



FOURTH SESSION OF THE SPECA GOVERNING COUNCIL
(Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan, 13 November 2009)

REPORT

I. Introduction

1. The fourth session of the SPECA Governing Council was held in Bishkek on 13 November 2009 in conjunction with the 2009 SPECA Economic Forum, which was entitled “The Role of Subregional Cooperation in Mitigating the Consequences of the Global Economic Crisis”.

II. Participants

2. Representatives of Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Turkmenistan, as well as the Executive Secretaries of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) and the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) participated in the session. International organizations, including the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the Eurasian Economic Community (EurAsEC), the Executive Committee of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS), the European Commission, the World Bank, the Eurasian Development Bank (EDB), the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD), the International Monetary Fund (IMF), the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), and the Executive Committee of the International Fund for Saving the Aral Sea (IFAS) were also represented. The list of participants is attached (annex I).

III. Opening of the session

3. The session was inaugurated by **H.E. Mr. Akylbek Japarov, First Vice-Prime Minister and SPECA National Coordinator of Kyrgyzstan**. The Executive Secretaries of ESCAP and UNECE delivered welcoming statements.

4. The meeting was conducted under the chairmanship of **Mr. Sanjar Mukanbetov, Deputy Minister of Economic Regulation of Kyrgyzstan**.

5. *The Governing Council unanimously elected Kyrgyzstan as the Chair of SPECA and thanked Tajikistan for its able chairmanship over the past years (see annex II, decision 1).*

6. The heads of the delegations of **Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Turkmenistan** delivered statements.

IV. Outcomes of the 2009 SPECA Economic Forum

7. The Executive Secretaries of ESCAP and UNECE noted the positive outcome of the 2009 SPECA Economic Forum based on a productive exchange of views on optimal policy responses to the global economic and financial crisis, in particular strengthened regional cooperation. It was agreed that key recommendations would be reflected in the SPECA workplan for 2010-2011.

The Governing Council expressed its satisfaction with the outcomes of the 2009 SPECA Economic Forum (see annex II, decision 2).

V. SPECA activities since the last session of the Governing Council (20 October 2008, Moscow)

8. **The Chairman** announced that a progress report of the work conducted by the SPECA project working groups in 2009 had been distributed in advance to the participants of the session by the secretariats of ESCAP and UNECE.

9. It was underlined that all six SPECA project working groups had met in 2008 and 2009, reviewed project implementation and, if appropriate, formulated new project proposals.

10. **The representative of Azerbaijan** proposed that the secretariats of ESCAP and UNECE make an assessment of the number of the project working groups.

11. **The representatives of Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan and Tajikistan** suggested that more active involvement of the business community in the activities of SPECA and its project working groups in the future would be essential.

12. *The Governing Council agreed to the proposals of the Chairman to reflect the aforementioned statements in the report and decisions of the Governing Council at its fourth session (see annex II, decisions 3 and 4).*

13. The SPECA Progress Report for 2009 is attached (see annex III).

VI. Review and approval of the workplan for 2010-2011

14. **The Chairman** announced that the SPECA workplan for 2010-2011 had been distributed in advance to the participants of the session by the secretariats of ESCAP and UNECE.

15. *The Governing Council approved the SPECA workplan for 2010-2011 (see annex II, decision 5).*

16. **The representative of Azerbaijan** presented a proposal to strengthen the activities of the Project Working Group (PWG) on Trade, in particular a road map on the initiative on aid for trade for SPECA member countries (see annex IV).

17. *The Governing Council agreed to the proposal of the Chairman to reflect the aforementioned statement in the report and the decisions of the Governing Council at its fourth session (see annex II, decision 6).*

18. The SPECA workplan for 2010-2011 is attached (see annex V).

VII. Cooperation between SPECA and regional organizations and institutions

19. Speakers emphasized the need to support a genuine partnership between SPECA and a range of bilateral and multilateral organizations and institutions and expressed satisfaction that representatives of United Nations agencies and other international organizations were present at the session. There was a need for more regular coordination between SPECA, on the one hand, and UNDP, the Central Asia Regional Economic Cooperation (CAREC) coordinated by ADB, EurAsEC, CIS, the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO), IFAS, OSCE and other organizations and programmes active in Central Asia, on the other.

20. *The Governing Council agreed to the proposal of the Chairman to reflect the aforementioned statements in the report and decisions of the Governing Council at its fourth session (see annex II, decision 7).*

VIII. Opening of the ESCAP-UNECE joint office in Central Asia

21. The Governing Council was informed that, for ESCAP, the office would serve as a subregional office for North and Central Asia, which would also handle work related to the Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia (SPECA), as well as the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and other related work. For UNECE, the office would handle work related to SPECA. ESCAP and UNECE would need to proceed urgently with the announcement of the decision on the location of the office, as its work had been approved by the General Assembly in the Strategic Framework for 2010-2011, hence, the new office should be operational by the end of the year, so the two regional commissions would be able to deliver their respective work programmes starting in the new biennium 2010-2011. The General

Assembly had approved regular budget funds for ESCAP to establish the office in 2009. In accordance with United Nations financial regulations and rules, ESCAP needed to utilize the funds by the end of 2009 to set up the office.

22. Representatives of Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan made presentations and expressed their Governments' willingness to host the office. Representative of Azerbaijan and Tajikistan emphasized that the personnel of the office need to be highly professional and familiar with the region. It was also suggested that during the recruitment of staff of the office due consideration should be given to qualified nationals from SPECA member countries.

23. *The Governing Council agreed to the proposal of the Chairman to reflect the aforementioned statements in the report and decisions of the Governing Council at its fourth session (see annex II, decision 8).*

IX. Other business

24. The Executive Secretary of UNECE proposed to hold the next session of the Governing Council in Geneva, Switzerland, at the Headquarters of UNECE in October-November 2010. The Executive Secretary of ESCAP proposed to hold the 2011 session of the Governing Council in Bangkok at the Headquarters of ESCAP.

25. The Governing Council was informed that Mr. Supachai Panitchpakdi, Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), had sent a letter to the Executive Secretaries of ESCAP and UNECE regarding the possible interest of Mongolia in joining SPECA. That information would also be communicated to the Governments of the SPECA member countries through diplomatic channels.

26. **The Chairman** thanked the secretariats of ESCAP and UNECE and their Executive Secretaries for having organized the session, as well as for their active work aimed at strengthening SPECA and their strong support for programme implementation. At the same time, the participants extended their deep gratitude to the Government of Kyrgyzstan for the excellent organization of the meetings of the Governing Council and the SPECA Economic Forum in Bishkek, as well as for the hospitality extended to all participants in those meetings.

27. *The Governing Council supported the proposal of the Chairman to reflect the aforementioned statements in the report and decisions of the Governing Council at its fourth session (see annex II, decisions 9-12).*

28. The delegations of SPECA member countries and the Executive Secretaries of ESCAP and UNECE made brief closing statements, after which the Chairman declared the fourth session of the Governing Council closed.



FOURTH SESSION OF THE SPECA GOVERNING COUNCIL
(Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan, 13 November 2009)

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**DECISIONS
OF THE FOURTH SESSION OF THE SPECA GOVERNING COUNCIL
(Bishkek, 13 November 2009)**

Decision 1 (SPECA/GC/Dec/2009/1)

The Governing Council expresses its sincere gratitude to Tajikistan for the active work as the previous Chair of SPECA and welcomes the election of Kyrgyzstan as the next Chair of SPECA.

Decision 2 (SPECA/GC/Dec/2009/2)

The Governing Council notes with satisfaction the outcomes of the 2009 SPECA Economic Forum on the Role of Subregional Cooperation in Mitigating the Consequences of the Global Economic Crisis, held in Bishkek on 12 November 2009, and proposes to take them into consideration in further activities.

