



# Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General  
20 November 2020

Original: English

---

## Commission for Social Development

Fifty-ninth session

8–17 February 2021

Item 2 of the provisional agenda

**Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters**

### **Provisional annotated agenda and proposed organization of work**

#### **Provisional agenda**

1. Election of officers.
2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.
3. Follow-up to the World Summit for Social Development and the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly:
  - (a) Priority theme: Socially just transition towards sustainable development: the role of digital technologies on social development and well-being of all;
  - (b) Review of relevant United Nations plans and programmes of action pertaining to the situation of social groups:
    - (i) Outcome document of the high-level meeting of the General Assembly on the realization of the Millennium Development Goals and other internationally agreed development goals for persons with disabilities: the way forward, a disability-inclusive development agenda towards 2015 and beyond;
    - (ii) World Programme of Action for Youth;
    - (iii) Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, 2002;
    - (iv) Family issues, policies and programmes;
  - (c) Emerging issues: Social policy to promote a more inclusive, resilient and sustainable recovery: building back better post-COVID-19 for the achievement of the 2030 Agenda in the context of the decade of action and delivery for sustainable development.



4. Programme questions and other matters:
  - (a) Proposed programme plan for 2022;
  - (b) United Nations Research Institute for Social Development.
5. Provisional agenda for the sixtieth session of the Commission.
6. Adoption of the report of the Commission on its fifty-ninth session.

## Annotations

### 1. Election of officers

In accordance with rule 15 of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council, at the commencement of the first meeting of a regular session, the Commission on Social Development shall elect from among the representatives of its members a Chair, one or more Vice-Chairs and such other officers as may be required. In subparagraph (c) of its decision 2002/210, the Council decided that, immediately following the closure of a regular session, the Commission for Social Development would hold the first meeting of its subsequent regular session for the sole purpose of electing the new Chair and other members of the Bureau. Accordingly, the Commission held the first meeting of its fifty-ninth session on 19 February 2020, immediately following the closure of the fifty-eighth session, and elected by acclamation Martin García Moritán (Argentina) as Chair and Sharifa Yousef Alnesf (Qatar) as Vice-Chair of the Commission for its fifty-ninth session. At the same meeting, the Commission postponed the election of the remaining three officers, on the understanding that upon nomination by their respective groups, the candidates would be allowed to participate in the meetings of the Bureau held in preparation for the fifty-ninth session of the Commission.

On 8 February 2020, the Commission will be invited to elect officers to its outstanding vacancies, and to designate one of its Vice-Chairs as Rapporteur.

### 2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters

In accordance with rule 7 of the rules of procedure, after the election of its officers at the beginning of each session, the Commission shall adopt the agenda for that session on the basis of the provisional agenda. The provisional agenda and documentation for the fifty-ninth session of the Commission were approved by the Council in its decision 2020/212.

The proposed organization of work of the Commission at its fifty-ninth session will be prepared pursuant to relevant decisions of the General Assembly and the Council to facilitate the consideration of agenda items within the time frame available, in accordance with the conference services allocated to the Commission, and taking into account the prevailing conditions relating to the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) on the working arrangements for its fifty-ninth session. 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. The timetable may also need to be adjusted on the basis of the evolving situation related to COVID-19.

The Commission is expected to meet in-person and virtually from Monday, 8 February, to Wednesday, 17 February 2021. Arrangements have been made to hold morning and afternoon meetings during the session: in-person formal meetings will be held from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. Informal virtual meetings will be held from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. and from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m.

#### *Documentation*

Provisional annotated agenda and proposed organization of work ([E/CN.5/2021/1/Add.1](#))

### **3. Follow-up to the World Summit for Social Development and the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly**

In accordance with General Assembly resolution [55/46](#) on the implementation of the outcome of the World Summit for Social Development and of the twenty-fourth special session of the Assembly entitled “World Summit for Social Development and beyond: achieving social development for all in a globalizing world”, the Commission will undertake regular assessment of the implementation of the Copenhagen commitments and the further initiatives adopted in Geneva, in a manner consistent with the functions and contributions of the relevant organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system, and shall advise the Council.

The Commission serves as the main United Nations forum for an intensified global dialogue on social development issues and will contribute to the follow-up to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, within its existing mandate, by supporting the thematic reviews of the high-level political forum on sustainable development on progress with regard to the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals, including cross-cutting issues, which should reflect the integrated nature of the Goals as well as the interlinkages between them.

