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Economic Commission for Europe

Committee on Innovation, Competitiveness and Public-Private Partnerships

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Item 6 (b) of the provisional agenda

Strategic Orientation for 2020

Draft Strategic Framework of the Economic Cooperation and Integration Subprogramme for 2020-2021

Note by the Secretariat*

Background

In December 2017, the 72nd session of the General Assembly (GA) adopted resolution A/72/266 “Shifting the management paradigm in the United Nations.” In this resolution, Member States approved the main elements of the Secretary-General’s budget reform proposals contained in his report “Shifting the management paradigm in the United Nations: improving and streamlining the programme planning and budgeting process” (A/72/492/Add.1).

In particular, the General Assembly approved the proposed change from a biennial to an annual budget period on a trial basis (beginning in 2020). The Proposed Programme Budget of the Organization will consist of the following three parts:

- (a) Part I: the plan outline, which presents the long-term priorities and the objectives of the Organization;
- (b) Part II: the programme plan for programmes and subprogrammes and programme performance information; and
- (c) Part III: the post and non-post resource requirements for the programmes and

* The document is submitted late because of the need to incorporate instructions on how to present this agenda item in light of the system-wide changes described in the above note. These instructions were received from the Programme Management Unit on 7 February.

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subprogrammes.

Part I will be prepared by the secretariat at UN Headquarters, and submitted to the General Assembly through the Committee for Programme and Coordination every 3 years. Parts II and III will be prepared by Secretariat Departments, including ECE, on an annual basis. They will be submitted to the GA through the Committee for Programme and Coordination (Part II) and the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (Part III).

The first annual programme plan and budget will be prepared for 2020. The UN Headquarters is presently developing the structure, template and guidance for the new approach.

In October 2017, as advised by the Headquarters, the secretariat prepared the draft Strategic Framework of subprogramme 4 Economic Cooperation and Integration for the biennium 2020-2021, which was later endorsed by the Bureau of the Committee. Given the decision of the GA, the Strategic Framework in its present form will not be finalised. However, its main elements will be included in the draft ECE programme plan and budget for 2020.

Taking into account that the next session of the Committee will take place in 2019, the Committee is invited to review and endorse the broad areas of work as contained in the draft Strategic Framework for 2020-2021 and provide its comments to the secretariat. The broad areas will be included in the revised document, which will be further consulted with the Bureau of the Committee at the end of 2018 and submitted to the Committee for Programme and Coordination and the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions for consideration at their sessions in 2019. Their recommendations therein will be transmitted to the General Assembly at its seventy-third session in 2019 when it considers the Secretary-General's proposed programme plan and budget for 2020.

Subprogramme 4

Economic cooperation and integration

Objective of the Organization: To improve a policy, financial and regulatory environment conducive to the sustained economic growth, innovative development and greater competitiveness of economies in the ECE region.

<i>Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat</i>	<i>Indicators of achievement</i>		<i>Performance measures</i>			
			<i>2020-2021</i>	<i>2018-2019</i>	<i>2016-2017</i>	<i>2014-2015</i>
(a) Improved international policy dialogue on promoting sustained economic growth, innovative development and greater competitiveness in the ECE region	(a) Number of new international best practices and standards resulting from policy dialogue among member States	Target	6	6	5	6
		Estimate		6	5	5
		Actual			7	6
(b) Improved understanding at the national level of policy options to promote sustained economic growth, innovative development and greater competitiveness	(b) Number of new national assessments and sets of tailored policy recommendations developed in cooperation with recipient member States	Target	4	4	-	-
		Estimate		4	-	-
		Actual			-	-
(c) 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	(c) Number of new measures taken by member States to implement ECE policy recommendations	Target	13	12	12	12
		Estimate		12	12	12
		Actual			13	14

Strategy

1. The Economic Cooperation and Trade Division is responsible for implementing the subprogramme.
2. The subprogramme will contribute to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development including the achievement of Sustainable Development Goals 8, 9, 12 and 17 related to innovation, competitiveness and public-private partnerships through:
 - (a) International policy dialogue promoting a financial and regulatory environment conducive to sustained economic growth, innovative development and greater

competitiveness, resulting in the identification of international good practices and, where appropriate, the development of international standards;

(b) Demand-driven national assessments of policy, financial and regulatory environments in the areas of the work of the subprogramme, resulting in tailored policy recommendations;

(c) Capacity-building and policy advice to support implementation of ECE policy recommendations and standards.