Decision 3 (SPECA/GC/Dec/2009/3)

The Governing Council notes with appreciation the report on the implementation of the SPECA workplan for 2008-2009, as well as progress reports on the work carried out by the project working groups. The Governing Council expresses its satisfaction with the increasing number of projects and the higher quality of activities conducted within the framework of the project working groups, as well as the further growth of financing for project implementation. The Governing Council invites ESCAP and UNECE to convey the comments and proposals made by the SPECA member countries during the session of the Governing Council to the relevant project working groups so that they can be taken into account in their future work. The Governing Council requests the secretariats of ESCAP and UNECE to make an assessment of the number of the project working groups and, if any rationalization is required, to submit relevant proposals for consideration by the Governing Council at its next session.

Decision 4 (SPECA/GC/Dec/2009/4)

The Governing Council emphasizes the importance of more active involvement of the business community in the activities of SPECA and its project working groups.

Decision 5 (SPECA/GC/Dec/2009/5)

The Governing Council approves with satisfaction the SPECA workplan for 2010-2011. The Council invites the project working groups, in consultation with the secretariats of ESCAP and UNECE, to take into account the comments and proposals put forward by the SPECA member countries at the session of the Governing Council in the course of implementing the workplan.

Decision 6 (SPECA/GC/Dec/2009/6)

The Governing Council supports the proposals made by Azerbaijan regarding the strengthening of the activities of the Project Working Group on Trade and on promoting the initiative entitled "Road map on the initiative on aid for trade for SPECA member countries" (see Annex IV). The Governing Council requests Azerbaijan, in close cooperation with ESCAP and ECE, to further promote this initiative and to undertake consultations with international organizations, which could be involved in the implementation of these proposals, and to prepare recommendations regarding the possible establishment of subgroups within the framework of the Project Working Group on Trade for consideration by the Governing Council at its next session. The Governing Council emphasizes the importance of the dissemination of these proposals well in advance of its next session, so they can be studied by the Governments of the SPECA member countries.

Decision 7 (SPECA/GC/Dec/2009/7)

The Governing Council welcomes further progress in strengthening cooperation between SPECA and other programmes and organizations providing support to regional economic cooperation in Central Asia, in particular UNDP, ADB (as coordinator of the CAREC group), EDB, IFAS and OSCE, as well as such regional organizations as CIS, EurAsEC and the European Commission. The Governing Council invites ESCAP, UNECE and other organizations to continue developing close cooperation, including further development and the implementation of joint projects designed to support regional cooperation. The Governing Council invites the Executive Secretary of ESCAP to discuss further ways of strengthening cooperation between SPECA and CAREC during the forthcoming high-level ESCAP-ADB consultations. The Governing Council welcomes, inter alia, the plans of ESCAP, UNECE and UNDP to agree in the near future on an implementation agreement in the SPECA region, as well as the intention of ESCAP, UNECE and the Executive Committee of the International Fund for Saving the Aral Sea to renew their 2004 memorandum of understanding and, if needed, to update its contents.

Decision 8 (SPECA/GC/Dec/2009/8)

The Governing Council expresses its appreciation to the Governments of Kyrgyzstan and Kazakhstan for their generous offers to host the joint ESCAP-UNECE office in Central Asia, which demonstrates their strong support to subregional cooperation and to SPECA. The Governing Council expresses its hope that the joint office will become operational as soon as possible.

Decision 9 (SPECA/GC/Dec/2009/9)

The Governing Council expresses its gratitude to the Executive Secretary of UNECE for his proposal to hold the next session of the Governing Council in Geneva, Switzerland, at the Headquarters of UNECE in October-November 2010. The Governing Council expresses its gratitude to the Executive Secretary of ESCAP for her proposal to hold the 2011 session of the Governing Council in Bangkok at the Headquarters of ESCAP.

Decision 10 (SPECA/GC/Dec/2009/10)

The Governing Council takes note of the information regarding the possible interest of Mongolia in participating in SPECA. This information will be communicated to the Governments of the SPECA member countries through diplomatic channels.

Decision 11 (SPECA/GC/Dec/2009/11)

The Governing Council expresses its high appreciation of the work carried out by the secretariats of ESCAP and UNECE and their Executive Secretaries, in particular the organization of the session, as well as their active work aimed at strengthening SPECA and their strong support for programme implementation.

Decision 12 (SPECA/GC/Dec/2009/12)

The Governing Council extends its deep gratitude to the Government of Kyrgyzstan for the excellent organization of the meetings of the Governing Council and the SPECA Economic Forum in Bishkek, as well as for the hospitality extended to all participants.



**UNITED NATIONS SPECIAL PROGRAMME FOR THE ECONOMIES OF CENTRAL ASIA
 (SPECA)**

Fourth session of the SPECA Governing Council

Progress reports of the SPECA project working groups(2008-2009)

Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan, 13 November 2009

Background

1. SPECA activities in 2008 and 2009 had continued to be based on the strategy elaborated and approved by the governing bodies (Governing Council and Coordinating Committee) of the Programme. The third session of the SPECA Governing Council (Moscow, 20 October 2008) had reviewed the implementation of the 2008-2009 SPECA workplan and expressed satisfaction with the increasing number of activities carried out within the framework of the six project working groups and the steady growth of budgetary and extrabudgetary funding available for project implementation. The Governing Council had invited the Executive Secretaries of UNECE and ESCAP to undertake joint visits to SPECA capitals to discuss the further strengthening of the Programme, as initiated by United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon in his letter of 5 March 2008 to the Presidents of SPECA member countries. It had welcomed the continued progress made in establishing regular and substantial coordination with other programmes and organizations supporting regional economic cooperation in Central Asia, in particular the annual inter-agency coordination meetings between SPECA and the CAREC group, EurAsEC, the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) and SCO, as well as the participation of ESCAP and UNECE representatives in the work of the CAREC Partnership Forum. The third session of the SPECA Economic Forum (Moscow, 20 October 2008) had continued to discuss the role of strengthened regional economic cooperation in a positive investment climate. Building on the results of the Almaty and Berlin sessions of the Economic Forum, which had focused on trade and investment links between Central Asia on the one hand and Asia and the European Union on the other, the Moscow session of the Economic Forum had discussed how improved regional cooperation could facilitate investment by the Russian Federation in such areas as transport, water and energy, as well as investment that could help to diversify the economies of the region. Participants in the Economic Forum had highlighted the need to develop a regional strategy for dealing with the effects of the global financial crisis, noting that strengthened regional cooperation should play a key role in such a strategy. All six SPECA project working groups had met in 2008-2009, reviewed project implementation and, if appropriate, formulated new project proposals. The inaugural session of the new Project Working Group on Knowledge-based Development (formerly the Project Working Group on Information and Communication Technologies for Development) had taken place in Baku on 12 November 2008.

SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES OF THE SPECA PROJECT WORKING GROUPS

SPECA PROJECT WORKING GROUP ON WATER AND ENERGY RESOURCES

Dam safety

2. The project to improve the safety of dam operations in Central Asia started in 2006. There are two main results from the first phase of the project: (i) a model national law on the safety of large hydraulic facilities, including dams, intended to be a base of national harmonized legal frameworks for dam safety; and (ii) a draft of the regional agreement on cooperation on dam safety, which stipulates,

inter alia, the exchange of information and notification of other countries in case of accidents involving dams.

