



**Economic and Social
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ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

Sixty-third session
Geneva, 30 March-1 April 2009

ANNOTATED PROVISIONAL AGENDA FOR THE SIXTY-THIRD SESSION¹

to be held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva,
starting at 10 a.m. on 30 March 2009

I. PROVISIONAL AGENDA

1. Adoption of the Agenda

HIGH-LEVEL SEGMENT

2. Economic development in the ECE region
3. Climate change mitigation and adaptation – the work of ECE:
translating global objectives and commitments into regional results

¹ All delegates are requested to complete the registration form available from the Internet website (<http://www.unece.org>) and to transmit it to the ECE secretariat, at the latest two weeks prior to the session, either by fax (+41 (0)22 917 0566) or by e-mail (info.ece@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 Pregny Gate, Avenue de la Paix for the issuance of an identification badge. In case of difficulty, please contact the ECE secretariat by telephone at +41 (0)22 917 1316.

GENERAL SEGMENT

4. Review of the ECE reform
5. Reform of the “Environment for Europe” process
6. Other issues calling for action by the Commission
7. Election of Officers
8. Other business
9. Adoption of the Report

II. ANNOTATIONS TO THE PROVISIONAL AGENDA

Item 1: Adoption of the Agenda

HIGH-LEVEL SEGMENT

Item 2: Economic development in the ECE region

1. The Work Plan on ECE Reform states that the Commission provides for a policy dialogue at high level on economic development for the region. Accordingly, debate under this item could discuss the fundamental economic challenges facing the region including, inter alia, a discussion of the fall-out for the region from the financial crisis and its possible impact on the work of ECE, as well as other relevant issues.

Item 3: Climate change mitigation and adaptation – the work of ECE: translating global objectives and commitments into regional results

2. The challenges of climate change are immense. Discussion under this item will highlight the concrete work done by ECE and its impact on climate change mitigation. The guidance of the Commission will be sought regarding next steps, taking into account the United Nations system’s framework for addressing climate change and global initiatives. Discussion under this item will be supported by a note by the secretariat (E/ECE/1450).

GENERAL SEGMENT

Item 4: Review of the ECE reform

3. The Work Plan on ECE Reform provides that the Commission will, at its 2009 session, review the reform of ECE. Discussion under this item will be supported by a note by the secretariat (E/ECE/1451).

Item 5: Reform of the “Environment for Europe” process

4. At the Sixth Ministerial Conference “Environment for Europe” that took place in Belgrade (Serbia) on 10-12 October 2007, ministers agreed to undertake a reform of the “Environment for Europe” (EfE) process in order to ensure that the process remains relevant and valuable, and to strengthen its effectiveness as a mechanism for improving environmental quality and the lives of people across the region. Ministers invited the Committee on Environmental Policy to develop by the end of 2008, in consultation with EfE partners, a plan for EfE reform so that it could be endorsed, at a political level, by the Commission at its sixty-third session in spring 2009.

5. In view of this decision, the Committee developed a draft “Environment for Europe” reform plan at its special session (13-15 October 2008) and decided to hold an additional special session in January 2009 to finalize the plan, with a view to approving it and submitting it to the Commission for endorsement. The Commission will therefore have before it the finalized plan as contained in ECE/CEP/2009/S/1/Rev.1 (which will reflect any changes made by the Committee at its special session in January).

Item 6: Other issues calling for action by the Commission

6. The Commission will be asked to approve the holding of ECE’s Fourth Regional Implementation Meeting for Sustainable Development, in preparation for the eighteenth session of the Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD-18) in April/May 2010.

7. Discussion under this item will be supported by a background document (E/ECE/1452.)

Item 7: Election of Officers

8. The Work Plan on ECE Reform states that the Commission is chaired by the representative of the country elected by the Commission for the period of the biennium. The chair is assisted by two vice-chairs who will be representatives of two countries elected at the same session. Accordingly, under this item, elections for the Chair and Vice-Chairs for a period of two years will be held.

Item 8: Other business

Item 9: Adoption of the Report
