



Economic and Social Council

Distr.: Limited
25 June 2012

Original: English

Committee for Programme and Coordination

Fifty-second session

4-29 June 2012

Agenda item 7

Adoption of the report of the Committee on its fifty-second session

Draft report

Rapporteur: Ms. Imelda Smolcic (Uruguay)

Addendum

Proposed strategic framework for the period 2014-2015

(Item 3 (b))

Programme 17

Economic development in Europe

1. At its 15th meeting, on 13 June 2012, the Committee considered programme 17, Economic development in Europe, of the proposed strategic framework for the period 2014-2015 (A/67/6 (Prog. 17)).
2. The Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Europe introduced the programme and responded to queries raised during the Committee's consideration of the programme.

Discussion

3. Views were expressed in support of the programme, and it was noted that the programme was well structured. The view was expressed that all countries covered by the programme, including landlocked countries and countries with economies in transition, benefited from the programme. It was also noted that the diversity and varying levels of economic and social development of the beneficiary countries added significant challenges to the work of the Economic Commission for Europe.
4. Divergent views were expressed concerning the use of the term "green economy". Views were expressed that it was premature to use the term before the adoption of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20) outcome or before the term had been defined and agreed. Views were expressed that the focus of the programme should be on sustainable development, which covered



all aspects of development. It was also pointed out that the concept of green economy emanated from the United Nations Environment Programme and was a useful tool for dealing with poverty, economy, energy and other issues related to sustainable development. The view was expressed that, regardless of whether or not the term was agreed, the concept was not limited to Europe.

5. Concerns were expressed about the use of such terms as UN-Water and UN-Energy and that they were not yet fully defined.

6. Appreciation was expressed for the normative work of the programme and its significant impact on populations within and outside the region, in particular the work that contributed to increased road safety and to more efficient use of energy resources.

7. Views were expressed in support of the programme, in particular with regard to subprogramme 5, Sustainable energy, and subprogramme 6, Trade. The importance of subprogramme 5, which provided an important platform for high-level discussions among Member States, was emphasized. The importance of the work under subprogramme 6, which contributed to a non-discriminatory trade environment within the region, was highlighted.

8. It was stressed that efforts should be made to harmonize and align the strategic frameworks of the regional commissions in order to facilitate the review by intergovernmental bodies of cross-cutting issues.

9. It was also stressed that the results-based-budgeting methodology should be utilized to measure the accomplishments and indicators of achievement of the Secretariat, and not of Member States.

10. The ongoing review of the programme was noted, and the view was expressed that the process would result in a streamlined proposed strategic framework for the period 2014-2015.

11. In respect of the programme performance report for the biennium 2010-2011 (A/67/77), support was expressed for initiatives such as gender mainstreaming and cooperation with other regional commissions. Concern was expressed, however, regarding the extended period of time required to complete the recruitment process and its adverse consequences on the delivery of the mandated activities.

Conclusions and recommendations

12. The Committee recommended that the General Assembly approve the programme narrative of programme 17, Economic development in Europe, of the proposed strategic framework for the period 2014-2015.