3. The second phase of the project is being implemented during the period 2008-2010 with funding from Finland and the Russian Federation. The main results of the second phase include further negotiations and the development of the draft regional agreement, input to the development of dam safety legislation in Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan, and joint training for experts in the region. A technical regulation for all five countries is being developed in cooperation with Russian experts. Information about the project can be found at www.unece.org/env/water/damsafety.htm.

Clean coal technology and air quality management

4. UNECE and ESCAP have implemented the project entitled “Capacity-building for Air Quality Management and the Application of Clean Coal Combustion Technologies in Central Asia” (the CAPACT Project) in collaboration with energy and environmental authorities in Central Asia and with funding from the United Nations Development Account. The duration of the Project was for four years, beginning in mid-2004. The countries participating in the project were Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan. The project helped to identify appropriate technologies for the cleaner use of coal, and raised the capacity of air quality management within institutions in Central Asia. CAPACT responded to a strong need to develop air quality management policies and expertise in Central Asia. While it has been a challenge to develop intersectoral cooperation between energy and environmental sectors in the region, environmental and energy sectors have benefited substantially from the project. The main achievements of the project can be found at www.unece.org/energy/capact.

Water, Environmental and Energy Information

5. The Central Asian Regional Water Information Base (CAREWIB) Project, funded by Switzerland, was launched in 2004. It is implemented by the Scientific Information Centre of the Interstate Commission for Water Coordination (SIC-ICWC) in Tashkent in cooperation with UNECE and UNEP/Grid-Arendal. The project includes a Water Portal (www.cawater-info.net) that provides access to Central Asian water information, a bibliographic database of land and water resource use in the Aral Sea basin, lists of and links to donors active in the Aral Sea basin, databases for the Aral Sea basin, the Amudarya and the Syrdarya river basins, etc. The portal also hosts the websites of various projects. The project further includes the development of an information system on water and land resources in the region for experts and decision makers in the five Central Asian States. Phase 2 of the project started at the end of 2007.

6. In the second phase of the CAREWIB project, the focus will be on developing national water information systems. There is some enthusiasm from the side of the countries, and the experts that developed the regional information system will be supporting efforts at the national level.

Implementation of the Convention on the Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context (EIA Convention)

7. The overall objective of the project entitled “Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context: Pilot implementation project in Central Asia”, which was implemented by UNECE in cooperation with OSCE, was to improve dialogue and cooperation and involve stakeholders and the public in the development and assessment of major projects in Central Asia with a potential cross-border impact on the environment. The Convention on the Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context is used as the main instrument to achieve this goal. The specific objective was to demonstrate the effective implementation of the EIA Convention in Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan, two parties to the Convention.

8. During the period 2006-2008, the procedures of the EIA Convention were implemented on the basis of the proposed establishment of a gold and copper mine in Andash, Kyrgyzstan. A regional conference in Bishkek in the spring of 2009 concluded the project.

9. One of the most important results of the project was the experience of successful cooperation and interaction between the authorities of Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan in conducting a transboundary environmental impact assessment (EIA). The project also demonstrated that the EIA Convention is an important instrument to promote cooperation among its parties through the joint discussion of problems, the establishment of contacts and the finding of ways to pre-empt and resolve possible conflicting views between neighbouring countries. More information can be found at www.unece.org/env/eia/subregions/central.

SPECA PROJECT WORKING GROUP ON TRADE

10. The SPECA Project Working Group on Trade was established at the SPECA Conference in Astana, held from 25 to 27 May 2005, with the aim of steering projects to the benefit of regional cooperation and economic development in the SPECA participating countries.

11. During the period 2008-2009, the network under this Project Working Group was strengthened. Two meetings of the Project Working Group were organized, one in Bishkek in November 2008 and one in Geneva, Switzerland, in October 2009. In addition to the traditional strong work on trade facilitation (where a United Nations Development Account project is being successfully implemented), a number of new initiatives in the area of trade policy (accession to the World Trade Organization (WTO) and aid for trade, as well as free trade agreements) were launched. The capacity-building projects developed in the SPECA framework inspired international and bilateral aid agencies to develop new projects on trade facilitation, the single-window concept, etc. The period finished with a clear perspective for future work on trade facilitation, the single-window concept, the application of United Nations standards and tools, and cooperation on WTO issues and international aid for trade development. New funding should be appropriated to build on the achievements of the SPECA programme up to this point.

ACTIVITIES:

12. The second seminar of the fifth tranche project on trade facilitation dedicated to the single-window concept (Baku, 5 to 7 May 2008) was a joint ESCAP-UNECE seminar, organized by ESCAP. All SPECA countries (Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan) were represented.

13. The UNECE-Border Management Programme in Central Asia (BOMCA)-UNDP regional seminar on trade facilitation was held in Ashgabat in April 2008.

14. The third ESCAP-UNECE seminar under the UNDA-5 project on trade facilitation in Central Asia, focused on electronic documents, was organized by UNECE. All SPECA countries apart from Turkmenistan (Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan) participated.

15. A preparatory meeting for the establishment of an initiative on a SPECA road map for aid for trade took place from 24 to 26 March 2009.

16. A seminar on trade facilitation at the border in the SPECA countries took place in Dushanbe from 11 to 13 May 2009, jointly organized by ESCAP and UNECE (coordinated by ESCAP).

17. The Central Asian Regional Economic Cooperation (CAREC) programme organized a cooperation forum with other organizations (including UNECE and ESCAP) and a meeting on national trade and transport facilitation committees in May and June 2009.

18. UNECE held a series of capacity-building activities on the single-window concept in Uzbekistan, including a seminar organized under the UNECE-Czech Republic project with the Chamber of Commerce of Uzbekistan and UNDP in Tashkent in July 2008 and the establishment of an inter-agency working group to study existing models of the single window and draft a concept paper.

**SPECA PROJECT WORKING GROUP ON TRANSPORT
AND BORDER CROSSING**

19. The thirteenth and fourteenth sessions of the SPECA Project Working Group on Transport and Border Crossing (PWG-TBC) were held on 12 and 13 March 2008 and on 17 and 18 March 2009, respectively, in Almaty, Kazakhstan, and were hosted by the Ministry of Transport and Communications of Kazakhstan, the lead SPECA country in the field of transport.

20. At the sessions, the Project Working Group reviewed the progress achieved since the twelfth session in developing the four priority transport databases (rail routes, road routes, border crossing points and intermodal transport) for the SPECA region and noted the completion of the SPECA guide on road wayside facilities (phase I—Kazakhstan).

21. The Project Working Group was informed that the subregional project proposal on transport routes from Central Asia/SPECA countries to the port of Bandar Abbas, developed under the framework of SPECA, had been reviewed at the nineteenth meeting of the ECO Regional Planning Council held in Tehran from 12 to 14 January 2009, which recommended the Council of Permanent Representatives of ECO to consider using the ECO feasibility study fund for the project focusing on the Bandar Abbas-Almaty route.

22. The Project Working Group thus stressed the crucial role of NIITK as an institute of technical support through the Ministry of Transport and Communications of Kazakhstan in the implementation of the projects and activities of the Project Working Group and the need for financial and other assistance for NIITK, along with continuing advisory assistance from ESCAP and UNECE.

23. The Project Working Group noted the importance of the Busan Declaration on Transport Development in Asia and the Pacific to the SPECA member countries and encouraged the SPECA member countries to actively participate in ESCAP activities to implement the Regional Action Programme for Transport Development in Asia and the Pacific, phase I (2007-2011).

