

**Sixty-ninth session**

Item 134 of the preliminary list*

Programme planning**Programme performance report of the United Nations
for the biennium 2012-2013****Report of the Secretary-General***Summary*

The present report on the programme performance of the United Nations Secretariat for the biennium 2012-2013 is submitted in accordance with regulation 6.1 of the Regulations and Rules Governing Programme Planning, the Programme Aspects of the Budget, the Monitoring of Implementation and the Methods of Evaluation ([ST/SGB/2000/8](#)).

The report includes information on the results achieved by the Organization during the biennium in terms of expected accomplishments and the achievement of outputs, which is the traditional measure of performance. The key results achieved by the Organization under its 10 programme elements give Member States a high-level overview of the Secretariat's performance (see sect. II). The analysis of programme performance in regard to 33,696 mandated and additional outputs (see sect. III) indicates an increase in implementation rates, from 90 to 91 per cent for mandated outputs and from 90 to 92 per cent for all outputs, compared with the previous biennium. The report also includes a detailed recounting of the results obtained by each individual budget section on 876 expected accomplishments implemented under the 36 sections of the programme budget (see sect. IV). In addition, it contains a brief summary of the main challenges encountered in the implementation of each programme and lessons learned to improve performance.

Combining a results-based analysis with an output-oriented one, the present report provides a comprehensive overview of the major developments and the work performed by the United Nations Secretariat during the biennium 2012-2013.

* [A/69/50](#).



29. Through the provision of advisory services and training activities, the regular programme of technical cooperation continued to facilitate responses to urgent demands by Member States. The programme was executed by 11 implementing entities of the Secretariat. Four of them (the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, UNCTAD, UN-Habitat and UNODC) reported under the area of the programme on international cooperation for development; the five regional commissions (the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE), the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) and the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA)) reported under the area of the programme on regional cooperation for development; and the remaining two entities (the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)) reported under the area of the programme on human rights and humanitarian affairs.

30. Department of Economic and Social Affairs interventions with Member States with the resources of the regular programme of technical cooperation centred on supporting countries to pursue a sustainable development approach in national development strategies. Support was provided through 313 advisory missions, 92 training workshops and 38 fellowships. UNCTAD provided tailored advisory services and training courses on key issues related to the international economic agenda that enhanced the analytical and policymaking skills of the participants. UNODC provided technical assistance for the development of comprehensive drug control and crime prevention initiatives in West Africa, the Sahel region, South-Eastern Europe and Myanmar. UNODC also advised Governments and policymakers on the content, implementation and coordination mechanisms of integrated drug prevention and control programmes and projects in Afghanistan, East Asia, South Asia, Africa and the Caribbean. With regard to the sound management of chemicals, UNEP helped 23 countries to develop legislation and integrate sound chemicals management into development planning processes. UNEP also helped to assess the cost of inaction in this area, preparing policy guidance on the prevention of chemical accidents and the development of responsible production guidelines aimed at risk management in small and medium-sized enterprises. UN-Habitat supported the efforts of the Commonwealth of Independent States to implement sustainable urban policies and foster synergies with international institutions. It also assisted ongoing reform processes in 10 countries based on the international guidelines on decentralization and access to basic services, developed complementary guidelines for urban and territorial planning and improved urban governance frameworks in nine countries. More than 2 million poor people gained access to environmentally sound urban infrastructure and basic services with support from UN-Habitat, while more than 150 cities were developing and implementing policies to reduce slums and prevent the development of new ones.

E. Regional cooperation for development

31. The five regional commissions, as regional hubs of expertise and knowledge on economic, social and environmental issues, continued to promote sustained economic growth and sustainable development in their respective regions (Africa, Asia and the Pacific, Latin America and the Caribbean, and Western Asia). As an

integral part of their regional institutional landscape, ECA, ESCAP, ECE, ECLAC and ESCWA facilitated regional cooperation and integration among Member States and worked to promote intraregional and interregional cooperation.

32. The regional commissions continued to provide a forum for policy discussions and the exchange of experience and best practices. The outcomes of those discussions were used to inform various global intergovernmental processes, including the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, the intergovernmental processes for a post-2015 development agenda and the annual ministerial review of the Economic and Social Council. For example, the regional commissions held a joint side event at the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development and prepared a joint report to provide a regional perspective on sustainable development. In terms of its own work, ECA organized its forty-fifth and forty-sixth annual sessions. At the forty-fifth session, a series of measures were adopted to promote and implement an integrated policy approach to unleash the sustainable growth and development potential of Africa; at the forty-sixth session, the theme of which was “Industrialization for an emerging Africa”, resolutions and recommendations aimed at accelerating large-scale industrial development on the basis of Africa’s natural resource endowments were adopted. In addition, at its two joint annual meetings with the African Union, ECA advocated for stronger policy responses to tackle the lag in the region’s progress towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals. It also called for the adoption of a common African position on the development agenda beyond 2015 to ensure that Africa’s priorities would be better reflected. At its sixty-eighth and sixty-ninth sessions, ESCAP addressed challenges related to trade, energy, connectivity and the Pacific small-island developing States. The sixty-ninth session was the culmination of combined efforts to convert ESCAP into the most inclusive intergovernmental platform for decision-making and an entity with the ability to provide responses to the transformations occurring in Asia and the Pacific. Participants in the sixty-fifth session of ECE discussed the follow-up to the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development and the post-2015 development agenda. The session concluded with the adoption of the outcome of the review of the 2005 reform of ECE, in which the strategic direction and the priorities of the programme of work of the Commission were reconfirmed (see [E/2013/37](#), annex III). ECLAC facilitated a high-level dialogue among member States at its thirty-fourth session through the presentation of a document entitled “Structural change for equality: an integrated approach to development”, which contained a road map to achieve structural change, growth and equality in the region. ESCWA addressed key emerging issues in the Arab region at its twenty-seventh Ministerial Conference. It also organized a series of high-level meetings aimed at fostering dialogue between leaders of Arab countries on the role of social justice for achieving sustainable and balanced development.

