



Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
30 May 2023

Original: English

2023 session

25 July 2022–26 July 2023

Agenda item 15

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 and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, Economic Commission for Europe, Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean and Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia

Summary

The present addendum to the report of the Secretary-General on regional cooperation in the economic, social and related fields contains information on the resolutions and decisions adopted or endorsed by the Economic Commission for Africa at its fifty-fifth session, held in Addis Ababa (hybrid) on 20 and 21 March 2023, the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific at its seventy-ninth session, held in Bangkok (hybrid) from 15 to 19 May 2023, the Economic Commission for Europe at its seventieth session, held in Geneva on 18 and 19 April 2023, the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean at its thirty-ninth session, held in Buenos Aires from 24 to 26 October 2022, and the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia at its seventh special session, held in Amman on 20 and 21 December 2022. The full texts of the resolutions and decisions are available at www.un.org/regionalcommissionsnyoffice/content/un-regional-commissions-summaries-work-resolutions-and-decisions.



Contents

	<i>Page</i>
I. Matters calling for action by the Economic and Social Council	3
A. Economic Commission for Africa	3
B. Economic Commission for Europe	4
C. Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia	9
II. Matters brought to the attention of the Economic and Social Council	10
A. Economic Commission for Africa	10
B. Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific	13
C. Economic Commission for Europe	15
D. Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean	17
E. Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia	20

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

A. Economic Commission for Africa

1. At its fifty-fifth session, held in Addis Ababa (hybrid) on 20 and 21 March 2023, the Economic Commission for Africa adopted resolution 2023/10, on the basis of which the following draft resolution is submitted for action by the Economic and Social Council:

Draft resolution

Reinforcing the role of the African Institute for Economic Development and Planning in assisting members of the Economic Commission for Africa in strengthening development planning and improving their capacity to formulate and manage effective public sector policies for structural transformation and sustainable development

The Economic and Social Council,

Noting the adoption by the Conference of African Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development during the fifty-fifth session of the Economic Commission for Africa, held in Addis Ababa on 20 and 21 March 2023, of resolution 2023/10 on the African Institute for Economic Development and Planning, in which the Conference of Ministers requested the Secretary-General to increase the support provided to the Commission, in order to reinforce the role played by the Institute in assisting members of the Commission in strengthening development planning and improving their capacity to formulate and manage effective public sector policies for structural transformation and sustainable development,

Endorses resolution 2023/10 of the Conference of African Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development on the African Institute for Economic Development and Planning, annexed to the present resolution, and requests the Secretary-General to increase the support provided to the Economic Commission for Africa, in order to reinforce the role played by the Institute in assisting members of the Commission in strengthening development planning and improving their capacity to formulate and manage effective public sector policies for structural transformation and sustainable development.

Annex

Resolution 2023/10

African Institute for Economic Development and Planning

The Conference of Ministers,

Recalling Economic and Social Council resolution [2013/2](#) of 5 July 2013, in which the Council endorsed the updated statute of the African Institute for Economic Development and Planning, on the recommendation of the Conference of African Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development, as set out in its resolution 908 (XLVI) of 26 March 2013,¹

Recalling also its recommendation, set out in resolution 942 (XLIX) of 5 April 2016,² that the Governing Council of the African Institute for Economic Development

¹ See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2013, Supplement No. 18 (E/2013/38-E/ECA/CM/46/7)*.

² See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2016, Supplement No. 18 (E/2016/38-E/ECA/CM/49/10)*.

and Planning should further consider the revised statute of the Institute, based on amendments approved by the Council at its fifty-fourth meeting, held in Addis Ababa in February 2016,

Recalling further article IV, paragraphs 3 and 5, of the updated statute of the African Institute for Economic Development and Planning,³ by which the Conference of Ministers is to appoint the 10 members of the Governing Council of the Institute who will serve as representatives of African Governments on the Council for a three-year term, with a possibility of reappointment for one additional term only,

Recalling its resolution 956 (LI), adopted at the fifty-first session of the Economic Commission for Africa, held in Addis Ababa in May 2018,⁴ in which it requested the Commission, in collaboration with the African Institute for Economic Development and Planning, to take all steps necessary to request the General Assembly to increase the regular grant in support of the Institute's programme, and noting with regret that no progress has been made in this area,

Recognizing with appreciation the support provided to African countries in the form of capacity-building with a view to implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development⁵ and Agenda 2063: The Africa We Want, of the African Union,

Acknowledging the efforts of the African Institute for Economic Development and Planning to collect assessed annual contributions from members of the Economic Commission for Africa that are in arrears,

Recognizing with appreciation the efforts made by some members of the Economic Commission for Africa to settle their contributions to the African Institute for Economic Development and Planning with full or partial payments of amounts in arrears,

1. *Requests* the Secretary-General to increase the support provided to the Economic Commission for Africa, in order to reinforce the role played by the African Institute for Economic Development and Planning in assisting members of the Commission in strengthening development planning and improving their capacity to formulate and manage effective public sector policies for structural transformation and sustainable development;

2. *Calls upon* all members of the Economic Commission for Africa to ensure the regular payment of assessed annual contributions and the settlement of arrears to the African Institute for Economic Development and Planning;

3. *Decides* to transmit to the Economic and Social Council at its substantive session in 2023 a draft resolution on this issue for consideration for adoption.