24. The Project Working Group welcomed the Meeting of Ministers of Transport of countries in the Euro-Asian region, held in Geneva, Switzerland, on 19 February 2008 during the seventieth session of the UNECE Inland Transport Committee (ITC), in which the Ministers from the countries involved in the Euro-Asian Transport Linkages (EATL) project signed a joint statement on the future development of Euro-Asian transport links. It noted that, by their joint statement, the ministers had reaffirmed their support and commitment to the project, endorsed the Euro-Asian routes and priority infrastructure investments identified by it, and supported the establishment of a mechanism for monitoring its follow-up activities. The SPECA Project Working Group encouraged SPECA countries to support the implementation of phase II of the EATL project (from 2008 to 2011) and asked UNECE and ESCAP to join efforts for its implementation.

25. The Project Working Group welcomed the development by the five United Nations regional commissions in 2008-2009 of a new UNDA-funded project on improving global road safety by setting regional and national road casualty reduction targets as a follow-up to the recommendations made in General Assembly resolution 60/5 of 26 October 2005 on improving global road safety. PWG-TBC encouraged SPECA member States to actively participate in the project's activities and to make full use of it, in view of the severe penalty in road accidents paid annually by their societies.

26. The Project Working Group noted with interest the ESCAP skill development tools in multimodal transport and logistics and national Training of Trainers (ToT) workshops organized in some countries by ESCAP to assist them in establishing their own training courses. The first ToT workshop in the SPECA region was conducted in Kazakhstan in August 2009, with training tools translated into the Russian language.

27. The Project Working Group expressed its gratitude to the representative of the European Commission in charge of the development of equipment certification centres for the transport of perishable goods for Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan for giving the

Project Working Group an opportunity to visit, upon its opening, a new testing station for the transport of perishable foodstuffs according to the standards developed in the 1970 UNECE Agreement on the International Carriage of Perishable Foodstuffs and on the Special Equipment to be used for such Carriage (ATP). In view of the success of the project, it was proposed that consideration be given to extension of the project to other SPECA countries, namely Afghanistan and Azerbaijan.

28. During the thirteenth and fourteenth sessions, bilateral consultations on border-crossing issues between Kazakhstan and its neighbours were held under the framework of SPECA PWG-TBC. Noting the importance and the tangible outcomes of the consultations to the member countries, the Project Working Group requested that bilateral consultations of interest to the host country and its immediate neighbours continue to be organized at future sessions of SPECA PWG-TBC.

29. The Project Working Group expressed its appreciation to the Islamic Development Bank for its continuous support of PWG-TBC and welcomed the participation of Turkmenistan in the fourteenth session of SPECA PWG-TBC, which made the session more inclusive.

SPECA PROJECT WORKING GROUP ON STATISTICS

30. The SPECA Project Working Group on Statistics held its fourth meeting in Istanbul on 23 and 24 March 2009. It was attended by representatives of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan and Turkey, as well as representatives of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE), the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) and the European Union (Eurostat).

31. As the Chairperson of the Project Working Group, the Head of the State Committee on Statistics of Tajikistan, who had acted as chair during the period 2006-2008, had expressed his will that the chairmanship of the SPECA Meeting of the Project Working Group on Statistics be rotated, the Head of Statistics Kazakhstan was elected Chair of the SPECA Project Working Group on Statistics for the period 2009-2012.

32. A report on the results of the activities of the United Nations Development Account-funded StatCapCA project (United Nations Development Account project 06/07F) during the period from July 2006 to February 2009 was presented. As the project is coming to an end in 2009, an evaluation report was presented by Mr. Oleg Cara, Deputy Director of the National Statistical Bureau of Moldova, who had kindly agreed to act as external evaluator of the StatCapCA project.

33. Based on his evaluation work from January to March 2009, his assessment concluded that the project activities had been organized very successfully and had been of substantial assistance for the targeted countries. All SPECA member countries had achieved considerable progress in the statistical fields of the project. The translation of all project materials and presentations into Russian and their publication on the relevant UNECE websites had been very helpful for a large number of experts, managers and other staff members in the national statistical agencies of the beneficiary countries and for staff members that had not directly participated in the training activities of the project.

34. Mr. Cara concluded that, in all target countries except Uzbekistan, the census preparations or activities were based on the recommendations of the Conference of European Statisticians (CES). Observations on the non-observed economy were included in the National Accounts reporting. National statistical agencies also had an orientation towards additional cooperation with the ministries of health and other authorities, aiming at improved measurement of the health status of the population in the respective countries.

35. More information on the Fourth Meeting of the SPECA PWG on Statistics in Istanbul in March 2009 can be found on the website www.unece.org/stats/documents/2009.03.speca.htm.

36. Another statistical project, in addition to the StatCapCA project referred to above, was implemented in the SPECA subregion during the period 2007-2009. The project, "Engendering Statistical Information", was principally funded by the World Bank. In the framework of the Engendering project, a handbook on gender statistics is being produced. Numerous multimedia

presentations on gender statistics have also been produced to serve as training materials both for target groups in the area of gender statistics and trainers on the topic (see www.unece.org/stats/video). The Engendering project will also continue in 2010. In 2009 new activities on gender statistics are planned for Tajikistan, Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan. See more on www.unece.org/stats/archive/01.0b.e.htm.

37. Four new projects were reported to have commenced in 2009, providing support for capacity-building in SPECA member countries. They are the following:

- (i) *Challenges in Economic Statistics*. This project focuses on short-term economic statistics, seasonal adjustments and price statistics. The first five days of training will take place in Astana in 2009. The next is planned to take place in Baku or in Istanbul, Turkey, in the first part of 2010 and the third in Bishkek in autumn 2010. Besides SPECA member countries, Mongolia will also be invited;
- (ii) *Supporting MDG Strategies*. This is a joint project of ESCAP and UNECE. The UNECE part of this project is focusing on statistics, while the other parts are focusing on other MDG-related issues. An expert group meeting focusing on the disaggregation of MDG indicators will be organized in Astana in October 2009, followed by a training workshop in the spring of 2010, possibly in Tashkent. SPECA member countries will be the focus of both events;
- (iii) *Migration flows and stocks*. This is a global project of all five United Nations regional commissions, led by the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC). UNECE has selected the Central Asian countries to be targeted in this project, which aims to improve the availability and quality of data on international migration. Another aim is to strengthen evidence-based policymaking and research in the field of international migration;
- (iv) *Violence against Women*. This is also a global project of all five United Nations regional commissions, and it is also led by ECLAC. The project will support the organization of two meetings of a task force, composed of countries in the UNECE region, on supporting improved information access on this important theme. It will also test a module to measure violence against women in statistical population-based surveys.

38. ESCAP has, in its work, given strong emphasis to the role of the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific (SIAP) in its support to statistical capacity-building in the SPECA subregion. SIAP held a regular two-month training course on the collection and analysis of official economic statistics, conducted in the Russian language, for countries in Central Asia and the Caucasus. Most of the technical documents produced by the ESCAP disability measurement project, where Kazakhstan was one of the pilot countries, were available in Russian. ESCAP will organize regional workshops in late 2009 and in the beginning of 2010 to share the findings of its two projects on the measurement of disability and the measurement of the informal sector and informal employment. The Deputy Chair of Statistics Kazakhstan was recently elected to the Bureau of the ESCAP Committee on Statistics for 2009-2010.

39. It can also be noted that 2008 marked the beginning of training activities jointly organized by UNECE and SIAP. One national training workshop on migration statistics was held in Tajikistan in April 2008, and another on new challenges in economic statistics was held in Iran in November 2008 for SPECA member countries and Iran. A joint UNECE-SIAP training workshop on disseminating MDG indicators is scheduled to be held in Astana in the latter part of 2009.

40. Statistics Kazakhstan has established a training and research centre for statistics in Astana. Its facilities were used for joint training activities for the SPECA member countries for the first time in October 2009, when UNECE organized an expert group meeting on MDG-related indicators.

