



**Economic and Social
Council**

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ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

Sixty-first session
(21-23 February 2006)

PROVISIONAL AGENDA FOR THE SIXTY-FIRST SESSION^{1 2}

To be held in the Palais des Nations, Geneva,
starting at 10 a.m. on 21 February 2006

1. Adoption of the Agenda

HIGH LEVEL POLICY SEGMENT

2. UNECE Reform – the way forward
3. The economic context for UNECE Reform: challenges, policy responses and the role of the UNECE

GENERAL SEGMENT

4. Preparation of the Strategic Framework for 2008-2009
5. Technical cooperation activities of the UNECE

¹ New accreditation procedures have been introduced for all delegates attending meetings held at the Palais des Nations. All delegates are therefore requested to complete the attached registration form also available from the Internet Web site (<http://www.unece.org/>) and to transmit it to the UNECE secretariat, at the latest two weeks prior to the session, either by fax (+41 22 917 0566) or by e-mail (kathryn.maissen@unece.org). Prior to the session, delegates (with the exception of delegates from the Geneva-based Missions) are requested to present themselves with a valid identification card/passport at the Pass and Identification Unit of the UNOG Security and Safety Section, located at the Villa Les Feuillantines, 13, Avenue de la Paix (a map is attached) for the issuance of an identification badge. In case of difficulty, please contact by telephone the UNECE secretariat (+41 22 917 1232).

² Late submission since this document could only be completed after adoption of the UNECE Reform on 2 December 2005.

6. Progress report on specific issues
 - (a) UNECE contribution to CSD cycles
 - (b) Promotion of ICT in UNECE work
7. Election of Officers
8. Other business
9. Adoption of the Report.

ANNOTATIONS

Item 1: Adoption of the Agenda

Opening, adoption of the agenda and remarks by the Chair and the Executive Secretary.

HIGH LEVEL POLICY SEGMENT

Item 2: UNECE Reform – the way forward:

- (a) Adoption of the Terms of Reference and Rules of Procedure of the Executive Committee and Adoption of Revised Terms of Reference and Rules of Procedure of the Commission;
- (b) Implementation of the Reform;
- (c) Linkages between the UNECE Reform and the Global United Nations Reform;
- (d) Organizational changes in the secretariat.

Under sub-item (a) it is proposed that the Commission adopt the Terms of Reference and Rules of Procedure for the Executive Committee as called for in the Work Plan on UNECE Reform adopted by member States on 2 December 2005. It is also proposed that the Commission adopt revised Terms of Reference and Rules of Procedure for the Commission.

Under sub-item (b) the Commission will discuss, with the participation of the Chairs of the Sectoral Committees, the implementation of the Work Plan on Reform, including cooperation with partner organizations. With regard to the latter, the Commission will, with the active participation of partner organizations, discuss how such cooperation can be strengthened or re-launched as necessary. Chairs of the Sectoral Committees will also be invited to report on the upcoming challenges confronting their Committees as well as to highlight major achievements.

Under sub-item (c), information will be provided regarding the global UN reform and its linkages with UNECE reform.

Under sub-item (d), the secretariat would be invited to update the Commission on the implementation of the reform within the secretariat.

Documentation: two background documents

Item 3: The economic context for UNECE Reform: challenges, policy responses and the role of the UNECE

The Work Plan on UNECE Reform states that the UNECE facilitates greater economic integration and cooperation among its fifty-five member States and promotes sustainable development and economic prosperity through its various activities.

In line with the above, debate under this item will focus on how member States view the challenges to achieving sustained growth and how they see the UNECE, in cooperation with

other relevant organizations, supporting member States' economic policies. In particular, the debate should aim to identify specific areas of policy where UNECE can contribute along the main directions established by the Reform

This item will be supported by a synthesis of the UNECE publication on the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals in the UNECE Region and a conference room paper.

Documentation: background document and conference room paper

GENERAL SEGMENT

Item 4: Preparation of the Strategic Framework for 2008-2009

As indicated in document A/60/430 on the implementation of decisions from the 2005 World Summit Outcome for action by the Secretary-General, the preparation of the proposed strategic framework for 2008-2009 for the Organization will be initiated by the Secretary-General subsequent to the General Assembly's review of all mandates older than five years. The proposed strategic framework for the Organization as a whole will then be submitted to the Committee for Programme and Coordination in August/September 2006 so that its recommendations may be presented to the Assembly at its sixty-first session. The anticipated deadline for the submission of UNECE's proposed strategic framework to the Secretary-General is end-March 2006.