B. Economic Commission for Europe

2. At its seventieth session, held in Geneva on 18 and 19 April 2023, the Economic Commission for Europe adopted four decisions, namely, decisions G (70), H (70), I (70) and J (70), on the basis of which the following draft resolutions are submitted for action by the Economic and Social Council:

³ Economic and Social Council resolution 2013/2, annex.

⁴ See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2018, Supplement No. 18 (E/2018/38-E/ECA/CM/51/5)*.

⁵ General Assembly resolution 70/1.

Draft resolution I
Best Practice Guidance for Effective Management of Coal Mine Methane at National Level: Monitoring, Reporting, Verification and Mitigation

The Economic and Social Council,

Noting that, at its seventieth session, held in Geneva on 18 and 19 April 2023, the Economic Commission for Europe, in its decision G (70), annexed to the present resolution, endorsed the Best Practice Guidance for Effective Management of Coal Mine Methane at National Level: Monitoring, Reporting, Verification and Mitigation, of December 2021,⁶ recommended that the Guidance be disseminated widely, invited States Members of the United Nations, international organizations and the regional commissions to consider the possibility of taking appropriate measures to ensure the application of the Guidance worldwide, and proposed to the Economic and Social Council that it recommend the application of the Guidance worldwide, and noting that this proposal does not have financial implications,

Decides to invite States Members of the United Nations, international organizations and the regional commissions to consider the possibility of taking appropriate measures to ensure the application of the Best Practice Guidance for Effective Management of Coal Mine Methane at National Level: Monitoring, Reporting, Verification and Mitigation worldwide.

Annex

Decision G (70)
Best Practice Guidance for Effective Management of Coal Mine Methane at National Level: Monitoring, Reporting, Verification and Mitigation

The Economic Commission for Europe,

1. *Recalling* its decision 4 of [E/ECE/1462](#) Annual Report (1 April 2009 to 31 March 2011);

2. *Noting* the value of capturing and using recovered methane to increase energy supply and support energy system resilience in the short term and the value of increasing the capture and reduction of methane to achieve climate objectives in the long term;

3. *Endorses* the “Best Practice Guidance for Effective Management of Coal Mine Methane at National Level: Monitoring, Reporting, Verification and Mitigation” (ECE/ENERGY/139), developed under the Committee’s Group of Experts on Coal Mine Methane and Just Transition;

4. *Recommends* that the Guidance be disseminated widely, inviting Member States of the United Nations, international organizations and the regional commissions to consider the possibility of taking appropriate measures to ensure the application of “Best Practice Guidance for Effective Management of Coal Mine Methane at National Level: Monitoring, Reporting, Verification and Mitigation” worldwide;

5. *Decides* to propose to the Economic and Social Council to consider inviting Member States of the United Nations, international organizations and the regional commissions to apply the Best Practice Guidance for Effective Management of Coal Mine Methane at National Level and to transmit to the Council at its next session a draft decision on the issue for consideration and possible adoption.

⁶ *ECE Energy Series No. 71* (document ECE/ENERGY/139). United Nations publication, 2021.

Draft resolution II
United Nations Resource Management System Principles and Requirements

The Economic and Social Council,

Noting that, at its seventieth session, held in Geneva on 18 and 19 April 2023, the Economic Commission for Europe, in its decision H (70), annexed to the present resolution, endorsed the United Nations Resource Management System Principles and Requirements of 14 April 2022,⁷ recommended that the Principles and Requirements be disseminated widely, invited States Members of the United Nations, international organizations and the regional commissions to consider the possibility of taking appropriate measures to ensure the application of the Principles and Requirements worldwide, and proposed to the Economic and Social Council that it recommend the application of the Principles and Requirements worldwide, and noting that this proposal does not have financial implications,

Decides to invite States Members of the United Nations, international organizations and the regional commissions to consider the possibility of taking appropriate measures to ensure the application of the United Nations Resource Management System Principles and Requirements worldwide.

Annex

Decision H (70)
United Nations Resource Management System Principles and Requirements

The Economic Commission for Europe,

1. *Recalling* its decision E (69) paragraph 2 of [E/ECE/1494](#) Annual Report (9 April 2019 to 20 April 2021);

2. *Noting* that sustainable management of natural resources is fundamental to attainment of the 2030 Agenda, attainment of the Paris Agreement and progress towards a more circular economy;

3. *Endorses*, subject to the procedure outlined in the report of the Committee on Sustainable Energy at its thirty-first session (ECE/ENERGY/143, paragraph 34), the United Nations Resource Management System (UNRMS) Principles and Requirements (ECE/ENERGY/GE.3/2022/6) developed by the Committee's Expert Group on Resource Management;

4. *Recommends* that the UNRMS Principles and Requirements be disseminated widely, inviting Member States of the United Nations, international organizations and the regional commissions to consider the possibility of taking appropriate measures to ensure the application of the UNRMS Principles and Requirements worldwide;

5. *Decides* to propose to the Economic and Social Council to consider inviting Member States of the United Nations, international organizations and the regional commissions to apply the UNRMS Principles and Requirements and to transmit to the Council at its next session a draft decision on the issue for consideration and possible adoption.