41. The SPECA Project Working Group on Statistics adopted revised terms of reference for its work in the meeting in Istanbul in March 2009.

42. ESCAP has continued to implement the United Nations Development Account project on improving statistics and measurement of disability statistics. This project aims to promote disability data collection through censuses and develop standard survey-based measurement through development and pilot-testing of a set of questions as well as targeted training and advisory services. A number of developing countries and Kazakhstan and Mongolia, representing economies in transition have been included in the project. Both countries mentioned have participated as pilot countries for developing and testing a questionnaire on disability statistics in the framework of the United Nations Development Account project mentioned. By autumn 2009, most of the testing results had been analysed, and the summarizing of recommendations for continued work in the countries can now be supported on an improved basis.

43. Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan participated in the fifty-seventh Conference of European Statisticians, organized by UNECE, see www.unece.org/stats/documents/2009.09.ces.htm.

44. The countries mentioned also participated in its side meeting, “Better Evidence for Better Development Results”, which was organized jointly by UNECE, UNICEF, UNFPA, UNDP and OECD (see www.unece.org/stats/documents/2009.06.mdg.htm).

45. Numerous SPECA member countries—Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan—participated in the UNSD/UNECE Meeting on Environmental Indicators in Geneva, Switzerland, in August-September 2009.

46. UNECE organized jointly with EFTA and Eurostat in September 2009 a management seminar on global assessments on national statistical systems in Yalta, Ukraine. All SPECA member countries, with the exception of Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan, participated actively. Additional information on the content of this management seminar can be found at www.unece.org/stats/documents/2009.09.speca.htm.

47. After the management seminar mentioned, both the National Statistical Bureau of Kyrgyzstan and the State Statistical Committee sent an official request to have a global assessment performed on their National Statistical System in the year 2010. A corresponding assessment had already been performed earlier on the National Statistical System of Kazakhstan in 2003 and in 2007-2008.

48. In October 2009, UNECE organized jointly with Eurostat a workshop on business registers and their role in business statistics in the eastern UNECE region in Luxembourg (see www.unece.org/stats/documents/2009.10.busreg1.htm).

49. In Astana, an expert group meeting on Millennium Development Goal indicators for Central Asian countries and Azerbaijan was organized by UNECE in cooperation with Statistics Kazakhstan and a number of other international organizations (the International Labour Organization (ILO), UNDP, UNESCO and the World Health Organization). The issues of producing, disaggregating, disseminating, reconciling and coordinating activities around indicators related to MDGs were discussed in depth. The development work on a user-friendly regional MDG database, providing information on both country-produced and internationally produced indicators for monitoring progress in the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals, was also discussed and supported by all six SPECA member countries participating in the expert group meeting in Astana. Additional information on this expert group meeting for SPECA member countries can be found at www.unece.org/stats/documents/2009.10.mdg.htm.

**SPECA PROJECT WORKING GROUP ON KNOWLEDGE-BASED DEVELOPMENT
(Former Project Working Group on Information and Communication
Technology for Development)**

50. At its second session (Berlin, 14 November 2007), the SPECA Governing Council (GC) supported the proposal to broaden the mandate of the Project Working Group on Information and Communication Technologies for Development (PWG on ICT for Development) and to transform it into the Project Working Group on Knowledge-based Development (PWG on KBD).

Following up on the proposal of the SPECA Governing Council, the inaugural session of the PWG on KBD was held in Baku on 12 November 2008, with the support of the Government of Azerbaijan. The inaugural session adopted the terms of reference and the programme of work of the PWG on KBD for 2009.

51. In accordance with its terms of reference, the PWG on KBD aims to support its member countries in developing subregional cooperation seeking to promote knowledge-based development and the further integration of their economies into the world economy. To this effect, the PWG on KBD: (i) promotes and supports policies on KBD in the member countries; (ii) facilitates cooperation in the initiatives related to KBD between the member countries and other regional initiatives; (iii) supports and coordinates capacity-building and institutional strengthening activities and programmes related to KBD in the member countries; and (iv) serves as a forum for discussion on issues related to KBD, including information and communication technology (ICT)-related policy and regulatory issues.

52. With a view to achieving its objectives, the PWG on KBD supports capacity-building activities of its member countries in the following thematic areas: (i) ICT for development; (ii) promoting innovation and innovative development; (iii) supporting knowledge-based competitiveness; (iv) financing ICT infrastructure and innovative development; (v) commercialization and protection of intellectual property; (vi) private-public partnerships.

53. This report contains activities carried out by the former PWG on ICT for Development in 2008 in accordance of the SPECA workplan 2008-2009 approved at the second session of the SPECA Governing Council in Berlin, and by the PWG on KBD in 2009 in line with the programme of work of the Group for 2009, adopted at its inaugural session in Baku.

Activities carried out under the framework of the former PWG on ICT for Development in 2008

54. On 6 and 7 May 2008, ESCAP (lead agency) and UNECE organized the Consultative Meeting for the Establishment of a Regional Knowledge Network of Telecentres in Central Asia in Baku under the project on knowledge network through ICT access points for disadvantaged communities, financed by the United Nations Development Account Fund.

55. On 1 and 2 July 2008, UNECE organized the National Capacity-building Seminar on ICT Policy and Legal Issues in Tashkent at the request of the Government of Uzbekistan. The seminar was organized in cooperation with the Information and Communication Technology Policy Project, UNDP Office in Uzbekistan.

56. On 13 and 14 November 2008, UNECE organized the Regional Capacity-building Seminar on ICT Policy and Legal Issues, with Special Reference to eCommerce Development in Baku in conjunction with the inaugural session of the SPECA Project Working Group on Knowledge-based Development. The seminar was organized in cooperation with the Ministry of Communications and Information Technologies of Azerbaijan.

Activities carried out/to be carried out by the PWG on KBD in 2009 in accordance with the Programme of work for 2009

57. From 25 to 27 February 2009, ESCAP organized the High-level Meeting on Improving Awareness on ICT Applications for Disaster Management in Bishkek.

58. From 12 to 13 March 2009, UNECE organized the Subregional Seminar on the Role of Intellectual Property Rights in Technology Transfer: Problems, Solutions, Examples from Turkey and World in Ankara.

59. From 21 to 22 May 2009, UNECE organized the International Conference on Ways and Means of Attracting External Finance for New Innovative Enterprises in Astana.

