Economic and Social Council

Commission on Science and Technology for Development
Twenty-sixth session
Geneva, 27–31 March 2023
Item 1 of the provisional agenda
Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters

Provisional annotated agenda and organization of work

1. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.

2. Progress made in the implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society at the regional and international levels.

3. Science and technology for development: priority themes:

    (a) Technology and innovation for cleaner and more productive and competitive production;

    (b) Ensuring safe water and sanitation for all: a solution through science, technology and innovation.

4. Presentation of reports on science, technology and innovation policy reviews.

5. Election of the Chair and other officers for the twenty-seventh session of the Commission.

6. Provisional agenda and documentation for the twenty-seventh session of the Commission.

7. Adoption of the report of the Commission on its twenty-sixth session.

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Annotations

Item 1
Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters

1.   Rule 7 of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council provides that commissions shall adopt, at the beginning of each session, the agenda of the session on the basis of the provisional agenda. The provisional agenda and documentation for the twenty-sixth session of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development were approved by the Council in its decision 2022/340 on 21 July 2022.

2.   In accordance with established practice, the Commission at its closing plenary on 1 April 2022, elected by acclamation the following members of the Bureau of the twenty-sixth session:

> *Vice-Chairs:* Ana Cristina Amoroso das Neves (Portugal)
> Muhammadou M.O. Kah (Gambia)
> Peter Major (Hungary)
> Mansour Al-Qurashi (Saudi Arabia)

3.   The Commission postponed the election of the Chair from the Latin American and Caribbean States. In accordance with the past practice of the Commission, one of the Vice-Chairs will be designated to also serve as Rapporteur.

4.   The proposed organization of work of the Commission at its twenty-sixth session (see annex I) is based on the relevant decisions of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council to facilitate the consideration of agenda items within the time frame available and in accordance with the conference services allocated to the Commission. The timetable should be considered tentative and indicative; if the Commission completes consideration of an item ahead of schedule, it may wish to proceed immediately to the next item.

5.   The Commission is scheduled to meet from Monday to Friday, 27 to 31 March 2022. The morning meetings will be held from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and the afternoon meetings, from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m.

6.   The current membership of the Commission is contained in annex II.

Contribution of the Commission to the Economic and Social Council and the high-level political forum on sustainable development

7.   General Assembly resolution 70/1, titled "Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development", was adopted in September 2015. To support the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, in 2023, the thematic focus of the Economic and Social Council and the high-level political forum on sustainable development under the auspices of the Council is "Accelerating the recovery from the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) and the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development at all levels".

8.   Pursuant to the provisions contained in paragraph 29 of the annex to General Assembly resolution 72/305, a high-level round table on the role of science, technology and innovation in accelerating the recovery from COVID-19 and the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development at all levels will be held on Monday, 27 March 2023. At the session, discussions will focus on challenges faced at the national, regional and international levels, as well as possible solutions for addressing them, with a view to identifying lessons learned and good practices in using science, technology and innovation as a crucial means of implementing the 2030 Agenda, including gender, ending poverty and leaving no one behind. The session will also provide an opportunity for high-level policymakers to exchange experiences in implementing the 2022 ministerial declaration of the high-level political forum on sustainable development.

9.   The outcome of the discussions will be included in the report of the Commission to be submitted to the Economic and Social Council for approval.

Documentation

E/CN.16/2023/1   Provisional annotated agenda and organization of work

Item 2
Progress made in the implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society at the regional and international levels

10.   The World Summit on the Information Society, organized by the International Telecommunication Union on behalf of the United Nations, took place in two phases: the first in Geneva (2003) and the second in Tunis (2005). In the Geneva Declaration of Principles, during the first phase of the Summit, delegates adopted a common vision and commitment to building a people-centred, inclusive and development-oriented information society. During the second phase, delegates endorsed the outcomes of the first phase and adopted the Tunis Commitment and the Tunis Agenda for the Information Society, which addressed, inter alia, the themes of financial mechanisms and Internet governance.