⁷ ECE/ENERGY/GE.3/2022/6.

Draft resolution III
Request to strengthen the role of the secretariat of the Economic Commission of Europe in supporting member States in building resilient energy systems and modernizing resource management systems

The Economic and Social Council,

Noting the adoption by the Economic Commission for Europe at its seventieth session, held in Geneva on 18 and 19 April 2023, of decision I (70), by which the Commission recommended that the Economic and Social Council endorse the decision,

Endorses Economic Commission for Europe decision I (70), annexed to the present resolution, and requests the Secretary-General to strengthen the role of the secretariat of the Commission in supporting member States in building resilient energy systems and modernizing resource management systems.

Annex

Decision I (70)
Request to strengthen the role of the secretariat of the Economic Commission of Europe in supporting member States in building resilient energy systems and modernizing resource management systems

The Economic Commission for Europe,

1. *Considering* a number of decisions of the Economic and Social Council concerning the sustainable energy subprogramme (United Nations International Framework Classification for Energy Reserves/Resources: Solid Fuels and Mineral Commodities (1997/226), United Nations Framework Classification for Fossil Energy and Mineral Resources (2004/233), Best Practice Guidance for Effective Methane Drainage and Use in Coal Mines (2011/222), Best Practice Guidance for Effective Methane Recovery and Use from Abandoned Coal Mines (2021/249), Updated United Nations Framework Classification for Resources (2021/250));

2. *Noting* at its seventieth session the critical importance of building resilient energy systems in the ECE region, including sustainable resource management of critical raw materials (CRMs) and the development of sustainable value chains of CRMs, and progress toward a more circular economy in realizing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Paris Agreement targets;

3. *Further noting* that ECE member States are starting to prioritize building resilient energy systems and implementation of sustainable resource management tools, including the implementation of the United Nations Framework Classification (UNFC) and the United Nations Resource Management System (UNRMS) for social, environmental and economic performance improvements in natural resource management, including through the International Centres of Excellence on Sustainable Resource Management and the International Centres of Excellence on Coal Mine Methane and supporting proper management of coal mine methane and abandoned mine methane;

4. *Recalling* that the regular budget support for the subprogramme, including staffing, has remained minimal and unchanged for the past many years;

5. *Decides* to request the Secretary-General to strengthen the role of the ECE secretariat in supporting member States in building resilient energy systems and modernizing resource management systems;

6. *Decides* to transmit to the Economic and Social Council at its session of 2023 a draft resolution on this issue for consideration and possible adoption.

Draft resolution IV
Implementation of the rapid response mechanism for the protection of environmental defenders under the Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters (Aarhus Convention)

The Economic and Social Council,

Noting the adoption by the Economic Commission for Europe at its seventieth session, held in Geneva on 18 and 19 April 2023, of decision J (70) on the implementation of the rapid response mechanism for the protection of environmental defenders under the Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters⁸ (Aarhus Convention), by which the Commission recommended that the Economic and Social Council endorse the decision,

Endorses Economic Commission for Europe decision J (70), annexed to the present resolution, and requests the Secretary-General to increase the support by the Commission, in order to strengthen the capacity of the secretariat to facilitate the implementation of the rapid response mechanism for the protection of environmental defenders under the Aarhus Convention.

Annex

Decision J (70)
Implementation of the rapid response mechanism for the protection of environmental defenders under the Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters (Aarhus Convention)

The Economic Commission for Europe,

1. *Acknowledging* the essential role of the Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters (Aarhus Convention) in furthering effective and inclusive public access to information, access to justice and public participation in environmental matters across different sectors and processes;

2. *Also acknowledging* that the Aarhus Convention is thereby playing an important role in the achievement of all sustainable development goals, in particular goal 16, by empowering the public with the right to access to information and to justice, and participate effectively in decision-making on a wide range of issues addressed by the goals;

3. *Recognizing* that the implementation of the Convention also supports countries efforts in implementing many other international commitments, including the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC); the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD); and a number of Human Rights Council resolutions and processes with direct relevance to environmental matters;

4. *Welcoming* the tangible positive changes across the ECE region and beyond in promoting access to information, public participation in decision-making and access to justice in environmental matters, stimulated by the Aarhus Convention since its adoption in 1998;

5. *Noting* that the number of the Parties to the Convention was progressively growing;

⁸ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2161, No. 37770.

6. *Also noting* the adoption, at the seventh session of the Meeting of the Parties, of Decision VII/9 establishing a rapid response mechanism for the protection of environmental defenders;

7. *Recognizing* the importance of adequate financing for the implementation of the rapid response mechanism for the protection of environmental defenders in order to support implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, as well as other relevant global and regional commitments;

8. *Requests* the Secretary-General to increase the support by ECE, in order to strengthen the secretariat's capacity to facilitate the implementation of the rapid response mechanism for the protection of environmental defenders under the Aarhus Convention;

9. *Decides* to transmit to the Economic and Social Council at its session of 2023 a draft resolution on this issue for consideration and possible adoption.

C. Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia

3. At its seventh special session, held in Amman on 20 and 21 December 2022, the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia adopted resolution 337 (S-VII), on the basis of which the following draft resolution is submitted for action by the Economic and Social Council:

Draft resolution

Admission of Djibouti to membership in the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia

The Economic and Social Council,

Taking note of Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia resolution 337 (S-VII) of 21 December 2022 adopted by the Commission at its seventh special session, held in Amman on 20 and 21 December 2022, and annexed to the present resolution, by which the Commission recommended that Djibouti be admitted to membership in the Commission,

Approves the admission of Djibouti to membership in the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia.

Annex

Resolution 337 (S-VII)

Request from Djibouti for membership of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia

The Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia,

Noting the communication from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of Djibouti of 11 July 2022, addressed to the secretariat of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, in which Djibouti requests to join the Commission as a full member,

Recalling that Egypt; the Palestine Liberation Organization; the Sudan; Libya, Morocco and Tunisia; Mauritania; and Algeria and Somalia joined the Commission as full members, pursuant to Economic and Social Council resolutions [2088 \(LXIII\)](#) and [2089 \(LXIII\)](#) of 22 July 1977, resolution 2008/8 of 22 July 2008, resolution [2012/1](#) of 10 July 2012, resolution [2015/32](#) of 22 July 2015, and resolution [2020/20](#) of 22 July 2020, respectively,

Recalling also its resolution 302 (XXVII) of 10 May 2012, which invites all Arab countries to become members of the Commission,

1. *Welcomes* the request of Djibouti to join the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia;
2. *Recommends* that the Economic and Social Council accept the request;
3. *Requests* that the Executive Secretary follow up on the implementation of the present resolution.

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

A. Economic Commission for Africa

4. At its fifty-fifth session, held in Addis Ababa (hybrid) on 20 and 21 March 2023, the Economic Commission for Africa adopted several resolutions relating to its programme of work and a decision, summaries of which are set out below for the attention of the Economic and Social Council.

Resolution 2023/1

Enhancing energy security and ensuring a just energy transition in Africa

5. The Conference of African Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development requested the Economic Commission for Africa to support its members in the development of national energy transition plans inspired by the African Common Position on Energy Access and Just Transition and to develop a continental energy security policy framework to guide its members. The Conference of Ministers also requested the Commission to mobilize the African private sector to invest in the continent's energy transformation and industrialization. In addition, it called upon the Commission to continue to support its members in developing institutional and human capacity with a view to fostering just energy transitions, promoting clean energy investments, addressing energy insecurity on the continent and harnessing new opportunities arising from the development of green hydrogen for the benefit of their people.

Resolution 2023/2

Data and statistics

6. The Conference of Ministers called upon members of the Commission to allocate domestic resources to implement a transformation and modernization road map for their national statistical systems and urged members to embark on the development of a geocoding scheme for the spatial analysis of census data through an integrated geospatial information framework. It also called upon development partners to scale up their support for the African statistical system to ensure its transformation and modernization in response to the growing needs of users.

Resolution 2023/3

Digital transformation for a secure, inclusive and sustainable common future

7. The Conference of Ministers requested the Commission to continue to support its members in their efforts to achieve digital transformation objectives, and to enhance the capacity of its members to harness emerging technologies while also ensuring appropriate governance, regulation and safety. It called upon the Commission to enhance the capacity of its members, the private sector, civil society and academia to contribute to the advancement of a United Nations global digital

compact and urged the Commission to further the undertakings of the Lomé Declaration on Cybersecurity and the Fight against Cybercrime.

Resolution 2023/4

Accelerating sustainable development through regional integration and trade

8. The Conference of Ministers requested the Commission, in close collaboration with the African Union and its organs, to formulate regional strategies for the development of major regional value chains and to support African countries in mainstreaming the strategies in their national policy frameworks and accelerating implementation of those strategies. It also requested the Commission to assist its members in considering the adoption of policies that accelerate sustainable industrialization and economic diversification and to support African countries in the successful implementation of their national strategies for the African Continental Free Trade Area.

Resolution 2023/5

Accelerating food systems transformation in Africa

9. The Conference of Ministers called upon the Commission to provide support to its members to develop regional agricultural value chains and agro-industrial parks to promote industrialization and economic diversification, and the common African agroparks programme of the African Union. It also requested the Commission to develop the capacity of its members to improve the business environment for responsible investment in food systems, with an emphasis on the promotion of youth and women's entrepreneurship, in line with the guiding principles on large-scale land-based investments in Africa.

Resolution 2023/6

Climate finance mobilization to accelerate a green recovery

10. The Conference of Ministers called upon development partners to deliver on the climate finance commitments made in the context of the Paris Agreement on climate change. It called upon African ministries of finance to adopt sustainable and climate-resilient budgeting principles with the support of the Economic Commission for Africa and other entities of the United Nations system. It called upon the Commission to continue to provide technical and substantive support for carbon certification and accreditation processes to its members.

