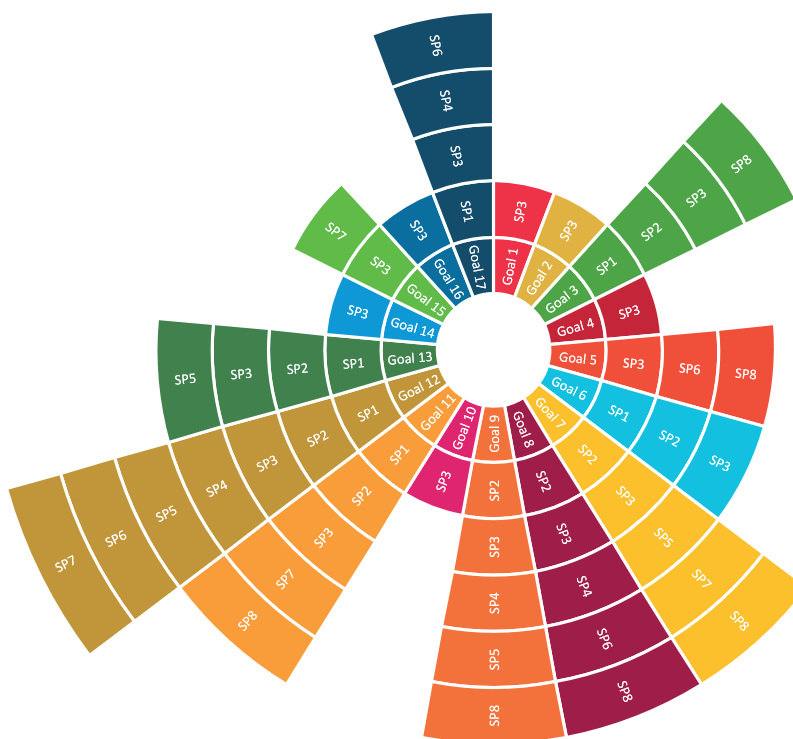
Mandates and background

- 20.1 The Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) is responsible for facilitating economic integration and cooperation among its member States and promoting sustainable development and economic prosperity in the ECE region. The mandate derives from the priorities established in relevant Economic and Social Council resolutions, including on the workplan on reform of ECE and the outcome of the review of the 2005 reform of ECE (resolutions 2006/38 and 2013/1, respectively), and Council resolution 36 (IV) of 28 March 1947.
- 20.2 ECE provides a regional intergovernmental platform from which to address economic and environmental challenges that remain a source of primary concern to member States, such as promoting sustained economic growth and sustainable mobility in the region, facilitating trade and economic integration, protecting the environment, ensuring a flexible and efficient energy supply, strengthening capacity for measuring sustainable development and addressing the implications of demographic trends. ECE support aimed at developing the capacity of Governments to formulate and implement policies for sustainable development is also provided through the implementation of projects under the regular programme of technical cooperation and the Development Account.

Alignment with the Charter of the United Nations, the Sustainable Development Goals and other transformative agendas

- 20.3 The mandates of the Commission guide the subprogrammes in producing their respective deliverables, which contribute to the attainment of each subprogramme's objective. The objectives of the subprogrammes are aligned with the Organization's purpose to achieve international cooperation in solving international problems of an economic, social, cultural or humanitarian character and in promoting and encouraging respect for human rights and for fundamental freedoms for all without distinction as to race, sex, language or religion, as stipulated in Article 1 of the Charter of the United Nations. In the context of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the purposes stipulated in Article 1 of the Charter are embodied by the Sustainable Development Goals. Figure 20.I summarizes the specific Sustainable Development Goals with which the objectives, and therefore the deliverables, of the respective subprogrammes are aligned.

Figure 20.1
Economic development in Europe: alignment of subprogrammes with Sustainable Development Goals



- 20.4 The alignment of the subprogrammes' objectives with the Sustainable Development Goals builds on the core interlinked functions that are consistent with the legislative mandates of ECE, namely: (a) policy dialogue; (b) normative work; and (c) technical assistance. The intergovernmental entities of ECE, notably the Commission and its sectoral committees, provides the foundation for ECE support for national Governments and other stakeholders in advancing the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals. By convening the annual Regional Forum on Sustainable Development, ECE also provides a region-wide platform for the follow-up and review of the Goals, focusing on peer learning and the exchange of practical solutions.
- 20.5 The objective is also aligned with the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, the Vienna Declaration and the Vienna Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries for the Decade 2014–2024 and the New Urban Agenda.

Recent developments

- 20.6 In May 2018, the General Assembly, in its resolution [72/279](#), approved the initial phase of the far-reaching reform of the United Nations development system, launched by the Secretary-General with a view to strengthening the development system and galvanizing its work in support of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development. The Assembly reaffirmed the role of the regional commissions in supporting the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals and recognized the specificities of each regional context.
- 20.7 Member States in the ECE region continued to face challenges in addressing the complexity of the Sustainable Development Goals. An integrated response to multisectoral issues, including ensuring inclusive and sustained economic growth, mobilizing large-scale development financing, addressing unsustainable consumption and production patterns and confronting environmental challenges, is

critical. Tackling those challenges in a holistic and integrated manner requires concerted and multisectoral efforts.

Strategy and external factors for 2020

- 20.8 Mindful of the above-mentioned challenges at the regional level and cognizant of the vision of the reform of the development system, ECE has initiated a strategic realignment of its work, reinforcing its partnerships with other international organizations, the private sector and civil society, with a sharpened focus on delivering results at all levels.
- 20.9 The strategy of the programme is based on an integrated approach to sustainable development and the implementation of its mandates, and it builds on synergies between and the results-oriented work of its eight subprogrammes, namely:
1. Environment;
 2. Transport;
 3. Statistics;
 4. Economic cooperation and integration;
 5. Sustainable energy;
 6. Trade;
 7. Forestry and timber;
 8. Housing, land management and population.
- 20.10 In furtherance of General Assembly resolution [72/271](#) on improving global road safety, an expansion of the activities of ECE is foreseen to ensure effective support of United Nations Member States' efforts on the implementation of the objectives and goals of the Decade of Action for Road Safety and the road safety-related targets in the 2030 Agenda, as further detailed under subprogramme 2.
- 20.11 Deepening the integrated approach of ECE by providing multisectoral policy advice and capacity-building will facilitate the countries' implementation of the 2030 Agenda. ECE will strengthen cross-sectoral collaboration among its eight subprogrammes in four nexus areas at which multiple Sustainable Development Goals converge, namely: (a) the sustainable use of natural resources; (b) sustainable and smart cities; (c) sustainable mobility and smart connectivity; and (d) measuring and monitoring the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals. This type of collaboration will enable ECE to maximize existing synergies, increase the efficiency of its work and have a multiplying effect on its actions to support countries in implementing the Goals.
- 20.12 In implementing this strategy, ECE will provide a neutral platform for regional policy dialogue on economic and environmental issues among its 56 member States. The normative work of the programme will be focused on the development and implementation of international legal instruments, norms and standards and the identification and dissemination of best practices within and outside the region. The programme will promote technical cooperation with economies in transition towards achieving sustainable development across the region.
- 20.13 With regard to external factors, the overall plan for 2020 is based on the following planning assumptions:
- (a) Member States continue to support the work of ECE;
 - (b) All relevant stakeholders at the national level have the political will and sufficient capacity to cooperate in implementing the ECE legal instruments, norms and standards;
 - (c) Voluntary resources continue to be available.

- 20.14 ECE integrates a gender perspective in its operational activities, deliverables and results, as appropriate, building on its previous work, including projects to support women traders in Central Asia under subprogramme 6. In 2020, all sectoral committees governing the ECE subprogrammes will include gender mainstreaming in their work agendas, all ECE technical cooperation projects will be assessed against their impact on gender, and the Commission will continue its work on gender and economy, including capacity-building activities for women entrepreneurs from Central Asia.
- 20.15 With regard to cooperation with other entities, the United Nations Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia, implemented jointly by ECE and the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), will continue to serve as the major framework for ECE cooperation with other relevant stakeholders in Central Asia and the provision of support to the member countries of the Special Programme in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.
- 20.16 With regard to inter-agency cooperation, ECE work will build on strategic partnerships already established with other United Nations entities, international and regional organizations and international financial institutions, for example, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), the United Nations Environment Programme, the United Nations Development Programme, the International Trade Centre, the World Trade Organization, the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, the World Bank and so on. A renewed focus will be placed on enhancing and building on partnerships with the private sector and civil society in the spirit of the 2030 Agenda. Cooperation with other regional commissions will be pursued through joint initiatives, programmes and projects so as to strengthen knowledge management. ECE will continue its ongoing cooperation with other United Nations entities at both the regional and the country levels. At the regional level, ECE will continue to lead the Regional Coordination Mechanism for Europe and Central Asia, promoting cooperation among United Nations regional entities and their partners in addressing regional, cross-cutting policy issues and providing regional perspectives at the global level. At the country level, ECE will continue to work as a non-resident agency of the 17 United Nations country teams in the region through the United Nations Development Assistance Framework. The programme will also promote interregional, including South-South and triangular, cooperation.

Evaluation activities

- 20.17 The following self-evaluations are planned for 2020:
- (a) Review of the innovation performance reviews regional index;
 - (b) Review of ECE collaboration with United Nations and other partners in delivering on energy for sustainable development;
 - (c) Review of the ECE Active Ageing Index.

A. Proposed programme plan for 2020 and programme performance for 2018

Programme of work



Subprogramme 1 Environment

1. Objective

- 20.18 The objective, to which this subprogramme contributes, is to improve environmental governance and performance throughout the ECE region for safeguarding the environment and human health.

2. Alignment with the Sustainable Development Goals

- 20.19 The objective is aligned with Sustainable Development Goal 3 (ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages), Goal 6 (ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all), Goal 11 (make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable), Goal 12 (ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns), Goal 13 (take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts) and Goal 17 (strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development).
- 20.20 Alignment with the Sustainable Development Goals serves as a framework for contributing to the objective of the subprogramme. Within that framework, the subprogramme will develop cross-sectoral activities with other ECE subprogrammes where there is complementarity between the respective Sustainable Development Goals and targets in line with the nexus areas described in paragraph 20.10 above.

3. Highlighted result in 2018

Environmental Performance Reviews show increased public awareness about air quality

In 2018, the environmental performance of Kazakhstan and North Macedonia was reviewed for the third time under the ECE Environmental Performance Review Programme. At the request of the respective Governments, teams of international experts from a wide range of countries and organizations visited the countries and reviewed progress. The reviews help countries to identify key environmental challenges, evaluate advances towards the achievement of relevant Sustainable Development Goals and establish concrete recommendations to improve environmental sustainability across all sectors.

The Environmental Performance Review of North Macedonia assessed progress made since 2011 on air quality, water management, biodiversity, forestry and protected areas, waste and chemical management, climate change and greening the economy. The review also assessed the country's progress towards relevant targets and indicators of the Sustainable Development Goals and examined how the Goals were being adapted to the national context and put into practice, whether the necessary resources had been allocated and responsibilities were clear, what obstacles had been encountered when targeting the Goals and what concrete results had been achieved.

In Kazakhstan, the Environmental Performance Review was focused on the country's progress in greening its economy, particularly the energy, industry, agriculture and health sectors. Past efforts were evaluated and the Government was recommended to take action to address air pollution, improve water quality, reduce waste and manage protected areas.

Building on the analysis of progress made in implementing the recommendations emanating from the second Environmental Performance Review of the countries, the third review resulted in about 120 practical recommendations to improve environmental governance, increase public awareness of environmental performance and boost national efforts to implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Result and evidence

The deliverables contributed to the result, which is improved environmental governance and public awareness in the region, including in the case of Kazakhstan, which improved policies governing public participation and air quality.

Evidence of the result includes the adoption of legislation and practices improving public access to information and participation in decision-making in relation to the environment. For example, following ECE recommendations on the need to enhance public awareness on air pollution, Kazhydromet, an agency under the Ministry of Energy of Kazakhstan, developed an application for smartphones called "AirKz", which was launched in January 2018. The application provides real-time data on selected air pollutants and allows citizens to gauge air quality. There has also been interest in the Environmental Performance Review process outside the region with, for example, the launch in 2018 of the Environmental Performance Review of Mongolia, prepared in cooperation with ESCAP.

The result demonstrates progress made in 2018 towards the collective attainment of the objective.



Public awareness-raising on air quality through the AirKz smartphone application.

- 20.21 A planned result for 2018, which is improved environmental performance of interested countries, as referred to in the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2018–2019, was achieved, as evidenced by the implementation by the two reviewed countries of earlier recommendations

emanating from the Environmental Performance Review process. With the Environmental Performance Reviews, the subprogramme contributed to the nexus areas on sustainable use of natural resources, sustainable and smart cities and measuring and monitoring the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals.

4. Highlighted planned result for 2020

Extension of the life of nuclear power plants

In 2018, despite its parties having recognized the valuable contribution of the Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context (Espoo Convention) to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, challenges remained in the application of the Convention, both in specific subregions and for addressing key types of economic development. One area where agreement has yet to be reached is on the applicability of the Convention to decisions on the extension of the life of nuclear power plants. The next decade is expected to see many such decisions being taken each year in the ECE region, as a number of European reactors will reach the end of their original technical design life.

Challenge and response

The challenge was that there is no agreed guidance for member States on the application of the Convention to their decisions on extending the life of nuclear plants. That procedure includes the notification of parties that might be affected by the decision and consultation of their authorities and the public. The workplan adopted by the parties to the Convention for 2017–2020 addresses this challenge.

In response, for 2020, the subprogramme facilitates the preparation of guidance that will specify the criteria and conditions under which the parties to the Convention should apply the Convention to decisions on extending the life of nuclear power plants. In December 2020, at their next regular meeting, parties will be expected to consider and adopt the guidance.

Result and evidence

The planned deliverable is expected to contribute to the result, which is the strengthened application of the Convention to the extension of the life of nuclear power plants, thus more closely aligning economic development with the objectives of the 2030 Agenda.

Evidence of the result, if achieved, will include the adoption by consensus of the guidance materials by parties to the Convention, as shown in the figure.

The result, if achieved, will demonstrate progress made in 2020 towards the collective attainment of the objective.

Performance measures: guidance on extending the life of nuclear power plants

2018	2019	2020
Absence of guidance on extending the life of nuclear power plants	Development of guidance on extending the life of nuclear power plants	Adoption of guidance on extending the life of nuclear power plants

- 20.22 The subprogramme will continue to be guided by all mandates entrusted to it, which provide the legislative framework for its deliverables.

5. Deliverables for the period 2018–2020

- 20.23 Table 20.1 lists all deliverables, by category and subcategory, for the period 2018–2020 that contributed and are expected to contribute to the attainment of the objective stated above.

Table 20.1

Subprogramme 1: deliverables for the period 2018–2020, by category and subcategory

<i>Category</i>	<i>2018 planned</i>	<i>2018 actual</i>	<i>2019 planned</i>	<i>2020 planned</i>
Quantified deliverables				
A. Facilitation of the intergovernmental process and expert bodies				
Parliamentary documentation (number of documents)	310	117	231	211
Substantive services for meetings (number of three-hour meetings)	264	223	283	251
B. Generation and transfer of knowledge				
Seminars, workshops and training events (number of days)	36	83	46	48
Publications (number of publications)	7	7	14	11
Non-quantified deliverables				
C. Substantive deliverables				
Consultation, advice and advocacy				
D. Communication deliverables				
Outreach programmes, special events and information materials				
External and media relations				
Digital platforms and multimedia content				

6. Most significant relative variances in deliverables

Variances between the actual and planned figures in 2018

- 20.24 The variance in parliamentary documentation was driven mainly by documentation for: (a) the Committee on Environmental Policy and subsidiary bodies, owing to the decision of the Committee to move its 2018 annual session to January 2019; and (b) documentation for the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters and subsidiary bodies and the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol on Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers to the Convention and subsidiary bodies, owing to lower demand for documents following decisions by the bodies to accept ad hoc communications and requests for review from the parties and members of the public for review by their respective compliance committees.
- 20.25 The variance in substantive services for meetings was driven mainly by: (a) meetings of the Committee on Environmental Policy and subsidiary bodies, owing to the decision of the Committee to move its 2018 annual session to January 2019; and (b) the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters, owing to the decision of the parties on the work programme for 2018–2021, which resulted in a decrease in the number of meeting days of the Task Force on Public Participation in Decision-making in 2018.
- 20.26 The variance in seminars, workshops and training events was driven mainly by additional workshops, owing to requests from parties to the Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution and the availability of extrabudgetary resources at the end of 2018.

Variations between the planned figures for 2020 and 2019

- 20.27 The variance in parliamentary documentation is driven mainly by documentation for the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes and subsidiary bodies and the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol on Water and Health and subsidiary bodies, owing to the two-year cycle of the schedule of meetings (the previous meeting was held in 2018, and the next is planned for 2020).
- 20.28 The variance in substantive services for meetings is driven mainly by meetings of the Committee on Environmental Policy, owing to: (a) the decision to move the date of its 2018 annual session to January 2019 and to shorten the duration of its annual sessions to up to six half-day meetings; and (b) the cycles of conferences (meetings) of the parties to the multilateral environmental agreements.
- 20.29 The variance in publications is driven mainly by guidance, policy briefs and good practices publications on environmental issues and multilateral environmental agreements administered by the subprogramme, owing to the cycles of conferences (meetings) of the parties to the multilateral environmental agreements, as well as high-level meetings of other processes, which requested the issuance of those publications before the respective meetings.



Subprogramme 2 Transport

1. Objective

- 20.30 The objective, to which this subprogramme contributes, is to improve sustainable inland transport by making it safer, cleaner, more efficient and more affordable, for both freight transport and personal mobility.

2. Alignment with the Sustainable Development Goals

- 20.31 The objective is aligned with Sustainable Development Goal 3 (ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages), Goal 6 (ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all), Goal 7 (ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all), Goal 8 (promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all), Goal 9 (build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation), Goal 11 (make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable), Goal 12 (ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns) and Goal 13 (take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts).
- 20.32 Alignment with the Sustainable Development Goals serves as a framework for contributing to the objective of the subprogramme. Within this framework, the subprogramme will develop cross-sectoral activities with other ECE subprogrammes where there is complementarity between the respective Sustainable Development Goals and targets in line with the nexus areas described in paragraph 20.10 above.

3. Highlighted result in 2018

On the road to sustainable inland transport systems

The work of the subprogramme is in line with the programme of work adopted by the Inland Transport Committee. Through its 20 working parties and more than 50 formal and informal networks bringing together more than 3,500 experts, it, inter alia, promotes sustainable transport systems that are safe, green, efficient and affordable, for both freight transport and personal mobility. The core pillar of its work is the development and constant updating of the international regulatory framework for inland transport, which currently includes 58 United Nations legal instruments under its purview. At the request of member States and contracting parties, the subprogramme provides the institutional platform for national Governments and key transport stakeholders so as to maintain this regulatory framework, and it complements this work with related policy dialogue, analytical work, technical assistance and capacity-building activities.

In 2018, the regulatory work of the subprogramme resulted in a significantly revised regulatory framework for sustainable inland transport systems, in particular: (a) the adoption of 100 new United Nations vehicle regulations and updates to existing ones, contributing to the 360-degree approach to road safety of the Inland Transport Committee, as well as the adoption of 2 United Nations global technical regulations on electric cars and on electric-powered two-wheelers to promote the decarbonization of transport; those regulatory changes, which are legally binding, affect the global production of vehicles and, as such, have an immediate impact on road safety and environmental performance; (b) the adoption of provisions on the transport of dangerous goods for the European Agreement concerning the Carriage of Dangerous Goods by Inland Waterways that introduce a modified concept for explosion protection on board inland waterway vessels; (c) the adoption of a set of amendments to the European Agreement concerning the International Carriage of Dangerous Goods by Road addressing emerging issues

resulting from the increasing development of transport and the use of lithium batteries and of vehicles powered by cleaner fuels (such as liquefied or compressed natural gas or hydrogen fuel cells); and (d) the acceleration of computerization of the Customs Convention on the International Transport of Goods under Cover of TIR Carnets (TIR Convention) system, eTIR, aimed at increasing the attractiveness of the TIR Convention in countries with fast-growing economies and those striving towards paperless administration. The TIR Convention is a multilateral treaty with 76 contracting parties, constituting the only global customs transit system used by 34,000 transport companies. The TIR system is based on the use of a single internationally recognized and harmonized customs and transit document (TIR Carnet), helping to reduce time and lower costs for transport operators. Speeding up paperwork contributes to decreasing delays at borders, which have a harmful impact on the environment and cost billions of dollars annually. E-TIR operations in pilot projects between the Islamic Republic of Iran and Turkey and between Georgia and Turkey provided evidence of the system’s functionality in a live environment. Those activities have led to an increase in accessions to the TIR Convention by Asian and Middle Eastern countries. Among the latest contracting parties were China, India and Pakistan, which alone account for 40 per cent of the global population.

Result and evidence

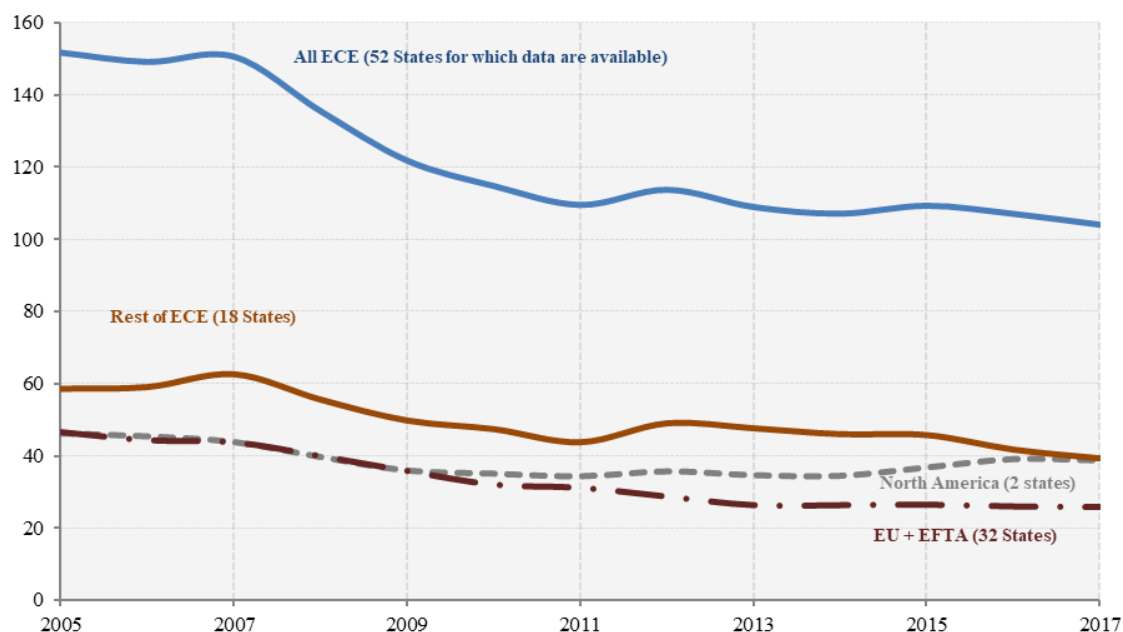
The deliverables contributed to the result, which is improved sustainability of transport systems.

