

ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

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Item 9

Informal Document No. **2017/20**

**Modalities for the intergovernmental negotiations of the global compact for
safe, orderly and regular migration (A/71/L.58)**

**Background information and options on a possible consultation
on regional and sub-regional aspects of international migration
in response to draft General Assembly resolution A/71/L.58**

Note by the Secretariat

1. The present note provides background information and options on possible ECE actions in response to draft General Assembly resolution A/71/L.58, entitled “*Modalities for the intergovernmental negotiations of the global compact for safe, orderly and regular migration.*”

2. Draft resolution A/71/L.58 tasks the United Nations Secretariat and other relevant United Nations entities, including the regional economic commissions, to support the development of a global migration compact during the year 2017. In particular, under the terms of operative paragraphs 22(a) and 23 of this draft resolution, the General Assembly:

22. Calls upon the Secretary-General, in close consultation with the International Organization for Migration, to develop a workplan for Member States by March 2017 in order to make use of relevant processes, mechanisms and initiatives in the field of migration, and in this regard:

(a) *Requests the regional economic commissions, and invites their subregional offices, in collaboration with other relevant entities of the United Nations system, particularly the International Organization for Migration, to organize discussions among States Members of the United Nations and other relevant stakeholders to examine regional and subregional aspects of international migration and to provide inputs, in accordance with their respective mandates, for the preparatory process of the global compact;*

23. Decides that a preparatory meeting co-chaired by the co-facilitators will be held in Mexico in late November 2017 for the duration of three days and that it shall take stock of the inputs received as outlined in paragraphs 15 and 22, and in this regard invites participants to:

(a) present inputs from relevant processes outlined in paragraph 22 that have not been presented in the informal thematic sessions;

(b) engage in discussions and analyze the inputs received as they relate to facilitating safe, orderly and regular migration;

(c) discuss potential means of implementation, as well as follow up and review mechanisms for a global compact.

3. The ECE Strategic Framework for the biennium 2016-2017 and 2018-2019 includes General Assembly resolutions 67/219 and 69/229 “International migration and development” as ECE’s legislative mandates. However, in practice ECE involvement in migration issues is limited and concerns mainly the work under the Conference of European Statisticians (CES) to support national statistical systems in their efforts to collect information on migrants. In addition, ECE also supports its member countries in developing policy measures to assist older migrants to sustain economic and health security and ensure their integration and equal participation in society, as agreed in the ECE Regional Implementation Strategy for the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing (MIPAA, 2002) and reaffirmed in the 2012 Vienna Ministerial Declaration “Ensuring a society for all ages: promoting quality of life and active ageing”.

4. Paragraph 22 (a) of draft resolution A/71/L.58 asks for ‘*providing inputs, in accordance with their respective mandates*’. The ECE secretariat initially was of the view that, different from the other regional commissions, ECE does not have such a mandate on issues to be addressed in the Global Compact and thus will not be obliged to organize a regional consultation. Therefore, unlike other regional commissions, ECE did not submit a PBI requesting additional resources for the organisation of such a meeting.

5. In the meantime, ECE was advised by headquarters that resolution A/71/L.58, once adopted, will provide a mandate to ECE, that the deadline for submitting a PBI has expired, and that ECE will therefore have to find a way to organize a regional consultation within existing resources.

6. In accordance with the outcome of the review of the 2005 ECE reform, the secretariat is presenting this information to EXCOM to seek advice on the possible way forward.

7. The secretariat has explored different options on how to organize discussions among Member States of the United Nations and other relevant stakeholders to examine regional and subregional aspects of international migration and present the outcome of this consultation to the preparatory meeting to be held in Mexico in late November 2017:

(a) **A full-fledged consultation in collaboration with other partners of the UN system in the region:** ECE does not have the necessary human or financial resources to organize such a consultation. There is no substantive expertise in ECE regarding the issues to be addressed in the Global Compact. There is no free capacity in the secretariat for the organisational and logistical work required for a self-standing multi-stakeholder meeting. The secretariat has estimated that the total additional requirements under the ECE programme budget for 2016-2017 related to the implementation of draft resolution A/71/L.58 would amount to about 158'000\$, inclusive of programme support costs. These extra-budgetary resources would be required for substantive support (GTA, consultant), travel support to a number of member States and conference servicing.

A self-standing meeting might, however, carry the risk of duplicating existing regional processes on migration or of generating inconsistent inputs from our region into the global process.

(b) **A smaller meeting, which could take the form, for example, of an extended session of EXCOM open to the participation of other stakeholders,** in particular the relevant organisations of the regional UN system: The meeting could build on the 7th Global Regional Consultative Processes Meeting (GRCP) organized by IOM on 10-11 October 2017 in Geneva. The relevant outcomes of this meeting could be turned into a background document for the special session of EXCOM and provide the basis for the discussions. An expert of IOM could participate in the EXCOM meeting. The summary of the EXCOM discussions would then constitute the input for the preparatory meeting in Mexico. Additional resources might be required to hire a consultant assisting with the substantive preparations in coordination with IOM.

With one process (IOM GRCP) feeding into another, this option would avoid the risk of duplication or inconsistent messages described under option a).

8. Independent from the option chosen, the ECE meeting could take place in the first week of November.

9. EXCOM is invited to consider these options and provide guidance to the secretariat regarding the request made to regional commissions in draft General Assembly resolution A/71/L.58.