Resolution 2023/7

Advancing the sustainable debt coalition initiative in Africa and beyond

11. The Conference of Ministers urged the Commission to advocate, promote dialogue on and mobilize support for the development and operationalization of the newly launched sustainable debt coalition initiative in Africa and beyond, and called on all members of the Commission to join the coalition. It also requested the Commission to provide technical assistance and capacity-building services to countries willing and eligible to participate in debt-for-nature swaps, and to issue and manage green and blue bonds and bonds linked to Sustainable Development Goals.

12. The Conference of Ministers called upon debtor and creditor countries, international financial institutions and multilateral development banks to extend support to the newly launched sustainable debt coalition initiative. It also requested developed countries to deliver all promised financial resources for addressing climate change and called upon members of the Commission to consider a sustainable budgeting approach in their national budget planning and implementation.

Resolution 2023/8
Great Blue Wall initiative

13. The Conference of Ministers called upon the Commission to support the expansion of the Great Blue Wall initiative to other areas of Africa, and to assist in developing innovative financing mechanisms for the implementation of national blue economy strategies and the regional Great Blue Wall initiative. It also encouraged members of the Commission to fully integrate their blue economy strategies in their national development frameworks.

Resolution 2023/9
2024 programme plan and budget

14. The Conference of Ministers acknowledged that the 2024 programme plan and budget of the Commission was in line with the development priorities and aspirations of Africa and adopted the 2024 programme plan and budget.

Resolution 2023/11
African High-level Working Group on the Global Financial Architecture

15. The Conference of Ministers called upon the Commission to continue to provide guidance and technical support in the deliberations of the African High-level Working Group on the Global Financial Architecture and to advocate and mobilize support for the reform of the special drawing rights rechanneling mechanism.

16. The Conference of Ministers encouraged the International Monetary Fund to address the inequalities of the quota system and to increase the African shares at the next quota review in 2023, and called upon the Fund to suspend surcharges on non-concessional lending for two to three years, to increase overall access limits, and to help African countries to establish sound regulatory frameworks at the domestic and regional levels to promote best practices among credit rating agencies.

17. The Conference of Ministers called upon the African High-level Working Group on the Global Financial Architecture to urge the Group of 20 to consider overhauling the Common Framework for Debt Treatments beyond the Debt Service Suspension Initiative, and to advocate for the candidacy of the African Union for a permanent seat in the Group of 20.

Resolution 2023/13
Strengthening the cooperation between the Economic Commission for Africa and the African Union Commission to address development challenges in Africa

18. The Conference of Ministers requested the Economic Commission for Africa to deepen its collaboration with the African Union Commission, its agencies and other pan-African institutions in undertaking joint activities, projects and programmes targeting African development priorities. It also requested the Economic Commission for Africa to enhance its support to the eight regional economic communities recognized by the African Union.

Decision 2023/100
Date, venue and theme of the fifty-sixth session

19. The Conference of Ministers decided to hold the fifty-sixth session of the Commission in March 2024 on dates to be determined, under the theme “Bolstering financing mechanisms and policy frameworks for the transition to prosperous, just and inclusive green economies in Africa”, and recommended that the secretariat, in collaboration with the Bureau, should undertake further consultations with Morocco and Zimbabwe regarding their offers to host the session.

B. Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

20. At its seventy-ninth session, held in Bangkok (hybrid) from 15 to 19 May 2023, the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific adopted several resolutions relating to its programme of work, summaries of which are set out below for the attention of the Economic and Social Council.

Resolution 79/1

Accelerating climate action in Asia and the Pacific for sustainable development

21. The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific encouraged all its members and associate members to strengthen regional and subregional cooperation to accelerate climate action in the region for the sustainable development of all members and associate members. The Commission requested the Executive Secretary to facilitate cooperation across various sectors of the economy to combat climate change and its impacts, and to collaborate with relevant United Nations entities as well as non-governmental organizations to develop policies and take actions to combat climate change and its impacts, develop early warning systems for all at the regional level, and support regional and subregional priorities to address climate-related challenges.

Resolution 79/2

Regional cooperation to accelerate climate action on oceans in Asia and the Pacific for sustainable development

22. The Commission encouraged its members and associate members to accelerate ocean-based action in Asia and the Pacific, as appropriate, with a view to accelerating the implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 13 (Climate action) and Goal 14 (Life below water) and conserving and sustainably using the world's oceans, seas and all marine and coastal resources, in cooperation with relevant United Nations bodies and other specialized entities.

23. The Commission requested the Executive Secretary to convene a dialogue on accelerating ocean-based action to combat climate change to support the implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14 and to hold the dialogue, as part of the Asia-Pacific Day for the Ocean, prior to the 2025 United Nations Conference to Support the Implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14: Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development.

Resolution 79/3

Supporting the sustainable development of least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States in Asia and the Pacific

24. The Commission encouraged each least developed country Government to develop an ambitious national implementation strategy regarding the Doha Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries and integrate the provisions of the Doha Programme of Action into its national policies and development and United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework, as recommended in the Doha Programme of Action.