Evidence of the result includes: (a) in the area of transport safety, especially road safety, a reduction in fatalities in the ECE region by 28 per cent from 2005 to 2017 and an expectation of a continuation of the trend in 2018, as shown in the figure, which brings the region’s performance closer to target 3.6 of the Sustainable Development Goals, namely, halving road fatalities and injuries by 2020; (b) in the area of transport environmental performance (green transport), an expected reduction by about half of CO₂ emissions per electric vehicle as compared with the equivalent fossil fuel-powered vehicle; and (c) in the area of transport efficiency, 84 successful eTIR transport operations by the parties involved in the eTIR pilot projects who decided to continue conducting eTIR transports after the finalization of those operations.

The result demonstrates progress made in 2018 towards the collective attainment of the objective.

Road traffic fatalities in the ECE region

Thousands



Source: ECE transport database, with additional data from the European Commission’s Community Road Accident database, the International Transport Forum and some estimates, as 18 countries did not yet have 2017 values available.

Note: Andorra, Monaco, San Marino and Turkmenistan are not included, owing to insufficient data availability. EU+EFTA refers to the European Union and the European Free Trade Agreement members.

- 20.33 A planned result for 2018, which is a strengthened legal and regulatory framework for international land transport (road, rail, inland waterway and intermodal transport), transport infrastructure, border-crossing facilitation, transport of dangerous goods, vehicle construction and other transport-related services, as referred to in the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2018–2019, was achieved, as evidenced by the 100 new vehicle regulations and amendments actually adopted. With this result, the subprogramme contributed to the nexus areas on the sustainable use of natural resources, sustainable and smart cities, sustainable mobility and smart connectivity.

4. Highlighted planned result for 2020

Enhanced regulatory framework for sustainable inland transport systems

The *Sustainable Development Goals Report 2017* concluded that, while considerable progress had been made over the past decade across all areas of development, advancements had been uneven across regions and the pace of progress had been insufficient to fully meet the Sustainable Development Goal targets by 2030. For example, in 2018, the General Assembly, in its resolution [72/271](#), concluded that target 3.6, halving global deaths and injuries from road traffic accidents by 2020, would not be met.

Challenge and response

The challenge was that despite the global efforts and overall improvements in the ECE region, the global trend appeared to go in the opposite direction.

Evidence indicates that countries with a greater number of accessions to conventions and agreements under the purview of the subprogramme have better results in terms of improving the sustainability of their transport systems.

In response, for 2020, the subprogramme plans to scale up its efforts to support the development of sustainable inland transport systems internationally and ensure that its activities further benefit other regions in their own efforts to curb the number of road traffic deaths and injuries; improve the environmental performance of the inland transport systems, including regarding the transport of perishable foodstuffs; and enhance efficiency and connectivity, including through digitalization and electronic documents in transport. The subprogramme plans to do so through the implementation of the Inland Transport Committee's strategy by, among other things, encouraging the participation of countries from outside the ECE region in the activities of the Committee and its subsidiary bodies and scaling up outreach and capacity-building activities, including through partnerships with the United Nations system and external stakeholders and participation in regional and global initiatives.

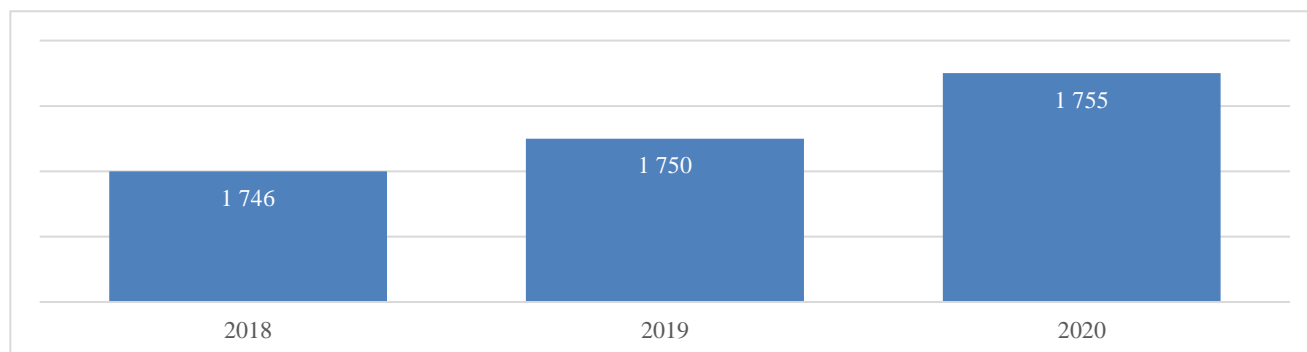
Result and evidence

The planned deliverables are expected to contribute to the result, which is the strengthened legal and regulatory framework for sustainable inland transport systems.

Evidence of the result, if achieved, will include increased accessions worldwide to conventions and agreements under the purview of the subprogramme, as shown in the figure.

The result, if achieved, will demonstrate progress made in 2020 towards the collective attainment of the objective. It will contribute to the nexus areas on sustainable use of natural resources; sustainable and smart cities; sustainable mobility and smart connectivity; and measuring and monitoring the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals.

Performance measures: increased number of contracting parties to United Nations legal instruments on transport administered by the Economic Commission for Europe



- 20.34 The following General Assembly resolutions comprise the main mandates entrusted to the subprogramme: [58/9](#) on the global road safety crisis, [68/269](#) on improving global road safety, [69/137](#) on the Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries for the Decade 2014–2024, [69/213](#) on the role of transport and transit corridors in ensuring international cooperation for sustainable development, [70/197](#) entitled “Towards comprehensive cooperation among all modes of transport for promoting sustainable multimodal transit corridors”, [70/217](#) on follow-up to the second United Nations Conference on Landlocked Developing Countries, [72/212](#) on strengthening the links between all modes of transport to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals and [72/232](#) on the follow-up to the second United Nations Conference on Landlocked Developing Countries.
- 20.35 In its resolution [72/271](#) on improving global road safety, the General Assembly in 2018 entrusted the subprogramme with a new mandate.
- 20.36 The subprogramme will continue to be guided by all mandates entrusted to it, which provide the legislative framework for its deliverables.

5. Deliverables for the period 2018–2020

- 20.37 Table 20.2 lists all deliverables, by category and subcategory, for the period 2018–2020 that contributed and are expected to contribute to the attainment of the objective stated above.

Table 20.2

Subprogramme 2: deliverables for the period 2018–2020, by category and subcategory

Category	2018 planned	2018 actual	2019 planned	2020 planned
Quantified deliverables				
A. Facilitation of the intergovernmental process and expert bodies				
Parliamentary documentation (number of documents)	1 646	1 650	1 515	1 660
Substantive services for meetings (number of three-hour meetings)	349	348	354	369
B. Generation and transfer of knowledge				
Technical cooperation and field projects (number of projects)	2	2	2	2
Seminars, workshops and training events (number of days)	11	11	11	13
Publications (number of publications)	6	6	14	13
Technical materials (number of materials)	1	1	2	2

<i>Category</i>	<i>2018 planned</i>	<i>2018 actual</i>	<i>2019 planned</i>	<i>2020 planned</i>
Non-quantified deliverables				
C. Substantive deliverables				
Consultation, advice and advocacy				
Databases and substantive digital materials				
D. Communication deliverables				
Outreach programmes, special events and information materials				
External and media relations				
Digital platforms and multimedia content				

6. Most significant relative variances in deliverables

Variances between the planned figures for 2020 and 2019

- 20.38 The variance in parliamentary documentation is driven mainly by parliamentary documentation for the Subcommittee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods and the Subcommittee of Experts on the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals, owing to a structural asymmetry in even and odd years for the work under the Economic and Social Council Committee and related subcommittees.



Subprogramme 3 Statistics

1. Objective

- 20.39 The objective, to which this subprogramme contributes, is to advance official statistics at the national and international levels.

2. Alignment with the Sustainable Development Goals

- 20.40 Given its enabling nature, the objective is aligned with all of the Sustainable Development Goals.
- 20.41 Alignment with the Sustainable Development Goals serves as a framework for contributing to the objective of the subprogramme. Within this framework, the subprogramme will develop cross-sectoral activities with other ECE subprogrammes where there is complementarity between the respective Sustainable Development Goals and targets in line with the nexus areas described in paragraph 20.10 above.

3. Highlighted result in 2018

Stronger legal basis for modern official statistics

Strong legal backing is a key element in ensuring the production of impartial and reliable national statistics according to the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics. This will be especially relevant for countries developing statistics in the context of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Eastern European countries were the first to request the development of international guidance on statistical legislation, which led to the Generic Law on Official Statistics, endorsed by the chief statisticians of 65 countries in 2016. The Republic of Moldova in 2017 and Armenia and Kyrgyzstan in 2018 were the first countries to modernize their legal frameworks for statistics in accordance with the Generic Law.

As the landscape of information producers and requirements for information are rapidly changing, statistical offices need a legislative and institutional infrastructure that can support statistical offices in developing new business models, engaging in partnerships and using new data sources and technologies. On the basis of those needs and the experience with the Generic Law, member States requested the development of common elements of statistical legislation that could be applied to all countries of the ECE region and beyond.

In 2018, ECE completed guidance on modernizing statistical legislation, which covers the organization of a national statistical system and its coordination, the mandate for data collection, access to data, the confidentiality, quality, dissemination and communication of statistics, the provision of statistical services, international cooperation, infringements and its relationship to other legislation. The guidance reviews the key strengths and shortcomings of legal and institutional frameworks of official statistics and analyses the main challenges, expectations and limitations arising from their operational environment. The guidance includes a list of common elements of statistical legislation and an explanation of the benefits of each element for society. Overall, the guidance supports countries in reinforcing their legal frameworks so as to guarantee the independence, integrity and accountability of national statistical systems and the high quality of official statistics and helps to remove legislative barriers to releasing the full value of official statistics. The guidance was endorsed by the Conference of European Statisticians in 2018.

Result and evidence

The deliverable contributed to the result, which is the reinforcement of legal frameworks to guarantee the independence, integrity and accountability of national statistical systems and the high quality of official statistics.

Evidence of the result includes the use of the guidance by numerous member States. For example Malta, Norway, Slovakia and Switzerland are using the guidance in revising their laws on statistics. Malta found the guidance to be extremely useful, especially in discussions on amending the Malta Statistical Act. Switzerland considered that the guidance was a very helpful tool in the elaboration of a revision project and that the guidance represented a collection of the most important principles for a statistics act that corresponded with existing national practices. Finland was of the view that the document provided excellent guidance at the general level for those interested in developing legislation for national statistical systems. Furthermore, several countries from outside the region (for example, Chile, Colombia, Mexico and Rwanda) expressed interest in using the guidance.

The result demonstrates progress made in 2018 towards the collective attainment of the objective.

- 20.42 A planned result for 2018, which is updated and newly developed standards and recommendations to enhance the quality and international comparability of statistics and monitoring of the Sustainable Development Goals, as referred to in the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2018–2019, was achieved, as evidenced by the development by ECE of five new international statistical recommendations in 2018 and their approval by the heads of statistical offices, on guidance on data integration for measuring migration, the measurement of international labour mobility, guidelines on the use of registers and administrative data for population and housing censuses, guidelines on the use of statistical business registers for business demography and entrepreneurship statistics and the guidance on modernizing statistical legislation described above. With this result, the subprogramme contributed to the nexus area on sustainable mobility and smart connectivity and the nexus on measuring and monitoring the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals.

4. Highlighted planned result for 2020

Increasing the number of countries producing improved statistics for the Sustainable Development Goals

The 2030 Agenda calls for the participation of all States Members of the United Nations in providing national statistics to measure progress against 17 Sustainable Development Goals. ECE, as a facilitator of regional innovation, supports practical, country-led approaches to providing official statistics to inform policymaking for the Goals. From 2016 to 2018, ECE developed a regional *Road Map on Statistics for Sustainable Development Goals*, giving guidance to countries on how to set up the system for providing the relevant statistics. The road map was approved by the chief statisticians of 65 member States of the ECE region and beyond in June 2017. Based on guidance from the road map, countries have started to set up systems for the provision of Sustainable Development Goal indicators, with the statistical office as the main national coordinator.

Challenge and response

The challenge was that the data needed in relation to the Sustainable Development Goals were broader than could be met with official statistics alone. The Goals are targeting areas that have not previously been covered by official statistics, such as governance. They also require new statistics in traditional areas to assess the sustainability or affordability of resources and to identify the vulnerable groups left behind. In addition, there are a number of non-statistical indicators on the adherence of countries to specific policies that cannot be produced by official statistics because of the principle of impartiality. That requires new types of partnerships between the national statistical office and other data producers, such as other government agencies, private companies, academia and civil society. Those kinds of partnerships are new to the statistical system. For example, the principle of “no one left behind” requires data on many vulnerable groups, which are often small and difficult to reach and identify. Producing such data is costly. Other government agencies, private companies or civil society may provide information that will help to produce data on vulnerable groups more efficiently.

In response, for 2020, ECE plans to develop new practical guidance to help countries implement the road map by consolidating best practices from the first years of its use. A revised road map on statistics for the Sustainable Development Goals to reflect the emerging challenges was mandated by the Conference of European Statisticians to assist countries in their future work.

ECE plans to develop new guidance on how to establish partnerships between the national statistical office and other data producers in a way that would preserve the independence and impartiality of official statistics. In addition, ECE is advancing new work to bring together experts from national statistical, mapping and geospatial agencies to share good practices in integrating geospatial and statistical information that is crucial for the measurement of progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals. The use of geospatial data is the most efficient way to calculate a number of indicators related to the environment, land use and access to transport, in particular in countries with less developed statistical systems and for hard-to-reach areas.

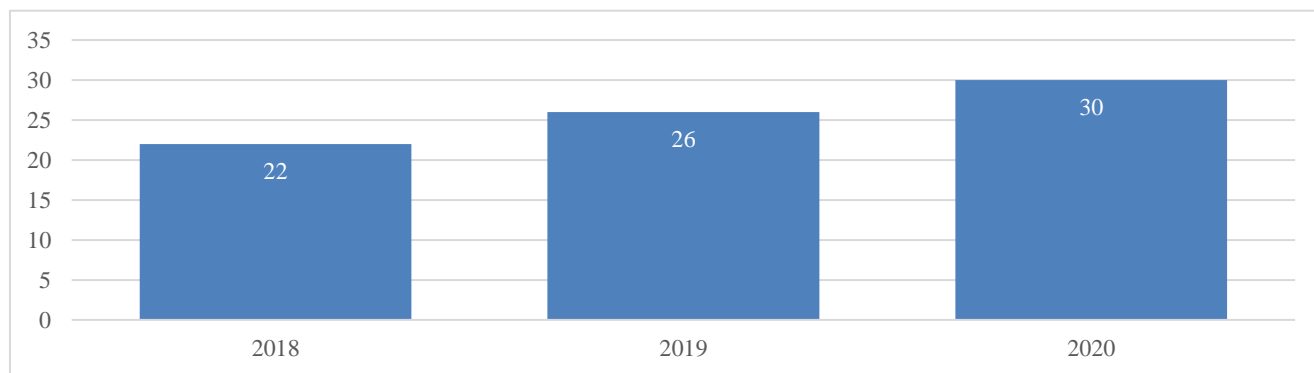
Following the ECE road map, a number of countries are establishing national reporting platforms on statistics relating to the Sustainable Development Goals. Such a national reporting platform provides a one-stop shop for national data on indicators originating from different sources within a country. It is an authoritative source of country data in line with the 2030 Agenda, which states that its follow-up and review “will be primarily based on national official data sources” (resolution 70/1, para. 74 (a)). First, in 2016, countries started establishing a platform for working together with ECE on common approaches that could be used by other countries. By 2018, 22 countries in the ECE region had set up their national reporting platforms, and 7 countries were in the process of doing so. Increasing that number further will require new approaches, including the establishment of new partnerships, which the new ECE guidance will support. By 2020, it is expected that most of the countries (estimated at 30 or more) in the ECE region that have decided to use a national reporting platform will have set it up. Building on the experience in the ECE region, such platforms have also been set up in African and Latin American countries.

Result and evidence

The planned deliverable is expected to contribute to the result, which is countries’ improved capacity to produce and communicate statistics on the Sustainable Development Goals.

Evidence of the result, if achieved, will include increased availability of data on the Sustainable Development Goals through 30 national reporting platforms, as shown in the figure. The result, if achieved, will demonstrate progress made in 2020 towards the collective attainment of the objective. It will contribute to the nexus area on measuring and monitoring the implementation of the Goals.

Performance measures: number of national reporting platforms on statistics for Sustainable Development Goals in use by member States



- 20.43 The following resolutions comprise the main mandates entrusted to the subprogramme: General Assembly resolution [68/261](#) on fundamental principles of official statistics and Economic and Social Council resolutions [2015/10](#) on the 2020 World Population and Housing Census Programme, [2016/27](#) on strengthening institutional arrangements on geospatial information management and [2017/7](#) on the work of the Statistical Commission pertaining to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable

Development. The subprogramme will continue to be guided by all mandates entrusted to it, which provide the legislative framework for its deliverables.

5. Deliverables for the period 2018–2020

- 20.44 Table 20.3 lists all deliverables, by category and subcategory, for the period 2018–2020 that contributed and are expected to contribute to the attainment of the objective stated above.

Table 20.3

Subprogramme 3: deliverables for the period 2018–2020, by category and subcategory

Category	2018 planned	2018 actual	2019 planned	2020 planned
Quantified deliverables				
A. Facilitation of the intergovernmental process and expert bodies				
Parliamentary documentation (number of documents)	81	81	81	81
Substantive services for meetings (number of three-hour meetings)	82	82	85	85
B. Generation and transfer of knowledge				
Technical cooperation and field projects (number of projects)	2	2	1	1
Seminars, workshops and training events (number of days)	6	6	6	6
Publications (number of publications)	7	6	4	9
Non-quantified deliverables				
C. Substantive deliverables				
Consultation, advice and advocacy				
Databases and substantive digital materials				
D. Communication deliverables				
Outreach programmes, special events and information materials				
External and media relations				
Digital platforms and multimedia content				

6. Most significant relative variances in deliverables

Variances between the actual and planned figures in 2018

- 20.45 The variance in publications was driven mainly by publications in social and economic statistics, owing to the fact that one of the publications originally planned for 2018 (Conference of European Statisticians, *Road Map on Statistics for Sustainable Development Goals*) was printed in 2017.

Variances between the planned figures for 2020 and 2019

- 20.46 The variance in publications is driven mainly by publications in social and economic statistics, owing to the variation in the work schedules of expert task forces that prepare the publications. In fact, most of the publications are products of the work of expert task forces. The number of publications planned in 2020 is higher than those planned for 2019 because several task forces will complete their work in 2020.



Subprogramme 4 Economic cooperation and integration

1. Objective

- 20.47 The objective, to which this subprogramme contributes, is to strengthen policies on innovation, competitiveness and public-private partnerships in the ECE region.

2. Alignment with the Sustainable Development Goals

- 20.48 The objective is aligned with Sustainable Development Goal 8, which is to promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all. Progress towards the attainment of the objective will help to achieve higher levels of economic productivity through diversification, technological upgrading and innovation, including through a focus on high-value added and labour-intensive sectors, and to promote development-oriented policies that support productive activities, decent job creation, entrepreneurship, creativity and innovation and encourage the formalization and growth of micro, small and medium-sized enterprises, including through access to financial services.
- 20.49 The objective is also aligned with Sustainable Development Goal 9, which is to build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation. Progress towards the attainment of the objective will help to develop quality, reliable, sustainable and resilient infrastructure, including regional and trans-border infrastructure, to support economic development and human well-being, with a focus on affordable and equitable access for all; to upgrade infrastructure and retrofit industries to make them sustainable, with increased resource-use efficiency and greater adoption of clean and environmentally sound technologies and industrial processes, with all countries taking action in accordance with their respective capabilities; to enhance scientific research and upgrade the technological capabilities of industrial sectors in all countries, in particular developing countries, including, by 2030, encouraging innovation and substantially increasing the number of research and development workers per 1 million people and public and private research and development spending; and to support domestic technology development, research and innovation in developing countries, including by ensuring a conducive policy environment for, inter alia, industrial diversification and value addition to commodities.
- 20.50 Furthermore, the objective is aligned with Sustainable Development Goal 12, which is to ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns. Progress towards the attainment of the objective will help to promote public procurement practices that are sustainable, in accordance with national policies and priorities, and to support developing countries to strengthen their scientific and technological capacity to move towards more sustainable patterns of consumption and production.
- 20.51 Finally, the objective is also aligned with Sustainable Development Goal 17, which is to strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development. Progress towards the attainment of the objective will help to enhance North-South, South-South and triangular regional and international cooperation on, and access to, science, technology and innovation and enhance knowledge-sharing on mutually agreed terms, including through improved coordination among existing mechanisms, in particular at the United Nations level, and through a global technology facilitation mechanism, and to encourage and promote effective public, public-private and civil society partnerships, building on the experience and resourcing strategies of partnerships.

- 20.52 Alignment with the Sustainable Development Goals serves as a framework for contributing to the objective of the subprogramme. Within that framework, the subprogramme will develop cross-sectoral activities with other ECE subprogrammes where there is complementarity between the respective Sustainable Development Goals and targets in line with the nexus areas described in paragraph 20.10 above.

3. Highlighted result in 2018

A zero-tolerance approach to corruption in public-private partnerships

UNCTAD has estimated that achieving the Sustainable Development Goals would require investments in infrastructure of between \$3.3 trillion and \$4.5 trillion per year globally. The 2030 Agenda recognizes that it is beyond the capacity of Governments alone to mobilize those funds and encourages and promotes the use of public-private partnerships to complement more traditional approaches to infrastructure financing.