33. The regional commissions continued to assist the Member States in developing and promoting the implementation of legal instruments, norms and standards in various areas of development. ESCAP member States set regional norms and adopted frameworks on key social issues, including the rights of persons with disabilities, population and international migration. ECE member States that are parties to the Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes made a historic decision allowing non-ECE countries to accede to the Convention. The global implementation of the Convention will ensure

equitable access to improved water, sanitation and sustainable management of transboundary water resources worldwide. Other important ECE achievements in that area included the revision of the Protocol to the 1979 Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution to Abate Acidification, Eutrophication and Ground-level Ozone to include national emission reduction commitments for main air pollutants by 2020 and beyond; the amendment to the Protocol to the 1979 Convention on Long-Range Transboundary Air Pollution on Heavy Metals, to cut emissions from industrial sources, combustion processes and waste incineration; the adoption of three new regulations by the ECE World Forum for Harmonization of Vehicle Regulations to improve the environmental performance of motor vehicles and the safety of their occupants; and the adoption of new or revised recommendations, norms and standards on trade facilitation and electronic business, intellectual property and competition. The work of ESCWA in the area of population and development contributed to an increase in the number of countries that formulated or took steps towards formulating national strategies and plans of action on youth. In addition, the analysis carried out in preparation for the tenth session of the Statistical Committee of ESCWA indicated an improvement in the implementation of fundamental principles in the preparation of official statistics.

34. The regional commissions promoted more coherence and collaborative work among themselves and other regional entities in their respective regions under the Regional Coordination Mechanism. They also continued to coordinate their activities by participating in meetings of the Economic and Social Council, dialogues of the Second Committee, the work of the Executive Committee on Economic and Social Affairs and the regular meetings of the executive secretaries and chiefs of programme planning. The work of ECA in support of the implementation of the African Union's NEPAD programmes at the regional level enhanced coordination among United Nations agencies and organizations and resulted in improved coordination in nine clusters of the Regional Coordination Mechanism in Africa and in over 14 joint programmes implemented or in the process of implementation by United Nations agencies. At a key meeting on the Regional Coordination Mechanism in Asia and the Pacific, held during the sixty-ninth session of ESCAP, participants focused on the post-2015 development agenda and the Joint Declaration on Comprehensive Partnership between the Association of Southeast Asian Nations and the United Nations. At the meeting, contributions were made on a review of the framework of the partnership and on priorities for future cooperation among the participating organizations. ECE held four meetings under the Regional Coordination Mechanism for Europe and Central Asia and jointly coordinated the preparation of the inter-agency report *From Transition to Transformation: Sustainable and Inclusive Development in Europe and Central Asia*. The report served as the basis for the multi-stakeholder regional consultation meeting held in Istanbul and assisted in shaping the post-2015 development priorities in Europe and Central Asia. ECLAC coordinated the preparation of the inter-agency report *Sustainable Development: 20 Years on from the Earth Summit*, in which guidelines for moving towards sustainable development in the region were proposed. To disseminate the outcomes of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development and make progress on the follow-up actions on the post-2015 development agenda, ECLAC and the Government of Colombia hosted back-to-back regional consultations with States of Latin America and the Caribbean. Other United Nations organizations were also represented at those meetings, which focused on development goals and issues related to global and regional governance.

The inter-agency document *Sustainable Development in Latin America and the Caribbean: Follow-up to the United Nations Development Agenda Beyond 2015 and to Rio+20* was launched in the context of those meetings. As the secretariat of the Regional Coordination Mechanism for the Arab States, ESCWA convened three meetings during the biennium to strengthen synergies between the United Nations entities in the region and the League of Arab States and to enhance the sharing of information among ESCWA members on the post-2015 development agenda. Those meetings resulted in improved processes for United Nations engagement in the Arab Economic and Social Development Summit and in recommendations for technical cooperation in the areas of regional economic integration and the establishment of an Arab customs union.

35. Key publications issued by the regional commissions contributed to improved policy formulation and implementation processes in the different regions within their purview. Among the annual publications of ECA were the *Economic Report on Africa* and *Assessing progress in Africa toward the Millennium Development Goals*, both of which were widely disseminated. They are aimed at contributing to the implementation of economic and social policies in support of structural transformation in ECA member countries. The report *Assessing Regional Integration in Africa* led to the decision to create a pan-African free trade area by 2017. The flagship publication of ESCAP, *Economic and Social Survey of Asia and the Pacific*, focused on forward-looking macroeconomic policies for inclusive and sustainable development. In addition, ESCAP, together with the Asian Development Bank and UNDP, issued *Asia-Pacific Aspirations: Perspectives for a Post-2015 Development Agenda*, which addressed progress made in achieving the Millennium Development Goals in Asia and the Pacific during 2012-2013 and focused on development priorities beyond 2015. ESCAP also prepared an inter-agency report on the importance of the green economy for sustainable development and poverty reduction. ECE prepared the *Handbook of Best Practices at Border Crossings: a Trade and Transport Facilitation Perspective*, with the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), and a compendium of policy recommendations and good practices in public-private partnerships. ECE also published the study *Risk Management in Regulatory Frameworks* to guide policymakers in the development of regulations aimed at improving the safety of products and business processes without compromising innovation, economic development and international trade. In addition to its traditional flagship publications, important policy reports were prepared by ECLAC as contributions to the discussions of member States in high-level meetings, including *The Outlook for Agriculture and Rural Development in the Americas 2013: a Perspective on Latin America and the Caribbean*, which was presented at the twenty-second summit of the Ibero-American Conference of Heads of State and Government, and a discussion paper entitled “Community of Latin American and Caribbean States-European Union cooperation for development: challenges post-2015”. In addition, the recommendations of ECLAC to the Central American Integration System resulted in the promotion of regional electricity and energy integration initiatives in Central America. Finally, the surveys on economic and social developments in the ESCWA region for the periods 2011-2012 and 2012-2013 underlined the changing situation in the Arab States and presented assessments and analyses of the economic and social conditions of the Arab countries in the global context, using the most up-to-date data.

36. As in the case of the programmes reported under international cooperation for development, the regular programme of technical cooperation continued to be used by the regional commissions to facilitate rapid responses to urgent demands of Member States through the provision of advisory services and relevant training activities. In that respect, the contributions of ECA enhanced the capacity of Member States to formulate macroeconomic policies, national development plans and global and regional trade promotion strategies towards economic transformation and to further regional integration. ECA also contributed to African-led dialogues and strategies among government, civil society and African institutions towards peace and democracy in Africa. ESCAP provided technical assistance in priority areas of macroeconomic policy, agriculture, transport, trade, investment, natural resources, gender equality, social integration, disaster risk reduction and statistics. ECE carried out 166 technical cooperation activities, including 102 advisory services and 64 capacity-building events, to assist countries with economies in transition to accede to and implement ECE legal instruments, norms and standards as a means of achieving the agreed international development goals and sustainable development. ECLAC carried out more than 167 capacity-building activities and 219 advisory missions, thereby facilitating informed decision-making and the implementation of policies and measures regarding key development issues with a focus on equality. Moreover, ECLAC promoted South-South cooperation through advisory missions and training activities in developing countries from regions other than Latin America and the Caribbean. ESCWA delivered 93 advisory services complemented by 22 regional and subregional workshops and 46 national workshops covering a broad range of themes. In addition, it fostered intraregional dialogue on challenges facing countries in the transition to democracy and conducted six study tours to further South-South cooperation.

