



Preliminary identification of the main technical theme for the 44th Session of the ECA (2025)

The 44th Session of the ECA is taking place in Budapest, in September 2025.

As recommended by the ECA Assessment conducted in 2017, each ECA Session has a main technical theme, of interest to the entire membership, to be tackled from different perspectives, e.g. on-going initiatives, innovation, technologies, policies, management capacity development needs and opportunities.

Proposals for the main technical theme for the ECA Session are collected through an open call operated by the ECA Secretariat, in order to obtain information on topics of interest to the Members of the region. The call will be accompanied by relevant guidance on the selection of topics for ECA sessions provided by the 2017 ECA Assessment, and by the list of topics covered at previous ECA and ERC sessions.

Whenever relevant and appropriate, the ECA theme should align with the biennial theme selected by the FAO Conference, addressing it from the perspective of ECA mandate, to avoid duplication of debates. Considering that the biennial theme for 2026-27 would be discussed and agreed by the FAO Programme Committee in December 2024, and the proposal is known from the Programme Committee documents earliest in November, the following timeframe is suggested for the identification of the main technical theme for the 44th Session of the ECA.

Suggested timeframe

Time	Action	Owner
Aug 2024	Announce the call for proposals	ECA Secretariat
Sep 2024	Update ExCom on the call	ECA Secretariat
Oct 2024	Submit proposals	Members
Nov 2024	Process proposals and propose the ECA theme with subtopics in light of the FAO biennial theme	ECA Secretariat
Nov 2024	Discuss and decide on the main technical theme in light of the FAO biennial theme	ECA ExCom
Feb 2025	Discuss the draft annotated agenda	ECA ExCom
Apr 2025	Decide on the final annotated agenda	ECA ExCom
Aug 2025	Prepare background documents	ECA Secretariat
Sep 2025	44 th Session of the ECA	

The ExCom is invited to:

- review and endorse suggested steps and timeframe for identifying the main technical theme for the 44th Session of the ECA, considering that the FAO biennial theme for 2026-27 becomes known earliest in November 2025.