As requested by member States, the ECE Working Party on Public-Private Partnerships has analysed examples of corruption in public-private partnerships globally. There is a consensus that, relative to other factors, such as weak laws and poor institutions, the single most salient factor thwarting the scaling-up of the public-private partnerships model for financing the Sustainable Development Goals was the high instance of corruption at the level of governments. For instance, OECD estimates that bribes consumed 10.9 per cent of the total transaction value in public procurement globally in 2014. According to the World Bank, bribes paid in connection with public procurement amount to \$1 trillion per year around the world.

In 2018, ECE organized an extensive consultation process with more than 50 national Governments, infrastructure providers, financial institutions and civil society from the ECE region and beyond to address the issue.

Result and evidence

The deliverable contributed to the result, which is the availability, for the first time, of a voluntary international standard on a zero-tolerance approach to corruption in public-private partnership procurement that provides an internationally agreed framework for systematically preventing corruption in this area. The standard provides a voluntary set of principles and policy recommendations to governments on addressing the various stages of public-private partnership procurement where corruption is more likely to occur, from conflicts of interest to disclosure of information, whistle-blowing procedures and tender evaluation.

Evidence of the result includes the endorsement of this standard by the Working Party in 2018 and its use in countries inside and outside the ECE region, including Brazil and Saudi Arabia.

The result demonstrates progress made in 2018 towards the collective attainment of the objective.

- 20.53 A planned result for 2018, which is enhanced national implementation of ECE policy recommendations and standards on promoting a policy, financial and regulatory environment conducive to sustained economic growth, innovative development and greater competitiveness, as referred to in the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2018–2019, was achieved, as evidenced by seven new measures taken by member States to implement ECE policy recommendations and standards. Measures included the implementation of the standard on zero tolerance of corruption in public-private partnerships procurement, as outlined above, guidelines on people-first public-private partnerships and new laws and implementing regulations promoting innovation policies. With this result, the subprogramme contributed to the nexus areas on the sustainable use of natural resources, sustainable and smart cities and sustainable mobility and smart connectivity.

4. Highlighted planned result for 2020

Innovation policy outlook for the effective analysis of innovation policies and institutions

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development identifies science, technology and innovation as key means of implementation. Promoting innovation is also part of Sustainable Development Goal 9. There are a number of existing efforts to measure innovation in a comparative perspective, including the Global Innovation Index and the Global Competitiveness Index.

In 2018, it emerged from existing measurement efforts that countries differ significantly, not only in the level of resources they invest in innovation and how much innovation they are able to generate, but also in how effective they are in translating innovation inputs (i.e. spending) into innovation outputs (i.e. new products and services).

Challenge and response

The challenge was that much of the variance comes down to differences in government policies. Policies have a key role to play in encouraging investments in innovation, in steering those investments into areas critical for sustainable development and in ensuring that investments generate a high social return.

In response, for 2020, ECE will pilot an Innovation Policy Outlook with self-selected member States to expand the evidence base for improving such policies and enable the subprogramme to analyse in a comparative perspective the innovation policies and institutions of those countries. The Innovation Policy Outlook will provide a stronger evidence base upon which countries can develop their innovation policies and more relevant policy recommendations on innovation for sustainable development.

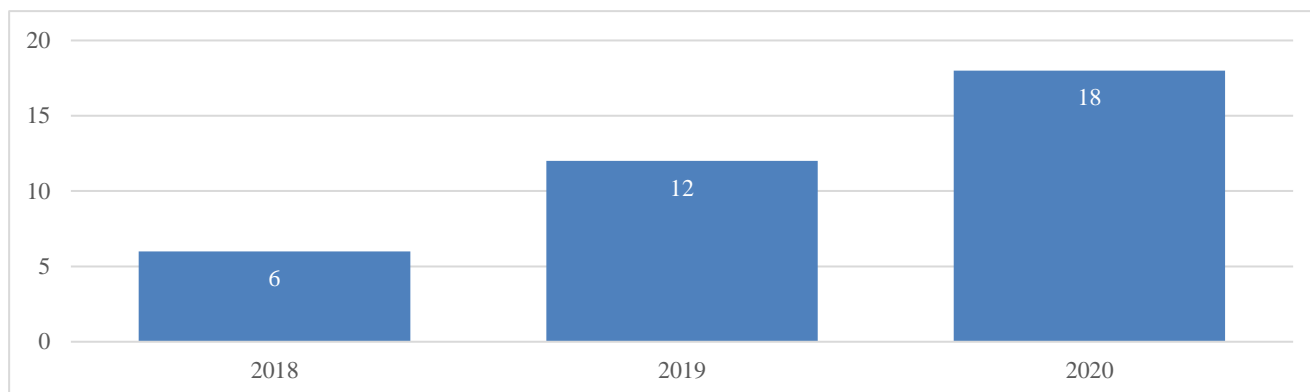
Result and evidence

The planned deliverable is expected to contribute to the result, which is stronger innovation policies for development.

Evidence of the result, if achieved, will include six new national innovation policy measures introduced in the pilot project member States based on the Innovation Policy Outlook analysis, as shown in the figure.

The result, if achieved, will demonstrate progress made in 2020 towards the collective attainment of the objective. It will contribute to the nexus areas on the sustainable use of natural resources and on measuring and monitoring the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals.

Performance measures: number of national innovation policy measures taken by pilot project member States (cumulative)



20.54 The following General Assembly resolutions comprise the main mandates entrusted to the subprogramme: [72/228](#) on science, technology and innovation for development and [72/200](#) on information and communications technologies for development. The subprogramme will continue to be guided by all mandates entrusted to it, which provide the legislative framework for its deliverables.

5. Deliverables for the period 2018–2020

20.55 Table 20.4 lists all deliverables, by category and subcategory, for the period 2018–2020 that contributed and are expected to contribute to the attainment of the objective stated above.

Table 20.4

Subprogramme 4: deliverables for the period 2018–2020, by category and subcategory

<i>Category</i>	<i>2018 planned</i>	<i>2018 actual</i>	<i>2019 planned</i>	<i>2020 planned</i>
Quantified deliverables				
A. Facilitation of the intergovernmental process and expert bodies				
Parliamentary documentation (number of documents)	18	18	18	18
Substantive services for meetings (number of three-hour meetings)	19	19	19	19
B. Generation and transfer of knowledge				
Technical cooperation and field projects (number of projects)	2	2	2	2
Seminars, workshops and training events (number of days)	24	24	24	24
Publications (number of publications)	2	2	3	3
Non-quantified deliverables				
C. Substantive deliverables				
Fact-finding, monitoring and investigation missions				
Consultation, advice and advocacy				
Databases and substantive digital materials				
D. Communication deliverables				
Outreach programmes, special events and information materials				
External and media relations				
Digital platforms and multimedia content				



Subprogramme 5 Sustainable energy

1. Objective

- 20.56 The objective, to which this subprogramme contributes, is to ensure access to affordable and clean energy for all and reduce greenhouse gas emissions and the carbon footprint of the energy sector in the region.

2. Alignment with the Sustainable Development Goals

- 20.57 The objective is aligned with Sustainable Development Goal 7, which is to ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all. Progress towards the attainment of the objective will help to ensure access to affordable, reliable and modern energy services; to increase substantially the share of renewable energy in the global energy mix; to double the global rate of improvement in energy efficiency; to enhance international cooperation to facilitate access to clean energy research and technology, including renewable energy, energy efficiency and advanced and cleaner fossil-fuel technology, and promote investment in energy infrastructure and clean energy technology; and to expand infrastructure and upgrade technology for supplying modern and sustainable energy services for all in developing countries, in particular least developed countries, small island developing States and landlocked developing countries, in accordance with their respective programmes of support.
- 20.58 The objective is also aligned with Sustainable Development Goal 9, which is to build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation. Progress towards the attainment of the objective will help to develop quality, reliable, sustainable and resilient infrastructure, including regional and trans-border infrastructure, to support economic development and human well-being, with a focus on affordable and equitable access for all, and to upgrade infrastructure and retrofit industries to make them sustainable, with increased resource-use efficiency and greater adoption of clean and environmentally sound technologies and industrial processes.
- 20.59 Furthermore, the objective is also aligned with Sustainable Development Goal 12, which is to ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns. Progress towards the attainment of the objective will help to achieve sustainable management and efficient use of natural resources; to reduce waste generation through prevention, reduction, recycling and reuse; and to rationalize inefficient fossil-fuel subsidies that encourage wasteful consumption by removing market distortions, in accordance with national circumstances, including by restructuring taxation and phasing out those harmful subsidies, where they exist, to reflect their environmental impacts, taking fully into account the specific needs and conditions of developing countries and minimizing the possible adverse impacts on their development in a manner that protects the poor and affected communities.
- 20.60 Finally, the objective is also aligned with Sustainable Development Goal 13, which is to take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts. Progress towards the attainment of the objective will help to strengthen resilience and adaptive capacity to climate-related hazards and natural disasters in all countries; to integrate climate change measures into national policies, strategies and planning; and to improve education, awareness-raising and human and institutional capacity on climate change mitigation, adaptation, impact reduction and early warning.

- 20.61 Alignment with the Sustainable Development Goals serves as a framework for contributing to the objective of the subprogramme. Within this framework, the subprogramme will develop cross-sectoral activities with other ECE subprogrammes where there is complementarity between the respective Sustainable Development Goals and targets, in line with the nexus areas described in paragraph 20.10 above.

3. Highlighted result in 2018

Mobilizing national action on sustainable energy

Early in 2018, ECE published a regional chapter of the World Bank's Global Tracking Framework reporting on progress on the implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 7. It reported that the world's energy system was not meeting agreed targets and that urgent action was needed to achieve the Goal. That conclusion is also valid in the ECE region. Countries with energy systems based primarily on fossil energy face multiple social, economic and environmental challenges that must be balanced if countries are to meet their commitments under the 2030 Agenda and the Paris Agreement under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. Policy dialogues held by the ECE Committee on Sustainable Energy in 2017 and 2018 regarding the non-attainment of Goal 7 in the region led to the proposal of a balanced set of options on what countries could do effectively to implement the 2030 Agenda. In particular, they need to reduce the environmental footprint of energy, transform the energy sector to support a green economy and adapt accordingly the management of their national natural resources.

In 2017, ECE, in partnership with Kazakhstan, hosted an energy ministerial conference and the Eighth International Forum on Energy for Sustainable Development with the other four regional commissions. The example from Kazakhstan demonstrates the contribution of the ECE energy subprogramme to the attainment of the energy-related objectives of the 2030 Agenda in the region. To address challenges related to its coal-based economy, Kazakhstan has applied a range of ECE initiatives since 2017, aimed at transforming its energy sector in line with its concept on the transition to a green economy. In 2018, ECE provided support to Kazakhstan in its efforts to accelerate the uptake of renewable energy in a new national energy strategy, through the ECE network of energy experts. ECE provided assistance to the Government of Kazakhstan in organizing a renewable energy "hard talk" to explore opportunities and obstacles for investment in renewable energy and launch a round of renewable energy auctions. The ECE "hard talks" are organized throughout the region at the request of countries, bringing together major players to identify areas of focus and propose concrete recommendations for policy changes needed to overcome policy, legal, regulatory and technical barriers to investment in renewable energy.

Result and evidence

The deliverable contributed to the result, which is progress made by Kazakhstan in terms of its energy strategy, including by identifying focus areas, in the context of Sustainable Development Goal 7.

Evidence of the result includes: (a) increased investment in clean energy infrastructure, including renewable energy; and (b) the implementation of renewable energy capacity auctions. The country currently has 634 MW of installed renewable energy capacity, and renewable energy generation has reached a 3 per cent share of the energy mix. During the second half of 2018, Kazakhstan contracted 858 MW of renewable energy capacity through auctions. Once the additional capacity is developed, Kazakhstan will have 1,492 MW of total installed renewable energy capacity, a 135 per cent increase, and the added capacity from the 2018 auctions will represent 57 per cent of total installed renewable energy capacity in Kazakhstan. The auction scheme was promoted in Kazakhstan to achieve the deployment of renewable energy in a cost-efficient way through a structured, transparent and competitive process. To extend its experience in the region, Kazakhstan instituted a green technology centre to serve as a regional platform for knowledge-sharing and training. Over the longer term, the results are expected to be improved economic, social and environmental performance of the energy system, as well as improved energy security and enhanced opportunities for energy export and technology transfer. The experience in Kazakhstan also confirmed the interest of countries in exploring the challenges they face on a neutral, technically sound platform. In 2018 three countries in the region requested that additional "hard talks" be organized.

The result demonstrates progress made in 2018 towards the collective attainment of the objective of the subprogramme.

- 20.62 A planned result for 2018, which is increased awareness of the role of energy efficiency and renewable energy in achieving sustainable energy development, referred to in the proposed programme budget for 2018–2019, was achieved, as evidenced by five member States having implemented the following measures: Bosnia and Herzegovina and Kazakhstan organized national renewable energy “hard talks”, which produced specific recommendations on new policies to accelerate the uptake of renewable energy in their national energy mixes; Georgia established targets for renewable energy and Ukraine adopted its electricity market law, both in line with ECE recommendations; Kazakhstan established its green technology centre and implemented its renewable energy auctions in line with ECE policy recommendations; ECE collaborated with countries, cities and private sector partners in establishing an academic consortium and a centre of excellence in the United States of America in support of the high-performance buildings initiative, with a focus on developing standards and carrying out capacity-building in energy efficiency in buildings; in line with ECE recommendations, Azerbaijan and Georgia developed draft laws on energy efficiency for promulgation in 2018; and Ukraine was establishing an energy efficiency fund in line with ECE recommendations. With those results, the subprogramme contributed to the nexus areas on the sustainable use of natural resources, sustainable and smart cities, sustainable mobility and smart connectivity and measuring and monitoring the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals.

4. Highlighted planned result for 2020

Achieving a step change in the efficiency with which natural resources are used

Supporting the production of renewable energy at scale will require a broad range of materials. Development of a 3-MW wind farm requires 335 tons of steel, 4.7 tons of copper, 1,200 tons of concrete, 3 tons of aluminium and 2 tons of rare earth elements. Deploying a United Nations resources management tool will facilitate the efficient production of those materials in an environmentally, economically and socially acceptable manner while incurring minimal waste. Having access to such a tool would enable countries to manage their national natural resources endowments in line with their objectives. Its broad adoption would create a universally accepted standard, thereby channelling investment in resources in a coherent, socially responsible and cost-effective manner. Financial institutions are anticipated to require use of the system, once approved, in their project finance documents.

Member States have recognized that current approaches to the management of such resources as energy or raw materials do not deliver the systematic efficiency that is needed for the 2030 Agenda to be achieved. In 2018, the ECE Committee on Sustainable Energy noted that attaining the objectives of the 2030 Agenda would require the efficient production, transformation and use of resources.

Challenge and response

The challenge was that there is no universally accepted method for the national management of natural resources that enables the optimal production and use of resources and that accommodates environmental and social considerations in line with the 2030 Agenda. The Committee on Sustainable Energy agreed to pursue the development of a United Nations resources management system, and ECE has mobilized a global, multisectoral network of experts to initiate the development of a system to meet the challenge. This process is expected to be a multi-year endeavour starting in 2019.

In response, for 2020, ECE will develop a draft United Nations resources management system, based on the existing United Nations Framework Classification for Resources. The uptake of the Framework Classification for Resources is a foundational step for deploying the system. The Framework Classification is being taken up progressively around the world, including, notably, by China, India, the Russian Federation, the Nordic countries, the European Union and the African Union, and it is being considered in Latin America and throughout Asia. Furthermore, the Framework Classification has been extended to embrace both renewable energy sources and anthropogenic resources. The development of the United Nations resources management system will include partnerships with China, the Russian Federation, the European Commission and the African Union Commission. Building on the success of the work of the experts, ECE will deploy and disseminate the resources management system globally through training seminars, publications, case studies and certification procedures.

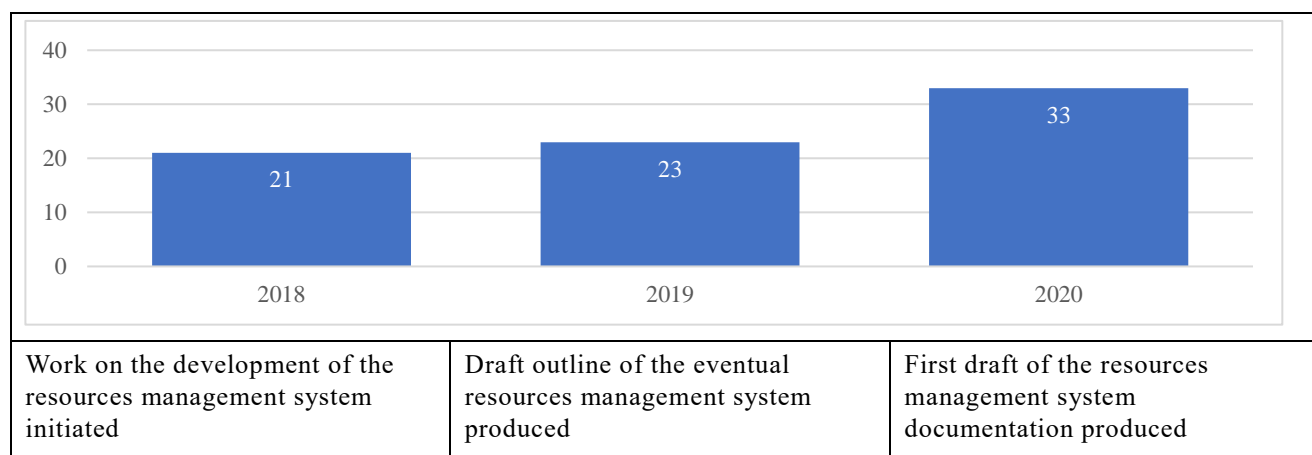
Result and evidence

The planned deliverable is expected to contribute to the result, which is the deployment of an integrated system for the efficient management of natural resources.

Evidence of the result, if achieved, will include the development of draft documentation for the United Nations resources management system, including specifications, guidelines and best practices by 2020, as shown in the figure.

The result, if achieved, will demonstrate progress made in 2020 towards the collective attainment of the objective. It will contribute to the nexus areas on the sustainable use of natural resources, sustainable and smart cities, sustainable mobility and smart connectivity and measuring and monitoring the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals.

Performance measures: number of member States applying the United Nations Framework Classification for Resources and progress in the development of the United Nations resources management system



Work on the development of the resources management system initiated	Draft outline of the eventual resources management system produced	First draft of the resources management system documentation produced
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20.63 The following General Assembly resolutions comprise the main mandates entrusted to the subprogramme: [69/225](#) on the promotion of new and renewable sources of energy, [70/213](#) on science, technology and innovation for development and [72/224](#) on ensuring access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all. The subprogramme will continue to be guided by all mandates entrusted to it, which provide the legislative framework for its deliverables.

5. Deliverables for the period 2018–2020

20.64 Table 20.5 lists all deliverables, by category and subcategory, for the period 2018–2020 that contributed and are expected to contribute to the attainment of the objective stated above.

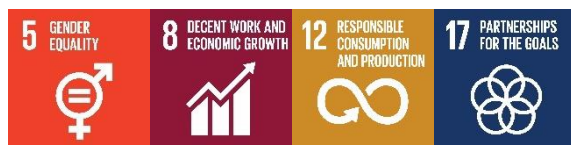
Table 20.5
Subprogramme 5: deliverables for the period 2018–2020, by category and subcategory

<i>Category</i>	<i>2018 planned</i>	<i>2018 actual</i>	<i>2019 planned</i>	<i>2020 planned</i>
Quantified deliverables				
A. Facilitation of the intergovernmental process and expert bodies				
Parliamentary documentation (number of documents)	60	60	60	60
Substantive services for meetings (number of three-hour meetings)	38	38	38	38
B. Generation and transfer of knowledge				
Technical cooperation and field projects (number of projects)	8	8	6	6
Seminars, workshops and training events (number of days)	10	10	10	10
Publications (number of publications)	1	1	10	2
Non-quantified deliverables				
C. Substantive deliverables				
Consultation, advice and advocacy				
D. Communication deliverables				
Outreach programmes, special events and information material				
External and media relations				
Digital platforms and multimedia content				

6. Most significant relative variances in deliverables

Variations between the planned figures for 2020 and 2019

- 20.65 The variance in publications is driven mainly by publications on the best practices guidelines, case studies and other publications related to sustainable energy, owing to the two-year work cycles of the respective expert groups. In the first year of a cycle, the analytical work is completed, and in the second year of the cycle, the publications are prepared.



Subprogramme 6 Trade

1. Objective

- 20.66 The objective, to which this subprogramme contributes, is to enhance trade facilitation, agricultural quality standards and regulatory and trade-related economic cooperation for the transition to sustainable economic growth and sustainable production and consumption in the ECE region and beyond.

2. Alignment with the Sustainable Development Goals

- 20.67 The objective is aligned with Sustainable Development Goal 8, which is to promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all. Progress towards the attainment of the objective will help to achieve higher levels of economic productivity through diversification, technological upgrading and innovation, including through a focus on high-value added and labour-intensive sectors; to promote development-oriented policies that support productive activities, decent job creation, entrepreneurship, creativity and innovation and encourage the growth of micro, small and medium-sized enterprises, including through access to financial services; and to increase Aid for Trade support for developing countries.
- 20.68 The objective is also aligned with Sustainable Development Goal 12, which is to ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns. Progress towards the attainment of the objective will help to halve per capita global food waste and reduce food losses along production and supply chains, including post-harvest losses; to encourage companies, especially large and transnational companies, to adopt sustainable practices; to promote public procurement practices that are sustainable, in accordance with national policies and practices; to ensure that people have the relevant information and awareness for sustainable development; and to support developing countries in strengthening their technological capacity to move towards more sustainable patterns of consumption and production.
- 20.69 Furthermore, the objective is also aligned with Sustainable Development Goal 17, which is to strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development. Progress towards the attainment of the objective will help to promote a multilateral trading system; to increase the exports of developing countries; to strengthen domestic resource mobilization to improve domestic capacity for revenue collection; to enhance the use of information and communications technology; to enhance the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development to share knowledge, expertise, technology and financial resources; to encourage and promote public, public-private and civil society partnerships; and to enhance capacity-building support to developing countries.
- 20.70 Finally, the objective is also aligned with Sustainable Development Goal 5, which is to achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls. Progress towards the attainment of the objective will help to ensure women's effective participation for leadership at all levels of decision-making in economic life; to undertake reforms to give women equal rights to economic resources and financial services; to enhance the use of information and communications technology to promote the empowerment of women; and to adopt and strengthen sound policies and enforceable legislation for the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls at all levels.

- 20.71 Alignment with the Sustainable Development Goals serves as a framework for contributing to the objective of the subprogramme. Within this framework, the subprogramme will develop cross-sectoral activities with other ECE subprogrammes where there is complementarity between the respective Sustainable Development Goals and targets in line with the nexus areas described in paragraph 20.10 above.

