



Economic and Social Council

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2020 session

Agenda item 2

Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters

Resolution adopted by the Economic and Social Council on 14 April 2020

[on a proposal considered under silence procedure ([E/2020/L.6](#))]

2020/3. Revised working arrangements for the 2020 session of the Economic and Social Council and sessions of its subsidiary bodies

The Economic and Social Council,

Expressing solidarity with Member States that are fighting the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19),

Recalling its resolution [2020/1](#) of 25 July 2019 on the working arrangements for the 2020 session of the Council and its resolution [2019/11](#) of 7 June 2019 on the provisional calendar of conferences and meetings in the economic, social and related fields for 2020 and 2021,

Taking into account the impact of COVID-19 on the working arrangements for the 2020 session of the Council and sessions of its subsidiary bodies,

Recalling its decision 2020/205 of 3 April 2020, by which the Council was authorized to adopt decisions through a silence procedure,

Recalling also decisions already taken, including in consultation with the President of the General Assembly, to postpone the youth plenary (scheduled for 31 March), the youth forum of the Council (scheduled for 1 and 2 April), the joint thematic event on the least developed countries (scheduled for 13 April) and the special meeting of the Council on the Sahel region (scheduled for 14 April),

Noting that the Council is expected to adopt the working arrangements for its 2021 session at the organizational meeting of the 2021 session, on 23 July 2020,

Encouraging Member States to make use of virtual platforms, where appropriate, to conduct preparatory meetings and informal consultations,



1. *Decides* to further adjust the working arrangements for the 2020 session of the Economic and Social Council, for meetings scheduled to be held in April and May, as follows:

(a) The following meetings and forums of the Council will be postponed to a later date during the 2020 session and will be held, as applicable, in a scaled-down and abbreviated format, with final modalities to be decided by the Bureau of the Council, following consultations with Member States, taking into account the possibility of meeting at United Nations Headquarters and the availability of conference services:

(i) Management meeting to conduct elections (scheduled for 15 April);

(ii) Forum on financing for development follow-up (scheduled for 20 to 23 April);

(b) The following meetings and forums of the Council will be deferred to the 2021 session:¹

(i) Partnership forum (scheduled for 3 April);

(ii) Special meeting of the Council on international cooperation in tax matters (scheduled for 1 May);

(iii) Multi-stakeholder forum on science, technology and innovation for the Sustainable Development Goals (scheduled for 12 and 13 May);

(iv) Development Cooperation Forum (scheduled for 14 and 15 May);

(c) The planning of the operational activities for development segment (scheduled for 19 to 21 May) will proceed, taking into account the prevailing conditions relating to COVID-19 and available technological and procedural solutions in the interim period, with final modalities to be decided by the Bureau of the Council, following consultations with Member States, taking into account the possibility of meeting at United Nations Headquarters and the availability of conference services;

2. *Also decides*, following consultations with the Chairs of the bodies concerned, to adjust the working arrangements for subsidiary bodies of the Council meeting in New York, as follows:

(a) Short procedural meetings of the Commission on the Status of Women (session scheduled for 9 to 20 March), the Commission on Population and Development (session scheduled for 30 March to 3 April) and the United Nations Forum on Forests (session scheduled for 4 to 8 May) will be held, at a later date during the 2020 session of the Council, in order to adopt procedural and other decisions;

(b) The sessions of the following subsidiary bodies will be postponed to a later date to be decided and will be held, as applicable, in a scaled-down and abbreviated format, with final modalities to be decided by the Bureau of the Council, following consultations with elected officers and Member States, taking into account the possibility of meeting at United Nations Headquarters and the availability of conference services:

(i) Committee of Experts on Public Administration (session scheduled for 30 March to 3 April);

(ii) Committee of Experts on International Cooperation in Tax Matters (session scheduled for 27 to 30 April);

(iii) Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations (session scheduled for 18 to 28 May and 5 June);

¹ Subject to the decision of the Council on the working arrangements for its 2021 session.

3. *Encourages* the members of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (session scheduled for 13 to 24 April) to conduct informal consultations through virtual means with a view to reaching agreement on procedural recommendations to prepare for the 2021 session of the Forum;
4. *Decides* to keep the present working arrangements under review.

14 April 2020