11.   The Tunis Agenda for the Information Society requested the Economic and Social Council to oversee the United Nations system-wide follow-up of the outcomes of the Geneva and Tunis phases of the Summit. To that end, it was requested that the Council review the mandate of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development, including its strengthening, taking into account the multi-stakeholder approach (paragraph 105).

12.   In its resolution 2006/46 on the follow-up to the World Summit on the Information Society and review of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development, the Economic and Social Council decided that the Commission would effectively assist the Council as the focal point in the system-wide follow-up to the Summit outcomes and advise the Council thereon, including through recommendations to the Council aimed at furthering the implementation of the Summit outcomes.

13.   In its resolution 2007/8, the Economic and Social Council requested the Secretary-General to inform the Commission annually on the implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society, including all electronic applications. In this regard, the Council requested United Nations organizations acting as action-line facilitators, regional commissions, main theme facilitators, the Global Alliance for Information and Communication Technologies and Development and other entities, as appropriate, to submit to the secretariat of the Commission their respective reports as inputs to the annual report of the Secretary-General to the Commission.

14.   The report of the Secretary-General on progress made in the implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society at the regional and international levels aims at providing an overview of the progress made in the implementation of the Summit outcomes, highlighting examples of good and effective practices, with a view to sharing those practices and the lessons learned.

15.   The 2023 report was prepared based on the findings and recommendations of the intersessional panel meeting of the Commission, held on 25 and 26 October 2022, as well as on inputs by bodies and specialized agencies of the United Nations and on other relevant literature. The Commission will review and assess progress on the implementation of the Summit outcomes at the regional and international levels, as requested by the Economic and Social Council in its resolution 2007/8.

Documentation

A/78/62-E/2023/49	Progress made in the implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society at the regional and international levels
E/CN.16/2023/CRP.1	Report on the intersessional panel meeting

Item 3
Science and technology for development: priority themes

16.   In its resolution 2006/46, the Economic and Social Council decided that the Commission should be the focal point in the system-wide follow-up to the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society, while at the same time maintaining its original mandate on science and technology for development. In accordance with this mandate, the Commission focuses in each annual cycle on two priority themes.

17.   The priority themes under this item to be addressed by the Commission are as follows:

(a)   Technology and innovation for cleaner and more productive and competitive production;

(b)   Ensuring safe water and sanitation for all: a solution through science, technology and innovation.

18.   In selecting these themes, the Commission envisaged that the findings would contribute to the implementation of the ministerial declaration of the high-level segment of the 2022 session of the Economic and Social Council and the 2023 high-level political forum on sustainable development. In 2023, the forum will examine the theme "Accelerating the recovery from the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) and the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development at all levels" and will review Sustainable Development Goals 6, 7, 9, 11 and 17. It will also take into account the different and particular impacts of the pandemic across all of the Goals and the integrated, indivisible and interlinked nature of the Goals.

19.   Furthermore, the General Assembly, in its resolution 73/17, requested the Commission, through the Economic and Social Council, to continue to consider the impact of key rapid technological changes, such as artificial intelligence, among others, on the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals and targets. The deliberations on the priority themes, in particular the first theme, will fulfil this request.

20.   In order to contribute to a further understanding of the priority themes, and to assist the Commission in its deliberations at its twenty-fourth session, an intersessional panel meeting was convened on 25 and 26 October 2022. A report on the intersessional panel meeting will be before the Commission.

Documentation

E/CN.16/2023/2	Technology and innovation for cleaner and more productive and competitive production Report of the Secretary-General
E/CN.16/2023/3	Ensuring safe water and sanitation for all: a solution through science, technology and innovation Report of the Secretary-General
E/CN.16/2023/CRP.1	Report on the intersessional panel meeting

Item 4
Presentation of reports on science, technology and innovation policy reviews

21.   This item concerns updates of national science, technology and innovation policy reviews undertaken by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, with a view to assisting developing countries in identifying the measures that are needed to integrate science, technology and innovation policies into their national development strategies, and the sharing of information about progress made, lessons learned and challenges encountered in implementing recommendations formulated in the context of earlier science, technology and innovation policy reviews, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 74/229 and Economic and Social Council resolution 2022/16.

22.   The Commission will hear presentations on the science, technology and innovation policy reviews of Angola and Botswana.