3. Highlighted result in 2018

Improving opportunities for women to trade in Kyrgyzstan

In 2017–2018, ECE addressed trade-related regulations and trade facilitation tools in response to a request from the Government of Kyrgyzstan in 2016 to support the implementation of the recommendations in the ECE study on regulatory and procedural barriers to trade in Kyrgyzstan by traders, government officials and trade support institutions. In addition, women traders were trained in ECE-led workshops on how to benefit from trade-related regulations and access trade facilitation tools, for example, access to information on import and export procedures. The project entitled “Strengthening the national capacity of trade-support institutions of Kyrgyzstan” contributed to the result, which was the increased capacity of, among others, customs authorities, the trade ministry and other government agencies to formulate national trade-related regulations and policies, such as simplifying customs procedures and risk-based market surveillance and policymaking, that would particularly help women traders. As a result, the beneficiaries can use a risk-based approach to inspections based on ECE recommendations. The result is evidenced by the positive results highlighted in evaluations of training workshops.



Women traders in Kyrgyzstan. Source: United Nations

In 2018, through a project entitled “Strengthening the capacity of transition and developing economies to participate in cross-border agricultural food supply chains”, ECE organized a number of capacity-building activities for women producers involved in agricultural supply chains in the Fergana Valley, an area that extends across Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan. The project was focused on promoting the adoption of a harmonized standard for apricots and pooling the small-scale production of dried apricots. Since the introduction of the standard, a similar approach was taken with respect to many other types of produce, resulting in the diversification of cross-border agricultural trade flows and international value chains in the region and beyond.

Result and evidence

The deliverables contributed to the result, which is the improvement of trading conditions, an increase in the volume of quality agricultural produce and the generation of employment in the agricultural sector in Kyrgyzstan and other Central Asian countries.

Evidence of the result includes: (a) the enhancement of cross-border trade through the use of ECE trade facilitation and agricultural quality standards and tools; (b) the generation of employment for women, who represent 70 per cent of the workforce in the agricultural sector in Central Asia; and (c) an improvement in the quality of agricultural produce as a result of the adoption of 69 standards for fruits and vegetables in Uzbekistan alone. In addition, the exchange of information on best practices and lessons learned for harmonizing the implementation of standards was enhanced through the regional working group of experts from Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan, established to follow up on the cross-border agricultural food supply chains project. The results demonstrate a coherent approach by ECE in addressing the request for support of the Government of Kyrgyzstan through policy recommendations and following up on their implementation.

The result demonstrates progress made in 2018 towards the collective attainment of the objective.

- 20.72 A planned result for 2018, which is increased consensus on and strengthened implementation of ECE recommendations, norms, standards, guidelines and tools for trade facilitation and electronic business, as referred to in the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2018–2019, was achieved, as evidenced by the adoption of 12 new and/or revised recommendations, norms, standards and tools by the United Nations Centre for Trade Facilitation and Electronic Business (CEFACT). The standards and policy recommendations included two updates of the United Nations Code for Trade and Transport Locations, two updates of the United Nations Electronic Data Interchange for Administration, Commerce and Transport, two updates for core component libraries, two Extensible Markup Language schemas and four Business Requirement Specifications. With this result, the subprogramme contributed to the nexus area on sustainable mobility and smart connectivity.

4. Highlighted planned result for 2020

Enhancing trade efficiency in Central Asia

In 2018, according to the 2017 Global Survey on Trade Facilitation and Paperless Trade Implementation, the average rate of implementation of trade facilitation measures in Central Asian countries (Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan) was 41 per cent, which was lower than for other subregions.

Challenge and response

The challenge was that cutting unnecessary trade barriers for faster and more efficient global trade was not progressing as well as in other subregions and, for landlocked countries, there was an urgent need to reduce the burden of bureaucratic processes and increase the automation of trade-related regulatory procedures.

In 2018, Central Asian countries requested ECE support to improve their performance in trade facilitation, in particular policies and actions that would make trade simpler and easier for traders.

In response, in 2020, ECE will help Central Asian countries to implement its policy recommendations through outreach and capacity-building support in the areas of e-commerce and the adoption of trade facilitation standards. Those policy recommendations cover the implementation of a variety of ECE agricultural quality standards as well as such trade facilitation recommendations as the “single window” (CEFACT recommendations 33–36) and tools for consultation, public-private partnerships and monitoring in trade facilitation (CEFACT recommendations 40–42) in the global Agreement on Trade Facilitation context.

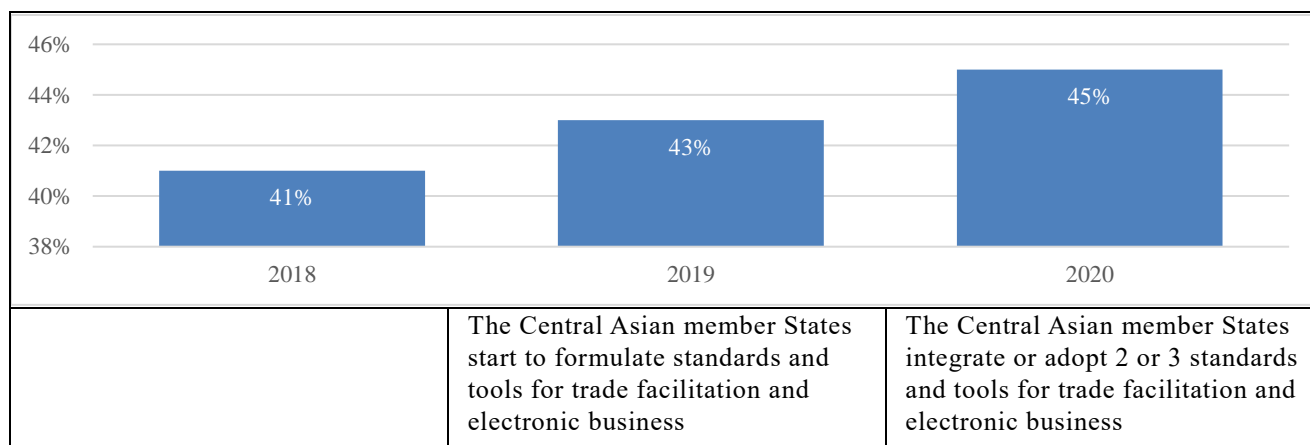
Result and evidence

The planned deliverable is expected to contribute to the result, which is to improve the rate of implementation of trade facilitation in Central Asia. The rate is based on the percentage of trade facilitation tools, instruments, standards and recommendations implemented, as evidenced by the biennial Global Survey on Trade Facilitation and Paperless Trade conducted by the regional commissions. This will be achieved through the operationalization of national committees on trade facilitation and the implementation of policy recommendations, standards and tools in trade facilitation and e-business, such as single window development, to speed up import and export processes. It is expected that in 2020 the Central Asian countries will implement many of the policy recommendations, standards and tools so as to reduce bureaucratic burdens and unnecessary trade procedures.

Evidence of the result, if achieved, will include an increase to 45 per cent in the average trade facilitation implementation rate for the Central Asian countries in the planned Global Survey on Trade Facilitation and Paperless Trade 2019–2020, as shown in the figure.

The result, if achieved, will demonstrate progress made in 2020 towards the collective attainment of the objective. It will also contribute to the nexus areas on sustainable mobility and smart connectivity and the sustainable use of natural resources.

Performance measures: average trade facilitation implementation rate of Central Asian member States of the Economic Commission for Europe



Notes: The Global Survey on Trade Facilitation and Paperless Trade is undertaken every two years. The data for 2018 are taken from the 2017–2018 survey and the data for 2020 will be taken from the 2019–2020 survey. The Central Asian countries are expected to adopt standards and tools during 2018–2020. Data for 2019 are estimated for the intermediate result.

20.73 The subprogramme will continue to be guided by all mandates entrusted to it, which provide the legislative framework for its deliverables.

5. Deliverables for the period 2018–2020

20.74 Table 20.6 lists all deliverables, by category and subcategory, for the period 2018–2020 that contributed and are expected to contribute to the attainment of the objective stated above.

Table 20.6

Subprogramme 6: deliverables for the period 2018–2020, by category and subcategory

Category	2018 planned	2018 actual	2019 planned	2020 planned
Quantified deliverables				
A. Facilitation of the intergovernmental process and expert bodies				
Parliamentary documentation (number of documents)	110	112	110	110
Substantive services for meetings (number of three-hour meetings)	89	88	89	91
B. Generation and transfer of knowledge				
Technical cooperation and field projects (number of projects)	4	5	4	4
Seminars, workshops and training events (number of days)	18	17	15	18
Publications (number of publications)	7	2	9	7
Technical materials (number of materials)	8	9	8	8
Non-quantified deliverables				
D. Communication deliverables				
External and media relations				
Digital platforms and multimedia content				
Outreach programmes, special events and information materials				

6. Most significant relative variances in deliverables

Variances between the actual and planned figures in 2018

- 20.75 The variance in publications was driven by guides on trade standards in the following areas: traceability and risk management, e-business, education and sustainable development, and publications on the trade facilitation recommendations, standards and strategies to support policymakers, owing to continuation of the deliverables in 2019. The planned publications will be delivered in 2019 and included in the actual figures for the period.

Variances between the planned figures for 2020 and 2019

- 20.76 The variance in seminars, workshops and training events is driven by workshops for policymakers and experts in low- and middle-income countries in the ECE region on trade procedures, supply chain management, conformity assessment and market surveillance, and women's entrepreneurship, owing to additional demand-driven workshops on trade procedures, supply chain management, conformity assessment and market surveillance.



Subprogramme 7 Forestry and timber

1. Objective

- 20.77 The objective, to which this subprogramme contributes, is to strengthen sustainable management of forests and enhance the contribution of forests and forest products to sustainable development in the ECE region.

2. Alignment with the Sustainable Development Goals

- 20.78 The objective is aligned with Sustainable Development Goal 12, which is to ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns. Progress towards the attainment of the objective will help to achieve the sustainable management and efficient use of natural resources.
- 20.79 The objective is also aligned with Sustainable Development Goal 15, which is to protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss. Progress towards the attainment of the objective will help to promote the implementation of sustainable management of all types of forests, halt deforestation, restore degraded forests and substantially increase afforestation and reforestation globally. Furthermore, it will help to ensure the conservation, restoration and sustainable use of terrestrial and inland freshwater ecosystems and their services, in particular forests, in line with obligations under international agreements.
- 20.80 Furthermore, the objective is also aligned with Sustainable Development Goal 7, which is to ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all. Progress towards the attainment of the objective will help to increase substantially the share of renewable energy in the global energy mix.
- 20.81 Finally, the objective is also aligned with Sustainable Development Goal 11, which is to make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable. Progress towards the attainment of the objective will reduce the adverse per capita environmental impact of cities.
- 20.82 Alignment with the Sustainable Development Goals serves as a framework for contributing to the objective of the subprogramme. Within this framework, the subprogramme will develop cross-sectoral activities with other ECE subprogrammes where there is complementarity between the respective Sustainable Development Goals and targets in line with the nexus areas described in paragraph 20.10 above.

3. Highlighted result in 2018

Over 2.5 million hectares converted from degraded land to healthy forests

In 2018, the subprogramme focused on building capacity and achieving political commitment to restore degraded land in the countries of the Caucasus and Central Asia.

A study on restoration and afforestation opportunities was developed, shared and discussed with forest stakeholders. The study identified key drivers of forest degradation since 1991 and the potential for forest landscape restoration in the Caucasus and Central Asia. The interaction that followed the study informed expert discussions on cost-effective ways to restore ecosystem functions (e.g. reducing erosion, purifying water, air and soil and conserving biodiversity), while generating income and job opportunities for local communities.



Countries of the Caucasus and Central Asia are committed to restoring an area larger than that of Sicily. Source: ECE

Recommendations of experts on how to realize the potential of turning degraded land into healthy and productive forest in accordance with the Bonn Challenge, a global effort to bring 150 million ha of the world's deforested and degraded land into restoration by 2020, and 350 million ha by 2030, were discussed by ministers in a round-table discussion organized in Astana at the invitation of Kazakhstan.

Result and evidence

The deliverable contributed to the result, which is the Astana Resolution, a commitment of countries to the restoration and afforestation of degraded land.

Evidence of the result includes six countries, Armenia, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan, that committed to the restoration and afforestation of 2.5 million ha of land, which is an additional 24 per cent of forest land in the region.

That corresponds to an area larger than the size of Sicily. Unproductive, sterile land would thus be turned into healthy and productive forests, contributing to the well-being and wealth of local communities, as well as the ecological resilience of their ecosystems.

The result demonstrates progress made in 2018 towards the collective attainment of the objective.

- 20.83 A planned result for 2018, which is increased national capacity of countries of Eastern Europe, the Caucasus, Central Asia and South-Eastern Europe in sustainable forest management, as referred to in the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2018–2019, was achieved, as evidenced by the increased capacity of the countries to monitor and report about sustainable forest management and the related commitment to land restoration and afforestation, as described above. With this result, the subprogramme contributed to the nexus area on the sustainable use of natural resources.

4. Highlighted planned result for 2020

Are we there yet? Measuring sustainable forest management under Sustainable Development Goal 15

ECE member States account for 40 per cent of the global forest. Over the past 70 years, the subprogramme collected data on the state of forests and their management. Following the adoption of the Sustainable Development Goals, there was a need for a more specific focus on reporting on the achievement of Goal 15. For the region, the collection of the data relating to the Goal is undertaken by the subprogramme in cooperation with FAO, the custodian agency.

In 2018, at the request of member States, a new reporting system containing, for the first-time, indicators to measure targets 15.1 and 15.2 was launched and guidance on reporting was provided through three face-to-face training sessions for national correspondents, covering the entire ECE region.

Challenge and response

The challenge for countries was their limited national capacity to collect and validate high-quality data.

In response, for 2020, ECE plans to provide capacity-building support and advisory assistance to national correspondents, who are responsible for reporting on Sustainable Development Goal indicators. For 2020, it is envisioned that all data will be compiled by the subprogramme, allowing for a precise picture of the state of forests and forest management in the region.

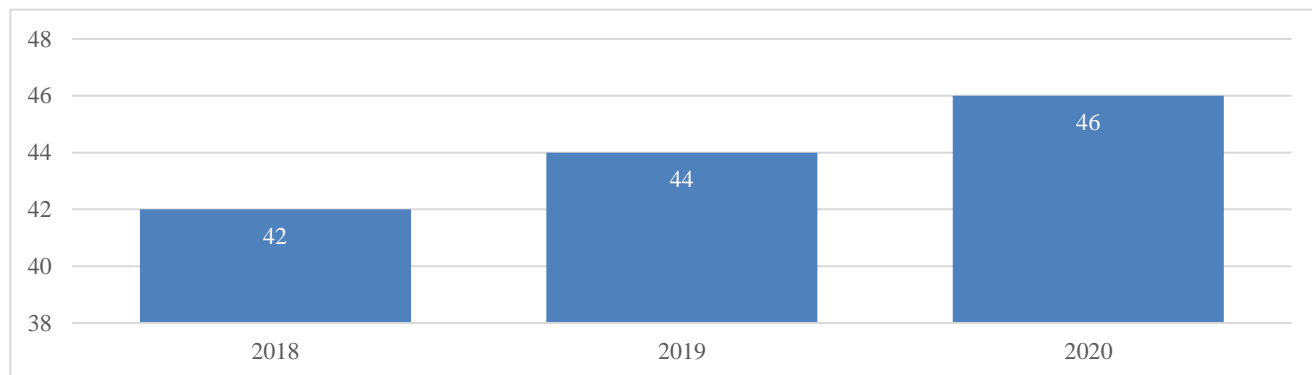
Result and evidence

The planned deliverable is expected to contribute to the result, which is extensive and high-quality, standardized data, which will provide an answer to the question, Are we there yet? with respect to the achievement of Goal 15, targets 15.1 and 15.2, on sustainable forest management for all countries in the region. This will make it possible to identify and address specific challenges in the achievement of those targets.

Evidence of the result, if achieved, will include the increased response rate of 46 countries reporting high-quality data, as shown in the figure. This information will also feed into such global and regional publications as the Global Forest Resources Assessment, the *State of Europe’s Forests*, the European Forest Sector Outlook Study, reports of the United Nations Forum on Forests and media coverage. The results will also allow better planning of future capacity-building activities to countries facing challenges in meeting targets 15.1 and 15.2.

The result, if achieved, will demonstrate progress made in 2020 towards the collective attainment of the objective. It will contribute to the nexus area on measuring and monitoring the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals.

Performance measures: number of Economic Commission for Europe member States that report data on targets 15.1 and 15.2



20.84 The following General Assembly resolutions comprise the main mandates entrusted to the subprogramme: [62/98](#) on a non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests, [67/200](#) on International Day of Forests and [72/224](#) on ensuring access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all. The subprogramme will continue to be guided by all mandates entrusted to it, which provide the legislative framework for its deliverables.

5. Deliverables for the period 2018–2020

20.85 Table 20.7 lists all deliverables, by category and subcategory, for the period 2018–2020 that contributed and are expected to contribute to the attainment of the objective stated above.

Table 20.7

Subprogramme 7: deliverables for the period 2018–2020, by category and subcategory

<i>Category</i>	<i>2018 planned</i>	<i>2018 actual</i>	<i>2019 planned</i>	<i>2020 planned</i>
Quantified deliverables				
A. Facilitation of the intergovernmental process and expert bodies				
Parliamentary documentation (number of documents)	14	12	16	18
Substantive services for meetings (number of three-hour meetings)	39	38	45	26
B. Generation and transfer of knowledge				
Seminars, workshops and training events (number of days)	10	28	10	10
Publications (number of publications)	7	7	6	7
Non-quantified deliverables				
C. Substantive deliverables				
Consultation, advice and advocacy				
Databases and substantive digital materials				
D. Communication deliverables				
Outreach programmes, special events and information materials				
External and media relations				
Digital platforms and multimedia content				

6. Most significant relative variances in deliverables**Variances between the actual and planned figures in 2018**

- 20.86 The variance in parliamentary documentation was driven mainly by documents of the Committee on Forests and the Forest Industry, owing to the request of the Bureau to limit documents to a minimum.
- 20.87 The variance in seminars, workshops and training events was driven by workshops, owing to a series of capacity-building workshops under the United Nations Development Account project on accountability systems for sustainable forest management in the Caucasus and Central Asia undertaken in 2018.

Variances between the planned figures for 2020 and 2019

- 20.88 The variance in substantive services for meetings is driven mainly by an asymmetry in the number of meetings, with a joint session of the Committee on Forests and the Forest Industry and the European Forestry Commission held in odd-numbered years and a session of the Committee on Forests and the Forest Industry serviced in even-numbered years. Thus, there will be fewer sessions in 2020 as compared with 2019. It is also driven by the decreased number of official meetings of the Team of Specialists on Forest Policy, caused by an increasing use of electronic means and informal meetings held back-to-back with other formal meetings.
- 20.89 The variance in parliamentary documentation is driven by documentation for the Joint FAO/ECE Working Party on Forest Statistics, Economics and Management, owing to the fact that in 2020 reports to that body will be submitted as parliamentary documentation.
- 20.90 The variance in publications is driven by forestry and timber study papers, owing to the fact that planning is now done on an annual instead of a biannual basis, and the subprogramme's number of publications used to be 13 for the biennium.



Subprogramme 8 Housing, land management and population

1. Objective

- 20.91 The objective, to which this subprogramme contributes, is to advance decent, adequate, affordable, energy-efficient and healthy housing for all in liveable cities and human settlements, sustainable land management and evidence-based population and social cohesion policies.

2. Alignment with the Sustainable Development Goals

- 20.92 The objective is aligned with Sustainable Development Goal 3 (ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages), Goal 5 (achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls), Goal 7 (ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all), Goal 8 (promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all), Goal 9 (build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation) and Goal 11 (make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable).
- 20.93 Alignment with the Sustainable Development Goals serves as a framework for contributing to the objective of the subprogramme. Within this framework, the subprogramme will implement specific sectoral deliverables and develop cross-sectoral activities with other ECE subprogrammes where there is complementarity between the respective Sustainable Development Goals and targets in line with the nexus areas, as described in paragraph 20.10 above.

3. Highlighted result in 2018

Realizing the potential of living longer

The population component of the subprogramme conducts on a regular basis regional reviews on the implementation of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing and the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and develops policy briefs and road maps on mainstreaming ageing as well as monitoring tools to support evidence-based policies in the ECE countries. In 2018, in response to the decision of ECE member States to advance active ageing as the central concept and operational approach of national and regional policies on ageing, the subprogramme expanded the use of the Active Ageing Index as a monitoring tool and a framework for integrated policymaking by incorporating additional non-European Union countries and time periods as well as supporting and guiding its development at the subnational and local levels.

The Active Ageing Index, a composite measure that integrates the multifaceted nature of active ageing and indicates the contribution and potential of older people, has been developed by ECE together with the European Commission over the past five years. The index consists of 22 indicators grouped under 4 domains: employment; participation in society; independent, healthy and secure living; and capacity and enabling environment for active ageing. It offers a flexible framework within which to depict the current active ageing outcomes and highlights areas in which gains can be made. The index allows the monitoring of progress over time and helps to identify successful policy measures.

The country ranking and/or benchmarking against goalposts in the Index provides an impetus for policymakers to adopt an integrated approach, as was the case with the development of new active ageing strategies in Malta, Poland and Slovenia in the past few years. Bulgaria and the Czech Republic are finalizing their national strategies on

ageing on the basis of the conceptual framework of the Index. There is also a strong interest on the part of policymakers at the subnational and local levels, among them Biscay Province in Spain, the Friuli-Venezia Giulia and Umbria regions in Italy and others, to use evidence from the Index for better targeting policy measures and actions.

In 2018, to foster dialogue between academia and policymakers, ECE held a second international seminar on the Active Ageing Index, which attracted nearly 180 participants. The subprogramme disseminated state-of-the-art developments and research results related to the methodology used for constructing the Index and highlighting its relevance for evidence-based policymaking.

Result and evidence

The deliverable contributed to the result, which is the raised awareness of the potential contribution of older people to society.

Evidence of the result includes the interest expressed by the Governments of Italy, Poland and Romania in advancing the use of the Index at the subnational level and by the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine in developing a national policy framework. The Index is also used by civil society organizations to raise awareness of the contribution of older persons to society in order to combat ageism.

The result demonstrates progress made in 2018 towards the collective attainment of the objective.