F. Human rights and humanitarian affairs

37. Two of the priorities for the biennium 2012-2013 — the promotion of human rights and the effective coordination of humanitarian assistance efforts — were covered by four entities of the Secretariat, namely: OHCHR, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) and the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs.

38. Under the leadership of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, OHCHR spearheads the Organization's human rights efforts. During the reporting period, OHCHR continued to support the work of the United Nations human rights mechanisms, including the Human Rights Council and the 51 independent human rights experts known as "special procedures", the universal periodic review and the 10 treaty bodies set up to monitor States parties' compliance with international human rights standards. OHCHR also continued to promote the right to development, coordinate United Nations human rights education and public information activities and strengthen the mainstreaming of human rights throughout the United Nations system. OHCHR also developed a range of activities aimed at ensuring the enforcement of universally recognized human rights norms, including through the promotion of the universal ratification and implementation of the major human rights treaties and respect for the rule of law and through technical cooperation for capacity-building in human rights promotion and protection. A new

Section 20

Economic development in Europe

Highlights of programme results

During the biennium, the parties to the Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes made a historic amendment that opened the Convention for accession by all United Nations Member States and ensured equal access to water worldwide. The parties to the Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution adopted amendments to the Protocol to Abate Acidification, Eutrophication and Ground-level Ozone and the Protocol on Heavy Metals, in order to reduce harmful emissions and the loss of biodiversity, promote new and clean technologies and bring health and economic benefits to people. The World Forum for Harmonization of Vehicle Regulations adopted 10 new and updated 174 existing regulations to improve the safety and environmental performance of vehicles. Six international legal instruments were brought into line with the United Nations Recommendations on the Transport of Dangerous Goods, including all major legal instruments governing the international transport of dangerous goods by road, rail, inland waterway, air and sea. The ECE International Public-Private Partnership Centre of Excellence received the Special Award for South-South Cooperation. ECE adopted a strategy for sustainable housing and land management for 2014-2020 and an action plan for the forest sector in the green economy for 2014-2020. The multi-stakeholder consultation organized in Istanbul in 2013 provided a regional perspective on the post-2015 development agenda in Europe and Central Asia.

Challenges and lessons learned

Matching the increasing demands of member States with the decreasing resources of the programme remained the main challenge. A divergence of views on the part of member States complicated the implementation of the work programme for the biennium 2012-2013 and its planning for the biennium 2014-2015. The review of the 2005 ECE reform by the Commission showed that developed countries and transition economies had different development needs and, hence, different priorities.

Output implementation rate

526. The above-cited results are based on the implementation of 91 per cent of 3,323 mandated, quantifiable outputs.

527. Approved expected accomplishments and indicators of achievement can be found in the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2012-2013 ([A/66/6](#) (Sect. 20) and Corr.1).

Executive direction and management*(a) Programme of work is effectively managed*

528. ECE has achieved an implementation rate of 91 per cent of 3,323 mandated, quantifiable outputs. The merging of the Technical Cooperation Unit and the Programme Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation Unit into a new Programme Management Unit and the establishment of the Development Policies and Cross-Sectoral Coordination Unit during the previous biennium resulted in greater coherence in programme delivery in 2012-2013.

(b) Enhanced coherence and cooperation between ECE and other regional entities, including the regional commissions

529. The Regional Coordination Mechanism for Europe and Central Asia held four meetings. The joint report of the Mechanism and UNDG entitled “from transition to transformation: sustainable and inclusive development in Europe and Central Asia” was presented during the intergovernmental preparatory process for the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development in 2012. Their joint report entitled “Building more inclusive, sustainable and prosperous societies in Europe and Central Asia: a common United Nations vision for the post-2015 development agenda” was presented during a side event in New York and at the regional consultation in Istanbul that shaped post-2015 development priorities in Europe and Central Asia. Two reports were produced by ECE in collaboration with other regional commissions, entitled “Green growth and sustainable development: regional perspectives” and “A regional perspective on the post-2015 United Nations development agenda”. Coordination with other regional commissions was ensured through regular meetings of the executive secretaries and chiefs of programme planning. ECE also participated in the dialogues of the Economic and Social Council and the Second Committee with regional commissions and the work of the Executive Committee on Economic and Social Affairs.

(c) Better awareness of the work of ECE and access to information thereon by States members of ECE and other stakeholders

530. ECE adopted a new communications strategy to ensure the increased visibility of its work through more effective information and public outreach. The implementation of the web content management system was finalized in 2012. The revamped ECE website provides improved and coherent access to all information. The content of the website is available in English and, partially, in French and Russian. Three new sections were added to the website, on the activities of the Executive Secretary, expert opinion and the Green Economy Toolbox. Every week, an expert shares his or her views on a selected topic on the website. Two annual sets of films on ECE activities and two annual sets of the *ECE Weekly* newsletter and press releases were put together and posted on the Internet (the ECE website and YouTube). A high level of interest in ECE activities was reflected in a high number of page views: 105 million in 2012-2013, much higher than in the previous biennium.

Subprogramme 1

Environment

(a) *Strengthened national capacity for environmental monitoring and assessment systems in the countries of Eastern Europe, the Caucasus, Central Asia and South-Eastern Europe*

531. During the biennium, capacity for environmental observations was further strengthened and progress was made in enhancing the legal basis for environmental monitoring and assessment. Significant achievements were accomplished by 15 countries. In particular, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Montenegro, Tajikistan, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Ukraine expanded their air monitoring networks. Azerbaijan, Georgia and the Republic of Moldova strengthened their networks for hydrometeorological or biological monitoring. Furthermore, seven countries took steps to improve data management and the quality of reporting and to increase the use of indicators in environmental assessments. Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia developed or improved their online data-collection systems; Belarus and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia introduced access to real-time data collection with respect to air quality; and Montenegro and Serbia established integrated systems of data management. Azerbaijan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, Serbia and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia improved the quality of indicator-based state-of-the-environment reports.

