



Commission on Science and Technology for Development**Twenty-ninth session**

Geneva, 20–24 April 2026

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 theme:
 - Science, technology and innovation in the age of artificial intelligence.
4. Report on technical cooperation activities in science, technology and innovation following Commission outcomes.
5. Progress report of the Multi-stakeholder Working Group on Data Governance at All Levels, as Relevant for Development.
6. Election of the Chair and other officers for the thirtieth session of the Commission.
7. Provisional agenda and documentation for the thirtieth session of the Commission.
8. Adoption of the report of the Commission on its twenty-ninth 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-ninth session of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development were approved by the Council in its decision 2025/326 on 29 July 2025.

2. In accordance with established practice, at its closing plenary on 11 April 2025, the Commission elected by acclamation the following members of the Bureau of the twenty-ninth session:

Vice-Chairs: Peter Major (Hungary)
Guilherme de Aguiar Patriota (Brazil)
Muhammadou M.O. Kah (Gambia)
Isabelle Lois (Switzerland)

3. The Commission will elect the Chair from the Asia–Pacific States, as well as the Vice-Chair from the Eastern Europe group following the sad passing away of Mr. Peter Major of Hungary.

4. The proposed organization of work of the Commission at its twenty-ninth 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, 20 to 24 April 2026. 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 2026, 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 “Transformative, equitable, innovative and coordinated actions for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its Sustainable Development Goals for a sustainable future for all”.

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 transformative, equitable, innovative and coordinated actions for the 2030 Agenda will be held on Monday, 20 April 2026. At the session, discussions will focus on the transformative, equitable, innovative and coordinated actions in the science, technology and innovation fields that will contribute to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for a sustainable future. The session will also provide an opportunity for high-level policymakers to exchange experiences in implementing the 2025 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.16/2026/1

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 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 2025 report was prepared based on the findings and recommendations of the intersessional panel meeting of the Commission, held on 17 October 2025, 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/81/62-E/2026/48 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: priority theme

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. Due to the impact of the liquidity crisis, the bureau of the Commission agreed to focus on one priority theme at the twenty-ninth session, namely science, technology and innovation in the age of artificial intelligence.

17. In selecting the theme, the Commission envisaged that the findings would contribute to the implementation of the ministerial declaration of the high-level segment of the 2025 session of the Economic and Social Council and the 2026 high-level political forum on sustainable development. In 2026, the forum will examine the theme “Transformative, equitable, innovative and coordinated actions for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its Sustainable Development Goals for a sustainable future for all” and will review Sustainable Development Goals 6, 7, 9, 11 and 17. It will also take into account the integrated, indivisible and interlinked nature of the Goals.

18. 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 theme will fulfil this request.

19. In order to contribute to a further understanding of the priority theme, and to assist the Commission in its deliberations at its twenty-ninth session, an intersessional panel meeting was convened on 17 October 2025.

Documentation

E/CN.16/2026/2 Science, technology and innovation in the age of artificial intelligence

Item 4
Report on technical cooperation activities in science, technology and innovation following Commission outcomes

20. The Commission on Science and Technology for Development will hear reporting on the outputs and results, including beneficiary countries’ improvements in the development of science, technology and innovation parks achieved under “Science, technology and innovation parks for sustainable development: Building expertise in policy and practice in selected Asian and African countries”, a project of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development funded by the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable

Development Sub-Fund of the United Nations Peace and Development Trust Fund. The Commission will also report here on other technical cooperation activities undertaken under the aegis of the Commission, including the results and impacts achieved under the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development project “Cropwatch innovation cooperation programme”, whose implementation started in 2021.

Item 5
Progress report of the Multi-stakeholder Working Group on Data Governance at All Levels, as Relevant for Development

21. The Commission will hear a report from the Multi-stakeholder Working Group on Data Governance at All Levels, as Relevant for Development on the progress it has made between March 2025 and March 2026. The Multi-stakeholder Working Group was established in March 2025, under the directive in General Assembly resolution 79/1, as articulated in paragraph 48 of annex I, Global Digital Compact, adopted in September 2024. The Multi-stakeholder Working Group is dedicated to engaging in a comprehensive and inclusive multi-stakeholder dialogue on data governance at all levels as relevant for development. It will report on its progress to the General Assembly, by no later than the eighty-first session, including on follow-up recommendations towards equitable and interoperable data governance arrangements.