- 20.94 A planned result for 2018, which is improved capacity for the formulation and implementation of evidence-based policies in housing, urban development and land management, as referred to in the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2018–2019, was achieved, as evidenced by new measures adopted by Kazakhstan in the areas of housing and land management based on recommendations contained in *Country Profiles on the Housing Sector: Republic of Kazakhstan* developed by ECE. This included the preparation of a technical demonstration project on the smart sustainable district in Astana and the development of a law on multi-apartment buildings. With those results, the subprogramme contributed to the nexus areas on sustainable and smart cities and on sustainable mobility and smart connectivity.

4. Highlighted planned result for 2020

Regional observatory on urban-related Sustainable Development Goals

The subprogramme develops on a regular basis country profiles on urban development, housing and land management, and smart sustainable city profiles to support evidence-based policies in the ECE member States on urban development, housing, and land administration and management. Since the start of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the New Urban Agenda, in 2015 and 2016, respectively, there was a need for scaling up the activities on evidence-based urban and housing policies at the national, regional and local levels.

Challenge and response

The challenge was to develop evidence-based policies in support of the 2030 Agenda, owing to a lack of capacity for data collection and use for monitoring policy implementation at the regional, national and local levels.

In response, for 2020, ECE will publish guidelines on the collection of urban- and housing-related data and launch a regional observatory on urban-related Sustainable Development Goals. Both the guidelines and the regional observatory will facilitate the strengthening of capacity at the national and local levels for the development of evidence-based policies in support of implementation of the 2030 Agenda, the New Urban Agenda, the Geneva Charter on Sustainable Housing and other key agreements. The observatory will include 10 Geneva Charter centres of excellence in countries in the ECE region to be established in order to provide targeted capacity-building and policy advice to national and local governments and other stakeholders in the respective countries; an interactive web portal containing regularly updated data and information on the state of housing and urban development at the national and local levels in countries of the region; and a set of training materials, including e-learning tools, on

data and knowledge collection for the review of progress towards the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, relevant reports and publications, along with best practices. The centres of excellence will translate the ECE instruments, including guidelines and standards, to the national and local policies and action programmes and ensure their ownership in countries. In addition, they will promote more effective implementation of those instruments by engaging national and local stakeholders. The centres will also conduct research and reviews of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and other global and regional commitments in the countries, thus supporting the evidence-based housing and urban development policy at the national level. ECE, in partnership with governments, experts and academia, will use the portal to systematically conduct surveys of countries' capacity-building needs. In line with the results of the surveys, the centres of excellence will develop studies and guidelines and organize workshops tailored to the countries' needs. The ECE regional observatory will therefore support two-way communication with member States and offer tailored knowledge and solutions to the countries and cities in the region.

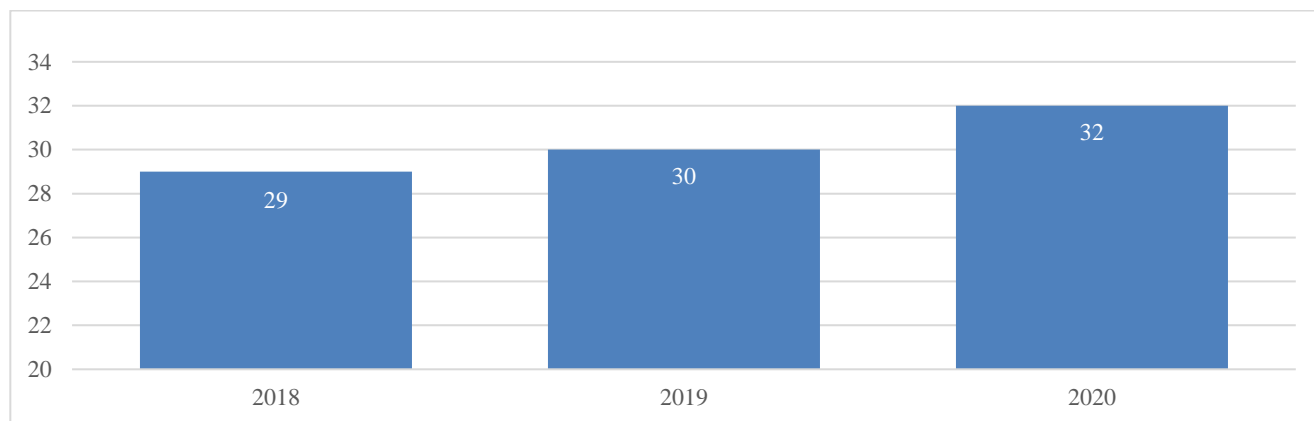
Result and evidence

The planned deliverables are expected to contribute to the result, which is to strengthen the capacity of national and local governments and stakeholders in developing evidence-based policies in support of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, especially the Goal 11, on cities and human settlements.

Evidence of the result, if achieved, will include an increase to 32 in the number of ECE member States that apply ECE guidelines on urban development, housing and land management at the national and local levels, as shown in the figure.

The result, if achieved, will demonstrate progress made in 2020 towards the collective attainment of the objective. It will contribute to the nexus areas on sustainable and smart cities, sustainable mobility and smart connectivity and measuring and monitoring the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals.

Performance measures: increased number of Economic Commission for Europe member States that apply Commission guidelines on urban development, housing and land management at the national and local levels



20.95 The following General Assembly resolutions comprise the main mandates entrusted to the subprogramme: [71/256](#) on the New Urban Agenda, [72/226](#) on the implementation of the outcomes of the United Nations Conferences on Human Settlements and on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development and strengthening of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat), [65/234](#) on the follow-up to the International Conference on Population and Development beyond 2014 and [72/144](#) on the follow-up to the Second World Assembly on Ageing. The subprogramme will continue to be guided by all mandates entrusted in it, which provide the legislative framework for its deliverables.

5. Deliverables for the period 2018–2020

- 20.96 Table 20.8 lists all deliverables, by category and subcategory, for the period 2018–2020 that contributed and are expected to contribute to the attainment of the objective stated above.

Table 20.8

Subprogramme 8: deliverables for the period 2018–2020, by category and subcategory

<i>Category</i>	<i>2018 planned</i>	<i>2018 actual</i>	<i>2019 planned</i>	<i>2020 planned</i>
Quantified deliverables				
A. Facilitation of the intergovernmental process and expert bodies				
Parliamentary documentation (number of documents)	13	18	17	15
Substantive services for meetings (number of three-hour meetings)	33	29	32	29
B. Generation and transfer of knowledge				
Technical cooperation and field projects (number of projects)	3	3	1	2
Seminars, workshops and training events (number of days)	6	7	5	5
Publications (number of publications)	3	4	5	5
Technical materials (number of materials)	1	2	1	1
Non-quantified deliverables				
C. Substantive deliverables				
Fact-finding, monitoring and investigation missions				
Consultation, advice and advocacy				
Databases and substantive digital materials				
D. Communication deliverables				
Outreach programmes, special events and information materials				
External and media relations				
Digital platforms and multimedia content				

6. Most significant relative variances in deliverables

Variations between the actual and planned figures in 2018

- 20.97 The variance in publications was driven by publications on population, owing to the issuance of an additional policy brief on ageing, as requested by the Working Group on Ageing.
- 20.98 The variance in seminars, workshops and training events was driven by workshops, owing to the request from member States to facilitate an additional capacity-building workshop.
- 20.99 The variance in parliamentary documentation was driven mainly by documentation for the Committee on Housing and Land Management, owing to additional documents on the alignment with the 2030 Agenda and the New Urban Agenda, produced at the request of member States to facilitate the implementation of the two Agendas.

Variations between the planned figures for 2020 and 2019

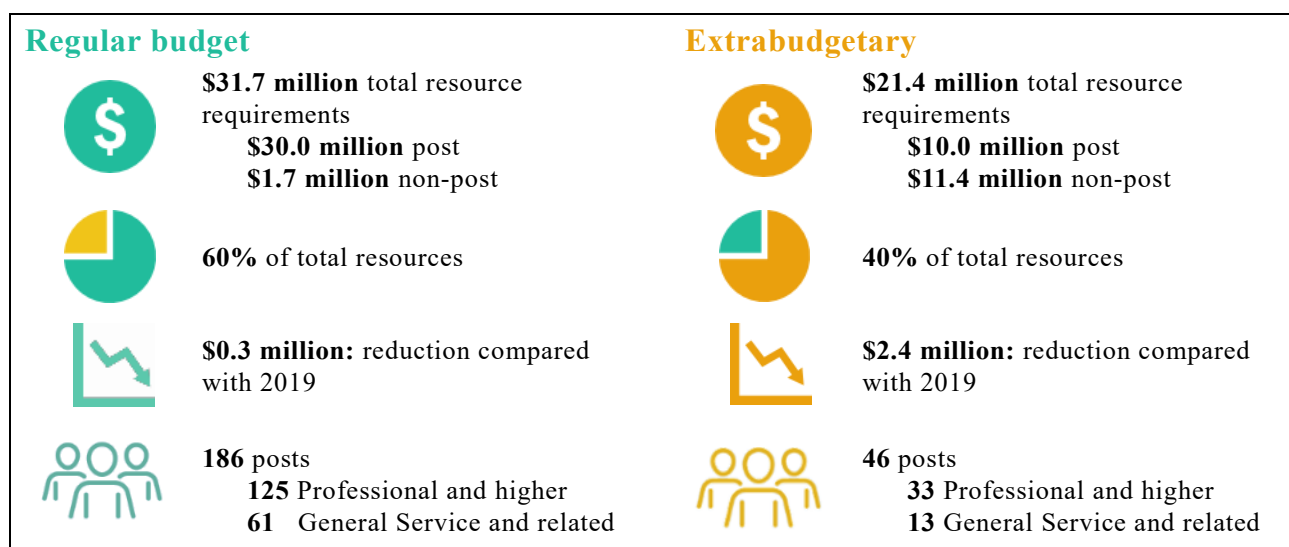
- 20.100 The variance in parliamentary documents and substantive services for meetings is driven mainly by the meetings of the Working Party on Land Administration, owing to the biennial nature of the Working Party, which has no sessions in the even-numbered years.

B. Proposed post and non-post resource requirements for 2020

Overview

20.101 The total resource requirements for 2020, comprising the regular budget and projected extrabudgetary resources, are reflected in figure 20.II and table 20.9.

Figure 20.II
2020 in numbers



Note: Estimates before recosting.

Table 20.9

Overview of financial and post resources by component, subprogramme and funding source

(Thousands of United States dollars/number of posts)

	Regular budget			Extrabudgetary			Total		
	2019 appropriation	2020 estimate before recosting	Variance	2019 estimate	2020 estimate	Variance	2019 estimate	2020 estimate	Variance
Financial resources									
Executive direction and management	4 248.8	4 267.5	18.7	35.1	–	(35.1)	4 283.9	4 267.5	(16.4)
Programme of work									
1. Environment	4 842.9	4 838.4	(4.5)	12 299.8	13 406.5	1 106.7	17 142.7	18 244.9	1 102.2
2. Transport	5 939.3	5 768.8	(170.5)	4 452.0	4 246.9	(205.1)	10 391.3	10 015.7	(375.6)
3. Statistics	4 353.4	4 347.2	(6.2)	340.7	180.9	(159.8)	4 694.1	4 528.1	(166.0)
4. Economic cooperation and integration	1 913.1	1 906.0	(7.1)	1 707.6	572.7	(1 134.9)	3 620.7	2 478.7	(1 142.0)
5. Sustainable energy	2 015.3	2 012.9	(2.4)	972.7	60.1	(912.6)	2 988.0	2 073.0	(915.0)
6. Trade	3 284.8	3 133.7	(151.1)	1 188.0	794.8	(393.2)	4 472.8	3 928.5	(544.3)
7. Forestry and timber	1 379.7	1 378.2	(1.5)	741.5	388.1	(353.4)	2 121.2	1 766.3	(354.9)

Section 20 Economic development in Europe

	<i>Regular budget</i>			<i>Extrabudgetary</i>			<i>Total</i>		
	<i>2019 appropriation</i>	<i>2020 estimate before recosting</i>	<i>Variance</i>	<i>2019 estimate</i>	<i>2020 estimate</i>	<i>Variance</i>	<i>2019 estimate</i>	<i>2020 estimate</i>	<i>Variance</i>
8. Housing, land management and population	1 070.0	943.5	(126.5)	648.6	155.1	(493.5)	1 718.6	1 098.6	(620.0)
Subtotal, programme of work	24 798.5	24 328.7	(469.8)	22 350.9	19 805.1	(2 545.8)	47 149.4	44 133.8	(3 015.6)
Programme support	2 926.0	3 115.9	189.9	1 385.4	1 613.8	228.4	4 311.4	4 729.7	418.3
Total	31 973.3	31 712.1	(261.2)	23 771.4	21 418.9	(2 352.5)	55 744.7	53 131.0	(2 613.7)
Post resources									
Executive direction and management	23	23	–	–	–	–	23	23	–
Programme of work									
1. Environment	31	31	–	23	23	–	54	54	–
2. Transport	39	38	(1)	14	14	–	53	52	(1)
3. Statistics	27	27	–	1	1	–	28	28	–
4. Economic cooperation and integration	11	11	–	1	1	–	12	12	–
5. Sustainable energy	11	11	–	–	–	–	11	11	–
6. Trade	20	19	(1)	1	1	–	21	20	(1)
7. Forestry and timber	8	8	–	–	–	–	8	8	–
8. Housing, land management and population	7	6	(1)	–	–	–	7	6	(1)
Subtotal, programme of work	154	151	(3)	40	40	–	194	191	(3)
Programme support	11	12	1	5	6	1	16	18	2
Total	188	186	(2)	45	46	1	233	232	(1)

Overview of resources for the regular budget

20.102 The proposed regular budget resources for 2020, including the breakdown of resource changes, as applicable, are reflected in tables 20.10 and 20.11. The proposals reflect reductions that were made possible, in part, by the redistribution of work, the improved planning of travel and the leveraging of communications technology. Further details are provided under the respective components. The proposed resource level provides for the full, efficient and effective implementation of mandates.

Part V Regional cooperation for development

Table 20.10

Evolution of financial resources by component and main category of expenditure

(Thousands of United States dollars)

	2018 expenditure	2019 appropriation	Changes				2020 estimate before recosting	2020 estimate after recosting		
			Technical adjustments	New/ expanded mandates	Other	Total			Percentage	
Component										
Executive direction and management	4 427.3	4 248.8	87.2	–	(68.5)	18.7	0.4	4 267.5	103.7	4 371.2
Programme of work	26 844.3	24 798.5	–	–	(469.8)	(469.8)	(1.9)	24 328.7	1 277.0	25 605.7
Programme support	2 908.9	2 926.0	–	–	189.9	189.9	6.5	3 115.9	57.8	3 173.7
Total	34 180.6	31 973.3	87.2	–	(348.4)	(261.2)	(0.8)	31 712.1	1 438.5	33 150.6
Main category of expenditure										
Post	32 602.1	30 223.6	87.2	–	(291.5)	(204.3)	(0.7)	30 019.3	1 412.9	31 432.2
Non-post	1 578.5	1 749.7	–	–	(56.9)	(56.9)	(3.3)	1 692.8	25.6	1 718.4
Total	34 180.6	31 973.3	87.2	–	(348.4)	(261.2)	(0.8)	31 712.1	1 438.5	33 150.6

Table 20.11

Evolution of established post resources by category

	2019 approved	Changes			2020 estimate	Variance
		Technical adjustments	New/expanded mandates	Other		
Professional and higher						
USG		1	–	–	1	–
ASG		–	–	–	–	–
D-2		1	–	–	1	–
D-1		8	–	–	9	1
P-5		23	–	–	23	–
P-4		35	–	–	35	–
P-3		36	–	–	36	–
P-2/1		21	–	–	(1)	(1)
Subtotal		125	–	–	125	1
General Service						
Principal level		6	–	–	(1)	(1)
Other level		57	–	–	(1)	(1)
Subtotal		63	–	–	(2)	(2)
Total		188	–	–	(2)	(2)

Note: The breakdown of post changes by component, subprogramme and post level is provided in annex II.

Abbreviations: ASG, Assistant Secretary-General; USG, Under-Secretary-General.

Polymaking organs

- 20.103 The governance structure of ECE has been revised in accordance with the workplan on ECE reform adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution [60/248](#) and the outcome of the review of the 2005 reform of ECE adopted by the Economic and Social Council in its resolution [2013/1](#). The Commission reports to the Council and provides strategic direction to the work of the ECE secretariat. It serves as a regional platform for high-level policy dialogue on sustainable development in the region. It meets once every two years for up to three working days. In the intersessional period, the Executive Committee is entrusted with the implementation of the overall policy set by the Commission. It meets as often as necessary to perform its governance role with regard to programme planning, administrative and budgetary issues, including extrabudgetary funding. It reviews and approves the programmes of work and subsidiary structures of the sectoral committees, thus ensuring coherence and coordination among subprogrammes. The following eight sectoral committees act as subsidiary bodies of the Commission and as governing bodies for the eight subprogrammes: the Committee on Environmental Policy (subprogramme 1); the Inland Transport Committee (subprogramme 2); the Conference of European Statisticians (subprogramme 3); the Committee on Innovation, Competitiveness and Public-Private Partnerships (subprogramme 4); the Committee on Sustainable Energy (subprogramme 5); the Steering Committee on Trade Capacity and Standards (subprogramme 6); the Committee on Forests and the Forest Industry (subprogramme 7); and the Committee on Housing and Land Management (subprogramme 8). The bodies meet for two to three days annually to provide guidance to ECE on work relating to their respective sectors. No resources are proposed for 2020 under the regular budget for those bodies.

Executive direction and management

- 20.104 The ECE executive direction and management component comprises the Office of the Executive Secretary, the Programme Management Unit, the Sustainable Development and Gender Unit and the Information Unit.
- 20.105 The Office of the Executive Secretary, which includes the Executive Secretary, the Deputy Executive Secretary and the Secretary of the Commission, has the overall responsibility for providing policy guidance and leadership in the ECE secretariat, including coordinating the work of the Commission; overseeing and developing relations with Governments; coordinating with the United Nations Secretariat; reporting to the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council; and overseeing and developing relations with other United Nations entities and with non-United Nations organizations, civil society and non-governmental organizations.
- 20.106 The core functions of the Programme Management Unit are: (a) to support the formulation of ECE strategy and foster multisectoral expertise in operational activities with other United Nations development actors at the subregional and national levels; (b) to provide guidance and ensure overall coordination of all aspects (planning, monitoring, reporting and evaluation) of programme management; and (c) to support and ensure the follow-up and implementation of the recommendations of the United Nations oversight bodies. The Unit also promotes synergies between the normative and operational work of the Commission, provides guidance and ensures overall coordination of technical cooperation and serves as secretariat of the Working Group on Technical Cooperation. The Unit coordinates with other regional commissions and other United Nations entities on programmatic and technical cooperation issues.
- 20.107 The Sustainable Development and Gender Unit provides policy advice, analysis and advocacy on cross-cutting issues relating to the implementation, follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and on gender equality, in partnership with other United Nations entities and stakeholders, as relevant. The Unit convenes the annual Regional Forum on Sustainable Development for the ECE region, in cooperation with regional entities of the United Nations system, providing the contribution of the region to the global follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. It services the biannual regional United Nations system meetings and the

joint meetings of the Regional Coordination Mechanism and the United Nations Sustainable Development Group for Europe and Central Asia, which bring together the heads of the regional offices of United Nations entities. The Unit contributes to the preparation and follow-up of United Nations global conferences and summits, as well as to various reports of the Secretary-General to the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly on economic, social and environmental issues. The Unit leads internal work on the alignment of ECE activities with the Sustainable Development Goals through a nexus approach. It is furthermore responsible for the promotion of gender mainstreaming across all subprogrammes, including the development and implementation of the ECE gender policy and action plan, the gender parity strategy, reporting under the United Nations System-wide Action Plan on Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women and capacity-building for women's empowerment in ECE member States.

- 20.108 The Information Unit is responsible for implementing the ECE information strategy, aimed at raising awareness and mobilizing support for the work of ECE. The Unit promotes the image of the Commission by managing the corporate sections of its website and ensuring its overall coherence, as well as by designing and producing promotional material on ECE activities. The Unit manages ECE relations with the media, ensures the Commission's presence on social media and provides monitoring and analysis with respect to the media. It advises the Executive Secretary, senior managers and staff of ECE on outreach and advocacy.
- 20.109 The component is also responsible for the production of cross-cutting deliverables, including the servicing of meetings and the production of parliamentary documents for the Executive Committee of ECE, the servicing of meetings of the gender and sustainable development working group of the United Nations Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia and the preparation of three publications and training courses for government officials and private sector actors on women's entrepreneurship. In addition, the executive direction and management component will implement substantive deliverables, including the provision of advisory services to countries participating in the United Nations Development Assistance Framework process and "One United Nations" programme and support to countries in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. Communication deliverables will include annual sets of information materials, weekly newsletters, press releases and films on ECE activities. Programme management and technical cooperation services will include planning, monitoring, reporting and evaluation.
- 20.110 In accordance with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, in particular target 12.6 of the Sustainable Development Goals, in which the integration of sustainability information into reporting cycles is encouraged, and in compliance with the cross-cutting mandate of the General Assembly in paragraph 19 of its resolution [72/219](#), ECE is integrating environmental management practices into its operations. In 2018, a highlight is a significant broadening of the use of remote participation in both capacity-development activities and formal meetings. For example, under the Aarhus Convention, a series of three videoconferences was organized to promote the principles of the Convention in the twenty-fourth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, reaching approximately 100 people. Multiple participants joined all three sessions of the Convention's Compliance Committee via teleconference in 2018. At many other meetings, including the majority under the environment subprogramme, speakers participate by videoconference, often with interpretation. In 2020, the Commission will continue to reduce its carbon footprint by 10 per cent through a reduction in the level of official travel and will also seek other means, by using the Internet or teleconferencing facilities to promote remote participation where possible. In addition, the above-mentioned practice under the Aarhus Convention is expected to grow in 2020, with plans for a Compliance Committee session in which all parties concerned, participants and observers, will join remotely to follow up on a meeting of the Convention's governing body to be held that year. The Aarhus Convention secretariat will also discontinue in 2020–2021 the requirement to submit national implementation reports on paper, as it is developing an online reporting tool; similar initiatives are under way for at least one other ECE multilateral environment agreement. With the ongoing renovation of conference rooms in Geneva under the strategic heritage plan, it is expected that opportunities to have fully interpreted high-quality remote presentations and participation will increase significantly, to the benefit of all ECE subprogrammes.

Section 20 Economic development in Europe

20.111 Information on compliance with regard to the timely submission of documentation and advanced booking for air travel is presented in table 20.12.