3. The subprogramme will focus on two complementary areas: (a) innovation and competitiveness policies; and (b) public-private partnerships for infrastructure development in areas such as roads, ports, water and waste management. The work on innovation and competitive policies will support sustainable economic growth, innovative development and competitiveness by promoting best practices in national innovation systems, innovation financing and the creation of a supportive business climate. The work on public-private partnerships will support the same objective by promoting innovative ways of financing, building and managing infrastructure critical for international competitiveness.

4. Policy dialogues will draw on the knowledge of national and international experts in order to identify a wide range of best practices. Implementation will be supported through the development of policy recommendations and standards based on the outcome of intergovernmental dialogue. Policy advisory services and capacity-building assistance will be demand-driven and focused on supporting the implementation of ECE policy recommendations and standards.

5. The subprogramme will draw upon the work of other relevant organizations and institutions operating in this field. It will strengthen partnerships with United Nations agencies, funds and programmes and national public-private partnership units in the region.

External factors

6. The subprogramme is expected to achieve its objective and expected accomplishments on the assumption that: (a) there is active participation and contribution by experts from Governments, academia and the private sector to expert group meetings and networks; (b) Governments are willing to engage in policy dialogue and take measures to implement policy recommendations and standards and (c) donor's support for capacity-building, advisory services and field projects is adequate.

Legislative mandates

Overall ECE legislative mandates

<i>General Assembly resolutions</i>	
66/288	The future we want
67/10	Cooperation between the United Nations and the Eurasian Economic Community
69/277	Political declaration on strengthening cooperation between the United Nations and regional and subregional organizations
69/313	Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development (Addis Ababa Action Agenda)

70/1	Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development
70/133	Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and full implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly
70/221	Operational activities for development of the United Nations system
71/10	Cooperation between the United Nations and the Commonwealth of Independent States
71/13	Cooperation between the United Nations and the Central European Initiative
71/14	Cooperation between the United Nations and the Shanghai Cooperation Organization
71/16	Cooperation between the United Nations and the Economic Cooperation Organization
71/18	Cooperation between the United Nations and the Black Sea Economic Cooperation Organization
71/162	Implementation of the outcome of the World Summit for Social Development and of the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly
71/212	Information and communications technologies for development
71/223	Implementation of Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 and the outcomes of the World Summit on Sustainable Development and of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development
71/226	Disaster risk reduction
71/228	Protection of global climate for present and future generations of humankind
71/233	Ensuring access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all
71/243	Quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system
71/244	South-South cooperation
71/283	Progress towards an accountability system in the United Nations Secretariat
<i>Economic and Social Council resolutions</i>	
2006/38	Workplan on reform of the Economic Commission for Europe and revised terms of reference of the Commission
2013/1	Outcome of the review of the 2005 Reform of the Economic Commission for Europe
2016/2	Mainstreaming a gender perspective into all policies and programmes in the United Nations system
<i>Economic Commission for Europe decisions</i>	

A (64)	The Work of the Economic Commission for Europe
A (65)	Outcome of the review of the 2005 reform of ECE
A (66)	Endorsement of the High-level statement on the post-2015 development agenda and expected sustainable development goals in the ECE region
A (67)	Adoption of the High-level statement
B (67)	Establishment of the Regional Forum on Sustainable Development

Legislative mandates specific to subprogrammes 4 Economic Cooperation and Integration

<i>General Assembly resolutions</i>	
70/184	Information and communications technologies for development
70/213	Science, technology and innovation for development
<i>Economic and Social Council decision</i>	
E/HLS/2013/1	Ministerial declaration of the 2013 high-level segment of the Economic and Social Council entitled "Science, technology and innovation, and the potential of culture, for promoting sustainable development and achieving the Millennium Development Goals"