

## Intermediate Progress Report - 31.12.2018

### Audit of the management of trust funds at the Economic Commission for Europe (OIOS 2018-084)

Recom. no.	Recommendation	Critical <sup>2</sup> / Important <sup>3</sup>	C/ O <sup>4</sup>	Actions taken to close recommendation	Implementation date <sup>5</sup>
1	ECE should review its resource mobilization strategy and multi-year plan and take appropriate steps such as: (i) incorporating measurable and quantifiable performance indicators in the strategy; (ii) instituting a process to track the progress achieved; and (iii) including the impact of resource mobilization activities in its annual report to the Executive Committee.	Important	O	<i>Implementation ongoing. Update to be provided in the next Progress report (June 2019).</i>	30/06/2019  <i>Target date as per Management Response</i>
2	ECE should strengthen its due diligence process by incorporating procedures for engagement with NGOs and other entities as donors and partners.	Important	O	<i>Implementation ongoing. Update to be provided in the next Progress report (June 2019).</i>	30/06/2019  <i>Target date as per Management Response</i>
3	ECE should take appropriate steps to update its policies and procedures relating to management of extrabudgetary resources with the requirement to mainstream SDGs in their activities.	Important	O	<i>Implementation ongoing. Update to be provided in the next Progress report (June 2019).</i>	31/03/2019  <i>Target date as per Management Response</i>
4	ECE should: (i) establish a mechanism to consult available National Voluntary Reviews (NVR) of the country where projects are planned to be implemented; and (ii) encourage more Member States to participate in the NVR process to enhance project effectiveness.	Important	O	<i>Implementation ongoing. Update to be provided in the next Progress report (June 2019).</i>	30/06/2019  <i>Target date as per Management Response</i>

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5	ECE should include in the terms of reference for evaluations the need for evaluations to comply with the United Nations Evaluation Group's revised gender-related norms and standards.	Important	C	The Terms of Reference template for evaluations has been updated and now reflects the UNEG's revised gender-related norms and standards. The template is available in UNECE internal intranet and is hereby attached.  <b>Based on the action taken by UNECE, recommendation was closed by OIOS.</b>	17/10/2018
6	ECE should: (i) develop a catalogue of technical cooperation services based on available technical expertise; and (ii) institute a project intake process to ensure that projects fall within the available expertise to further enhance the effectiveness of its technical cooperation activities.	Important	O	<i>Implementation ongoing. Update to be provided in the next Progress report (June 2019).</i>	30/06/2019  <i>Target date as per Management Response</i>
7	ECE should: (i) take appropriate steps to ensure that indicators of achievement in project proposals are focused on outcomes; (ii) use appropriate tools to track the progress of outcomes; and (iii) include them in the annual report on technical cooperation activities to the Executive Committee.	Important	O	<i>Implementation ongoing. Update to be provided in the next Progress report (June 2019).</i>	30/06/2019  <i>Target date as per Management Response</i>
8	ECE should: (i) resume lessons learned exercises based on the evaluations conducted; (ii) convey the results of the lessons learned exercise to the concerned divisions for making necessary adjustments in future project proposals; and (iii) include the lessons learned from evaluations in its annual report to the Executive Committee.	Important	O	<i>Implementation ongoing. Update to be provided in the next Progress report (June 2019).</i>	31/03/2019  <i>Target date as per Management Response</i>

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9	ECE should review the trust funds with low contributions and/or no activity and determine whether they can be closed and merged with the technical cooperation trust fund to improve trust fund management.	Important	O	<i>Implementation ongoing. Update to be provided in the next Progress report (June 2019).</i>	30/06/2019  <i>Target date as per Management Response</i>
10	ECE should: (i) review the use of consultants and ensure that they are only hired to perform tasks that require specialized skills; and (ii) include a knowledge transfer clause in the consultants' terms of reference, where applicable, to facilitate upgrading the technical skills of its staff.	Important	C	This recommendation was implemented the 23 October 2018, as per an email from ECE Executive Officer. UNECE C/IC tool has been updated to reflect the additional requirements for project managers.  ECE has also reviewed the contracts which have been signed since the new requirement has been implemented and confirms that these contracts comply with the requirement.  <b>Based on UNECE's confirmation that the consultants are used for specialized functions based on their review, recommendation is closed by OIOS.</b>	23/10/2018
11	ECE should: (i) ensure that consultants and contractors provide a statement of good health for self-certification and complete a beneficiary form; and (ii) monitor and address delays in processing of payments to consultants.	Important	C	This recommendation was implemented the 23 October 2018, as per an email from ECE Executive Officer. UNECE C/IC tool has been updated to reflect the additional requirements for project managers.  <b>Based on the action taken by UNECE, recommendation was closed by OIOS.</b>	23/10/2018

<sup>2</sup> Critical recommendations address critical and/or pervasive deficiencies in governance, risk management or control processes, such that reasonable assurance cannot be provided with regard to the achievement of control and/or business objectives under review.

<sup>3</sup> Important recommendations address important (but not critical or pervasive) deficiencies in governance, risk management or control processes, such that reasonable assurance may be at risk regarding the achievement of control and/or business objectives under review.

<sup>4</sup> C = closed, O = open

<sup>5</sup> Date provided by ECE.