(b) *Strengthened implementation of ECE regional environmental commitments by member States*

532. The total number of member State reports on progress in the implementation of the ECE multilateral environmental agreements increased by 121, reaching 450 at the end of the biennium. This included 38 reports for the Convention on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents, 26 reports for the Protocol on Water and Health to the Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes, 38 reports for the Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context (Espoo Convention) and 19 reports for the Protocol on Strategic Environmental Assessment to the Espoo Convention.

(c) *Improved environmental performance in countries with economies in transition*

533. The number of countries showing progress in environmental performance had increased from 15 to 21 by the end of 2013. Of the six countries reviewed in 2012-2013, four were reviewed for the second or the third time. Both second and third reviews confirmed improved environmental performance in these countries since the conduct of the previous reviews. They reported the implementation of 287 recommendations, including 201 that had been fully or partially implemented. It is noteworthy that the implementation rate for the recommendations addressed to environmental authorities was higher than the rate for those addressed to other decision makers. The implementation of recommendations involving wide areas of expertise or many actors required longer periods of time.

Subprogramme 2

Transport

- (a) *Strengthened legal and regulatory framework for international land transport covering road, rail, inland waterway and intermodal transport, including transport infrastructure, related services and border crossing facilitation, transport of dangerous goods, vehicle construction and other transport issues*

534. The proportion of legal instruments in force relative to the total number of agreed ECE legal instruments in the field of transport remained at 85 per cent, during the biennium, slightly lower than targeted. The World Forum for Harmonization of Vehicle Regulations adopted 10 new United Nations regulations aimed at improving the safety and environmental performance of vehicles, and updated 174 existing regulations. Six international legal instruments were brought into line with the seventeenth revised edition of the United Nations Recommendations on the Transport of Dangerous Goods, including all major legal instruments governing the international transport of dangerous goods by road, rail, inland waterway, air and sea. Many national regulations in this area were also updated accordingly, as reported by the Secretary-General to the Economic and Social Council (see [E/2013/51](#)).

- (b) *Greater geographical coverage and more effective implementation of the ECE legal instruments and recommendations on transport*

535. As a result of ECE assistance to member States, the number of States parties to the 58 United Nations legal instruments on transport administered by the Commission increased from 1,680 in 2011 to 1,692 in 2013. The list of 12 new States parties included Denmark, Egypt, Kyrgyzstan, Lebanon, Morocco, Qatar, the Republic of Moldova (two instruments), Slovenia and Turkey (three instruments). Although these legal instruments continue to attract new contracting parties, the increase was more modest than in previous years. In terms of the monitoring of implementation, one new mechanism was put in place in 2013: the Inventory of Main Standards and Parameters of the E Waterway Network (“Blue Book”), relating to the European Agreement on Main Inland Waterways of International Importance.

- (c) *Enhanced national capacity for the development of the pan-European and transcontinental transport infrastructure, in particular in the countries of Eastern and South-Eastern Europe, as well as in the countries of the Caucasus and Central Asia, and for the introduction of transport facilitation measures, with special attention to landlocked transition economies and their neighbours*

536. The number of States parties to the four key agreements and the protocols thereto remained at 119 in 2013. At the same time, the number of ECE countries participating in the subregional transport infrastructure projects had been steadily growing, with two additional countries (Poland and Serbia) joining the Euro-Asian transport links project, phase II, bringing the total number of participating countries to 29. The number of countries participating in the ECE Trans-European North-South Motorway and Trans-European Railway projects increased by one, reaching 30 in 2012. Phase II of the Euro-Asian transport links project was completed, with a study containing its results approved at the ministerial conference held in Geneva in 2013. The participants in the conference also launched phase III of the project, expressing their support through a joint statement on the future development of Euro-Asian transport links and a joint declaration on the promotion of Euro-Asian rail transport.

- (d) *Strengthened capacity of the countries of Eastern and South-Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia to implement relevant ECE legal instruments, norms and standards*

537. The level of participants' satisfaction with ECE capacity-building activities organized in countries of Eastern and South-Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia increased from 65 to 80 per cent, according to an analysis of the participants' responses to evaluation questionnaires. The number of countries that had established road safety improvement objectives exceeded the target, reaching 38.

Subprogramme 3 Statistics

- (a) *Streamlined activity patterns of statistical work through coordination among international organizations and elimination of overlaps and gaps*

538. During the biennium, in order to improve inter-agency coordination and eliminate overlaps and gaps in statistical activities in the region, ECE organized in-depth reviews of international statistical work in six areas: population ageing; banking, insurance and financial statistics; poverty statistics; political and other community activities; big data; and entrepreneurship. As a follow-up to those reviews, work was undertaken to improve the availability of ageing-related statistics and provide guidance on big data in official statistics. In 2012-2013, 26 international organizations provided information to the ECE Database of International Statistical Activities for the coordination of work. Full use of the Database classification system, developed by ECE, was made by the international consortium on Statistical Data and Metadata Exchange and the Statistics Division in their global inventory of statistical standards.

- (b) *Improved availability in the ECE database of reliable, timely and comparable statistics, including gender disaggregated data for all countries in the ECE region*

539. Progress was made in the availability of high-quality macroeconomic, social and demographic statistics in the ECE Database. A new clearing house for the harmonization of migration data of the countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) was launched as part of the Database. The timeliness, completeness, reliability and comparability of the Database were improved. A total of 158 statistical time series were available in the Database, including 7 new series of the migration clearing house. User satisfaction remained high, with two online surveys indicating that 84 per cent of users rated the data as excellent or good. In 2012-2013, data downloads increased by 41 per cent compared with 2010-2011. Automated data-collection processes developed by ECE increased the timeliness and reliability of data. A new web interface improved the functionalities and visualization of data.

- (c) *Updated and newly developed standards, methodologies and practices for ensuring internationally comparable statistics*

540. In 2012-2013, the Conference of European Statisticians endorsed six methodological guidelines: its recommendations on measuring sustainable development; a stocktaking report on measuring human capital; a compilation of good practices in human resources management and training; guidelines for the

harmonization of time use surveys; an international classification of crimes for statistical purposes; and an analysis of international migration estimates using different length-of-stay definitions. ECE participated in seven projects of other international organizations, including the Statistics Division, OECD and the Statistical Office of the European Communities (EUROSTAT). ECE also contributed to the drafting of joint publications with those international organizations and provided recommendations and good practices in ensuring the comparability of statistics. ECE undertook methodological work in 27 of the 55 statistical areas of the Classification of International Statistical Activities.