25. The Commission requested the Executive Secretary to intensify regional assistance programmes, using existing resources, to least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States on sustainable connectivity and reforestation initiatives aimed at reducing vulnerability to climate change, and continue to assist those countries in building their capacity and attracting

investment to implement relevant action plans and attain internationally agreed development goals.

Resolution 79/4

Accelerating the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development for a better future for all in Asia and the Pacific

26. The Commission requested the Executive Secretary to ensure that the report on the Tenth Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development and the addendum thereto were submitted for consideration at the global dialogues on sustainable development, including the 2023 high-level political forum on sustainable development and the 2023 Sustainable Development Goals Summit, to be held in New York on 19 and 20 September, and to continue to support the members and associate members of the Commission in accelerating the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals through regional actions and initiatives.

Resolution 79/5

Implementation of the Jakarta Declaration on the Asian and Pacific Decade of Persons with Disabilities, 2023–2032

27. The Commission endorsed the Jakarta Declaration on the Asian and Pacific Decade of Persons with Disabilities, 2023–2032, and requested the Executive Secretary to accord priority to the implementation of the Jakarta Declaration and to report to the Commission at its eighty-fourth and eighty-eighth sessions on progress made in the implementation of the resolution.

Resolution 79/6

Implementation of the Ministerial Declaration on Protecting Our Planet through Regional Cooperation and Solidarity in Asia and the Pacific

28. The Commission endorsed the Ministerial Declaration on Protecting Our Planet through Regional Cooperation and Solidarity in Asia and the Pacific and the Regional Action Programme on Air Pollution. The Commission requested the Executive Secretary to support its members and associate members in the implementation of the Regional Action Programme on Air Pollution and to report to the Commission at its eighty-third session on the progress made in the implementation of the resolution.

Resolution 79/7

Advancing regional cooperation for sustainable urban development and localization of the Sustainable Development Goals in Asia and the Pacific

29. The Commission encouraged its members and associate members to strengthen regional cooperation on sustainable urban development and enhance the role of multi-stakeholder urban forums and dialogues. The Commission requested the Executive Secretary to continue to support policy and technical cooperation for members and associate members on sustainable urban development and the localization of the Sustainable Development Goals, and to assist them, upon request, with the provision of policy studies and capacity-building activities, and to report to the Commission at its eighty-first session on the progress made in the implementation of the resolution.

Resolution 79/8

Consideration of the modalities for the establishment of the United Nations special programme for the Aral Sea basin

30. The Commission proposed that a study be carried out on the necessity, viability and modalities of establishing the United Nations special programme for the Aral Sea basin and requested the Executive Secretary to commission the above-mentioned

study, in collaboration with relevant specialized entities, in accordance with their respective mandates and subject to the availability of resources, on the feasibility of and the modalities for strengthening regional cooperation with a view to mitigating and minimizing the consequences of disasters in the water basin of the Aral Sea.

Resolution 79/9

Implementation of the Jakarta Ministerial Declaration on Space Applications for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific

31. The Commission endorsed the Jakarta Ministerial Declaration on Space Applications for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific. The Commission requested the Executive Secretary to continue to support its members and associate members in the implementation of the Asia-Pacific Plan of Action on Space Applications for Sustainable Development (2018–2030), to support the holding of the Fifth Ministerial Conference on Space Applications for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific in 2026, and to report to the Commission at its eighty-third session on the progress made in the implementation of the resolution.

Resolution 79/10

Promoting digital cooperation and inclusion through the Action Plan for Implementing the Asia-Pacific Information Superhighway Initiative, 2022–2026

32. The Commission decided to convene a ministerial conference on digital inclusion and transformation to accelerate the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals and regional technology initiatives, and welcomed the offer of the Government of Kazakhstan to host such a ministerial conference in 2024.

33. The Commission requested the Executive Secretary to promote regional and subregional digital connectivity and transformation by assisting members and associate members in carrying out the Action Plan for Implementing the Asia-Pacific Information Superhighway Initiative, 2022–2026, and to foster digital cooperation among members and associate members in order to bridge the digital divide, strengthen digital connectivity and promote inclusive digital economies and societies.

C. Economic Commission for Europe

34. At its seventieth session, held in Geneva on 18 and 19 April 2023, the Economic Commission for Europe adopted several decisions, summaries of which are set out below for the attention of the Economic and Social Council.

Decision A (70)

Economic and social effects of Russia's aggression against Ukraine

35. The Commission deplored in the strongest terms the aggression by the Russian Federation against Ukraine in violation of Article 2 (4) of the Charter of the United Nations, and demanded that the Russian Federation immediately, completely and unconditionally withdraw all of its military forces from the territory of Ukraine within its internationally recognized borders. It requested the secretariat to refrain from any actions or publications that might be interpreted as recognizing or endorsing any alteration of the internationally recognized borders of Ukraine, and to continue to assist Ukraine and neighbouring member States in recovering and rebuilding from the effects of Russia's aggression.

