



Commission on Science and Technology for Development

Twenty-fourth session

Geneva, 17–21 May 2021

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) Using science, technology and innovation to close the gap on Sustainable Development Goal 3 on good health and well-being;
 - (b) Harnessing blockchain for sustainable development: prospects and challenges.
4. Presentation of reports on science, technology and innovation policy reviews.
5. Election of the Chair and other officers for the twenty-fifth session of the Commission.
6. Provisional agenda and documentation for the twenty-fifth session of the Commission.
7. Adoption of the report of the Commission on its twenty-fourth 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-fourth session of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development were approved by the Council in its decision 2020/220 on 17 July 2020.

2. In accordance with Economic and Social Council decision 2020/206, the Commission elected, under silence procedure, by acclamation the following members of the Bureau of the twenty-fourth session (E/2020/31-E/CN.16/2020/4, para. 10):

Chair: Peter Major (Hungary)

Vice-Chairs: A Min Tjoa (Austria)

Kekgonne Baipoledi (Botswana)

3. The Commission postponed the election of the Vice-Chairs from the Asia-Pacific States and 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-fourth 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. The programme may also be adapted in view of the pandemic.

5. Due to the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic and limitations on in-person meetings and international travel, the Commission is scheduled to meet from 17 to 21 May 2021 in a hybrid format. The virtual sessions will be held in reduced time from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. daily (Geneva time).

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

7. On the recommendation of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development at its eighteenth session, in May 2015 the Economic and Social Council adopted decisions 2015/243, 2015/244 and 2015/245, 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 2020. It also adopted decision 2011/242, which extended the mandate of the Commission's Gender Advisory Board for a further five years, beginning on 1 January 2016, in order to allow the Gender Advisory Board to complete its programme of work within the extrabudgetary resources allocated for this purpose.

8. The Commission will be asked to review, at its twenty-fourth 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

9. General Assembly resolution 70/1, entitled "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 2021 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 “Sustainable and resilient recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic, that promotes the economic, social, and environmental dimensions of sustainable development: Building an inclusive and effective path for the achievement of the 2030 Agenda in the context of the decade of action and delivery for sustainable development”.

10. 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 a sustainable and resilient recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic will be held on Monday, 17 May 2021. The session will identify ways to prioritize science, technology and innovation as part of national development strategies in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic and the decade of action and delivery for sustainable development. It will also provide an opportunity for high-level policymakers to exchange experiences, lessons learned and best practices in applying science, technology and innovation in the achievement of the set of Sustainable Development Goals to be reviewed under this theme:

- Goal 1. End poverty in all its forms everywhere.
- Goal 2. End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture.
- Goal 3. Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages.
- Goal 8. Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all.
- Goal 10. Reduce inequality within and among countries.
- Goal 12. Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns.
- Goal 13. Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts.
- Goal 16. Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels.
- Goal 17. Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development.

11. The Commission will have the opportunity to examine in depth the role of science, technology and innovation in contributing to Goal 3, when it examines priority theme 3 (a), using science, technology and innovation to close the gap on Sustainable Development Goal 3 on good health and well-being, on Tuesday, 18 May 2021.

12. The outcome of the discussion will be in the form of a Chair’s summary to be submitted to the Economic and Social Council and the high-level political forum on sustainable development under the auspices of the Council for consideration.

Documentation

E/CN.16/2021/1

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

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, 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.

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, the Council was requested to 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, 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.

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 (A/76/64-E/2021/11) 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.

18. The 2020 report was prepared based on the findings and recommendations of the Commission's panel discussion, held virtually in January 2021, 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/76/64-E/2021/11 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

19. 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.

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

- (a) Using science, technology and innovation to close the gap on Sustainable Development Goal 3 on good health and well-being;
- (b) Harnessing blockchain for sustainable development: prospects and challenges.