Item 6
Election of the Chair and other officers for the thirtieth session of the Commission

22. In accordance with established practice, the Commission will elect a Chair and four Vice-Chairs for the thirtieth session at the end of the twenty-ninth session.

Item 7
Provisional agenda and documentation for the thirtieth 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 thirtieth session, together with an indication of the documentation to be submitted for its consideration.

Item 8
Adoption of the report of the Commission on its twenty-ninth session

24. 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-ninth session to the Economic and Social Council.

Annex I

Proposed organization of work

<i>Date/Time</i>	<i>Agenda item and discussion topic</i>	<i>Programme</i>
Monday, 20 April		
10 a.m.	Agenda item 1. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters	Opening statements Adoption of the agenda and organization of work
11.00 a.m.– 1 p.m.	Contribution of the Commission to the 2026 theme of the Economic and Social Council and the high-level political forum on sustainable development and the implementation of its 2025 ministerial declaration	Ministerial round table followed by general discussion
3 p.m.	Agenda item 3. Science and technology for development: priority theme: - Science, technology and innovation in the age of artificial intelligence	Introduction and panel presentation followed by general discussion
Tuesday, 21 April		
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 panel presentation followed by an interactive discussion
3 p.m.	Agenda item 5. Progress report of the Multi-stakeholder Working Group on Data Governance at All Levels, as Relevant for Development Agenda item 4. Report on technical cooperation activities in science, technology and innovation following Commission outcomes (including other cooperation activities undertaken under the aegis of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development)	Introduction followed by an interactive discussion Presentation of report followed by an interactive discussion
Wednesday, 22 April		
10 a.m.	Informal consultations	Introduction of draft proposals, followed by a discussion
3 p.m.	Informal consultations	Discussions on draft proposals (continued)
Thursday, 23 April		
10 a.m.	Informal consultations	Discussions on draft proposals (continued)
3 p.m.	Informal consultations	Discussions on draft proposals (continued)

<i>Date/Time</i>	<i>Agenda item and discussion topic</i>	<i>Programme</i>
Friday, 24 April		
10 a.m.	Informal consultations	Discussions on draft proposals (continued)
3 p.m.	Agenda item 6. Election of the Chair and other officers for the thirtieth session of the Commission	Election of officers
	Action on draft proposals	Adoption of draft proposals
	Agenda item 7. Provisional agenda and documentation for the thirtieth session of the Commission	Adoption of draft provisional agenda for next session
	Agenda item 8. Adoption of the report of the Commission on its twenty-ninth session	Adoption of draft report
	Closing of the session	

Annex II

Commission on Science and Technology for Development: Membership at its twenty-ninth 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. Algeria	2026
2. Austria	2028
3. Belize	2026
4. Botswana	2026
5. Brazil	2028
6. Burkina Faso	2028
7. Cameroon	2028
8. Canada	2026
9. China	2026
10. Colombia	2026
11. Cuba	2026
12. Democratic Republic of the Congo	2028
13. Djibouti	2026
14. Ecuador	2026
15. Egypt	2026
16. Estonia	2028
17. Finland	2028
18. France	2026
19. Gambia	2028
20. Germany	2028
21. Guatemala	2028
22. Hungary	2026
23. India	2026
24. Indonesia	2028
25. Iran (Islamic Republic of)	2028
26. Japan	2028
27. Latvia	2026
28. Oman	2026
29. Paraguay	2028

	<i>Membership</i>	<i>Term expires on 31 December</i>
30.	Peru	2028
31.	Philippines	2028
32.	Poland	2028
33.	Portugal	2028
34.	Romania	2026
35.	Rwanda	2026
36.	Switzerland	2028
37.	Tajikistan	2026
38.	Türkiye	2026
39.	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	2026
40.	United Republic of Tanzania	2026
41.	United States of America	2026
42.	Uzbekistan	2026
43.	Zambia	2028