- (d) *Improved assistance in the implementation of international standards and good practices in official statistics, in particular in less advanced countries of the ECE region, including on gender-sensitive indicators*

541. ECE held 13 training workshops and undertook a number of advisory missions to address capacity gaps in countries with developing statistical systems. Those activities covered 12 statistical areas in which member States requested the Commission's assistance. In total, 89 per cent of experts who had taken part in ECE training workshops considered the training to be of high quality and useful for their work. The progress made in implementing international standards and ensuring compliance with the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics was integrated into the global assessments of national statistical systems carried out by ECE in collaboration with EUROSTAT and the European Free Trade Association in Belarus, Georgia, Mongolia, the Republic of Moldova and Tajikistan. The global assessments provided country-specific recommendations for the development of national statistical capacity and were used by other international organizations (including the World Bank and the International Labour Organization) in planning their capacity-building activities and resource mobilization.

Subprogramme 4 Economic cooperation and integration

- (a) *Increased knowledge of good practices and policies on financial and regulatory environment conducive to economic growth, innovative development and higher competitiveness of enterprises and economic activities leading to the formulation of related ECE policy recommendations*

542. Nine sets of policy recommendations were prepared during the biennium, on: (a) the regional dimension of innovation; (b) intellectual property and competition policy as drivers of innovation; (c) innovation policies in Ukraine; (d) innovation and entrepreneurship; (e) innovation in the public sector; (f) using the public-private partnership model in the renovation of public buildings; (g) legislative frameworks, the bidding process, the allocation of risk and procurement rules for public-private partnerships in Turkmenistan; (h) enabling framework and project development for public-private partnerships in Kyrgyzstan; and (i) developing institutions, procedures and a national infrastructure plan for public-private partnerships in Belarus, the Republic of Moldova and Tajikistan. They resulted from exchanges of experiences among member States and national and international experts from the public and private sectors during sessions and conferences of the Committee on Economic Cooperation and Integration and its subsidiary bodies, namely, the teams of specialists on innovation and competitiveness policies, on intellectual property and on public-private partnerships.

(b) Enhanced implementation of the aforementioned ECE policy recommendations

543. In follow-up to the innovation performance reviews, beneficiary countries adopted the following measures: Belarus (a) broadened the concept of innovation in its national innovation strategy to include organizational, marketing and service innovations, (b) introduced changes in intellectual property legislation to assign rights to research and development organizations and inventors, (c) developed policy instruments that accept and manage risk, and (d) prepared a draft law on venture financing and reformed the Belarusian Innovation Fund; Kazakhstan prepared (e) a concept for innovative development until 2020, (f) a methodology for the development of regional innovation systems, and (g) priority directions for science and technology; Ukraine (h) made changes to the governance of its innovation activities and (i) created additional policy instruments on financial support for incubators, business parks and innovation centres; (j) Tajikistan adopted a new law on public-private partnerships; and national public-private partnerships readiness assessments led to the development of pilot projects in selected sectors in (k) Belarus, (l) Moldova, and (m) Tajikistan.

(c) Strengthened national capacity in countries with economies in transition to promote good practices and implement the aforementioned ECE policy recommendations

544. During the biennium, more than 30 demand driven capacity-building events were organized in member States, in close cooperation with national government partners and other international organizations. Results of a survey of member States indicated that in 32 cases, countries had followed up on capacity-building activities of the Committee on Economic Cooperation and Integration. Those cases included the use and adaptation of materials provided by the Committee in national training/capacity-building activities; the dissemination of new knowledge and lessons learned to peers and other staff by participants in Committee capacity-building activities; and reviews of operating procedures, rules, regulations, mandates or legislation initiated as a result of insights gained from Committee activities. As the questionnaire provided respondents with the options of identifying themselves or remaining anonymous, it was not always possible to attribute the responses to particular countries. However, Belarus, Romania, the Russian Federation and Ukraine were among those that reported follow-up activities.

Subprogramme 5
Sustainable energy

(a) Progress in the international dialogue between Governments and industry on sustainable energy development issues, in particular, cleaner energy production, energy security and diversification of energy sources, with specific attention to the promotion of new and renewable energy

545. According to the annual surveys of member States conducted during the biennium, almost 90 per cent of respondents evaluated the policy and technical discussions of the Commission as “useful” and “very useful” for decision-making and considered the Commission to be an important forum for international dialogue and cooperation on sustainable energy between Governments and industry. In both annual surveys, almost 79 per cent of respondents identified themselves as decision makers or advisers to decision makers. In relation to the web-based survey held in

2012, 80 per cent of respondents indicated that they found ECE information, technical and policy-oriented reports on sustainable energy issues to be useful or very useful.

- (b) *Progress in addressing energy conservation and efficiency issues across the ECE region, especially those leading to a reduction in energy-related environmental impacts, including progress in the formation of energy efficiency markets in economies in transition*

546. In 2012, two country-oriented training sessions were conducted for project developers, government officials, representatives of the banking system, and the private sector in Kazakhstan and Ukraine to improve skills for the development of bankable energy efficiency project proposals. In 2013, two business development training courses for project developers were conducted, in Kazakhstan and Turkey (for 80 project developers and owners from 23 ECE countries), jointly with ESCAP. International energy forums were organized in Kyrgyzstan in 2012 (for 130 participants from 22 countries) and in Georgia in 2013 (for 210 participants from 28 countries). The 2012 and 2013 surveys indicated that 73 per cent of respondents evaluated these policy discussions as “useful”. As a result of this work, and as indicated by participants, 14 new energy efficiency investment projects were developed under the Energy Efficiency 21 Programme and approved for financing in economies in transition.

- (c) *Further extension and implementation of ECE recommendations/guidelines and instruments for sustainable energy development, in particular, extension and implementation of the United Nations Framework Classification for Fossil Energy and Mineral Resources*

547. The specifications for the application of the United Nations Framework Classification for Fossil Energy were finalized. Five regional and two national workshops to build capacity with respect to the application of the Classification were organized in Chile (for 60 participants from 20 countries), India (for 230 national participants), Mexico (for 77 national participants), Portugal (for 65 participants from 27 countries), Switzerland (for 85 participants from 20 countries), Thailand (for 35 participants from 10 countries) and the United Kingdom (for 50 participants from 3 countries). Those training workshops contributed to increased global awareness of the Classification. Thirteen professional organizations supported the further development and implementation of the Classification, exceeding the target. Similarly, the targeted number of countries expressing interest in applying the Classification in their resource management was exceeded, with Argentina, Cambodia, India, the Lao People’s Democratic Republic, Malawi, Mexico, Nigeria, Thailand and the United Republic of Tanzania undertaking Classification case studies.

