United Nations E/CN.16/2025/1

Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
21 January 2025

Original: English

Commission on Science and Technology for Development
Twenty-eighth session
Geneva, 7–11 April 2025
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.
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7. Adoption of the report of the Commission on its twenty-eighth 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-eighth session of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development were approved by the Council in its decision 2024/326 on 23 July 2024.

2. In accordance with established practice, at its closing plenary on 19 April 2024, the Commission elected by acclamation the following members of the Bureau of the twenty-eighth session:

Chair:
Muhammadou M.O. Kah (Gambia)

Vice-Chairs:
Ana Cristina Amoroso das Neves (Portugal)
Peter Major (Hungary)
Leah J. Buendia (Philippines)

3. The Vice-Chair from the Latin America and the Caribbean States, Bernardo Roca-Rey Ross (Peru) was elected through a silence procedure that ended on 15 October 2024.

4. In accordance with the past practice of the Commission, one of the Vice-Chairs will be designated to also serve as Rapporteur.

5. The proposed organization of work of the Commission at its twenty-eighth 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.

6. The Commission is scheduled to meet from Monday to Friday, 7 to 11 April 2025. 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.

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

8. On the recommendation of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development at its twenty-fourth session, in May 2021, the Economic and Social Council adopted decisions 2021/255, 2015/256 and 2015/257, which extended arrangements for the participation of non-governmental organizations, civil society entities, academic and technical entities and business sector entities, including the private sector, in the work of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development until 2025. It also adopted decision 2021/254, which extended the mandate of the Commission’s Gender Advisory Board for a further five years, beginning on 1 January 2021, in order to allow the Gender Advisory Board to complete its programme of work within the extrabudgetary resources allocated for this purpose.

9. The Commission will be asked to review, at its twenty-eighth session, the benefits of participation of non-governmental organizations, academic entities and business sector entities in the work of the Commission and to recommend appropriate steps to the Economic and Social Council. It will also be asked to review the work of its Gender Advisory Board and recommend appropriate steps to the Council.

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

10. 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 2024, 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 “Reinforcing the 2030 Agenda and eradicating poverty in times of multiple crises: the effective delivery of sustainable, resilient and innovative solutions”.

11. 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 reinforcing the 2030 Agenda and eradicating poverty in times of multiple crises, and the effective delivery of sustainable, resilient and innovative solutions, will be held on Monday, 7 April 2025. 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 2024 ministerial declaration of the high-level political forum on sustainable development.

12. 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.16/2025/1 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, including the 20-year review thereof

13. 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.

14. 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).

15. 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.

16. 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.

17. 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.

18. The 2025 report was prepared based on the findings and recommendations of the intersessional panel meeting of the Commission, held on 21 and 22 October 2024, as well as on inputs from 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/80/62-E/2025/12	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, including the 20-year review thereof
E/CN.16/2025/CRP.1	Report on the intersessional panel meeting

19. In addition, General Assembly resolution 70/125, adopted on 16 December 2015, called for a high-level meeting in 2025 to review the overall implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society. Economic and Social Council resolution 2023/3, adopted in June 2023, requested the Commission to collect inputs from Member States, all facilitators and other stakeholders, as well as to organize, during its twenty-seventh session, in 2024, and its twenty-eighth session, in 2025, substantive discussions on the progress made in the implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit during the past 20 years, and to report thereon, through the Economic and Social Council, to the General Assembly. The Commission will allocate dedicated time for such discussions under item 3.

Item 3
Science and technology for development: priority themes

20. 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.

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

(a) Diversifying economies in a world of accelerated digitalization;

(b) Technology foresight and technology assessment for sustainable development.

22. 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 2024 session of the Economic and Social Council and the 2025 high-level political forum on sustainable development. In 2025, the forum will examine the theme “Advancing sustainable, inclusive, science- and evidence-based solutions for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its Sustainable Development Goals for leaving no one behind” and will review Sustainable Development Goals 3, 5, 8, 14 and 17. It will also take into account the integrated, indivisible and interlinked nature of the Goals.

23. 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.

24. In order to contribute to a further understanding of the priority themes, and to assist the Commission in its deliberations at its twenty-seventh session, an intersessional panel meeting was convened on 21 and 22 October 2024. A report on the intersessional panel meeting will be before the Commission.

Documentation

E/CN.16/2025/2	Diversifying economies in a world of accelerated digitalization Report of the Secretary-General
E/CN.16/2025/3	Technology foresight and technology assessment for sustainable development Report of the Secretary-General
E/CN.16/2025/CRP.1	Report on the intersessional panel meeting

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

25. 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 resolutions 74/229 and 76/213 and Economic and Social Council resolution 2023/4.

26. The Commission on Science and Technology for Development will hear presentations of reports on science, technology and innovation park assessment and policy issues of Ghana, Mongolia, Mozambique and Uzbekistan. The Commission will also report here on other technical cooperation activities undertaken under the aegis of the Commission, including the implementation of technology assessment projects in developing countries.

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

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

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

28. 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-ninth 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-eighth session

29. 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-eighth session to the Economic and Social Council.

Annex I

Proposed organization of work

Date/Time	*Agenda item and discussion topic*	*Programme*
Monday, 7 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 2025 theme of the Economic and Social Council and the high-level political forum on sustainable development and the implementation of its 2024 ministerial declaration	Ministerial round table followed by general discussion
3 p.m.	Agenda item 3. Science and technology for development Priority theme: (a) Diversifying economies in a world of accelerated digitalization	High-level round table followed by general discussion
Tuesday, 8 April		
10 a.m.	Agenda item 3. Science and technology for development Priority theme: (b) Technology foresight and technology assessment for sustainable development	Introduction and high-level round table followed by an interactive discussion
3 p.m.	Agenda item 4. Report on technical cooperation activities in science, technology and innovation (including other cooperation activities undertaken under the aegis of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development)	Presentation of reports followed by an interactive discussion
Wednesday, 9 April		
10 a.m.–1p.m. and 3–6 p.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 (including a dedicated discussion on the World Summit on the Information Society+20 review)	Introduction and high-level round table followed by interactive discussion
Thursday, 10 April		
10 a.m.	Informal consultations	Introduction of draft proposals, followed by a discussion
3 p.m.	Informal consultations	Discussions on draft proposals (continued)
Friday, 11 April		
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-ninth session of the Commission	Election of officers
	Action on draft proposals	Adoption of draft proposals

Date/Time	*Agenda item and discussion topic*	*Programme*
	Agenda item 6. Provisional agenda and documentation for the twenty-ninth 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-eighth session	Adoption of draft report
	Closing of the session	

Annex II

Commission on Science and Technology for Development: Membership at its twenty-eighth 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	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.	Hungary	2026
22.	India	2026
23.	Indonesia	2028
24.	Iran (Islamic Republic of)	2028
25.	Japan	2028
26.	Latvia	2026
27.	Oman	2026
28.	Paraguay	2028
29.	Peru	2028

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