Table 20.12
Compliance rate
(Percentage)

	<i>Planned 2018</i>	<i>Actual 2018</i>	<i>Planned 2019</i>	<i>Planned 2020</i>
Timely submission of documentation	100	96	100	100
Air tickets purchased at least 2 weeks before the commencement of travel	100	70	100	100

20.112 The proposed regular budget resources for 2020 amount to \$4,267,500 and reflect a net increase of \$18,700 compared with the appropriation for 2019. Additional details are reflected in figures 20.III to 20.V and table 20.13.

Figure 20.III
Resources for executive direction and management as a percentage of the regular budget
(Millions of United States dollars)

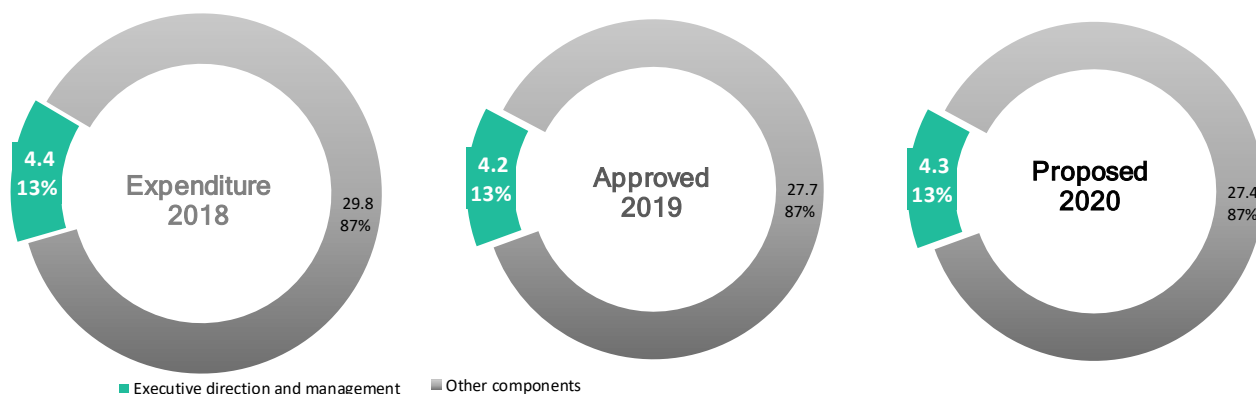
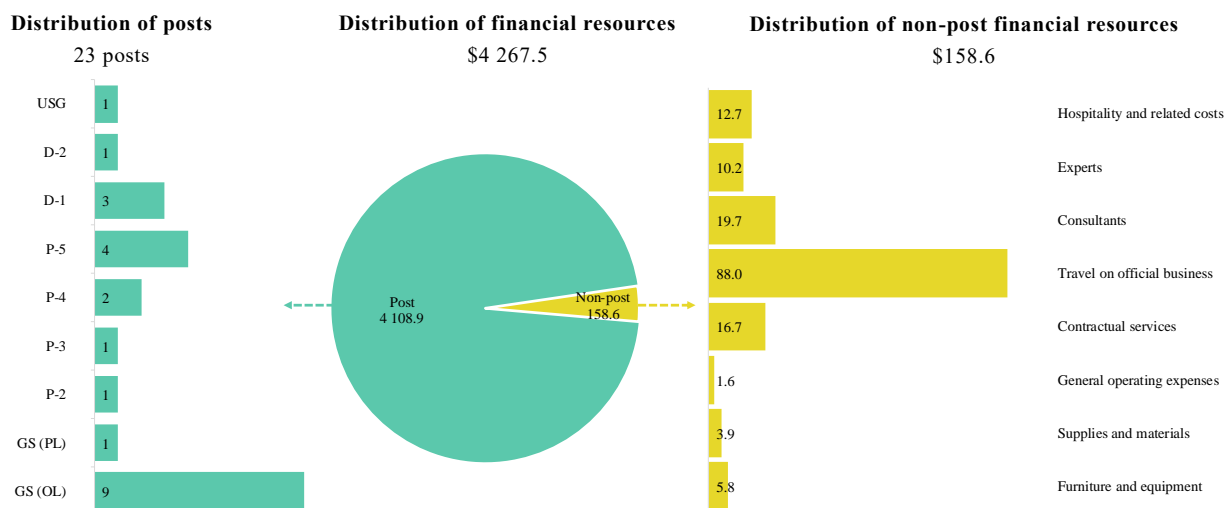


Table 20.13
Executive direction and management: evolution of financial and post resources
(Thousands of United States dollars/number of posts)

	2018 <i>expenditure</i>	2019 <i>appropriation</i>	<i>Changes</i>				<i>Total</i>	<i>Percentage</i>	2020 <i>estimate (before recosting)</i>
			<i>Technical adjustments</i>	<i>New/ expanded mandates</i>	<i>Other</i>				
Financial resources by main category of expenditure									
Post	4 257.1	4 078.6	87.2	–	(56.9)	30.3	0.7	4 108.9	
Non-post	170.2	170.2	–	–	(11.6)	(11.6)	(6.8)	158.6	
Total	4 427.3	4 248.8	87.2	–	(68.5)	18.7	0.4	4 267.5	
Post resources by category									
Professional and higher		13	–	–	–	–	–	13	
General Service and related		10	–	–	–	–	–	10	
Total		23	–	–	–	–	–	23	

Figure 20.IV
Executive direction and management: distribution of proposed resources for 2020 (before recosting)

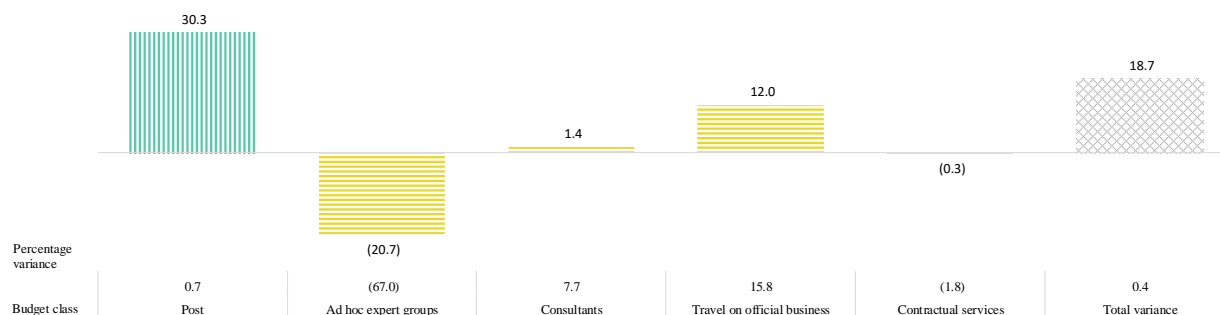
(Number of posts/thousands of United States dollars)



Abbreviations: GS (OL), General Service (Other level); GS (PL), General Service (Principal level); USG, Under-Secretary-General.

Figure 20.V
Executive direction and management: variance between proposed resources for 2020 and appropriation for 2019, by budget class

(Thousands of United States dollars)



20.113 The variance of \$18,700 reflects:

- (a) **Technical adjustments.** Resource changes reflect the annual provision of \$87,200 relating to a new post (P-4) established in the biennium 2018–2019 effective 1 January 2019 pursuant to General Assembly resolution 72/263 in the context of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2018–2019;
- (b) **Other changes.** The net decrease of \$68,500 relates to the proposed outward redeployment of one post of Programme Management Officer (P-4) in the Office of the Executive Secretary to programme support, partially offset by the proposed establishment of one new post of Chief of Service (D-1) in the Programme Management Unit to strengthen the overall coordination and implementation of the ECE programme of work, resulting in a net reduction of \$56,900 under posts. After one year of experience in the sharing of elements of the function throughout the executive direction and management component, ECE concluded that the governance and oversight functions of the Commission would be discharged most efficiently and effectively by a centralized function at the D-1 level within the Programme Management Unit. There is a net decrease of \$11,600 under non-post resources relating to reduced requirements for other

staff costs (\$4,000), consultants (\$19,300) and contractual services (\$300), partially offset by increased resources for travel on official business (\$12,000).

Programme of work

20.114 The proposed regular budget resources for 2020 amount to \$24,328,700 and reflect a net decrease of \$469,800 compared with the appropriation for 2019. Additional details are reflected in figures 20.VI and 20.VII and table 20.14.

Figure 20.VI

Resources for programme of work as a percentage of the regular budget

(Millions of United States dollars)

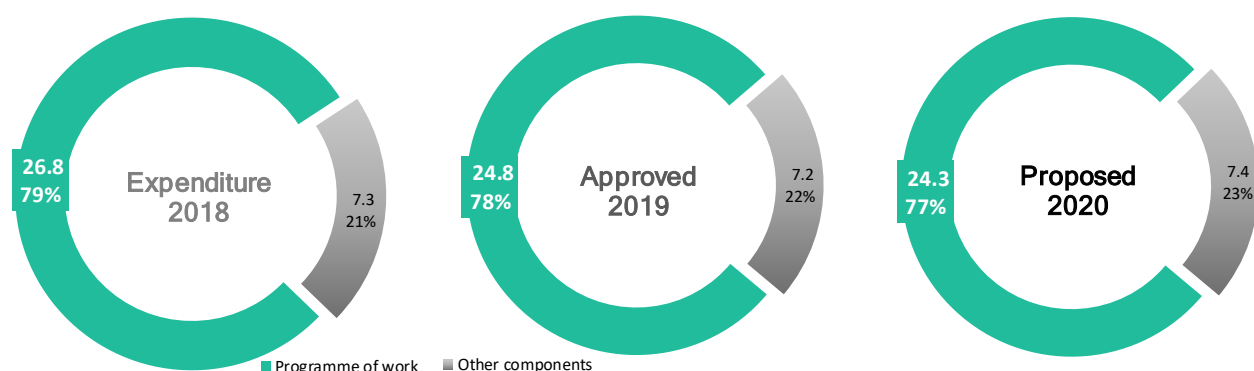


Table 20.14

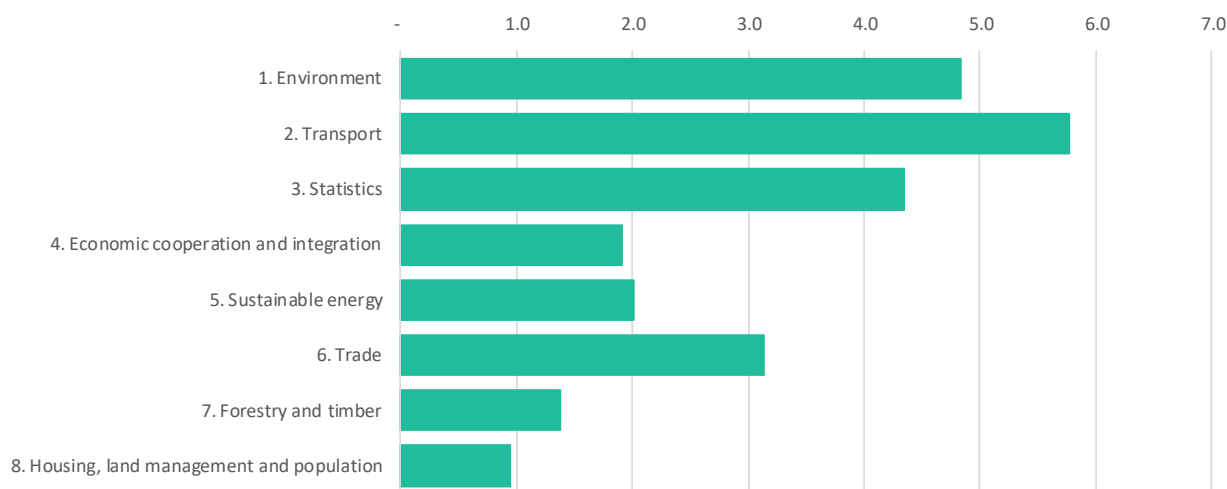
Programme of work: evolution of financial and post resources

(Thousands of United States dollars/number of posts)

	2018 expenditure	2019 appropriation	Technical adjustments	New/ expanded mandates	Changes			2020 estimate (before recosting)
					Other	Total	Percentage	
Financial resources by subprogramme								
1. Environment	5 457.8	4 842.9	–	–	(4.5)	(4.5)	(0.1)	4 838.4
2. Transport	6 945.2	5 939.3	–	–	(170.5)	(170.5)	(2.9)	5 768.8
3. Statistics	4 396.9	4 353.4	–	–	(6.2)	(6.2)	(0.1)	4 347.2
4. Economic cooperation and integration	1 875.2	1 913.1	–	–	(7.1)	(7.1)	(0.4)	1 906.0
5. Sustainable energy	2 281.0	2 015.3	–	–	(2.4)	(2.4)	(0.1)	2 012.9
6. Trade	3 476.7	3 284.8	–	–	(151.1)	(151.1)	(4.6)	3 133.7
7. Forestry and timber	1 244.3	1 379.7	–	–	(1.5)	(1.5)	(0.1)	1 378.2
8. Housing land management and population	1 167.1	1 070.0	–	–	(126.5)	(126.5)	(11.8)	943.5
Total	26 844.3	24 798.5	–	–	(469.8)	(469.8)	(1.9)	24 328.7
Financial resources by main category of expenditure								
Post	26 538.9	24 474.5	–	–	(427.1)	(427.1)	(1.7)	24 047.4
Non-post	305.4	324.0	–	–	(42.7)	(42.7)	(13.2)	281.3
Total	26 844.3	24 798.5	–	–	(469.8)	(469.8)	(1.9)	24 328.7

	2018 expenditure	2019 appropriation	Changes				2020 estimate (before recosting)
			Technical adjustments	New/ expanded mandates	Other	Total Percentage	
Post resources by subprogramme							
1. Environment		31	–	–	–	–	31
2. Transport		39	–	–	(1)	(1) (2.6)	38
3. Statistics		27	–	–	–	–	27
4. Economic cooperation and integration		11	–	–	–	–	11
5. Sustainable energy		11	–	–	–	–	11
6. Trade		20	–	–	(1)	(1) (5.0)	19
7. Forestry and timber		8	–	–	–	–	8
8. Housing land management and population		7	–	–	(1)	(1) (14.3)	6
Total		154	–	–	(3)	(3) (1.9)	151

Figure 20.VII
Distribution of proposed resources for 2020 by subprogramme
(Millions of United States dollars)



Subprogramme 1 Environment

20.115 The proposed regular budget resources for 2020 amount to \$4,838,400 and reflect a net decrease of \$4,500 compared with the appropriation for 2019. Additional details are provided in table 20.15 and figures 20.VIII and 20.IX.

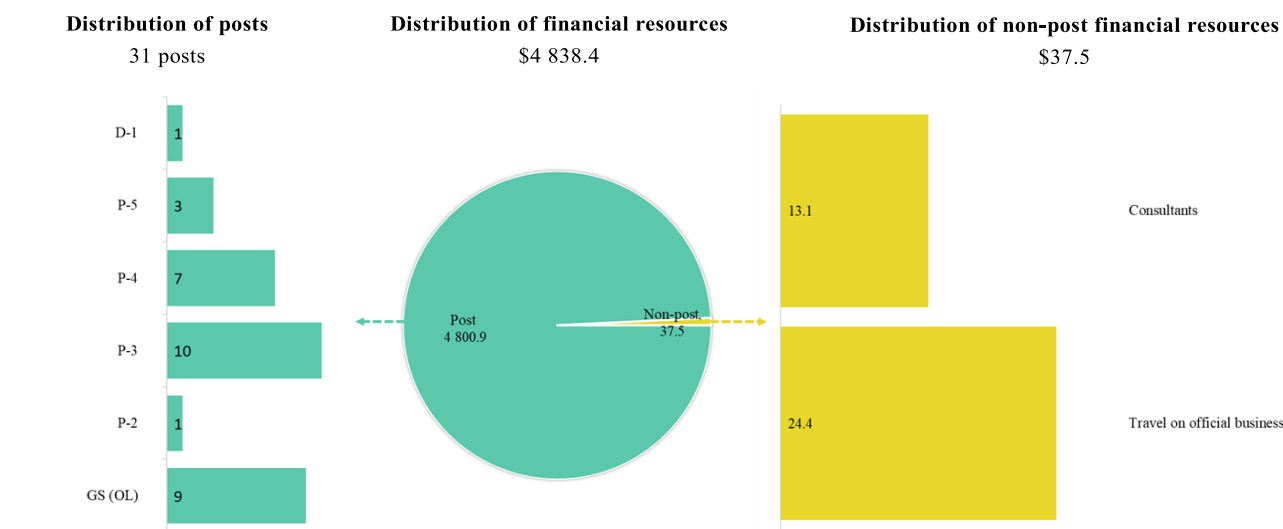
Table 20.15
Subprogramme 1: evolution of financial and post resources

(Thousands of United States dollars/number of posts)

	2018 expenditure	2019 appropriation	Change					2020 estimate (before recosting)
			Technical adjustments	New/expanded mandates	Other	Total	Percentage	
Financial resources by main category of expenditure								
Post	5 408.1	4 800.9	–	–	–	–	–	4 800.9
Non-post	49.7	42.0	–	–	(4.5)	(4.5)	(10.7)	37.5
Total	5 457.8	4 842.9	–	–	(4.5)	(4.5)	(2.5)	4 838.4
Post resources by category								
Professional and higher		22	–	–	–	–	–	22
General Service and related		9	–	–	–	–	–	9
Total		31	–	–	–	–	–	31

Figure 20.VIII
Subprogramme 1: distribution of proposed resources for 2020 (before recosting)

(Number of posts/thousands of United States dollars)



Abbreviation: GS (OL), General Service (Other level).

Figure 20.IX

Subprogramme 1: variance between proposed resources for 2020 and appropriation for 2019, by budget class

(Thousands of United States dollars)



20.116 The variance of \$4,500 relates to reduced resources proposed for travel on official business.

20.117 The subprogramme is supported by extrabudgetary resources estimated at \$13.4 million, as reflected in table 20.9. The resources would provide for support for the implementation of the environment subprogramme. The increase of \$1,106,700 compared with the estimate for 2019 is due to the higher number of known and anticipated contributions, as well as newly approved projects planned for 2020.

**Subprogramme 2
Transport**

20.118 The proposed regular budget resources for 2020 amount to \$5,768,800 and reflect a net decrease of \$170,500 compared with the appropriation for 2019. Additional details are provided in table 20.16 and figures 20.X and 20.XI.

Table 20.16

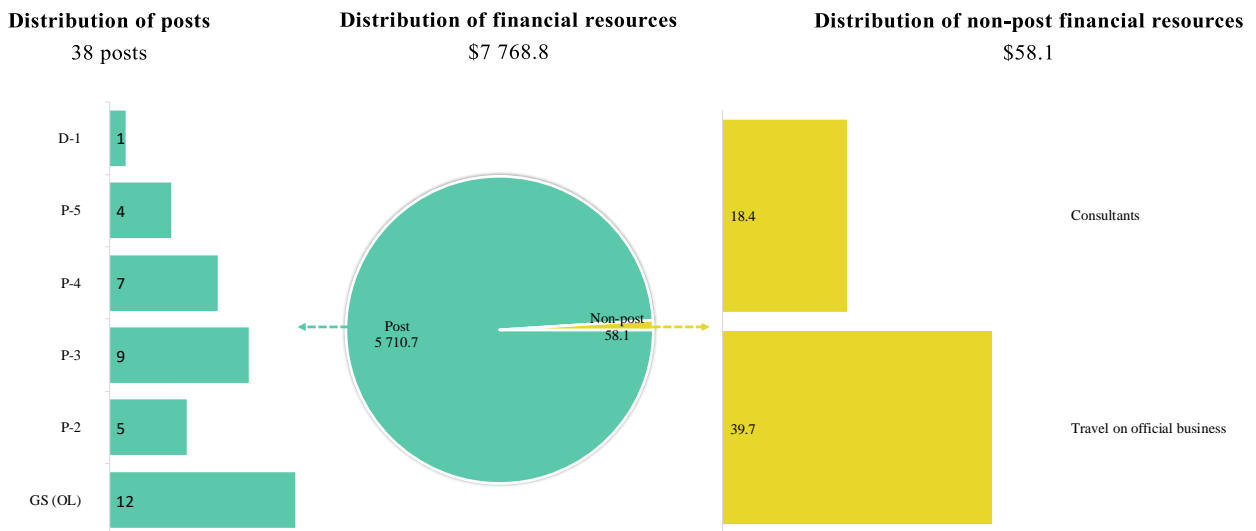
Subprogramme 2: evolution of financial and post resources

(Thousands of United States dollars/number of posts)

	2018 expenditure	2019 appropriation	Change				2020 estimate (before recosting)	
			Technical adjustments	New/expanded mandates	Other	Total		
Financial resources by main category of expenditure								
Post	6 865.5	5 874.1	–	–	(163.4)	(163.4)	(2.8)	5 710.7
Non-post	79.7	65.2	–	–	(7.1)	(7.1)	(10.8)	58.1
Total	6 945.2	5 939.3	–	–	(170.5)	(170.5)	(2.9)	5 768.8
Post resources by category								
Professional and higher		26	–	–	–	–	–	26
General Service and related		13	–	–	(1)	(1)	(7.7)	12
Total		39	–	–	(1)	(1)	(2.6)	38

Figure 20.X
Subprogramme 2: distribution of proposed resources for 2020 (before recosting)

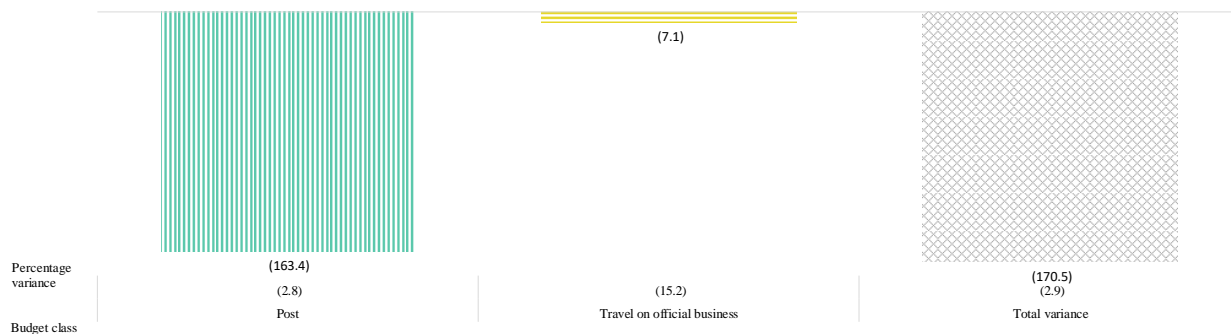
(Number of posts/thousands of United States dollars)



Abbreviation: GS (OL), General Service (Other level).

