



Commission on Science and Technology for Development

Twenty-third session

Geneva, 23–27 March 2020

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) Harnessing rapid technological change for inclusive and sustainable development;
 - (b) Exploring space technologies for sustainable development and the benefits of international research collaboration in this context.
4. Presentation of reports on science, technology and innovation policy reviews.
5. Election of the Chair and other officers for the twenty-fourth session of the Commission.
6. Provisional agenda and documentation for the twenty-fourth session of the Commission.
7. Adoption of the report of the Commission on its twenty-third session.



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-third session of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development were approved by the Council in its decision 2019/227 on 23 July 2019.

2. In accordance with the established practice, the Commission, at its eighth plenary meeting on 17 May 2019 (E/2019/31-E/CN.16/2019/1), elected by acclamation the Bureau of the twenty-third session, as follows:

Chair: Kekgonne Baipoledi (Botswana)

Vice-Chairs: A Min Tjoa (Austria)

Peter Major (Hungary)

3. The Commission postponed the election of the Vice-Chairs from the Asia and Pacific States and 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-third 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 23 to 27 March 2020. The morning meetings will be held from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and the afternoon meetings, from 3 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 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 examination of the theme selected for 2020: “Accelerated action and transformative pathways: Realizing the decade of action and delivery for sustainable development”.

8. Pursuant to the provisions contained in paragraph 29 of the annex to General Assembly resolution 72/305, a high-level round table on “Harnessing frontier and space technologies for accelerating progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals” will be held in the morning on 23 March 2020. 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

E/CN.16/2020/1

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

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) and 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 (paragraph 105).

11. 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.

12. 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 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/75/62–E/2020/11) aims to provide 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 2019 report was prepared based on the findings and recommendations of the Commission's panel discussion held in Geneva in November 2019, 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 2006/46.

Documentation

A/75/62–E/2020/11 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

Item 3

Science and technology for development

14. 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 of World Summit on the Information Society outcomes, 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.

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

(a) Harnessing rapid technological change for inclusive and sustainable development;

(b) Exploring space technologies for sustainable development and the benefits of international research collaboration in this context.

16. In selecting these themes, the Commission envisaged that the findings would contribute to the high-level political forum on sustainable development and its selected theme for 2020.

17. Further, 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, 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, in particular the first theme, will fulfil this request.

18. In order to contribute to a further understanding of the priority themes, and to assist the Commission in its deliberations at its twenty-third session, a panel meeting was convened in Geneva on 7 and 8 November 2019. The report on the panel discussion will be before the Commission.

Documentation

| | |
|--------------------|--|
| E/CN.16/2020/2 | Harnessing rapid technological change for inclusive and sustainable development Report of the Secretary-General |
| E/CN.16/2020/3 | Exploring space technologies for sustainable development and the benefits of international research collaboration in this context Report of the Secretary-General |
| E/CN.16/2020/CRP.1 | Report on the intersessional panel meeting |

Item 4

Presentation of reports on science, technology and innovation policy reviews

19. 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 72/242 and Economic and Social Council resolution 2019/25.

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

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

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

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

22. 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-fourth 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-third session**

23. 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-third session.