60. From 29 to 30 June 2009, UNECE organized the International Conference on Technological Readiness for Innovation-based Competitiveness in Geneva, Switzerland.
61. From 10 to 12 June 2009, UNECE organized the International Conference on Knowledge-based Development in Minsk.
62. From 28 to 29 September 2009, UNECE organized the International Conference on Promoting Innovation-based Entrepreneurial Opportunities in the UNECE Region in Geneva, Switzerland.
63. From 21 to 23 October 2009, ESCAP organized the Regional Workshop for Knowledge Hubs in Central Asia and Neighbouring Countries in Dushanbe. The Workshop is organized in cooperation with UNECE at the invitation of the Ministry of Transport and Communication of Tajikistan with the support of the International Research and Exchange Board.
64. UNECE, in cooperation with ESCAP, is organizing a regional capacity-building seminar on the financing of innovative enterprises, the commercialization of intellectual property and public-private partnerships, which is scheduled to be held on 10 and 11 November 2009. The seminar is organized in conjunction with the second session of the SPECA Project Working Group on Knowledge-based Development in Bishkek.
65. UNECE is also organizing a capacity-building event on the enforcement of intellectual property rights in the countries of Central Asia, scheduled to be held on 11 November 2009.
66. The programme of work of the PWG on KBD for 2009 also envisages participation of SPECA experts in UNECE policy-oriented meetings, expert seminars and other capacity-building activities on promoting knowledge-based development. To this effect, representatives of SPECA member countries, including the nominated experts of the Network of SPECA Policymakers on Knowledge-based Development participated in the following event with capacity-building components, organized by UNECE:
Special Session on Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs) in Global Uncertainty, organized within the framework of the Second Astana Economic Forum on 12 March 2009 and the consultative meeting between the Government of Kazakhstan and the UNECE Business Advisory Board on PPP, held in Astana on 13 March 2009;
67. Similar to that of UNECE, representatives of the SPECA member countries participated or will participate in the following events with capacity-building components, organized by ESCAP:
- Expert Group Meeting on WSIS+5 and Emerging Issues in Asia and the Pacific, 18-19 November 2008, Bangkok
 - Expert Group Meeting on Regional Cooperation towards Building an Information Society in Asia and the Pacific, 20-22 July 2009, Bangkok
 - Thirteenth session of the Intergovernmental Consultative Committee on the Regional Space Applications Programme for Sustainable Development, 20-22 July 2009, Bangkok
 - Regional Consultative Meeting for Knowledge Hubs in Asia and the Pacific, 2-4 December 2009, Colombo; representatives of Telecentre networks/knowledge hubs (from SPECA member countries) will be invited in this meeting

SPECA PROJECT WORKING GROUP ON GENDER AND ECONOMY

68. The SPECA Governing Council officially established the Project Working Group on Gender and Economy at its meeting in June 2006, Baku. The PWG on Gender and Economy is jointly supported by UNECE and ESCAP.
69. The main purpose of the PWG activities is to mobilize women's potential for economic growth and to contribute towards reaching the Millennium Development Goals. Support to small and medium-sized

enterprises (SMEs) and entrepreneurship is an important part of mobilizing women's economic potential as women play an active role in the development of the private sector in the SPECA region.

70. In line with its terms of reference, the PWG: (i) raises awareness of gender equality as a smart choice for economic policy through policy-oriented research, exchanges of good practices and the preparation of policy guidelines and recommendations; (ii) develops pilot projects in selected areas (in particular gender-sensitive SME policies and gender budgets); and (iii) promotes cross-sectional linkages and synergies with other relevant areas of SPECA activities, such as statistics, trade, and information and communication technologies.

ACTIVITIES CARRIED OUT UNDER THE 2008-2009 WORKPLAN

Development of the UNECE Knowledge Hub on the Economics of Gender

71. The Knowledge Hub on the Economics of Gender is a web-based information portal targeted at policymakers, non-governmental organizations, and interested experts in the gender and economy area. It provides a regional platform for the exchange of information, policy guidance and good practice in mainstreaming gender in economic policymaking. Initially developed with a focus on SPECA countries, the Knowledge Hub is being extended to cover all countries in the UNECE region to encourage region-wide information sharing.

72. The information platform contributes to raising awareness of the economic implications of gender (in) equality. It encourages mutual policy learning by providing examples of gender-sensitive economic policies across the region, and provides an extensive resource section through a virtual library which provides, for instance, gender mainstreaming handbooks and tool kits as well as useful links to government websites, international organizations and NGOs which are active in the gender and economy area. The web portal further informs about the relevant United Nations global processes such as progress on the Millennium Development Goals and the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action.

73. The Knowledge Hub on the Economics of Gender can be accessed through the UNECE web page at www.unece.org/gender.

Development of MDG-related indicators in the economic area

74. In the area of statistics and monitoring of gender equality and women's (economic) empowerment, the possibility of establishing a more comprehensive set of indicators for measuring gender equality in the economy was explored under the United Nations Development Account Project on "Strengthening Social Inclusion, Gender Equality and Health Promotion". As a result of this work, indicators for a number of relevant subject areas were proposed to provide a more holistic understanding of progress towards gender equality in the economic realm than is currently provided by the indicators agreed to under the MDGs. New indicators are proposed in the areas of poverty reduction, access to resources, entrepreneurship, access to the labour market, the labour market, reconciliation of work and family responsibilities, social protection and economic decision-making and public life.

75. The proposed new indicators were presented at an Expert Group Meeting organized by ESCAP in Bangkok on "Closing the Gaps: Strategies to Combat and Monitor Exclusion in Asia and Pacific" from 29 September to 1 October 2009.

Assessment of business environment for women entrepreneurs

76. In cooperation with ILO, research was undertaken to analyse the achievements and perspectives of women's entrepreneurship development in pilot countries in Central Asia with the purpose of developing policy recommendations for the improvement and further development of entrepreneurial opportunities for women in the region.

77. The results of a completed pilot study in Uzbekistan, for example, have pointed to the importance of the consolidation of the existing structures for the support and development of women's

entrepreneurship as well as the creation of new support systems, including the strengthening of legal protection of women in the economic sphere. An enhanced involvement and participation of business women in formal dialogue between the Government and the private sector could facilitate that women's business needs are communicated and taken into account in policy developments. Furthermore, the study highlighted the need for improved access to financial services, such as micro-credits, and consultative services for inexperienced business women in areas such as business education, supply and exchange of information, contribution in establishing business relations and ICT services.

Capacity-building activities to support women entrepreneurs in the SPECA region

78. The majority of micro and small enterprises are run by women. They are an important source of opportunity and income for women. There is a recognized need for the support of tools and support systems for women entrepreneurs. In order to improve the business environment for women in Central Asia, the Centre for International Cooperation of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Israel and the Golda Meir Mount Carmel International Training Centre, in cooperation with UNECE, have continued to run biannual international training workshops on "Women entrepreneurs and information communication technologies" and on "Support systems for women in small business at national and local levels" to provide this support.

79. The capacity-building workshops, held in Russian, are targeted at women's entrepreneurs from Central Asia. They provide them with support, guidance and managerial tools on the use of new technologies in the management of small business. Further they address government institutions in charge of small and medium-sized enterprise development at national and local levels, women's business associations and other civil society organizations to build their capacity to strengthen the support environment for women entrepreneurs. Over the years, the training scheme has not only played an important role in strengthening the support for women entrepreneurship but has also facilitated networking among women entrepreneurs across Central Asia.

Gender and Economy in the context of the Beijing +15 Regional Review

80. SPECA countries have provided national contributions to the 15 year review of the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action, including up to date information on activities in the gender and economy area. These have informed the regional synthesis report prepared by the UNECE secretariat in 2009, which will contribute to the Global Review in New York in March 2010.

81. The Beijing +15 Regional Review Meeting, organized in Geneva, Switzerland, on 2 and 3 November 2009 has a strong focus on gender and the economy. The regional synthesis as well as policy-oriented background papers on the linkages between gender equality and the economy, particularly through gender-sensitive economic policies, gender and the corporate sector, and new partnerships, networks, and alliances for gender equality in the region were prepared in 2009 and are available for download on the UNECE gender website (www.unece.org/gender).

