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ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

**COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC COOPERATION
AND INTEGRATION**

Team of Specialists on Public-Private Partnerships

First session
Geneva, 28-29 February 2008

PROVISIONAL AGENDA FOR THE FIRST SESSION*

To be held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva,
Starting at 10 a.m. on 28 February 2008

I. INTRODUCTION

1. At its second session held in Geneva on 5-7 December 2007, the Committee on Economic Cooperation and Integration of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) established a new Team of Specialists on Public-Private Partnerships (TOS-PPP). The first session of the TOS-PPP will be held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva on 28-29 February 2008.
2. The objective of the first session is to constitute the TOS-PPP and decide on practical arrangements that would enable the Team to effectively implement activities set out in its Terms of Reference. (<http://www.unece.org/ceci/ppp>).

* Delegates attending meetings at the Palais des Nations should complete the registration form, downloadable from <http://www.unece.org/ie/welcome/dc/regfe.pdf> and transmit it to the secretariat either by email (ceci@unece.org) or by fax (+41 22 917 01 78). Prior to the session, delegates (with the exception of delegates from the Geneva-based Missions) are requested to present themselves with a valid identification card/passport at the Pass and Identification Unit of the UNOG Security and Safety Section, located at the Pregny Gate, Avenue de la Paix 8-14, (a map is attached to the registration form) for the issuance of an identification badge. Delegates encountering problems in accessing the Palais des Nations should contact the secretariat at ceci@unece.org or +41 22 917 27 53.. Additional information for delegates is available on the UNECE website at <http://www.unece.org/ceci/addinf.html>.

II. PROVISIONAL AGENDA

1. Election of Officers
2. Adoption of the Agenda
3. Policy dialogue on training needs and experiences in public-private partnerships in the UNECE region
4. Review of work accomplished by the international network of experts on public-private partnerships
5. Programme of Work for the Team of Specialists for 2008 and 2009
 - (a) Preparation of a comparative review on legal issues
 - (b) Capacity-building activities planned for 2008
6. Proposals for cooperation on capacity-building activities, including cooperation with international and regional organizations
7. Other business

III. ANNOTATIONS TO THE PROVISIONAL AGENDA

Item 1. Election of Officers

1. The Team of Specialists will elect the Chair and one or several Vice-Chairs.

Item 2. Adoption of the Agenda

2. The TOS-PPP will adopt the agenda of its first session.

Item 3. Policy dialogue on training needs and experiences in public-private partnerships in the UNECE region

3. This substantive segment is envisaged as a round table policy seminar with the participation of policymakers, the business community, representatives of international organizations and academia. The deliberations under this item will provide an opportunity for a wide a range of stakeholders to participate in these discussions and present their perspectives on issues under discussion.

4. The discussions will be structured around selected thematic areas and presentations, leaving space for interaction between participants. The topics to be addressed reflect the focus of the Terms of Reference of the TOS-PPP on future capacity-building activities as well as the day-to-day practicalities of implementing policies on public-private partnerships. This will take into account the outcomes of the activities of the international network of experts that was established by UNECE in 2007, including the International Conference on “Knowledge Sharing and

Capacity-Building in Promoting Successful Public-Private Partnerships”(Tel Aviv, 5-8 June 2007).

Item 4. Review of work accomplished by the international network of experts on public-private partnerships

5. To introduce the discussion, the Chair will brief the TOS-PPP members on the following outcomes of the work done in 2007:

- (a) Guidebook on Promoting Good Governance in Public-Private Partnerships; and
- (b) Draft of the Comparative Review on the Performance of Public-Private Partnerships in Transition and Market Economies.

6. Members of the TOS-PPP will then have the opportunity to comment on both documents and discuss effective means for their dissemination. In view of the increased emphasis on capacity-building activities in the Programme of Work of the Committee on Economic Cooperation and Integration (CECI), the Team of Specialists may consider how the materials produced in 2007 could be used and adapted to contribute to fulfilling this mandate.

Item 5. Programme of Work of the Team of Specialists for 2008 and 2009

7. The Team of Specialists will discuss and approve its Programme of Work for 2008 and 2009.

(a) Preparation of a comparative review on legal issues

8. The TOS-PPP will prepare a report for 2008 and 2009, the provisional title of which will be a “Comparative review on legal issues in PPPs“. The purpose of the report is to determine whether new legislation is required in PPPs to make implementation of PPP programmes more successful. The TOS-PPP will discuss the issues to be covered in the proposed report and the procedures for carrying it out (e.g. holding an expert meeting etc.)

(b) Capacity-building activities planned for 2008

9. In its deliberations, the TOS-PPP is encouraged to bear in mind the increased importance of capacity-building activities in the future work of the Committee on Economic Cooperation and Integration. One specific related aspect to be addressed is the possible transformation of the policy-related documents (e.g. Guidebook on Good Governance in Public-Private Partnerships) into training materials, modules and toolkits that could be used for capacity-building. The TOS-PPP will discuss how to elaborate training modules and identify experts who wish to collaborate in their preparation.

10. The secretariat will report on the preparations for the capacity-building event to take place in Moscow (later in 2008) and provide information on the activities envisaged in 2008 under the project on the Public-Private Partnerships Alliance Programme for Capacity-Building in Infrastructure Development and Provision of Basic Services funded from the 5th Tranche of the United Nations Development Fund. This project is led by the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP) with the collaboration of UNECE and

the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA). A conference, involving all the three Regional Commissions of the United Nations, will be held at the end of the project at which each of the Commissions will report on their respective activities and make conclusions and recommendations for the next steps in the development of the Alliance.

11. Representatives of academic institutions will be invited to report on possible establishing of academic courses on public-private partnerships and on modalities of cooperation amongst academic bodies from different UNECE countries in the elaboration of a syllabus on public-private partnerships.

12. The Team of Specialists will discuss its preliminary Programme of Work for 2009.

Item 6. Proposals for cooperation on capacity-building activities, including cooperation with international and regional organizations

13. The secretariat will organize presentations of activities under other thematic areas of the Programme of Work of the Committee on Economic Cooperation and Integration, as well as those of other subprogrammes of UNECE that are relevant for public-private partnerships (e.g. environment, trade, transport, sustainable energy). The TOS-PPP will be invited to reflect on ways to promote cross-cutting activities and enhance existing synergies with other subprogrammes of UNECE.

14. International and regional organizations, such as United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD), European Community, Eurasian Economic Community (EurAsEC) and Central European Initiative (CEI), will be invited to inform on their activities in the area of public-private partnerships and to propose possible ways of cooperating with the TOS-PPP.

15. Participants will be encouraged to bring proposals on holding further expert meetings in support of the TOS-PPP Programme of Work and capacity-building activities.

Item 7. Other business

16. Among other issues, the TOS-PPP will consider procedures for the adoption of the report of the session. In accordance with established practice, it is proposed that the report be prepared not later than ten days following the meeting and that it be reviewed and adopted by the Bureau (Chair and Vice-Chair(s)) on behalf of the TOS-PPP. The TOS-PPP will also decide on the dates for its second session.

17. Experts wishing to propose additional points under this item are requested to inform the secretariat as soon as possible.