

ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Ninety-first meeting
Geneva, 24 March 2017

Item 11(b)

Informal Document No. **2017/24**

**Interim procedure for approval of extra-budgetary projects
during the period from 25 March to 22 June 2017**

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As part of ECE reform in 2005, the Commission decided that “Any change in resources (both regular budget and extrabudgetary) materializing after the adoption of the programme budget by the General Assembly shall be presented to the Executive Committee for approval.” (para. 94, E/ECE/1434/Rev.1).

In the process of the review of the ECE Technical Cooperation Strategy, the Commission also decided: “The overall governance for technical cooperation activities is assured by the UNECE Executive Committee. The annual report that was regularly submitted to the annual session of the Commission shall now be submitted to the Executive Committee. In addition, as required by the UNECE reform, technical assistance extrabudgetary projects not already included in the programme budget are now reviewed by the Executive Committee.” (para. 14, E/ECE/1447/Add.2).

Furthermore, “In the framework of the Reform Review process, member States: (a) Agreed that the mobilization, allocation and use of extrabudgetary resources should be done in accordance with United Nations rules and procedures, in support of UNECE’s mandate and subject to EXCOM’s approval of extrabudgetary projects. To assure transparency and accountability on the use of these resources EXCOM should be informed, throughout the project cycle, of the use of resources and the concrete results achieved.” (ECE decision A (65)).

In accordance with above-mentioned decisions, the Secretariat, as described in [Directive 18](#) available at the OpenUNECE section of the website, routinely submits all extra-budgetary project proposals to the EXCOM for approval or information.

Taking into consideration the schedule for the EXCOM meetings for 2017, and mindful of three months gap between the meetings on 24 March and 23 June 2017 due to the 67th Session of the Commission (26-27 April 2017), the Secretariat recommends to establish an ad-hoc interim procedure for the approval of the extra-budgetary projects in order to avoid significant delay in implementation of the activities funded from extra-budgetary resources.

In line with the EXCOM’s role in reviewing and approval all extra-budgetary activities, the Secretariat puts forward the following proposed options for consideration:

- a) An ad-hoc interim EXCOM meeting would convene once in the period of April – May 2017 for the approval of extra-budgetary projects. A suitable date will be coordinated by the Secretary of the Commission; or
- b) An interim procedure would facilitate approval of the extrabudgetary projects by email circulation, a written Q&A period, and a non-objection procedure, to be managed by the Secretary of the Commission and undertaken once in the period of April – May 2017.

It is proposed that EXCOM would decide on the most suitable option at its forthcoming meeting on 24th March 2017.