DETAILED PROPOSALS BY AZERBAIJAN

- To support the Azerbaijani initiative on an aid for trade road map for SPECA and its efforts for the efficient realization of this regional project and to request Azerbaijan on behalf of the Governing Council to further promote this important initiative
- To express gratitude to the Islamic Development Bank and, namely, the International Islamic Trade Finance Corporation (ITFC) and the Government of Finland for their financial support to an aid for trade road map for SPECA, as well as to UNDP, UNECE, ECSAP, WTO, OECD, UNCTAD, ITC, etc. for their efforts
- To invite bilateral donors, development agencies and relevant international institutions to support the concrete national and regional aid for trade needs of SPECA countries, to be presented at the Regional SPECA Ministerial Aid for Trade Meeting to be held in May 2010 in Azerbaijan
- To welcome the proposal of Azerbaijan to rename the Project Working Group on Trade Development to the Project Working Group on Trade and Development, to create eight subgroups (see the attached list) within the Project Working Group on Trade and Development and to invite relevant international institutions to lead those subgroups
- To request Azerbaijan, on behalf of the Governing Council and in close cooperation with UNECE and ESCAP, to cooperate with relevant international organizations and development agencies to explore their interest in the proposed subgroups and jointly with all interested stakeholders to elaborate recommendations on concrete possible projects on each subgroup within an aid for trade road map for SPECA for consideration at the next session of the Governing Council
- To request Azerbaijan, on behalf of the Governing Council and in close cooperation with UNECE and ESCAP, to further promote the realization of the Azerbaijani initiative on the creation of the Regional SPECA Training and Research Centre on Public Administration and Development within the Academy of Public Administration under the President of Azerbaijan
- To request UNECE and ESCAP to mobilize United Nations and extrabudgetary resources to support the work of the Project Working Group on Knowledge-Based Development.



2010-2011 Workplan
(ongoing, planned and possible UNECE and ESCAP activities in support of
the United Nations Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia (SPECA))

WATER, ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT

1. In light of a large degree of interdependence of most of the SPECA member countries, efficient use of water and energy resources on mutually agreed and beneficial terms is critical for economic and social development in the region and meeting basic human needs of its populations. The theme of Water and Energy was among the initial work areas of SPECA and was addressed through the Project Working Group on Water and Energy Resources. This work resulted in the elaboration of the Strategy for the Efficient Use of Water and Energy Resources in Central Asia.
2. On-going projects contributing to the implementation of the SPECA Strategy as well as being part of the work programme of the UNECE Water Convention in the region include work on water information, dam safety, development of cooperation on the Chu and Talas rivers and water quality.
3. The Programme “Transboundary Water Management in Central Asia” was launched in 2008 by the Government of Germany. A Programme component on regional dialogue and cooperation on water resources management will be implemented by UNECE. The Programme component will be implemented in 2009-2011 and include work on regional institutions, international water legislation and regional Guidelines/Principles for water management as well as development of monitoring and information exchange.
4. On-going activities under the UNECE Sustainable energy work programme in the region contributing to the implementation of the SPECA strategy include work on renewable energy development, financing energy efficiency for climate change mitigation, energy efficiency market formation and support to energy efficiency capacity-building.
5. The project “Development of the Renewable Energy Sector in the Russian Federation and in CIS Countries: Prospects for Interregional Cooperation” was launched by UNECE in 2008. The Project will be implemented in 2009-2010 and include work on increasing the capacity of national and regional experts as well as preparation of the strategy to promote an enhanced investment climate for renewable energy technologies in the region.
6. The project “Mitigating climate change through attracting foreign direct investment in advanced fossil fuel technologies” will be launched by UNECE in 2010 in cooperation with ESCAP and the Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA). The Project will be implemented in 2010-2011 and will include work on increasing interregional cooperation to overcome existing barriers to investment in advanced fossil fuel technologies in Central Asia.
7. The Governing Council, which met in Baku in May 2006, decided that the proposals for a coordinated SPECA energy system and the Baku Initiative on Energy Efficiency and Conservation would be submitted to the Project Working Group on Water and Energy Resources for consideration and reporting to the next Coordinating Committee. The SPECA Coordinating Committee met in December 2006 in Dushanbe, following the meeting of the Project Working Group, which reviewed the two

proposals extensively and recommended the approval of those projects. The SPECA Coordinating Committee subsequently endorsed the recommendations of the Project Working Group.

8. Although funding is still being sought for a SPECA coordinated energy system, some progress has been made in developing and implementing the Baku Initiative on Energy Efficiency and Conservation. In November 2008, the Project Working Group on Water and Energy Resources noted the recommendations from a workshop on energy efficiency opportunities in Central Asia, including SPECA countries. These recommendations were to develop a regional concept on energy efficiency, to facilitate the establishment of a network of energy efficiency centres in Central Asia, and to develop a project promoting sustainable building practices in the region.

9. In 2009, ESCAP initiated two projects which began addressing two of these recommendations and is seeking funding for initiating the third. Specifically, the project on eco-efficient and sustainable urban infrastructure development in Asia and Latin America and the Kitakyushu Initiative for a Clean Environment included a component on sustainable building design, and an initial study is being undertaken in Tajikistan. The project entitled “Strengthening Institutional Capacity to Support Energy Efficiency in Selected Asian Countries” focuses on three subregions in Asia, one of which is Central Asia. The purpose of this project is to strengthen institutional capacity and develop policy options to support the promotion of energy efficiency.

10. The following projects and activities are envisaged for the period 2010-2011:

WATER, ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT		
Name of project/activity	Time frame	Budget
Ongoing and planned projects/activities with funding secured or expected		
Central Asia Regional Water Information Base (CAREWIB) Project (in cooperation with UNEP)	2005-2010	•US\$ 630,000 plus in-kind contributions from partners in the second phase 2007-2010 (Government of Switzerland)
Dam safety in Central Asia: capacity-building and subregional cooperation	2005-2010	•US\$ 400,000 for 2008-2010 (Government of Finland)
Second project phase “Development of Cooperation on the Chu and Talas Rivers” (in cooperation with OSCE)	2008-2010	•US\$ 140,000 for 2008-2010 (Government of Finland)
Water quality in Central Asia (in cooperation with the Regional Environmental Centre for Central Asia and other Agencies)	2009-2011	•US\$ 443,000 for 2008-2010 (United Nations Development Account)
Regional dialogue and cooperation on water resources management	2009-2011	•US\$ 1,800,000 for 2009-2011 (Government of Germany)

Renewable energy in Central Asia “Development of the Renewable Energy Sector in the Russian Federation and in CIS Countries: Prospects for Interregional Cooperation” project (UNECE)	2008-2010	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ US\$ 150,000 for 2008-2010 (Government of the Russian Federation)
<p>“Mitigating climate change through attracting foreign direct investment in advanced fossil fuel technologies” project (UNECE in cooperation with ESCAP and UNDESA)</p> <p>Financing energy efficiency for climate change mitigation (in cooperation with UNDP and EBRD)</p>	<p>2009-2011</p> <p>2007-2014</p>	<p>US\$ 630,000 for 2010- 2011 (United Nations Development Account)</p> <p>Kazakhstan is the only SPECA country eligible to participate: other SPECA member countries will be invited to training workshops and policy seminars as an outreach activity</p>
<p>Baku Initiative on Energy Efficiency and Conservation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Strengthening Institutional Capacity to Support Energy Efficiency in Selected Asian Countries (KEMCO) - Eco-efficient and sustainable urban infrastructure development in Asia and Latin America (Development Account) - Kitakyushu Initiative for a Clean Environment (Kitakyushu Initiative) 	2009-2015	<p>KEMCO (approximately US\$ 50,000 for Central Asia) Development Account (US\$ 74,000 for Central Asia and Mongolia)</p> <p>Kitakyushu Initiative (US\$ 25,000 for Central Asia and Mongolia)</p> <p>Funding sought from Russian Federation for implementation of activities in 2010</p> <p>Funding sought from GEF, Russian Federation and other donors for implementation of activities beyond 2011</p>
Possible projects/activities in areas where ESCAP have considerable experience and in-house expertise and which could be implemented if supported by interested donors/partners		
Coordinated SPECA Energy System	2010-2015	Funding being sought Estimated budget US\$ 500,000