#### *Documentation*

Report of the Secretary-General on the social dimensions of the New Partnership for Africa’s Development ([E/CN.5/2021/2](#))

#### **(a) Priority theme: Socially just transition towards sustainable development: the role of digital technologies on social development and well-being of all**

In its resolution [2018/3](#), the Council decided that the Commission would consider one priority theme at each session on the basis of the follow-up to and review of the World Summit and its linkages to the social dimensions of the 2030 Agenda, proposing an action-oriented resolution with recommendations to the Council in order to contribute to its work. The Council decided that the priority theme for the fifty-ninth session would be “Socially just transition towards sustainable development: the role of digital technologies on social development and well-being of all”. The Commission will have before it the report of the Secretary-General on the priority theme.

#### *Documentation*

Report of the Secretary-General entitled “Socially just transition towards sustainable development: the role of digital technologies on social development and well-being of all ([E/CN.5/2021/3](#))

#### **(b) Review of relevant United Nations plans and programmes of action pertaining to the situation of social groups**

**(i) Outcome document of the high-level meeting of the General Assembly on the realization of the Millennium Development Goals and other internationally agreed development goals for persons with disabilities: the way forward, a disability-inclusive development agenda towards 2015 and beyond**

**(ii) World Programme of Action for Youth**

**(iii) Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, 2002**

**(iv) Family issues, policies and programmes**

The Commission will consider issues pertaining to the situation of social groups.

*Documentation*

Report of the Secretary-General on policies and programmes involving youth ([E/CN.5/2021/5](#))

Report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the objectives of the International Year of the Family and its follow-up processes ([A/76/61-E/2021/4](#))

**(c) Emerging issues: Social policy to promote a more inclusive, resilient and sustainable recovery: building back better post-COVID-19 for the achievement of the 2030 Agenda in the context of the decade of action and delivery for sustainable development**

In its resolution 2006/18, the Council decided to include the agenda item entitled “Emerging issues” in the programme of work of the Commission. After consultation with the five regional groups, the members of the Bureau agreed that the theme for discussion under this agenda item during the fifty-ninth session would be “Social policy to promote a more inclusive, resilient and sustainable recovery: building back better post-COVID-19 for the achievement of the 2030 Agenda in the context of the decade of action and delivery for sustainable development”. A note by the Secretariat will be available to facilitate the discussion.

*Documentation*

Note by the Secretariat entitled “Social policy to promote a more inclusive, resilient and sustainable recovery: building back better post-COVID-19 for the achievement of the 2030 Agenda in the context of the decade of action and delivery for sustainable development” ([E/CN.5/2021/4](#))

**4. Programme questions and other matters**

**(a) Proposed programme plan for 2022**

*Documentation*

Note by the Secretariat on the proposed programme plan for 2022

**(b) United Nations Research Institute for Social Development**

*Nomination of members of the Board of the Institute*

The Board of the United Nations Research Institute for Social Development is composed of 10 members, who are nominated by the Commission and confirmed by the Council for a term of four years, renewable once for a further two years, in accordance with Commission resolution 10 (XXV).

The Commission will be called upon to nominate two new members to fill vacancies on the Board. The Council will be called upon to confirm those nominations.

*Documentation*

Note by the Secretary-General on the nomination of members of the Board of the United Nations Research Institute for Social Development ([E/CN.5/2021/7](#))

*Report of the Board of the Institute*

In accordance with its terms of reference, the Board of the Institute submits to the Commission a report on the progress of its work. The Commission will have before it the report of the Board covering 2019 and 2020.

*Documentation*

Report of the Board of the United Nations Research Institute for Social Development ([E/CN.5/2021/8](#))

*Statute of the Institute*

At its fifty-ninth session, the Commission may wish to consider recommending to the Council a draft decision that would authorize the Secretary-General to prepare, in consultation with the Board of the Institute, a draft statute updating the Secretary-General's bulletin of 1 August 1963 on the Institute ([ST/SGB/126](#)), and to promulgate it.

*Documentation*

Note by the Secretary-General on the statute of the United Nations Research Institute for Social Development ([E/CN.5/2021/6](#))

**5. Provisional agenda for the sixtieth session of the Commission**

In accordance with rule 9 of the rules of procedure, the Commission will have before it the draft provisional agenda for its sixtieth session, together with an indication of the documentation to be submitted for its consideration.

*Documentation*

Draft provisional agenda for the sixtieth session of the Commission ([E/CN.5/2021/L.1](#))<sup>1</sup>

**6. Adoption of the report of the Commission on its fifty-ninth session**

In accordance with rule 37 of the rules of procedure, the Commission shall submit to the Council a report on the work of its fifty-ninth session.

*Documentation*

Draft report of the Commission on its fifty-ninth session ([E/CN.5/2021/L.2](#))<sup>1</sup>

---

---

<sup>1</sup> To be issued as an in-session document.