Figure 20.XI
Subprogramme 2: variance between proposed resources for 2020 and appropriation for 2019, by budget class

(Thousands of United States dollars)



20.119 The variance of \$170,500 relates to the proposed abolition of a Senior Administrative Assistant post (General Service (Principal level)) (\$163,400) and reduced resources of (\$7,100) for travel on official business.

20.120 The subprogramme is supported by extrabudgetary resources estimated at \$4,246,900, as reflected in table 20.9. The resources would provide for direct support for the implementation of the transport subprogramme. The decrease of \$205,100 compared with the estimate for 2019 is due to the lower amounts of known and anticipated contributions in 2020.

Subprogramme 3 Statistics

20.121 The proposed regular budget resources for 2020 amount to \$4,347,200 and reflect a net decrease of \$6,200 compared with the appropriation for 2019. Additional details are provided in table 20.17 and figures 20.XII and 20.XII.

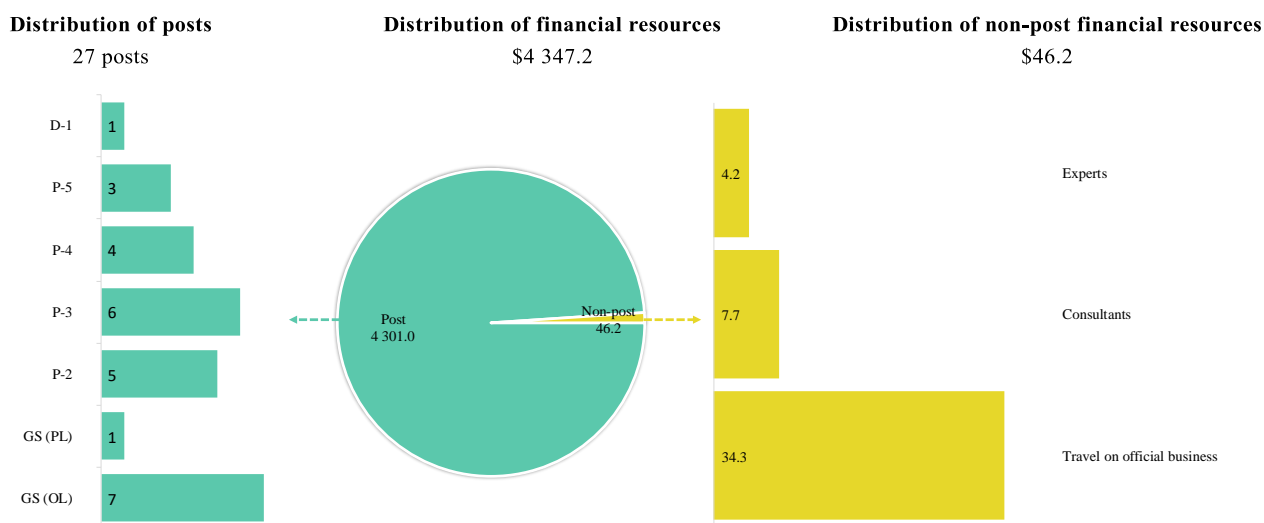
Table 20.17
Subprogramme 3: evolution of financial and post resources

(Thousands of United States dollars/number of posts)

	2018 expenditure	2019 appropriation	Change				2020 estimate (before recosting)	
			Technical adjustments	New/expanded mandates	Other	Total		
Financial resources by main category of expenditure								
Post	4 342.2	4 301.0	–	–	–	–	–	4 301.0
Non-post	54.7	52.4	–	–	(6.2)	(6.2)	(11.4)	46.2
Total	4 396.9	4 353.4	–	–	(6.2)	(6.2)	(0.1)	4 347.2
Post resources by category								
Professional and higher		19	–	–	–	–	–	19
General Service and related		8	–	–	–	–	–	8
Total		27	–	–	–	–	–	27

Figure 20.XII
Subprogramme 3: distribution of proposed resources for 2020 (before recosting)

(Number of posts/thousands of United States dollars)



Abbreviations: GS (OL), General Service (Other level); GS (PL), General Service (Principal level).

Figure 20.XIII
Subprogramme 3: variance between proposed resources for 2020 and appropriation for 2019, by budget class

(Thousands of United States dollars)



20.122 The variance of \$6,200 reflects mainly: (a) a net decrease of \$200 for consultants and experts; and (b) a proposed reduction of \$6,000 for travel on official business.

20.123 The subprogramme is supported by extrabudgetary resources estimated at \$180,900, as reflected in table 20.9. The resources would provide for direct support for the implementation of the statistics subprogramme. The decrease of \$159,800 compared with the estimate for 2019 reflects the known and anticipated contributions for existing and ongoing projects for 2020.

Subprogramme 4 Economic cooperation and integration

20.124 The proposed regular budget resources for 2020 amount to \$1,906,000 and reflect a net decrease of \$7,100 compared with the appropriation for 2019. Additional details are provided in table 20.18 and figures 20.XIV and 20.XV.

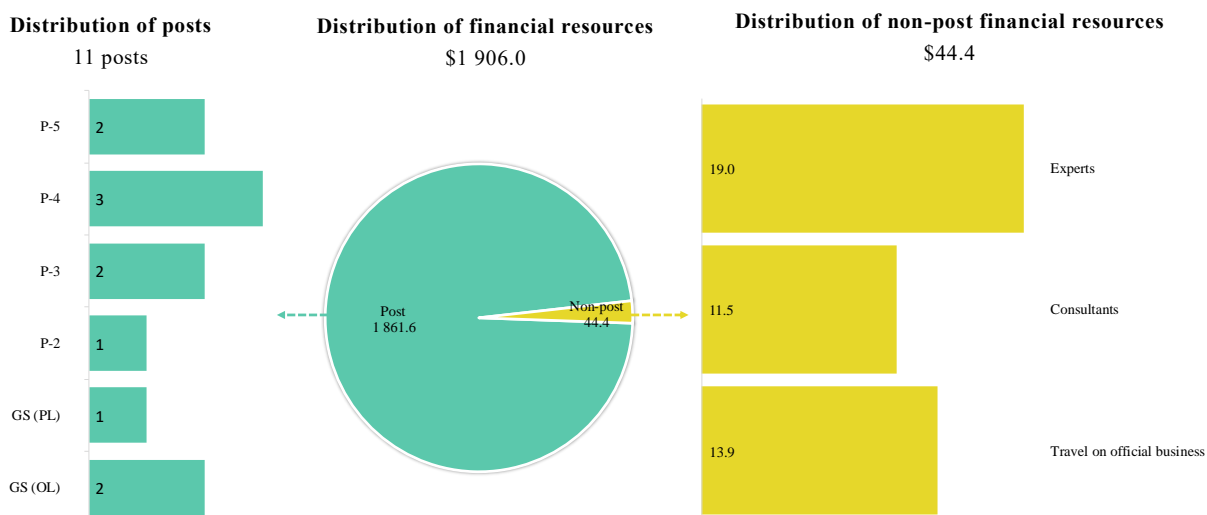
Table 20.18
Subprogramme 4: evolution of financial and post resources

(Thousands of United States dollars/number of posts)

	2018 expenditure	2019 appropriation	Change					2020 estimate (before recosting)
			Technical adjustments	New/expanded mandates	Other	Total	Percentage	
Financial resources by main category of expenditure								
Post	1 837.0	1 861.6	–	–	–	–	–	1 861.6
Non-post	38.2	51.5	–	–	(7.1)	(7.1)	(13.8)	44.4
Total	1 875.2	1 913.1	–	–	(7.1)	(7.1)	(0.4)	1 906.0
Post resources by category								
Professional and higher		8	–	–	–	–	–	8
General Service and related		3	–	–	–	–	–	3
Total		11	–	–	–	–	–	11

Figure 20.XIV
Subprogramme 4: distribution of proposed resources for 2020 (before recosting)

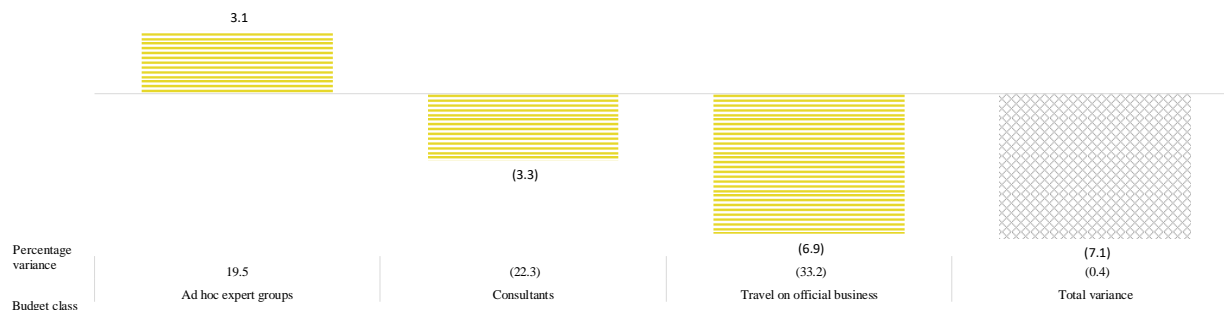
(Number of posts/thousands of United States dollars)



Abbreviations: GS (OL), General Service (Other level); GS (PL), General Service (Principal level).

Figure 20.XV
Subprogramme 4: variance between proposed resources for 2020 and appropriation for 2019, by budget class

(Thousands of United States dollars)



20.125 The variance of \$7,100 relates to reduced requirements for consultants and experts (\$200) and for travel on official business (\$6,900).

20.126 The subprogramme is supported by extrabudgetary resources estimated at \$572,700, as reflected in table 20.9. The resources would provide direct support for the implementation of the economic cooperation and integration subprogramme. The decrease of \$1,134,900 compared with the estimate for 2019 reflects the known and anticipated contributions for existing and ongoing projects for 2020.

Subprogramme 5 Sustainable energy

20.127 The proposed regular budget resources for 2020 amount to \$2,012,900 and reflect a net decrease of \$2,400 compared with the appropriation for 2019. Additional details are provided in table 20.19 and figures 20.XVI and 20.XVII.

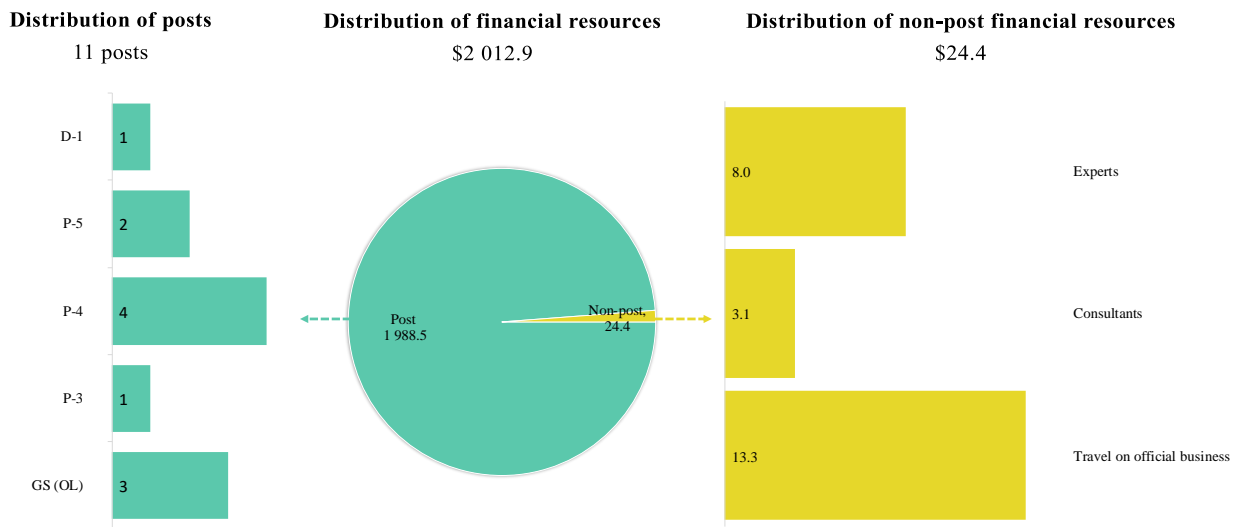
Table 20.19
Subprogramme 5: evolution of financial and post resources

(Thousands of United States dollars/number of posts)

	2018 expenditure	2019 appropriation	Change				2020 estimate (before recosting)
			Technical adjustments	New/expanded mandates	Other	Total Percentage	
Financial resources by main category of expenditure							
Post	2 261.7	1 988.5	–	–	–	–	1 988.5
Non-post	19.3	26.8	–	–	(2.4)	(2.4)	24.4
Total	2 281.0	2 015.3	–	–	(2.4)	(2.4)	2 012.9
Post resources by category							
Professional and higher		8	–	–	–	–	8
General Service and related		3	–	–	–	–	3
Total		11	–	–	–	–	11

Figure 20.XVI
Subprogramme 5: distribution of proposed resources for 2020 (before recosting)

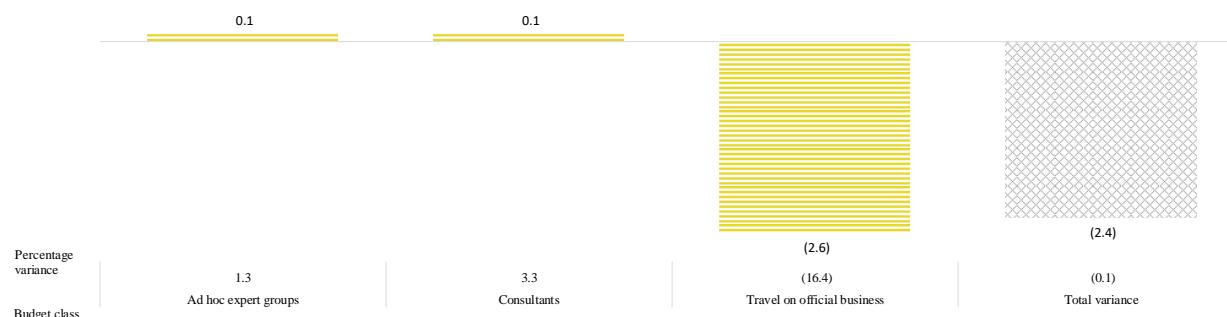
(Number of posts/thousands of United States dollars)



Abbreviation: GS (OL), General Service (Other level).

Figure 20.XVII
Subprogramme 5: variance between proposed resources for 2020 and appropriation for 2019, by budget class

(Thousands of United States dollars)



20.128 The variance of \$2,400 relates mainly to the proposed reduction for travel of staff (\$2,600).

20.129 The subprogramme is supported by extrabudgetary resources estimated at \$60,100, as reflected in table 20.9. The resources would provide for direct support for the implementation of the sustainable energy subprogramme. The decrease of \$912,600 compared with the estimate for 2019 is due to the completion of several projects in 2019 and to the known and anticipated contributions in 2020.

Subprogramme 6 Trade

20.130 The proposed regular budget resources for 2020 amount to \$3,133,700 and reflect a net decrease of \$151,100 compared with the appropriation for 2019. Additional details are provided in table 20.20 and figures 20.XVIII and 20.XIX.

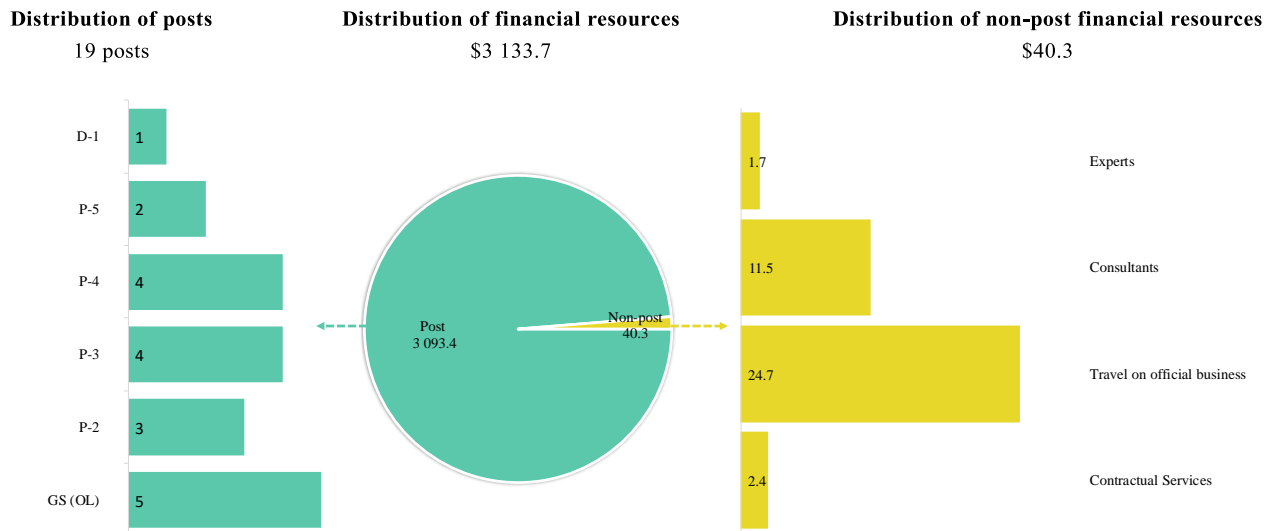
Table 20.20
Subprogramme 6: evolution of financial and post resources

(Thousands of United States dollars/number of posts)

	2018 expenditure	2019 appropriation	Change					2020 estimate (before recosting)
			Technical adjustments	New/expanded mandates	Other	Total	Percentage	
Financial resources by main category of expenditure								
Post	3 455.2	3 231.5	–	–	(138.1)	(138.1)	(4.3)	3 093.4
Non-post	21.5	53.3	–	–	(13.0)	(13.0)	(24.4)	40.3
Total	3 476.7	3 284.8	–	–	(151.1)	(151.1)	(4.6)	3 133.7
Post resources by category								
Professional and higher		14	–	–	–	–	–	14
General Service and related		6	–	–	(1)	(1)	(16.7)	5
Total		20	–	–	(1)	(1)	(5.0)	19

Figure 20.XVIII
Subprogramme 6: distribution of proposed resources for 2020 (before recosting)

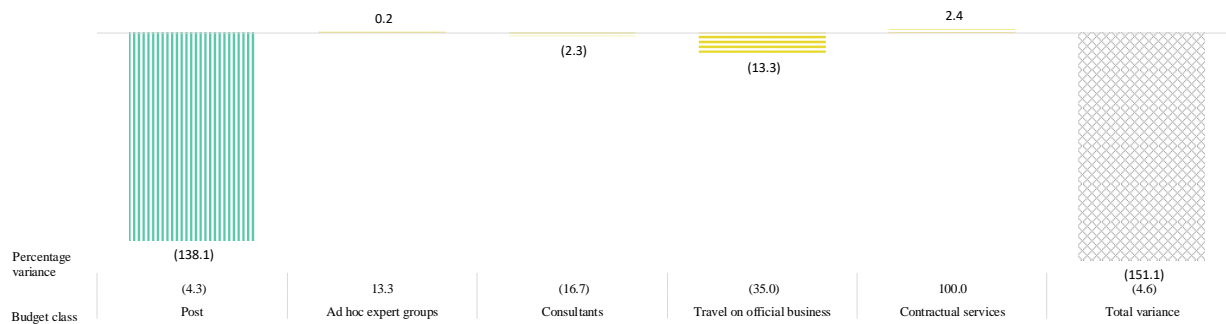
(Number of posts/thousands of United States dollars)



Abbreviation: GS (OL), General Service (Other level).

Figure 20.XIX
Subprogramme 6: variance between proposed resources for 2020 and appropriation for 2019, by budget class

(Thousands of United States dollars)



20.131 The variance of \$151,100 relates mainly to: (a) the proposed abolishment of one post of Team Assistant (General Service (Other level)) (\$138,100); and (b) reduced requirements for travel on official business (\$13,300) and consultants and experts (\$2,100).

20.132 The subprogramme is supported by extrabudgetary resources estimated at \$794,800, as reflected in table 20.9. The resources would provide for direct support for the implementation of the trade subprogramme. The decrease of \$393,200 compared with the estimate for 2019 reflects the known and anticipated contributions in 2020.

Subprogramme 7 Forestry and timber

20.133 The proposed regular budget resources for 2020 amount to \$1,378,200 and reflect a net decrease of \$1,500 compared with the appropriation for 2019. Additional details are provided in table 20.21 and figures 20.XX and 20.XXI.

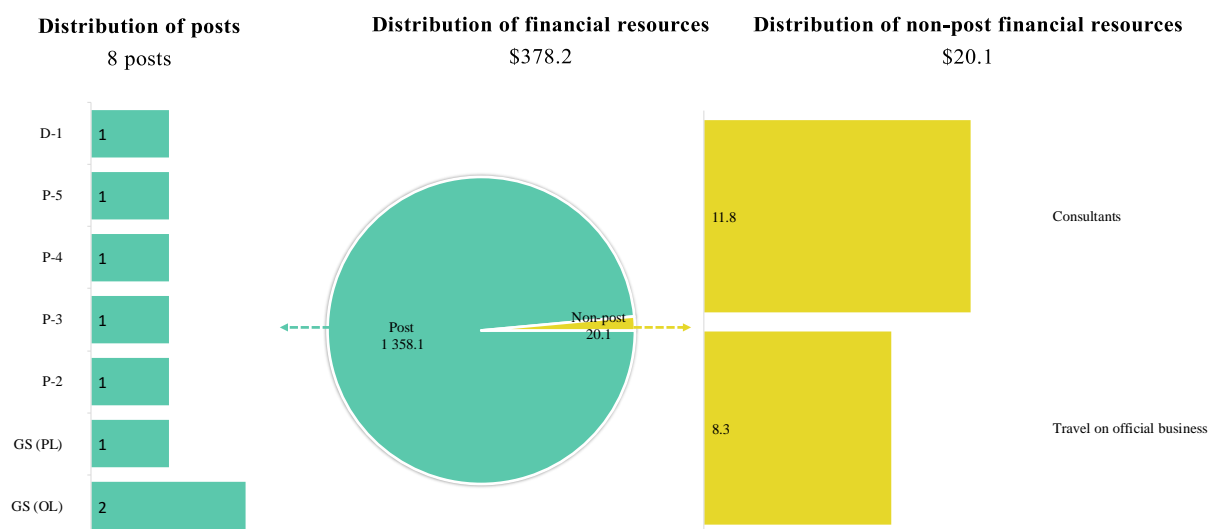
Table 20.21
Subprogramme 7: evolution of financial and post resources

(Thousands of United States dollars/number of posts)

	2018 expenditure	2019 appropriation	Change				2020 estimate (before recosting)
			Technical adjustments	New/expanded mandates	Other	Total Percentage	
Financial resources by main category of expenditure							
Post	1 220.1	1 358.1	–	–	–	–	1 358.1
Non-post	24.3	21.6	–	–	(1.5)	(1.5)	20.1
Total	1 244.3	1 379.7	–	–	(1.5)	(1.5)	1 378.2
Post resources by category							
Professional and higher		5	–	–	–	–	5
General Service and related		3	–	–	–	–	3
Total		8	–	–	–	–	8

Figure 20.XX
Subprogramme 7: distribution of proposed resources for 2020 (before recosting)

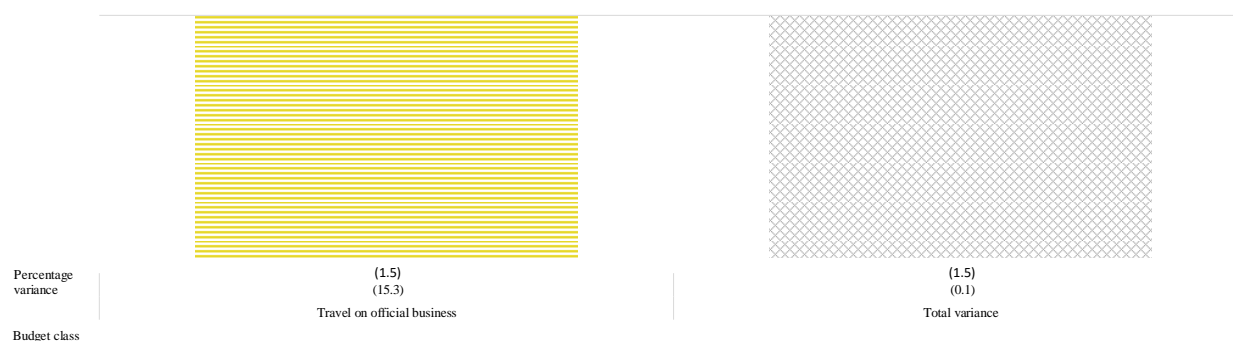
(Number of posts/thousands of United States dollars)



Abbreviations: GS (OL), General Service (Other level); GS (PL), General Service (Principal level).

