



# Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General  
4 March 2019

Original: English

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## Commission on Science and Technology for Development

Twenty-second session

Geneva, 13–17 May 2019

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) The impact of rapid technological change on sustainable development;
    - (b) The role of science, technology and innovation in building resilient communities, including through the contribution of citizen science.
4. Presentation of reports on science, technology and innovation policy reviews.
5. Election of the Chair and other officers for the twenty-third session of the Commission.
6. Provisional agenda and documentation for the twenty-third session of the Commission.
7. Adoption of the report of the Commission on its twenty-second 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-second session of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development were approved by the Council in its decision 2018/261 of 24 July 2018.

2. In accordance with the established practice, the Commission, at its eighth plenary meeting on 18 May 2018, elected by acclamation the Bureau of the twenty-second session, as follows:

*Chair:* A Min Tjoa (Austria)

*Vice-Chairs:* Kekgonne Baipoledi (Botswana)

Wang Ruijun (China)

Peter Major (Hungary)

3. The Commission postponed the election of the Vice-Chair from the Latin American and Caribbean States. In accordance with 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-second session (see annex I) is based on 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 its 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, 13 to 17 May 2019. 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 2019 Economic and Social Council high-level segment**

7. General Assembly resolution 70/1, entitled “Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”, was adopted in September 2015. The Economic and Social Council and the high-level political forum on sustainable development under the auspices of the Council will support the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development through their 2019 theme, “Empowering people and ensuring inclusiveness and equality.”

8. Pursuant to the provisions contained in paragraph 29 of the annex to General Assembly resolution 72/305,<sup>1</sup> a high-level round table will be held on Monday, 13 May 2019, in the morning, to discuss the role of science, technology and innovation in empowering people and ensuring inclusiveness and equality. The outcome of the discussion will be in the form of a Chair’s summary to be submitted to the Council and the high-level political forum on sustainable development under the auspices of the Council for their consideration.

#### *Documentation*

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<sup>1</sup> Entitled “Review of the implementation of General Assembly resolution 61/1 on the strengthening of the Economic and Social Council”.

## **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**

9. 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), the second, in Tunis (2005). In the Geneva Declaration of Principles, the first phase of the Summit adopted a common vision and commitment to building a people-centred, inclusive and development-oriented information society. The second phase 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.

10. 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, the Council was requested to review the mandate of the Commission, including its strengthening, taking into account the multi-stakeholder approach (Tunis Agenda, paragraph 105).

11. In its resolution 2006/46 of 28 July 2006 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.

12. In its resolution 2007/8 of 25 July 2007 on the flow of information for the follow-up to the World Summit on the Information Society, the Economic and Social Council requested the Secretary-General to inform the Commission annually on the implementation of the outcomes of the Summit, including all electronic applications. In this connection, the Council requested United Nations organizations acting as action-line facilitators, regional commissions, main theme facilitators, the Global Alliance for Information and Communications 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.

13. 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 (A/74/62-E/2019/6) 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. The 2018 report was prepared based on the findings and recommendations of the Commission's panel discussion, held in Vienna in January 2019, inputs by bodies and specialized agencies of the United Nations and 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 2006/46.

#### *Documentation*

A/74/62-E/2019/6	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.16/2019/CRP.1	Report on the intersessional panel meeting
E/CN.16/2019/CRP.2	Implementing World Summit on the Information Society outcomes, 2018

### **Item 3**

#### **Science and technology for development**

14. In its resolution 2006/46 (paragraph 4), the Economic and Social Council decided that the Commission should be the focal point in the system-wide follow-up of World Summit on the Information Society outcomes, while at the same time maintaining its original mandate on science and technology for development.

15. In accordance with this mandate, the Commission focuses in each annual cycle on two priority themes.

16. The priority themes under this item addressed by the Commission are as follows:

- (a) The impact of rapid technological change on sustainable development;
- (b) The role of science, technology and innovation in building resilient communities, including through the contribution of citizen science.

17. In selecting these themes, the Commission envisaged that the findings would contribute to the high-level political forum on sustainable development, which will examine in 2019 the theme of empowering people and ensuring inclusiveness and equality and the related Sustainable Development Goals, namely Goals 4, 8, 10, 13, 16 and 17.

18. Further, the General Assembly, in its resolution 73/17, requested the Commission on Science and Technology for Development, 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, and to align this endeavour with the follow-up cycle of the high-level political forum on sustainable development in order to support the efforts of all countries towards the attainment of the Goals, including through forging partnerships with other relevant actors, organizations, initiatives and forums, and the dissemination of advances and best practices to facilitate cooperation towards this end. The deliberations on the priority themes, particularly the impact of rapid technological change on sustainable development, will fulfil this request.