Decision B (70)

Digital and green transformations in support of the sustainable development in the region of the Economic Commission for Europe

36. The Commission requested the relevant sectoral committees and bodies reporting directly to the Executive Committee, and their subsidiaries, to consider how to enhance the impact of relevant existing Commission instruments, in order to foster digital and green transformations. It requested the secretariat to develop and scale new capacities to assist the digital and green transformations in the Commission region, subject to available resources, and to contribute to the development of the Common Blueprint for Digital Transformations, led by the Office of the Secretary-General's Envoy for Technology, in areas relevant to the mandate of the Commission.

Decision C (70)

Promotion of circular economy and the sustainable use of natural resources

37. The Commission recognized the work of the secretariat and the voluntary initiatives undertaken by member States to further accelerate and scale up the transition to a circular economy and the sustainable use of natural resources, and invited relevant subsidiary bodies, the secretariat and member States to continue their efforts in that regard and explore also synergies with the future work of the Commission.

Decision D (70)

Extension of the mandate of the Regional Forum on Sustainable Development

38. The Commission decided to continue to convene annual sessions of the Regional Forum on Sustainable Development to follow up and review the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, in close cooperation with the entities of the regional United Nations system and with the active engagement of other relevant stakeholders. It requested the secretariat to continue to publish a yearly report on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda in the Commission region to support the discussions at the sessions of the Regional Forum.

Decision E (70)

Building resilient energy systems

39. The Commission took note of the Economic Commission for Europe Platform on Resilient Energy Systems to coordinate and promote efforts related to energy resilience across the Commission region and the addition of building resilient energy systems to the programme of work of the Committee on Sustainable Energy, beginning in 2024, as a new focus area with no regular budgetary implications.

Decision F (70)

Decision to study finance for energy-related climate change activities in the region of the Economic Commission for Europe, particularly related to critical raw materials

40. The Commission requested that the Committee on Sustainable Energy study how best to address the current barriers to climate finance in the Commission region, such as a lack of socially, environmentally and economically referenced standardized and harmonized data on projects, and develop, within existing resources, products that would address those barriers.

Decision K (70)**Matters related to sustainable transport and mobility**

41. The Commission reiterated its support for the Customs Convention on the International Transport of Goods under Cover of TIR Carnets (TIR Convention), appealing for its further geographical expansion and inviting United Nations Member States from all regions to become contracting parties to the Convention. The Commission, recalling the use of the Inland Transport Committee carbon emission modelling tool For Future Inland Transport Systems (ForFITS), invited countries, regions or cities to request modelling of impact for different policy measures planned towards mitigation of road transport-based carbon emissions.

D. Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean

42. At its thirty-ninth session, held in Buenos Aires from 24 to 26 October 2022, the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean adopted a number of resolutions relating to its programme of work and a decision, summaries of which are set out below for the attention of the Economic and Social Council.

Resolution 754 (XXXIX)**Buenos Aires resolution**

43. The Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean instructed the secretariat to conduct studies and formulate public policy proposals in the countries of the region with a view to supporting the building of national capacities for the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its Sustainable Development Goals, and called upon the secretariat to widely disseminate the document and promote its review in the economic, academic, political, business and social spheres in the region, in order to continue to foster more in-depth comparative analysis vis-à-vis countries outside the region.

Resolution 755 (XXXIX)**Calendar of conferences of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean for the period 2023–2024**

44. The Commission reaffirmed the decision to maintain the current intergovernmental structure and the existing pattern of meetings and approved the calendar of conferences of the Commission as it appeared in the annex to the resolution. It also reaffirmed that its current conference servicing system had proved to be efficient in substantive and organizational terms and recommended that those tasks continue to be the responsibility of the Executive Secretary with a view to an ongoing and sustained improvement in those services.

Resolution 756 (XXXIX)**Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean**

45. The Commission reaffirmed the commitment of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean to mainstream a transformative gender perspective in all the Sustainable Development Goals and their targets, indicators and implementation mechanisms. It recommended the redoubling of efforts to ensure that the indicators for monitoring the Goals reflected gender inequality and could be used to design effective public policies for overcoming such inequalities.

46. The Commission called for the active participation of its members in the fifteenth session of the Regional Conference and recommended that the delegations

participating in the session bear in mind and promote gender balance in their composition.

Resolution 757 (XXXIX)

Support for the work of the Latin American and Caribbean Institute for Economic and Social Planning

47. The Commission requested the Latin American and Caribbean Institute for Economic and Social Planning to maintain applied research, technical cooperation, advisory work and training to promote integration of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in planning for development, and reaffirmed that the Regular System of Government Financing was essential for the continuity of the Institute and the implementation of its programme of work. The Commission requested member States to take the measures necessary to make timely and regular contributions to the Institute in conformity with their respective normative frameworks and circumstances.

Resolution 758 (XXXIX)

Statistical Conference of the Americas of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean

48. The Commission encouraged the countries of the region to share statistical information on the Sustainable Development Goals, including through the use of the regional portal on the Sustainable Development Goals (Sustainable Development Goal Gateway) to promote collaborative work and horizontal cooperation for closing gaps in data availability for follow-up to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The Commission recognized the importance of multidimensional and complementary development measures and urged members to support the proper conduct of the 2020 round of population and housing censuses.