Subprogramme 6

Trade

- (a) *Adoption and increased implementation by member States of ECE recommendations, norms, standards, guidelines and tools for trade facilitation and electronic business*

548. In 2012-2013, member States adopted 25 new/revised recommendations, norms, standards and tools, including the Single Window Planning and

Implementation Guide and the Trade Facilitation Implementation Guide. As witnessed by the large number of page views, more countries and institutions used those tools for strengthening electronic cross-border trade worldwide than during the previous biennium. In follow-up to the adoption of the ECE Internet-based Trade Facilitation Implementation Guide, the secretariat trained policymakers and members of the private sector from all regions of the world in the management of trade facilitation reform and the development of national trade facilitation agendas. These efforts by ECE also helped to mainstream trade facilitation into the national trade policy of beneficiary countries. The Commission enhanced trade cooperation through a large number of country- and region-specific interventions. Those interventions, often organized with other international organizations, helped to increase the trade-related capacity of the public and private sectors in transition economies and developing countries.

(b) Adoption by member States of ECE recommendations, norms, standards, guidelines and tools for regulatory cooperation

549. Member States adopted two recommendations and one new tool to strengthen regulatory cooperation and the implementation of risk assessment systems worldwide: the recommendation entitled “Education on standards-related issues” urged Governments to include standards and related regulatory issues in higher education curricula, while the recommendation entitled “Reference to standards” helped authorities to apply expertise in standards without infringing the intellectual property rights of the standards-setting bodies. The study entitled “Risk management in regulatory frameworks: towards a better management of risks” guided policymakers in the development of regulations for safer products and business processes without compromising innovation, economic development and international trade. Strategic cooperation with other international organizations resulted in the training of authorities from Central Asia in the Commission’s regulatory cooperation tools and the worldwide application of its model for risk management in regulatory systems with respect to disaster risk reduction.

(c) Adoption and increased implementation by member States of ECE recommendations, norms, standards, guidelines and tools for agricultural quality standards

550. During the biennium, ECE contributed to the enhancement of trade in agricultural produce through the development of guidance and standards. For example, 50 new and revised recommendations were adopted, double the number targeted, in four areas: fresh fruits and vegetables, meat, dry and dried produce, and seed potatoes. Notably, more transition and developing countries were adopting and using ECE standards during the biennium. The increase in the number of implementations of ECE standards by one third above the target will contribute to the improved quality of agricultural produce in those countries and better integration into regional and international supply chains. The demand-driven standards development process in ECE helped countries to accept and use quality standards to increase their export opportunities and generate revenues from agricultural production and trade.

Subprogramme 7
Timber and forestry

- (a) *Increased understanding, based on better monitoring of sustainable forest management, encompassing (i) policies and institutions, (ii) forest resources, (iii) sound use of wood, for material and energy purposes, in domestic and export markets, and (iv) the outlook for the sector in a broader, cross-sectoral context*

551. The collection of data on forest resources, policies and institutions was harmonized with six international organizations through the development of the collaborative forest resources questionnaire, which reduces the burden on ECE member States for quantitative and qualitative reporting on sustainable forest management. The percentage of ECE countries able to provide satisfactory responses to the ECE/Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)/International Tropical Timber Organization/EUROSTAT joint forest sector questionnaire, which monitors the sound use of wood, decreased from 70 per cent in 2011 to 66 per cent in 2013. This reduction was caused mainly by the budget and capacity constraints placed on national institutions in the wake of the global economic situation. Eighty per cent of participants evaluated meetings/workshops of the ECE/FAO Forestry and Timber Section as useful, in particular with regard to their responsiveness to emerging challenges, including trade measures affecting timber trade, life cycle assessment and the green economy.

- (b) *Increased capacity of countries of Eastern Europe, the Caucasus, Central Asia and South-Eastern Europe to achieve sustainable forest management at the national level*

552. Two capacity-building workshops aimed at achieving sustainable forest management at the national level targeted countries in Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia. The workshop on forest resources assessment, held in October 2013, brought together participants from CIS countries and Georgia. It was focused on improving national capacities in reporting on forest-related indicators for the FAO Global Forest Resources Assessment. The Joint Wood Energy Enquiry capacity-building workshop, held in September 2012, helped to improve communication between the energy and forest sectors at the national level. It was aimed at increasing knowledge about the issue on the part of participants from Ukraine and other CIS countries. Some 86 per cent of the workshop participants surveyed rated the workshops as “useful” or “very useful” for their work. The capacity-building workshops facilitated the exchange of best practices and experiences and showcased good examples from other countries.

Subprogramme 8
Housing, land management and population

- (a) *Improved capacity for policy formulation and implementation in housing, planning and land administration in the countries of Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia, and South-Eastern Europe*

553. During the biennium, the subprogramme prepared country profiles of the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine with respect to housing and land management. The country profile of Ukraine provided, inter alia, policy recommendations on housing finance, social housing and land administration legislation. Preliminary

research and two research missions for the country profile of the Republic of Moldova were conducted in 2013. Three countries reported reforms to policies as a result of country profiles: Azerbaijan (a new construction code), Kyrgyzstan (the implementation of a land registry system) and Tajikistan (a new urban code). The results of a survey of member States showed that several countries were implementing reforms in the area of housing and land management in accordance with the ECE guidelines. These included: a new multi-year plan for housing reform in Spain; a national social housing strategy plan in Serbia; a programme to increase urban density and renovate residential housing areas in Israel; and a programme to provide social housing for displaced persons in Azerbaijan.

(b) Strengthened implementation by countries of ECE guidelines on housing and land management, including on energy efficiency, informal settlements, transparency in land and real estate markets and on improved safety in buildings

554. The implementation of 22 ECE workshops, seminars and training programmes contributed to increased knowledge and improved implementation on the part of member States with respect to sustainable policies related to real estate markets, energy-efficient housing, smart city design and land administration. Four green economy seminars contributed to strengthened policies for greener economies in the region. As a result of those efforts, Azerbaijan and Kyrgyzstan reported improvements in their land and property registries. A national action plan developed by ECE provided guidelines for improved energy-efficient housing in Montenegro. The ECE Real Estate Market Advisory Group conducted three round-table discussions, which resulted in the decision of the Government of the Russian Federation to establish working groups on social housing and property valuation and the decision of the Government of Italy to establish a working group on tentative reforms to building regulations.