Item 5
Election of the Chair and other officers for the twenty-seventh session of the Commission

23.   In accordance with established practice, the Commission will elect a Chair and four Vice-Chairs for the twenty-seventh session at the end of the twenty-sixth session. One of the Vice-Chairs will also serve as Rapporteur.

Item 6
Provisional agenda and documentation for the twenty-seventh session of the Commission

24.   In accordance with rule 9 of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council, the Commission will have before it the draft provisional agenda for its twenty-seventh session, together with an indication of the documentation to be submitted for its consideration.

Item 7
Adoption of the report of the Commission on its twenty-sixth session

25.   In accordance with rule 37 of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions, the Commission shall submit a report on the work of its twenty-sixth session to the Economic and Social Council.

Annex I

Proposed organization of work

Date/Time	Agenda item and discussion topic	Programme
Monday, 27 March		
10 a.m.	Agenda item 1. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters	Opening statements Adoption of the agenda and organization of work
3 p.m.	Contribution of the Commission to the 2023 theme of the Economic and Social Council and the high-level political forum on sustainable development: "The role of science, technology and innovation in accelerating the recovery from the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) and the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development at all levels"	General discussion
Tuesday, 28 March		
10 a.m.	Agenda item 3. Science and technology for development Priority theme: (a) Technology and innovation for cleaner and more productive and competitive production	Introduction and high-level round table followed by an interactive discussion
3 p.m.	Agenda item 3. Science and technology for development Priority theme: (b) Ensuring safe water and sanitation for all: a solution through science, technology and innovation	Introduction and high-level round table followed by an interactive discussion
Wednesday, 29 March		
10 a.m.	Agenda item 2. Progress made in the implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society at the regional and international levels	Introduction and high-level round table followed by interactive discussion
3 p.m.	Agenda item 4. Presentation of reports on science, technology and innovation policy reviews	Introduction followed by general and interactive discussion
Thursday, 30 March		
10 a.m.	Informal consultations	Introduction of draft proposals, followed by a discussion
3 p.m.	Informal consultations	Discussions on draft proposals (continued)
Friday, 31 March		
10 a.m.	Informal consultations	Discussions on draft proposals (continued)
3 p.m.	Agenda item 5. Election of the Chair and other officers for the twenty-seventh session of the Commission	Election of officers
	Action on draft proposals	Adoption of draft

Date/Time	Agenda item and discussion topic	Programme
	Agenda item 6. Provisional agenda and documentation for the twenty-seventh session of the Commission	proposals
		Adoption of draft provisional agenda for next session
	Agenda item 7. Adoption of the report of the Commission on its twenty-sixth session	Adoption of draft report
	Closing of the session	

Annex II

Commission on Science and Technology for Development: Membership at its twenty-sixth session

The Commission is composed of 43 members, each serving a four-year term.

	Membership	Term expires on 31 December
1.	Algeria	2026
2.	Austria	2024
3.	Belarus	2024
4.	Belize	2026
5.	Botswana	2026
6.	Brazil	2024
7.	Burundi	2024
8.	Cameroon	2024
9.	Canada	2026
10.	China	2026
11.	Colombia	2026
12.	Cuba	2026
13.	Djibouti	2026
14.	Ecuador	2026
15.	Egypt	2026
16.	Finland	2024
17.	France	2026
18.	Gambia	2024
19.	Guatemala	2024
20.	Guinea	2024
21.	Hungary	2026
22.	India	2026
23.	Israel	2024
24.	Japan	2024
25.	Latvia	2026
26.	Oman	2026
27.	Paraguay	2024
28.	Peru	2024

	Membership	Term expires on 31 December
29.	Philippines	2024
30.	Portugal	2024
31.	Romania	2026
32.	Russian Federation	2024
33.	Rwanda	2026
34.	Saudi Arabia	2024
35.	South Africa	2024
36.	Switzerland	2024
37.	Tajikistan	2026
38.	Turkmenistan	2024
39.	Türkiye	2026
40.	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	2026
41.	United Republic of Tanzania	2026
42.	United States of America	2026
43.	Uzbekistan	2026