Figure 20.XXI
Subprogramme 7: variance between proposed resources for 2020 and appropriation for 2019, by budget class

(Thousands of United States dollars)



20.134 The variance of \$1,500 reflects the reduction proposed under travel on official business.

20.135 The subprogramme is supported by extrabudgetary resources estimated at \$388,100, as reflected in table 20.9. The resources would provide for direct support for the implementation of the forestry and timber subprogramme. The decrease of \$353,400 compared with the estimate for 2019 reflects the known and anticipated contributions for existing and ongoing projects for 2020.

Subprogramme 8 Housing, land management and population

20.136 The proposed regular budget resources for 2020 amount to \$943,500 and reflect a net decrease of \$126,500 compared with the appropriation for 2019. Additional details are provided in table 20.22 and figures 20.XXII and 20.XXIII.

Table 20.22

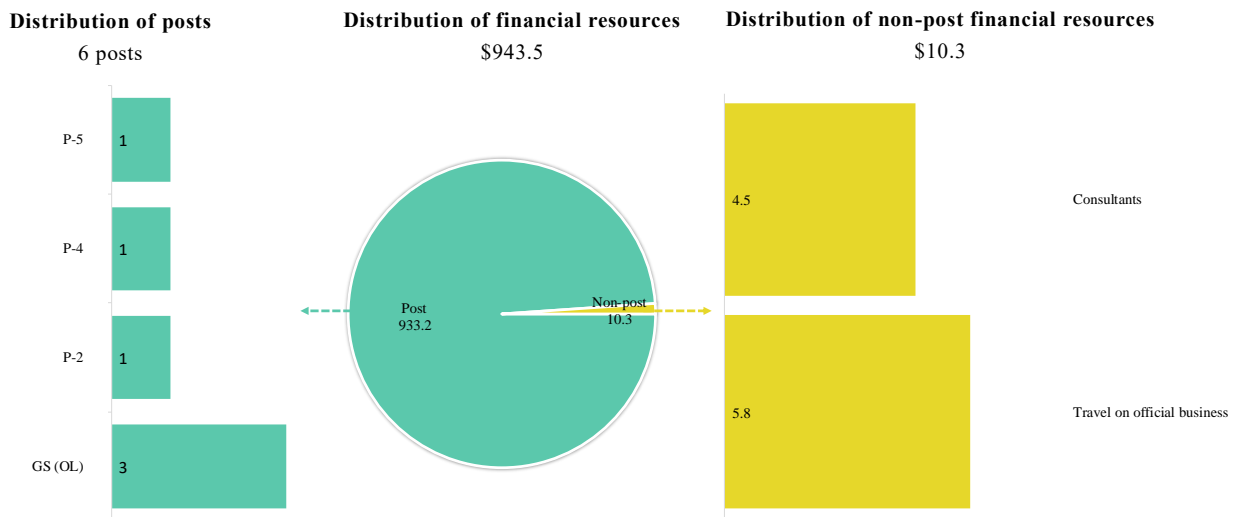
Subprogramme 8: evolution of financial and post resources

(Thousands of United States dollars/number of posts)

	2018 expenditure	2019 appropriation	Change					2020 estimate (before recosting)
			Technical adjustments	New/expanded mandates	Other	Total	Percentage	
Financial resources by main category of expenditure								
Post	1 149.1	1 058.8	–	–	(125.6)	(125.6)	(11.9)	933.2
Non-post	18.0	11.2	–	–	(0.9)	(0.9)	(8.0)	10.3
Total	1 167.1	1 070.0	–	–	(126.5)	(126.5)	(11.8)	943.5
Post resources by category								
Professional and higher		4	–	–	(1)	(1)	(25.0)	3
General Service and related		3	–	–	–	–	–	3
Total		7	–	–	(1)	(1)	(14.3)	6

Figure 20.XXII
Subprogramme 8: distribution of proposed resources for 2020 (before recosting)

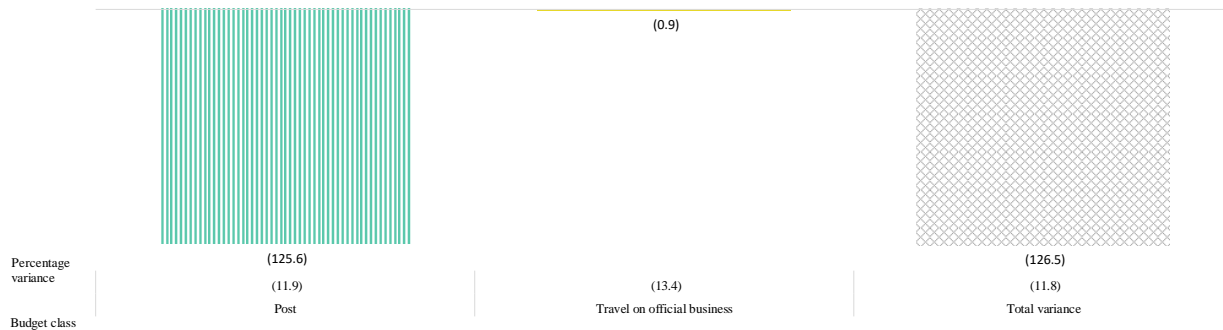
(Number of posts/thousands of United States dollars)



Abbreviation: GS (OL), General Service (Other level).

Figure 20.XXIII
Subprogramme 8: variance between proposed resources for 2020 and appropriation for 2019, by budget class

(Thousands of United States dollars)



20.137 The variance of \$126,500 relates to: (a) a reduction of \$125,600 due to the proposed abolition of an Associate Population Officer (P-2) in the population unit of the subprogramme, the functions of which would be absorbed within existing resources; and (b) a reduction of \$900 in proposed resources for travel on official business.

20.138 The subprogramme is supported by extrabudgetary resources estimated at \$155,100. The resources would provide support for the implementation of the housing, land management and population subprogramme. The decrease of \$493,500 compared with the estimate for 2019 is due to the completion of several projects in 2019 and the known and anticipated contributions in 2020.

Programme support

20.139 The programme support component comprises the Executive Office and the Information Systems Unit. The functions of the subcomponents under programme support are as follows:

- (a) The Executive Office is responsible for the coordination, management and provision of general administrative services, including the coordination, drafting and promulgation of all administrative policies; travel management; enterprise application coordination and management (including Umoja); office space management; organization of procurement activities; human resources management, including implementation of the gender policy, staff selection and training, staff performance management, management of the ECE intern programme, management of consultants and individual contractors, staff welfare and information, management of work schedules and flexible work arrangements; financial and budgetary management and performance reporting, including financial processing and support, management of the ECE grants programme, coordination of budget preparation and submission and support in the coordination of audits conducted by the Office of Internal Oversight Services and external audits, telecommunications expenditure control and other planning and coordination of the ECE secretariat as a whole. In addition to the functions set out in section 7 of Secretary-General's bulletin [ST/SGB/1997/5](#), as amended by [ST/SGB/2002/11](#), the Executive Office ensures that all United Nations regulations, rules, policies and procedures of the Organization pertaining to administrative and management matters are followed. As from 1 January 2019, the Executive Office has absorbed additional control functions related to the delegation of authority granted by the Secretary-General to heads of entity;
- (b) The Information Systems Unit ensures that information and communications technology (ICT) systems and services are provided, managed and aligned in support of effective delivery of the ECE programme of work and mandates. The Unit provides management of ICT projects and ensures the analysis and identification of ICT solutions and services for specific systems and applications for ECE subprogrammes. The Unit manages ICT resources and services in line with United Nations policies as set out in the global information and communications technology strategy, endorsed by the General Assembly in its resolution [69/262](#), and related ICT standards and requirements, including architecture, policies, procedures, planning and coordination of all ICT resources. It also liaises with service providers and collaborates with other United Nations entities on matters pertaining to information technology and ensures the effective and efficient capture, storage and dissemination of the organizational knowledge of ECE.

20.140 The proposed regular budget resources for 2020 amount to \$3,115,900 and reflect a net increase of \$189,900 compared with the appropriation for 2019. Additional details are provided in figures 20.XXIV to 20.XVI and table 20.23.

Figure 20.XXIV

Resources for programme support as a percentage of the overall regular budget resources

(Millions of United States dollars)

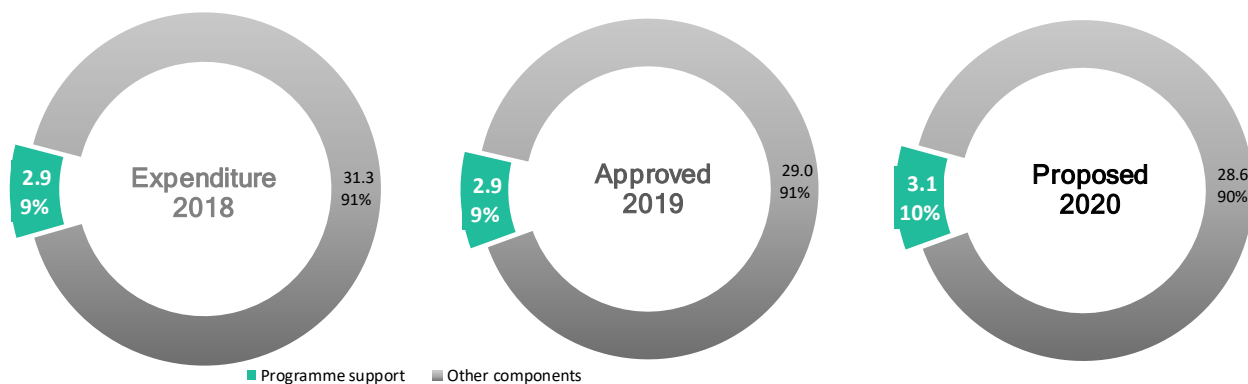


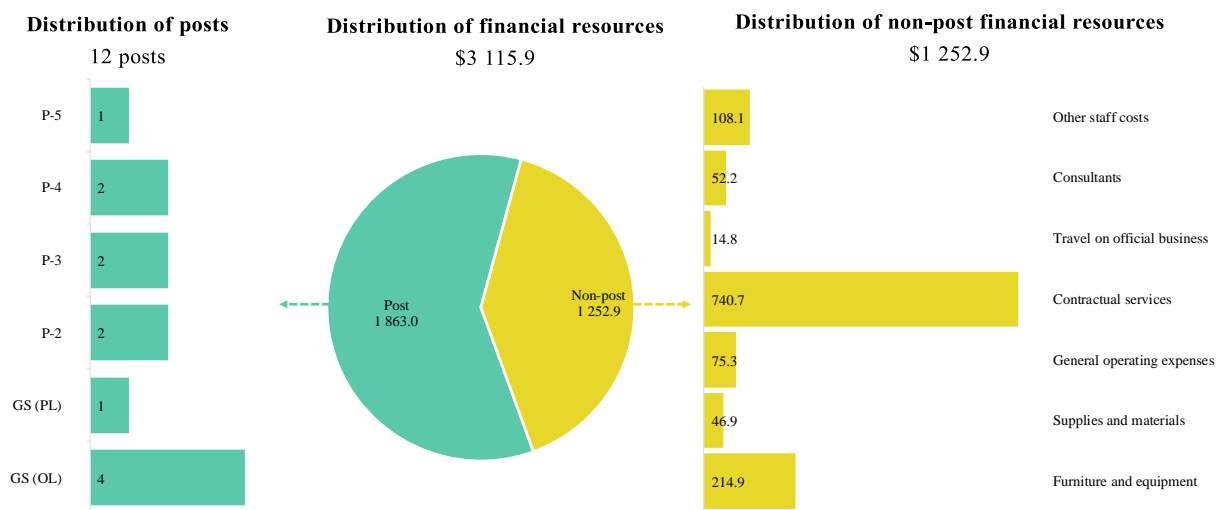
Table 20.23
Programme support: evolution of financial and post resources

(Thousands of United States dollars/number of posts)

	2018 expenditure	2019 appropriation	Change				2020 estimate (before recosting)	
			Technical adjustments	New/expanded mandates	Other	Total		
Financial resources by main category of expenditure								
Post	1 806.1	1 670.5	–	–	192.5	192.5	11.5	1 863.0
Non-post	1 102.9	1 255.5	–	–	(2.6)	(2.6)	(0.2)	1 252.9
Total	2 908.9	2 926.0	–	–	189.9	189.9	6.5	3 115.9
Post resources by category								
Professional and higher		6	–	–	1	1	16.7	7
General Service and related		5	–	–	–	–	–	5
Total		11	–	–	1	1	9.1	12

Figure 20.XXV
Programme support: distribution of proposed resources for 2020 (before recosting)

(Number of posts/thousands of United States dollars)



Abbreviations: GS (OL), General Service (Other level); GS (PL), General Service (Principal level).

Figure 20.XXVI
Programme support: variance between proposed resources for 2020 and appropriation for 2019, by budget class

(Thousands of United States dollars)

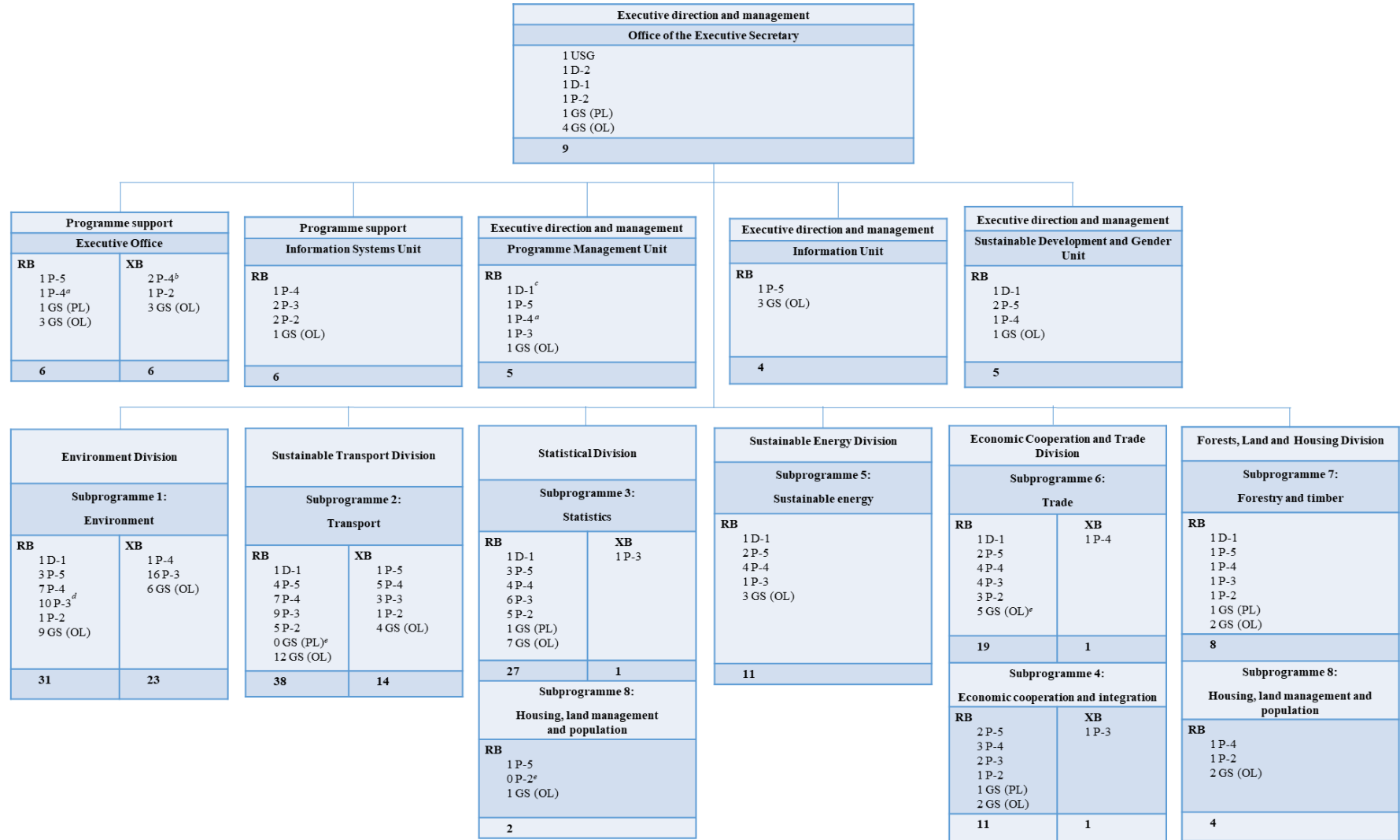


20.141 The variance of \$189,900 reflects an increase of \$192,500 under post resources owing to the inward redeployment of a post of Programme Management Officer (P-4) from the Programme Management Unit under the executive direction and management component to the Executive Office under the programme support component. The post will strengthen the implementation of the annual budget process as well as financial monitoring, performance reporting and control of the regular budget. In addition, under the newly adopted framework for the delegation of authority to heads of entity, reinforcement of budgetary and financial management oversight and control will be required. The post will absorb the functions of the Senior Administrative Assistant (General Service (Principal level)) proposed for abolishment under subprogramme 2. The increase is partially offset by a reduction in proposed resources for travel on official business (\$2,700) and a reduction in proposed resources for consultants (\$300).

20.142 The programme support component is supported by extrabudgetary resources estimated at \$1,613,800, as reflected in table 20.9. The resources would support the Executive Office in exercising the authority delegated to it for providing administrative backstopping, general temporary assistance and other services provided by the United Nations Office at Geneva covered under the current service-level agreement related to the extrabudgetary activities of ECE, as well as in the continued implementation of Umoja and other corporate initiatives. The increase of \$228,400 is due mainly to an amount received to cover an additional extrabudgetary post at the P-4 level.

Annex I

Organizational structure and post distribution for 2020



(Footnotes on following page)

(Footnotes to annex I)

Note: regular budget posts: 186; extrabudgetary posts: 46; total posts: 232.

Abbreviations: GS (OL), General Service (Other level); GS (PL), General Service (Principal level); RB, regular budget; USG, Under-Secretary-General; XB, extrabudgetary.

^a Redeployment of 1 P-4 post from the Programme Management Unit, executive direction and management component, to the Executive Office, programme support component.

^b Establishment of 1 extrabudgetary P-4 post under programme support.

^c Establishment of 1 D-1 post in the Programme Management Unit, executive direction and management component.

^d One P-3 post is based in Almaty.

^e Abolishment of 1 General Service (Principal level) post in subprogramme 2, Transport; 1 General Service (Other level) post in subprogramme 6, Trade; and 1 P-2 post in subprogramme 8, Housing, land management and population.

Annex II

Summary of proposed changes in established and temporary posts by component and subprogramme

<i>Component/subprogramme</i>	<i>Posts</i>	<i>Level</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Reason for change</i>
Executive direction and management	(1)	P-4	Redeployment of a post of Programme Management Officer to the Executive Office	To strengthen the implementation of the annual budget process along with financial monitoring, performance reporting and control of the regular budget. In addition, under the newly adopted framework for the delegation of authority to heads of entity, reinforcement of budgetary and financial management oversight and control will be required. The post will absorb the functions of the Senior Administrative Assistant proposed for abolishment in subprogramme 2
	1	D-1	Establishment of a post of Chief of Service under programme management	To strengthen the overall coordination and implementation of the ECE programme of work by merging the functions relating to strategy, programme management, oversight, enterprise risk management and coordination of the ECE technical cooperation programme in one organizational unit. ECE abolished the D-1 post of Chief of Service in 2018 on the basis that some functions of the Programme Management Unit could be absorbed by other senior staff in the executive direction and management component. A review conducted after one year of experience showed that the execution of those functions by a senior specialist in programme management resulted in greater efficiency and effectiveness
Transport	(1)	GS (PL)	Abolishment of a post of Senior Administrative Assistant	Reflects the redistribution of work and the use of technology to streamline work processes
Trade	(1)	GS (OL)	Abolishment of a post of Team Assistant	The functions will be absorbed within the existing resources of the subprogramme
Housing, land management and population	(1)	P-2	Abolishment of a post of Associate Population Affairs Officer	The functions will be absorbed within the existing resources of the subprogramme
Programme support	1	P-4	Redeployment of a post of Programme Management Officer from the executive direction and management component	To strengthen the implementation of the annual budget process, as well as financial monitoring, performance reporting and control of the regular budget. In addition, under the newly adopted framework for the delegation of authority to heads of entity, reinforcement of budgetary and financial management oversight and control will be required
Total	(2)			

Abbreviations: GS (OL), General Service (Other level); GS (PL), General Service (Principal level).