(c) Enhanced national policy formulation on population ageing and intergenerational and gender relations, to meet the challenges of demographic change

555. Four additional ECE member States adjusted their policies or introduced new measures contributing to the regional implementation of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, reaffirmed at the 2012 ECE ministerial conference. Turkey enhanced the mainstreaming of ageing by developing a plan of action in 2012 and starting its implementation in 2013. The United Kingdom introduced workplace pension reforms in 2012, automatically enrolling all workers not yet part of any scheme. Latvia approved guidelines on national identity, civil society and integration policy (2012-2018), which include older persons. Slovenia adapted its social protection systems to population ageing, implementing its social transfer system reform in 2012. The Working Group on Ageing provided a platform for ECE member States to discuss necessary societal adjustments. ECE policy briefs on ageing facilitated the exchange of good practices, and the Generations and Gender Programme provided important evidence-based information for policymaking on ageing.

issues and development in times of crisis, as a side event of the ESCWA Technical Committee meeting held in December 2013. The representatives of member countries approved by consensus the establishment of such an intergovernmental body. Its specific terms of reference will be discussed subsequently.

Section 23

Regular programme of technical cooperation

Highlights of programme results

The regular programme of technical cooperation continued to facilitate rapid response on the part of implementing entities of the United Nations Secretariat to urgent demands from Member States for assistance, through the provision of advisory services and tailored training activities. The services, which are provided by both global and regional entities, are aimed at transferring the knowledge residing in those entities through a range of capacity development initiatives, thus contributing to the enhancement of skills, expertise, institutional capacities and national policymaking abilities.

The programme ensures that implementing agencies can respond directly to the priorities and needs defined by Member States themselves, especially those articulated at United Nations development conferences and summits. An important focus of the programme has been placed on addressing requests by Member States for assistance in enhancing their capacities to achieve the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, in order to address poverty eradication and pursue sustained and equitable economic growth and sustainable development in all its dimensions. The programme takes into account the diversity of countries' needs and contexts. The adaptation of general approaches to specific country circumstances at the operational level is an important element of the ongoing work of the programme. When implementing country-based activities, entities work together with United Nations Resident Coordinators and United Nations country teams in supporting nationally led and owned development dialogues to achieve national development goals.

The flexible and responsive nature of the programme was invaluable in supporting countries in addressing unpredictable and unforeseen events, including financial, economic and political stresses, together with global and regional climate stresses, which resulted in increased demand for support and effective action from Governments. The programme facilitated meaningful responses by the implementing entities.

Programme activities, while of a small scale, often resulted in a multiplier effect as a result of the mobilization of extrabudgetary resources and the complementary use of United Nations Development Account resources to respond to larger-scale needs, and had an impact through South-South cooperation. The programme is therefore instrumental in linking pilot activities with better-endowed funds so as to generate larger-scale benefits. Mechanisms such as parallel programming, joint programming, harmonized initiatives and the application of a “programme approach” in which the regular programme of technical cooperation is used in conjunction with other programmatic funds ensures this multiplier effect.

Challenges and lessons learned

The demand for advisory services and training far exceeds the resources provided for under the programme. Balancing such substantial demand with a limited pool of in-house advisers presents a continuing challenge. As the programme provides funding only for initial, temporary support, identifying follow-up resources for the implementation of mission recommendations often creates a gap in providing the much-needed support that Member States expect. While the complementary use of the Development Account has allowed the entities to further the national work of the programme by implementing medium-size projects that expand on its initial activities, those funds are both limited in nature and subject to a long approval process. Consequently, there are still many requests for support that cannot be responded to in a timely manner.

The regular programme of technical cooperation has 11 implementing entities: the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, UNCTAD, UN-Habitat, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, OHCHR, the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, ECA, ESCAP, ECE, ECLAC and ESCWA. The presentation below is structured according to implementing agency and identifies the budget section corresponding to each entity. The expected accomplishments of each are set out according to subprogramme. It should be noted that, in addition to the results set out below, section 23 has contributed to the results reported under the regular budget for these 11 implementing entities.

622. Approved expected accomplishments and indicators of achievement can be found in the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2012-2013 ([A/66/6](#) (Sect. 23)).

assessment and capacity-building with regard to low-carbon urban strategies. By tapping into the experiences of other subregional organizations, SPECA members strengthened their capacities to address regional economic integration and to manage water and energy. In South and South-West Asia, training programmes to facilitate the accession of Afghanistan to WTO and the incorporation of development goals into national macroeconomic modelling were held. In South-East Asia, a triennial trade and investment programme for Timor-Leste and training on information and communications technology infrastructure for Myanmar were launched.

3. Economic development in Europe

Subprogramme 1

Environment

- (a) *Improved knowledge and understanding of transboundary environmental and water management by countries of Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia*
- (b) *Improved knowledge and understanding of transboundary environmental and water management by countries of South-Eastern Europe*

668. Capacity for transboundary water cooperation in Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia and South-Eastern Europe was strengthened during the biennium as a result of the implementation of seven field projects involving water and environmental authorities in 15 countries. A new treaty between the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine on cooperation in the Dniester river basin was signed in November 2012. Three transboundary expert working groups were established at a meeting of the parties under the memorandum of understanding on a shared strategic vision for the sustainable management of the Drin river basin. A bilateral working group was established for cooperation between Azerbaijan and Tajikistan on hydrology and the environment in the upper Amu Darya basin. Under the subprogramme, ECE organized 15 workshops, conducted 29 advisory missions and leveraged extrabudgetary resources. It strengthened partnerships with OSCE, the Global Water Partnership and bilateral donors such as the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation, the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency and the German Society for International Cooperation.

Subprogramme 2

Transport

- (a) *Enhanced national capacity to implement ECE legal and regulatory framework for international land transport, infrastructure and services, border-crossing facilitation and transport of dangerous goods*
- (b) *Strengthened regional cooperation on transit transport development in the South Caucasus and Central Asia*
- (c) *Strengthened national legal and regulatory framework on road safety in Eastern Europe and Central Asia*
- (d) *Strengthened national capacity in collecting and disseminating coherent inland transport statistics*

669. ECE contributed to the strengthening of the national capacity of the countries of Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia to accede to and implement legal

instruments for international land transport and border-crossing facilitation, by organizing the annual meetings of the SPECA Project Working Group on Transport and Border Crossing; a workshop on the transport of dangerous goods; and advisory services and a training course at the OSCE Border Management Staff College in Tajikistan. Kyrgyzstan, Qatar and Turkey became contracting parties to ECE legal instruments on road traffic and the transport of perishable foodstuffs. Two workshops on transport statistics helped to raise the awareness of countries in the South Caucasus and Central Asia on the collection of statistical data on transport.

