Subject to its approval EXCOM is invited to submit the below draft decision to the sixty-eighth session of the Commission for consideration under agenda item 6 “Other issues calling for decision by the Commission.”
Draft decision of the Economic Commission for Europe on the extension of the mandate to convene the Regional Forum on Sustainable Development

The Economic Commission for Europe,

Recalling its decision B(67) to establish the Regional Forum on Sustainable Development for the region of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe,

Reaffirming the provisions contained therein on the role, objectives and format of the Regional Forum,

Noting with appreciation the successful organization of the previous sessions of the Regional Forum as a platform for peer learning and the exchange of policy experiences and good practices in the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals,

1. Decides to continue to convene annual sessions of the Regional Forum in the years 2020 and 2021, in close cooperation with the entities of the regional United Nations system and with the active engagement of other relevant stakeholders;

2. Requests the secretariat to develop the agenda of each session of the Regional Forum in close consultation with member States, and to align it with the respective themes and programme of work of the high-level political forum on sustainable development under the auspices of ECOSOC, with a focus on those aspects that are particularly relevant to the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) region, and taking into account lessons learned from previous meetings;

3. Also requests the secretariat to publish a yearly report on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in the ECE region to support the discussions at the sessions of the Regional Forum, with a focus on the Sustainable Development Goals under review by the high-level political forum for sustainable development that year, using existing data sets and statistics;

4. Decides to keep the Regional Forum aligned with the overall follow-up and review process of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development at the global level, taking into account the outcomes of the meeting of the high-level political forum on sustainable development to be convened under the auspices of the General Assembly on 24 and 25 September 2019;

5. Also decides to submit the outcome of the sessions of the Regional Forum to the high-level political forum on sustainable development under the auspices of ECOSOC, as part of the regional contributions to the global follow-up and review process of the 2030 Agenda;

6. Requests the secretariat to prepare in 2021 an evaluation of the added value of the Regional Forum for UNECE member States so far and identify possible improvements;

7. Further decides to review the present decision at its sixty-ninth session.