



Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
8 July 2025

Original: English

2025 session

25 July 2024–30 July 2025

Agenda item 16

Regional cooperation

Regional cooperation in the economic, social and related fields

Report of the Secretary-General

Addendum

Matters calling for action by the Economic and Social Council or brought to its attention: Economic Commission for Africa, Economic Commission for Europe, Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean and Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

Summary

The present addendum to the report of the Secretary-General on regional cooperation in the economic, social and related fields contains the draft resolutions recommended by the Economic Commission for Africa, the Economic Commission for Europe, the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean and the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific for adoption by the Economic and Social Council, as well as information on the resolutions and decisions adopted by the Commissions in 2024 and 2025, which are brought to the attention of the Council. On 7 July 2025, the Bureau of the Economic Commission for Africa Conference of Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development at its fifty-seventh session met in Addis Ababa and decided to defer the submission of Commission resolution [2025/1](#) for consideration by the Economic and Social Council. The present addendum has been revised on the basis of that decision.



I. Matters calling for action by the Economic and Social Council

A. Economic Commission for Africa

1. At its fifty-seventh session, held in Addis Ababa on 17 and 18 March 2025, the Economic Commission for Africa adopted decision 2025/100, on the basis of which the following draft resolution is submitted for action by the Economic and Social Council:

Draft resolution

Venue and theme of the fifty-eighth session of the Economic Commission for Africa

The Economic and Social Council,

Taking note of decision 2025/100 of 18 March 2025 adopted by the Economic Commission for Africa Conference of African Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development, by which the Commission recommended that its fifty-eighth session be held in Morocco in 2026,

Expressing its gratitude to the Government of Morocco for its generous offer to host the session,

Approves the holding of the fifty-eighth session of the Economic Commission for Africa in Morocco under the theme “Growth through innovation: harnessing data and frontier technologies for the economic transformation of Africa”.

B. Economic Commission for Europe

2. At its seventy-first session, held in Geneva on 9 and 10 April 2025, the Economic Commission for Europe adopted decisions C (71), D (71) and E (71), on the basis of which the following draft resolutions are submitted for action by the Economic and Social Council:

Draft resolution I

Strengthening the United Nations Forum of Mayors

The Economic and Social Council,

Noting the adoption by the Economic Commission for Europe at its seventy-first session, held in Geneva on 9 and 10 April 2025, of decision C (71) on strengthening the United Nations Forum of Mayors,

Endorses Economic Commission for Europe decision C (71), annexed to the present resolution, and requests the Secretary-General to strengthen the secretariat resources and establish dedicated new additional capacities to support the Forum of Mayors with a view to advancing the effective implementation of the mandate of the Committee on Urban Development, Housing and Land Management of the Commission.

Annex

Decision C (71)

Strengthening the United Nations Forum of Mayors

The Economic Commission for Europe,

Recalling decisions ECE/EX/2023/L.4 and ECE/EX/2024/L.16 of the Executive Committee of the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) to establish and extend the Forum of Mayors as a subsidiary body of the Committee on Urban Development, Housing and Land Management, in the form of a team of specialists of a standing nature, to be convened annually, in Geneva, immediately prior to the Committee session,

Noting the unique nature of the Forum of Mayors as a United Nations body for enhancing coherence and complementarity between the local, regional and global levels in the furtherance of a stronger, more networked and inclusive multilateral system,

Recognizing the existence of other relevant United Nations and other international processes addressing urban issues and the importance of cooperating with them,

Taking note of the Pact for the Future,

Acknowledging that the organization of the meetings of the Forum of Mayors requires adequate funding,

1. *Requests* the Secretary-General to strengthen the secretariat resources and establish dedicated new additional capacities to support the Forum of Mayors;
2. *Decides* to transmit to the Economic and Social Council at its session of 2025 a draft resolution on this issue for consideration and possible adoption.

Draft resolution II

Strengthening integration of statistics and geography

The Economic and Social Council,

Noting the adoption by the Economic Commission for Europe at its seventy-first session, held in Geneva on 9 and 10 April 2025, of decision D (71) on strengthening integration of statistics and geography,

Endorses Economic Commission for Europe decision D (71), annexed to the present resolution, and requests the Secretary-General to strengthen interlinkages between the statistical and geospatial communities, and develop interoperability methodologies for integrating statistics/data and geography under the Statistics subprogramme of the Commission.

Annex

Decision D (71)

Strengthening integration of statistics and geography

The Economic Commission for Europe,

Considering Economic and Social Council resolution 2011/24 on establishing the United Nations Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management (UN-GGIM), and resolutions [2016/27](#) on strengthening institutional arrangements on geospatial information management and [2022/24](#) on enhancing global geospatial information management arrangements,

Noting, at its seventy-first session, the critical importance of geospatially referenced information for evidence-based decision-making,

Recalling that the regular budget support for the ECE Statistics subprogramme, including staffing, has remained unchanged for the past many years,

1. *Requests* the Secretary-General to strengthen the role of the ECE secretariat in strengthening interlinkages between the statistical and geospatial communities, and in developing interoperability methodologies for integrating statistics/data and geography under the Statistics subprogramme of ECE;

2. *Decides* to transmit to the Economic and Social Council a draft resolution on this issue for consideration and possible adoption.