Subprogramme 3 Statistics

- (a) *Increased capacity to assess compliance with the legal and institutional framework of national statistical systems against the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics*
- (b) *Enhanced knowledge of international guidelines, standards and nomenclature for the production of comparable and reliable official statistics*
- (c) *Improved skills in streamlining the production processes of official statistics and Millennium Development Goal indicators from the collection of raw data to the delivery of the final statistics*

670. Five global assessments of national statistical systems were carried out by ECE jointly with partner organizations during the biennium. The assessments provided an in-depth review of the institutional, organizational and technical capacity of the respective countries and proposed specific recommendations for the sustainable development of national statistics. Four countries incorporated recommendations from global assessments into their long-term statistical work programmes or national strategies for the development of statistics.

671. ECE provided 29 advisory services and organized 10 national and subregional workshops and training seminars for 551 national experts on economic, social and environmental statistics, including Millennium Development Goal indicators. As a result, 15 countries of South-Eastern and Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia significantly improved the timeliness of the dissemination of their statistical information and indicators. Most of the countries developed user-friendly dissemination websites containing information on metadata and other forms of methodological documentation.

Subprogramme 4 Economic cooperation and integration

- (a) *Enhanced knowledge of best practices and guidelines related to economic integration issues, particularly those covered by SPECA*
- (b) *Strengthened regional institutions and regional frameworks in areas covered by SPECA*
- (c) *Strengthened economic cooperation between Central Asia and Afghanistan*

672. During the biennium, the 2012 SPECA economic forum provided an effective platform for the learning of best practices in regional cooperation from Asia and the Pacific. It helped to build capacity with regard to the financing of innovative green technologies, and participants discussed regional aspects of the follow-up to the

United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development and regional priorities for the post-2015 development agenda. The institutional and legal strengthening of the International Fund for Saving the Aral Sea was focused on the Interstate Commission on Sustainable Development of Central Asia. The joint task force developed recommendations on the further strengthening of the Commission. Following a special event on regional cooperation between Afghanistan and other SPECA countries, Afghanistan was elected for the first time as Chair of the Special Programme. The chairmanship of Afghanistan is expected to further strengthen its economic cooperation with countries of the subregion.

Subprogramme 5 **Sustainable energy**

- (a) *Strengthened institutional and human capacity to develop energy efficiency strategies to meet international treaty obligations*
- (b) *Strengthened institutional and human capacity to develop renewable energy development strategies to meet international treaty obligations*

673. During the biennium, ECE contributed to the strengthening of the institutional and human capacity of countries with economies in transition to develop energy efficiency and renewable energy strategies. As a result, 11 countries implemented Commission recommendations on energy efficiency and renewable energy and adopted appropriate national policies and measures. ECE activities were focused mainly on promoting best practices and solutions for energy policy reforms. ECE assistance also resulted in the development of 14 energy efficiency and renewable energy projects in beneficiary countries. The Commission conducted five advisory missions and organized seven capacity-building events (workshops, seminars and meetings) for 220 national experts. In implementing those activities, ECE strengthened partnerships with the regional commissions and other international organizations, including UNIDO, the Energy Charter secretariat, the International Energy Agency, the International Renewable Energy Agency and the United Nations Foundation.

Subprogramme 6 **Trade**

- (a) *Enhanced capacity of countries with economies in transition to implement trade facilitation measures using ECE and other international standards, recommendations and best practices*
- (b) *Enhanced capacity of countries with economies in transition to promote and implement policies, strategies and mechanisms supporting trade facilitation and facilitating their regional integration*

674. ECE contributed to trade policy development and trade facilitation in countries with economies in transition by helping them to implement international norms and best practices. As a result, eight countries established inter-agency cooperation mechanisms in support of trade facilitation instruments; 10 national and 2 regional trade facilitation strategies and mechanisms were developed; and 18 advisory missions and 14 conferences/workshops were organized. Programme resources were leveraged through extrabudgetary funding provided by the Russian Federation. With the Commission's support, a port community system started its operations in Odessa

and an inter-agency working group was established as a national trade facilitation body in Ukraine. A Batumi Declaration identifying concrete measures for regional cooperation in trade facilitation in the South Caucasus and Black Sea regions was adopted in June 2013. The Eurasian Economic Commission agreed on a draft strategic action plan for the implementation of the single-window concept. The single-window project in Tajikistan was piloted with the support of the European Union.

4. Economic and social development in Latin America and the Caribbean

Subprogramme 1

Linkages with the global economy, regional integration and cooperation

- (a) *Improved capacity of policymakers in ECLAC member countries to formulate, implement and manage trade policies and export development strategies with a view to achieving a more effective participation in global and regional trade flows and value chains*
- (b) *Strengthened capacity of stakeholders in ECLAC member countries to assess the impact of trade policy on other areas of development, particularly on sustainable development and climate change*

675. ECLAC analysis, policy recommendations, technical assistance and participation in high-level meetings during the biennium allowed 15 Governments (Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Peru, Trinidad and Tobago, and Uruguay) and four organizations (the Andean Community, the Development Bank of Latin America, the Union of South American Nations and UNCTAD) to enhance their capacities to improve linkages with the global economy through regional and interregional trade integration, particularly with the Asia-Pacific region; and to strengthen value chains while integrating small and medium-sized enterprises into global markets. The Commission enhanced the capacity of 15 of its members and associate members to devise trade policies that will help strengthen food-related national exports while adhering to sustainable development and climate change commitments, in particular in relation to carbon footprint reduction. ECLAC also organized several workshops that showed how the use of technology can assist in the analysis of trade competitiveness through the use of software for future trade negotiations.

Subprogramme 2

Production and innovation

Strengthened capacity of countries of the region to design, implement and evaluate strategies and policies to increase productivity and innovation in their economies

676. ECLAC provided technical cooperation services that fostered productivity convergence to 61 policymakers across five countries in the region during the biennium. The aims of those services were to analyse economic structures and propose the institutionalization of entities to improve supply chains and ensure access to infrastructure through innovation and the use of information and communications technology, enlisting the support of the private sector, academia and the public sector. Among the Commission's technical assistance projects that had important ramifications in the region were: (a) the implementation of its plan of action; (b) the