Annex I

Proposed organization of work

Date and time *Agenda item and discussion topic*

| Monday, 23 March | | |
|----------------------------|---|--|
| 10 a.m. | Agenda item 1. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters | Opening statements |
| | Contribution of the Commission to the Economic and Social Council and the high-level political forum on sustainable development | General discussion |
| | High-level round table on harnessing frontier and space technologies for accelerating progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals | |
| 3 p.m. | Agenda item 3. Science and technology for development Priority theme (b) Exploring space technologies for sustainable development and the benefits of international research collaboration in this context | Introduction followed by interactive discussion |
| Tuesday, 24 March | | |
| 10 a.m. | Agenda item 3. Science and technology for development Priority theme (a) Harnessing rapid technological change for inclusive and sustainable development | Introduction followed by interactive discussion |
| 3 p.m. | Agenda item 4. Presentation of reports on science, technology and innovation policy reviews | Introduction followed by interactive discussion |
| Wednesday, 25 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 followed by interactive discussion |
| 3 p.m. | Agenda item 3. Science and technology for development Gender and science; technology and innovation Priority theme (a), continued | Introduction followed by interactive discussion |
| Thursday, 26 March | | |
| 10 a.m. | Informal consultations | Introduction of draft proposals followed by discussion |
| 3 p.m. | Informal consultations | Discussion of draft proposals (continued) |
| Friday, 27 March | | |
| 10 a.m. and 3 p.m. | Informal consultations | Discussion of draft proposals (continued, as required) |
| | Action on draft proposals | Adoption of draft proposals |
| | Agenda item 5. Election of the Chair and other officers for the twenty-fourth session of the Commission | Election of officers |
| | Agenda item 6. Provisional agenda and documentation for the twenty-fourth session of the Commission | Adoption of draft provisional agenda for next session |
| | Agenda item 7. Adoption of the report of the Commission on its twenty-third session | Adoption of draft report |
| | Closing of the session | |

Annex II

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

The Commission is composed of 43 members, each 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. | Ecuador | 2022 |
| 14. | Egypt | 2022 |
| 15. | El Salvador | 2020 |
| 16. | Ethiopia | 2022 |
| 17. | Finland | 2020 |
| 18. | Germany | 2020 |
| 19. | Hungary | 2020 |
| 20. | Iran (Islamic Republic of) | 2022 |
| 21. | Japan | 2020 |
| 22. | Kazakhstan | 2020 |
| 23. | Kenya | 2022 |
| 24. | Latvia | 2022 |
| 25. | Liberia | 2022 |
| 26. | Madagascar | 2022 |
| 27. | Mexico | 2020 |
| 28. | Nepal | 2022 |
| 29. | Nigeria | 2020 |

| | <i>Membership</i> | <i>Term expires on 31 December</i> |
|-----|---|------------------------------------|
| 30. | Oman | 2022 |
| 31. | Panama | 2022 |
| 32. | Portugal | 2020 |
| 33. | Romania | 2022 |
| 34. | Russian Federation | 2020 |
| 35. | Saudi Arabia | 2020 |
| 36. | Serbia | 2020 |
| 37. | South Africa | 2020 |
| 38. | Switzerland | 2020 |
| 39. | Thailand | 2022 |
| 40. | Turkey | 2022 |
| 41. | Turkmenistan | 2020 |
| 42. | United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland | 2022 |
| 43. | United States of America | 2022 |



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Replace the table with the table below.

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| 12. | Dominican Republic | 2022 |
| 13. | Ecuador | 2022 |



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| 15. | El Salvador | 2020 |
| 16. | Ethiopia | 2022 |
| 17. | Finland | 2020 |
| 18. | Germany | 2020 |
| 19. | Hungary | 2022 |
| 20. | Iran (Islamic Republic of) | 2022 |
| 21. | Japan | 2020 |
| 22. | Kazakhstan | 2020 |
| 23. | Kenya | 2022 |
| 24. | Latvia | 2022 |
| 25. | Liberia | 2022 |
| 26. | Madagascar | 2022 |
| 27. | Mexico | 2020 |
| 28. | Nepal | 2022 |
| 29. | Nigeria | 2020 |
| 30. | Oman | 2022 |
| 31. | Panama | 2022 |
| 32. | Portugal | 2020 |
| 33. | Romania | 2022 |
| 34. | Russian Federation | 2020 |
| 35. | Saudi Arabia | 2020 |
| 36. | Serbia | 2020 |
| 37. | South Africa | 2020 |
| 38. | Switzerland | 2020 |
| 39. | Thailand | 2022 |
| 40. | Turkey | 2022 |
| 41. | Turkmenistan | 2020 |
| 42. | United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland | 2022 |
| 43. | United States of America | 2022 |