Resolution 759 (XXXIX)

Regional Conference on Social Development in Latin America and the Caribbean

49. The Commission requested that the secretariat support the ministries of social development and equivalent entities in the countries of the region in identifying key policy areas that could be strengthened in accordance with the Regional Agenda for Inclusive Social Development, in keeping with national and subnational realities, and that the secretariat organize, maintain and systematically update the Observatory on Social Development.

50. The Commission also requested the secretariat to convene the fifth session of the Regional Conference on Social Development in Latin America and the Caribbean in 2023, jointly with the fifteenth Ministerial Forum for Development in Latin America and the Caribbean, convened by the United Nations Development Programme.

Resolution 760 (XXXIX)

Regional Conference on Population and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean

51. The Commission renewed the commitment of the countries of the region to implementing and monitoring the Montevideo Consensus on Population and Development, and urged all member States that had not yet done so to consider signing and ratifying the Inter-American Convention on Protecting the Human Rights of Older Persons and invited all the stakeholders to ensure its full implementation.

**Resolution 761 (XXXIX)
Ministerial Conference on the Information Society in Latin America and the Caribbean**

52. The Commission reinforced the call for digital solidarity, at both national and international levels, in line with the Geneva Declaration of Principles, and called upon the international community to take the measures necessary to ensure that all countries of the world had equitable and affordable access to information and communications technologies. The Commission requested the secretariat to continue to work with the countries of the region in the implementation of and follow-up to decisions adopted at the seventh Ministerial Conference on the Information Society in Latin America and the Caribbean.

**Resolution 762 (XXXIX)
Programme of work and priorities of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean for 2024**

53. The Commission adopted the programme of work for 2024 in its entirety, together with the amendments proposed and observations made in the discussions held at the thirty-ninth session of the Commission. The Commission stressed that a downward trend in funding allocated to the Commission would limit its ability to carry out the activities set forth in its programme of work and the fulfilment of the mandates entrusted to it.

**Resolution 763 (XXXIX)
Conference on Science, Innovation and Information and Communications Technologies of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean**

54. The Commission reaffirmed the need to improve the positioning of science, technology and innovation policies with a view to fostering dynamic sectors that would lay the foundations for more sustainable and inclusive development in the countries of the region.

**Resolution 764 (XXXIX)
Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee**

55. The Commission welcomed the role that the secretariat, in particular through its subregional headquarters for the Caribbean, was mandated to play in supporting the efforts of the small island developing States to monitor and advance the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and other relevant global instruments, and urged the Executive Secretary to employ all measures necessary to ensure the full implementation of the resolutions adopted by the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee at its twenty-ninth session, the recommendations formulated by the Monitoring Committee at its twentieth meeting and the conclusions reached at the seventh meeting of the Caribbean Development Roundtable.

**Resolution 765 (XXXIX)
Review of the implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries for the Decade 2014–2024**

56. The Commission called upon the secretariat to continue to provide technical support to the landlocked developing countries of the region in areas related to the Vienna Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries for the Decade 2014–2024, and encouraged financial institutions and regional banks, in collaboration with other stakeholders, to make investments to address gaps in renewable energy, information and communications technology, e-commerce, trade, transport and transit-related regional infrastructure.

Decision 766 (XXXIX)

Place of the next session of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean

57. The Commission accepted the offer by the Government of Peru to host the fortieth session of the Commission in Peru in 2024.

E. Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia

58. At its seventh special session, held in Amman on 20 and 21 December 2022, the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia adopted a number of resolutions relating to its programme of work, summaries of which are set out below for the attention of the Economic and Social Council.

Resolution 338 (S-VII)

Establishment of an Arab integrated road safety observatory

59. The Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia welcomed the establishment of an Arab integrated road safety observatory, using resources from outside the United Nations regular budget, to support member States by undertaking functions including providing a regional platform to assist member States in developing policies and strategies to improve road safety and exchanging best practices, lessons learned and successful experiences. It also welcomed the offer by Morocco to host the observatory, in accordance with the procedures and regulations followed by the United Nations.

Resolution 339 (S-VII)

Establishment of a centre for advancing carbon emissions reduction under the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia

60. The Commission welcomed the establishment of a centre for advancing carbon emissions reduction under the Commission, using resources from outside the United Nations regular budget, to support member States by undertaking functions including promoting regional efforts to reduce carbon emissions towards achieving climate neutrality and supporting the positions of the Arab region in global dialogues on carbon emissions reduction. It also welcomed the interest of Saudi Arabia in hosting the centre, in accordance with the standards, procedures and regulations followed by the United Nations.

Resolution 340 (S-VII)

Proposed programme plan for the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia for 2024

61. The Commission adopted the proposed programme plan for 2024 set out in document E/ESCWA/S-7/16 and requested that the Executive Secretary take the measures necessary to ensure its full implementation and submit periodic reports on the implementation.

Resolution 341 (S-VII)

Adoption of the session reports of subsidiary bodies of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia

62. The Commission adopted the recommendations contained in the reports of its subsidiary bodies, called upon the secretariat of the Commission to follow up on the implementation of those recommendations and called upon member States to take the measures necessary to ensure the implementation of the recommendations contained in the reports.