19. In order to contribute to a further understanding of the priority themes, and to assist the Commission in its deliberations at its twenty-second session, a panel meeting was convened in Vienna, from 15 to 17 January 2019. The report on the panel discussion will be before the Commission.

#### *Documentation*

E/CN.16/2019/2	The impact of rapid technological change on sustainable development Report of the Secretary-General
E/CN.16/2019/3	The role of science, technology and innovation in building resilient communities, including through the contribution of citizen science Report of the Secretary-General
E/CN.16/2019/CRP.1	Report on the intersessional panel meeting

### **Item 4**

#### **Presentation of reports on science, technology and innovation policy reviews**

20. This item concerns updates on 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, as per General Assembly resolution 72/242 and Economic and Social Council resolution 2018/29.

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21. The Commission will hear presentations on the science, technology and innovation policy reviews of Ethiopia and Uganda.

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

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

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

23. 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-third 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-second session**

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

## Annex I

### Proposed organization of work

<i>Date/time</i>	<i>Agenda item/discussion topic</i>	<i>Programme</i>
<b>Monday, 13 May</b>		
10 a.m.	1. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters	Opening statements  Adoption of the agenda and organization of work
	Contribution of the Commission to the 2019 theme of the Economic and Social Council and the high-level political forum on sustainable development: “The role of science, technology and innovation in empowering people and in ensuring inclusiveness and equality”	General discussion
3 p.m.	3. Science and technology for development:  Priority themes:  (a) The impact of rapid technological change on sustainable development	Introduction and high-level round table followed by an interactive dialogue
<b>Tuesday, 14 May</b>		
10 a.m.	3. Science and technology for development:  Priority theme:  (a) The impact of rapid technological change on sustainable development	General and interactive discussion
3 p.m.	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 an interactive dialogue
<b>Wednesday, 15 May</b>		
10 a.m.	3. Science and technology for development:  Priority theme:  (b) The role of science, technology and innovation in building resilient communities, including through the contribution of citizen science	Introduction followed by an interactive discussion

<i>Date/time</i>	<i>Agenda item/discussion topic</i>	<i>Programme</i>
3 p.m.	4. Presentation of reports on science, technology and innovation policy reviews	Introduction followed by general and interactive discussion
<b>Thursday, 16 May</b>		
10 a.m.	Informal consultations	Introduction of draft proposals, followed by a discussion
3 p.m.	Informal consultations	Discussions on draft proposals (continued)
<b>Friday, 17 May</b>		
10 a.m. and 3 p.m.	Informal consultations	Discussions on draft proposals continued, as required
	5. Election of the Chair and other officers for the twenty-third session of the Commission	Election of officers
	Action on draft proposals	Adoption of the draft proposals
	6. Provisional agenda and documentation for the twenty-third session of the Commission	Adoption of the draft provisional agenda for the next session
	7. Adoption of the report of the Commission on its twenty-second session	Adoption of the draft report
	Closure of the session	

## Annex II

### Membership of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development at its twenty-second session

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

<i>Membership*</i>	<i>Term expires on 31 December</i>
1. Austria	2020
2. Belgium	2022
3. Botswana	2022
4. Brazil	2020
5. Burkina Faso	2020
6. Cameroon	2020
7. Canada	2022
8. Chile	2020
9. China	2022
10. Cuba	2022
11. Democratic Republic of the Congo	2020
12. Dominican Republic	2022
13. Egypt	2022
14. El Salvador	2020
15. Ethiopia	2022
16. Finland	2020
17. Germany	2020
18. Hungary	2020
19. Iran (Islamic Republic of)	2022
20. Japan	2020
21. Kazakhstan	2020
22. Kenya	2022
23. Latvia	2022
24. Liberia	2022
25. Mexico	2020
26. Nepal	2022
27. Nigeria	2020
28. Oman	2022

<i>Membership*</i>	<i>Term expires on 31 December</i>
29. Portugal	2020
30. Romania	2022
31. Russian Federation	2020
32. Saudi Arabia	2020
33. Serbia	2020
34. South Africa	2020
35. Switzerland	2020
36. Thailand	2022
37. Turkey	2022
38. Turkmenistan	2020
39. United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	2022
40. United States of America	2022

\* The Economic and Social Council postponed the election of one member from the African States and two from the Latin American and Caribbean States for the four-year term beginning on 1 January 2019 and expiring on 31 December 2022.

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