Draft resolution III

Multilingualism in meetings under the Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes

The Economic and Social Council,

Noting the adoption by the Economic Commission for Europe at its seventy-first session, held in Geneva on 9 and 10 April 2025, of decision E (71) on multilingualism in meetings under the Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes,¹

Endorses Economic Commission for Europe decision E (71), annexed to the present resolution, and requests the Secretary-General to provide translation and interpretation services into Arabic, Chinese and Spanish, in addition to English, French and Russian, at future sessions of the Meeting of the Parties and other meetings under the Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes from the United Nations regular budget, including the translation of official documents and publications of the Convention into Arabic, Chinese and Spanish, in order to enable effective and equal participation by all Member States.

Annex

Decision E (71)

Multilingualism in meetings under the Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes

The Economic Commission for Europe,

Recognizing the significant progress made since the entry into force in 1996 of the Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes (Water Convention), which has provided a sound legal framework and an effective intergovernmental platform for the promotion of cooperation and the sustainable management of water resources at the basin, regional and international levels that are key for peaceful and sustainable development,

Recalling decision III/1² of the Meeting of the Parties to the Water Convention opening the Convention to accession by all United Nations Member States and its entry into force in 2013,

Welcoming the significant global interest in acceding to the Water Convention, which since 2018 counts 12 new Parties from Africa (Cameroon, Chad, Côte d'Ivoire,

¹ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1936, No. 33207.

² ECE/MP.WAT/14.

the Gambia, Ghana, Guinea-Bissau, Namibia, Nigeria, Senegal, Togo, Zambia, and Zimbabwe), one from Latin America (Panama) and one from the Middle East (Iraq),

Welcoming also the fact that more than 20 other countries are in the process of acceding to the Water Convention and should soon become Parties, including five Spanish-speaking countries and two Arabic-speaking countries,

Highlighting that, in addition to the current 55 Convention Parties, around 80 other countries take part in meetings and activities under the Convention, making a total of more than 130 participating United Nations Member States,

Emphasizing that the Convention offers the only United Nations intergovernmental framework for policy and technical discussions on the sustainable management of transboundary water resources, and that its platform and work are useful to all countries sharing water resources, not only to Parties,

Recalling multiple resolutions of the General Assembly on multilingualism, including resolutions [71/328](#), [73/346](#) and [76/268](#), which emphasize the paramount importance of the equality of the six official languages of the United Nations,

Noting the adoption, at the tenth session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Water Convention (Ljubljana, 23–25 October 2024), of Decision X/3 on promoting equal and effective participation of all Parties in sessions of the Meeting of the Parties and other meetings under the Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes through translation and interpretation into Arabic, Chinese and Spanish,

1. *Decides* that translation of all official Convention documents and publications into Arabic, Chinese and Spanish shall be ensured in order to enable equal and effective participation of all current and future Parties and other countries in Convention activities;

2. *Also decides* that interpretation into Arabic, Chinese and Spanish at sessions of the Meeting of the Parties and other official Convention meetings shall be ensured in order to enable equal and effective participation of current and future Parties and other countries in Convention activities;

3. *Requests* the United Nations Secretary-General to provide translation and interpretation services into Arabic, Chinese and Spanish, in addition to English, French and Russian, at future sessions of the Meeting of the Parties and other meetings under the Convention from the United Nations regular budget, including the translation of official documents and publications of the Convention into Arabic, Chinese and Spanish, in order to enable effective and equal participation by all Parties and other countries;

4. *Decides* to transmit to the Economic and Social Council a draft resolution on this issue for consideration and possible adoption.

C. Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean

3. At its fortieth session, held in Lima from 9 to 11 October 2024, the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean adopted resolution 782(XL), on the basis of which the following draft resolution is submitted for action by the Economic and Social Council:

Draft resolution

Venue of the forty-first session of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean

The Economic and Social Council,

Taking note of resolution 782(XL) of 11 October 2024 of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, by which the Commission recommended that its forty-first session be held in the Dominican Republic in 2026,

Expressing its gratitude to the Government of the Dominican Republic for its generous invitation,

Approves the holding of the forty-first session of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean in the Dominican Republic in 2026.

D. Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

4. At its eighty-first session, held in Bangkok from 21 to 25 April 2025, the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific adopted decision 81/29, on the basis of which the following draft resolution is submitted for action by the Economic and Social Council:

Draft resolution

Dates, venue and theme of the eighty-second session of the Economic and Social Commission of Asia and the Pacific

The Economic and Social Council,

Taking note of decision 81/29 of 25 April 2025 of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, by which the Commission recommended that its eighty-second session be held in Baku from 20 to 24 April 2026,

Expressing its gratitude to the Government of Azerbaijan for its generous offer to host the session,

Approves the holding of the eighty-second session of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific in Baku, from 20 to 24 April 2026, under the theme “Leaving no one behind: advancing a society for all ages in Asia and the Pacific”.

II. Matters brought to the attention of the Economic and Social Council

5. At their respective sessions, held in 2024 and 2025, the Economic Commission for Africa, the Economic Commission for Europe, the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean and the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific adopted several resolutions and decisions, which are brought to the attention of the Economic and Social Council.

6. The full texts of the resolutions and decisions are available at www.un.org/regionalcommissionsnyoffice/content/un-regional-commissions-summaries-work-resolutions-and-decisions.