21. In selecting these themes, the Commission envisaged that the findings would contribute to the high-level political forum on sustainable development that will examine in 2021 the theme of sustainable and resilient recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic, which promotes the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development, and review Sustainable Development Goals 1, 2, 3, 8, 10, 12, 13, 16 and 17. The Commission's deliberations on the first theme will directly contribute to the review of Goal 3.

22. 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 second theme, will fulfil this request.

23. 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, a panel meeting was convened virtually from 17 to 21 January 2021. The report on the panel discussion will be before the Commission.

Documentation

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| E/CN.16/2021/2 | Using science, technology and innovation to close the gap on Sustainable Development Goal 3, good health and well-being
Report of the Secretary-General |
| E/CN.16/2021/3 | Harnessing blockchain for sustainable development: prospects and challenges
Report of the Secretary-General |
| E/CN.16/2021/CRP.1 | Report on the intersessional panel meeting |

Item 4

Presentation of reports on science, technology and innovation policy reviews

24. 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 2020/13.

25. The Commission will hear presentations on the science, technology and innovation policy reviews of Botswana, the Dominican Republic, Uganda and Zambia.

Item 5

Election of the Chair and other officers for the twenty-fifth session of the Commission

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

Item 6

Provisional agenda and documentation for the twenty-fifth session of the Commission

27. 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-fifth 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-fourth session

28. 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-fourth session to the Economic and Social Council.

Annex I

Proposed organization of work

Date and time *Agenda item and discussion topic*

(Geneva time)

Monday, 17 May

2 p.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	High-level round table followed by an interactive dialogue
	High-level round table on the role of science, technology and innovation in a sustainable and resilient recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic	

Tuesday, 18 May

2 p.m.	Agenda item 3. Science and technology for development Priority theme (a). Using science, technology and innovation to close the gap on Sustainable Development Goal 3 on good health and well-being	Introduction followed by high-level round table and interactive discussion
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Wednesday, 19 May

2 p.m.	Agenda item 3. Science and technology for development Priority theme (b). Harnessing blockchain for sustainable development: prospects and challenges	Introduction followed by high-level round table and interactive discussion
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Thursday, 20 May

2 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	Introduction followed by high-level round table and an interactive dialogue
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Friday, 21 May

2 p.m.	Agenda item 4. Presentation of reports on science, technology and innovation policy reviews	Introduction followed by an interactive discussion
	Action on draft proposals	Adoption of draft proposals
	Agenda item 5. Election of the Chair and other officers for the twenty-fifth session of the Commission	Election of officers
	Agenda item 6. Provisional agenda and documentation for the twenty-fifth 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-fourth session	Adoption of draft report
	Closing of the session	

Annex II

Commission on Science and Technology for Development: Membership at its twenty-fourth 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	2024
2. Belarus	2024
3. Belgium	2022
4. Botswana	2022
5. Brazil	2024
6. Burundi	2024
7. Cameroon	2024
8. Canada	2022
9. China	2022
10. Cuba	2022
11. Dominican Republic	2022
12. Ecuador	2022
13. Egypt	2022
14. Ethiopia	2022
15. Finland	2024
16. Gambia	2024
17. Guatemala	2024
18. Guinea	2024
19. Hungary	2022
20. Iran (Islamic Republic of)	2022
21. Japan	2024
22. Kenya	2022
23. Latvia	2022
24. Liberia	2022
25. Madagascar	2022
26. Nepal	2022
27. Oman	2022
28. Panama	2022

<i>Membership*</i>	<i>Term expires on 31 December</i>
29. Paraguay	2024
30. Peru	2024
31. Philippines	2024
32. Portugal	2024
33. Romania	2022
34. Russian Federation	2024
35. Saudi Arabia	2024
36. South Africa	2024
37. Switzerland	2024
38. Thailand	2022
39. Turkey	2022
40. Turkmenistan	2024
41. United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	2022
42. United States of America	2022

* There remains one outstanding vacancy from Western European and Other States for a four-year term beginning on 1 January 2021.