In line with the above, the Commission is invited to review and comment on the UNECE draft strategic framework, in compliance with the programme planning process adopted by the Commission at its Annual Session in February 2005. In this connection it is recalled that the first draft of UNECE's strategic framework (Biennial Programme Plan) for a given biennium is to be prepared by the secretariat, revised as appropriate on the basis of comments received from the Sectoral Committees in respect of their respective sub-programmes and then submitted to the Group of Experts on the Programme of Work for review and comments. Thereafter, as indicated above, the Commission reviews and comments the draft.

Under this item, the Chair of the Group of Experts will also provide information concerning the work of the Group of Experts since the sixtieth session.

Documentation: background document and conference room paper

Item 5: Technical cooperation activities of the UNECE

Discussion under this item will be supported by a background document that provides information on the technical cooperation activities undertaken by the UNECE during the inter-sessional period, including joint projects carried out with other organizations.

The document will also update the Commission on efforts taken to have the UNECE included on the OECD's "DAC list of Main International Organizations" since only contributions to the Organizations contained on this list are reportable as the Official Development Assistance (ODA) or the Official Assistance (OA).

Documentation: Background document

Item 6: Progress report on specific issues

(a) UNECE contribution to CSD cycles

The Second UNECE Regional Implementation Meeting on Sustainable Development was held on 15-16 December 2005. The outcome was a Chairman's Summary that focused on particular obstacles encountered and major breakthroughs made in the implementation of partnerships, actions and measures related to the priority clusters (Energy for Sustainable Development, Industrial Development, Air Pollution/Atmosphere and Climate Change) and cross-cutting issues. The inclusion of this item will permit member States to reflect on the Meeting and extract lessons learned, as well as to be updated on preparations for the upcoming April 2006 session of the Commission on Sustainable Development.

Documentation: Background document

(b) Promotion of ICT in UNECE work

At its sixtieth session, the Commission agreed that the UNECE should promote the use of ICT in the UNECE work programme with the aim of increasing its efficiency and efficacy on a demand-driven basis. The Commission encouraged Principal Subsidiary Bodies to further strengthen their efforts to develop and use appropriate e-applications in a cost-efficient manner and agreed to evaluate progress that had been made at the sixty-first Annual Session.

Documentation: background document

Item 7: Election of Officers

Item 8: Other business

Item 9: Adoption of the Report.

TENTATIVE TIMETABLE*

Tuesday, 21 February 2006	
<u>OPENING</u>	
10 a.m. - 10.45 a.m.	Introductory remarks by the Chairperson and the Executive Secretary and Adoption of Agenda
<u>HIGH LEVEL POLICY SEGMENT</u>	
10.45 a.m. - 1 p.m. 3 p.m. - 6 p.m.	Item 2(b): Implementation of the Reform: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion on implementation of the reform by the Sectoral Committees • Cooperation with partner organizations • Achievements and challenges: Reporting by the Sectoral Committees
<u>GENERAL SEGMENT</u>	
Wednesday, 22 February 2006	
10 a.m. - 11.30 a.m.	Item 2(a): Adoption of the Terms of Reference and Rules of Procedure of the Executive Committee and Adoption of Revised Terms of Reference and Rules of Procedure of the Commission
11.30 a.m. - 1 p.m.	Item 2(c): Linkages between the UNECE Reform and the Global UN Reform
3 p.m. - 4 p.m.	Item 2(d): Organizational changes in the secretariat
4 p.m. - 6 p.m.	Item 3: The economic context for UNECE Reform: challenges, policy responses and the role of the UNECE
Thursday, 23 February	
10 a.m. - 11 a.m.	Item 4: Preparation of the Strategic Framework for 2008-2009
11 a.m. - 12 p.m.	Item 5: Technical cooperation activities of the UNECE
12 p.m. - 1 p.m.	Item 6: Progress report on specific issues <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) UNECE contribution to CSD cycles (b) Promotion of ICT in UNECE work
3 p.m. - 3.30 p.m.	Item 7: Election of Officers
3.30 p.m. - 3.45 p.m.	Item 8: Other Business
3.45 p.m. - 5.30 p.m.	<i>Suspension of meeting to consider draft report</i>
5.30 p.m. - 6 p.m.	Item 9: Adoption of the Report

* Indicative only. As in the past, the times will be adjusted as necessary during the session.



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