Trans-Asian Energy System	2010-2015	Funding being sought Estimated budget US\$ 500,000
Wind energy resources assessment and technology demonstration	2010-2011	Funding being sought Estimated budget US\$ 648,900
Possible projects/activities in areas where UNECE have considerable experience and in-house expertise and which could be implemented if supported by interested donors/partners		
Network of national energy efficiency centres in Central Asia (UNECE in cooperation with ECSAP and CAREC)	2010 - 2012	Funding being sought Estimated budget US \$200,000

TRANSPORT

11. The annual sessions of the Project Working Group on Transport and Border Crossing serve as an effective cooperation mechanism to address the specific problems of transit transport from, in and through SPECA member countries. Improvement of international transit transport infrastructure and services, as recognized in the Almaty Programme of Action, will facilitate further integration of SPECA countries into the world economy. ESCAP resolution 63/9 of 23 May 2007 on the implementation of the Busan Declaration on Transport Development in Asia and the Pacific and the Regional Action Programme for Transport Development in Asia and the Pacific, phase I (2007-2011) reiterated its support for the implementation of the Almaty Programme of Action for the benefit of landlocked and transit developing countries. It also recognized that transport cooperation between countries with similar interests could be promoted through the operationalization of priority transport corridors where physical infrastructure and non-physical issues are addressed comprehensively and requested the secretariat to undertake a study which defines priority corridors and good practices that could be implemented on the corridors and proposes specific measures that lead to the effective development of those corridors.

12. The fourteenth session of the SPECA Project Working Group on Transport and Border Crossing held in Almaty, Kazakhstan on 17 and 18 March 2009 adopted its programme of work 2010-2011, which includes: organization of regular sessions of SPECA PWG-TBC and bilateral consultations on border crossing issues between SPECA member States; implementation of subregional project proposals of common interest to SPECA countries and development of SPECA Transport databases, identification and isolation of bottlenecks, establishment / strengthening of national facilitation coordinating mechanisms, enhancement of legal frameworks for transport facilitation and accession to multilateral agreements, investment promotion, operationalization of transport corridors, simplification/harmonization of border-crossing procedures, including through ICT, and road safety issues.

TRANSPORT		
Name of Project/Activity	Time frame	Budget
Ongoing and planned projects/activities with funding secured or expected. These activities would be implemented in mutually reinforcing way. Additional support from interested partners would expand the scope and the number of beneficiaries of these projects/activities		
UNECE project on developing Euro-Asian Transport Links (Phase II)	2009-2012	US\$ 180,000
Operationalization of international intermodal transport corridors in North-East and Central Asia	2008-2010	US\$ 187,600
Development of dry ports to facilitate intermodal and transit transport along the Asian Highway and Trans-Asian Railway networks, and promotion of logistics in the ESCAP region	2009-2012	US\$ 270,000
Operationalization of the Trans-Asian Railway Network in North-East and Central Asia	2009-2011	US\$ 160,000
Policy advisory services to the interested SPECA member countries on implementation of the Busan Declarations on Transport Development / Improving Road Safety in Asia and the Pacific, and UNECE infrastructure and transport-related conventions, standards and regulations	Upon request	United Nations regular budget (RPTC)
Achieving road safety goals and targets for Asia and the Pacific: Decade of Action for Road Safety (2010-2020)	2009-2010	US\$ 150,000
Capacity-building on road safety targets, including one peer review	2009-2011	US\$ 150,000
First meeting of the Working Group on the Trans-Asian Railway network and first session of the Forum of Asian Ministers of Transport	2009-2010	US\$ 80,000
Assistance to SPECA Project Working Group on Transport and Border Crossing	2010-2011	Estimated Budget US\$ 60,000
Capacity-building in developing transit transport cooperation of landlocked and transit developing countries in Central Asia	2010-2011	Estimated Budget US\$ 200,000

TRADE DEVELOPMENT

13. The third session of the SPECA Project Working Group on Trade took place in Bishkek on 6 November 2008, with participation by representatives from Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan, as well as representatives from ESCAP and UNECE, ADB, CAREC and the Deputy Secretary-General of ECO.

14. Activities during 2007-2009 under the workplan have focused on projects for which funding is available or possible: (1) trade facilitation (fifth and sixth tranche UNDA projects); (2) capacity-building for agricultural product standards; (3) regional cooperation on WTO accession and regional trade agreements (RTAs), such as the Asia-Pacific Trade Agreement; supply side capacity-building, and other activities. The PWG emphasized the importance of creating synergies with other projects and agencies

working in trade such as USAID and GTZ, and to strengthen the various projects under consideration, including in the area of standards and capacity-building for export diversification.

15. In guiding the formulation of the 2010-2011 workplan, the recommendations of the PWG with regard to aid for trade are useful: (1) the need for information exchange among countries on technical and policy issues related to trade; (2) the identification by individual countries of national priorities in the area of aid for trade and the need to work together to identify commonalities; (3) the need for country ownership of activities related to aid for trade. Under a proposal by Azerbaijan, a preparatory and consultative meeting on an aid for trade road map for SPECA was held in Bishkek in March 2009.

16. The fourth session of the Project Working Group is scheduled to take place in Geneva, Switzerland, in October 2009, and will be combined with a one-day conference on WTO accession and negotiations issues, a round table on aid for trade issues; and a meeting of high-level negotiators of the SPECA countries in the WTO process with a view to coordinating activities, and identifying synergies and possibilities for combined actions and common positions. The fourth session will adopt the workplan, which is proposed as follows:

TRADE DEVELOPMENT*		
Name of Project/Activity	Time frame	Budget
Ongoing and planned projects/activities with funding secured or expected. These activities would be implemented in mutually reinforcing way. Additional support from interested partners would expand the scope and the number of beneficiaries of these projects/activities		
Enhancing Trade Competitiveness of Least Developed Countries, Countries in Transition and Transit Countries through the Implementation of Single Window Facilities (UNDA sixth tranche project). ESCAP is the lead agency.	2008-2011	US\$ 763,000
Strengthening capacities of SPECA member countries to use regional cooperation more effectively for achieving the internationally agreed development goals, with a special emphasis on effective integration into the multilateral trading system (UNDA seventh tranche project): (a) Strengthening planning and implementation capacities for regional cooperation (UNECE lead agency) (b) Promoting effective integration of SPECA member countries into the multilateral trading system: trade component (ESCAP lead agency) (c) Promoting effective integration of SPECA member countries into the multilateral trading system: supply-side component (ESCAP lead agency)	2010-2012	US\$ 900,000

STATISTICAL CAPACITY-BUILDING

17. ESCAP is implementing a United Nations Development Account project on disability measurement (www.unescap.org/stat/disability). Kazakhstan is one of the six pilot countries participating in this project, supported in organizational issues also by the UNECE. The pilot countries conducted a

cognitive field test of the Washington Group Extended Question Set for surveys in March 2009. Other Central Asian countries will be considered in the development of the action aimed at improving vital statistics in the region plan and be involved in the implementation of the project contemplated to begin towards 2010-2011.

18. ESCAP is currently conducting a comprehensive region-wide assessment of the capacity of national statistical systems to produce basic economic statistics and needs for support in this regard. On the basis of this assessment, ESCAP will formulate a minimum core set of economic statistics that each country in the region would be in a position to produce, taking into account the varying needs of countries and work on the development of economic statistics undertaken by specialized bodies and related organizations in the region. Subsequently, on the basis of the assessment and minimum core set of statistics, ESCAP will formulate a regional action plan for the improvement of economic statistics in the region. Concerning the subregion of Central Asia, UNECE has expressed its readiness to participate in the planning and implementation activities. The plan will define clear deliverables and timelines for and costs of implementation, as well as delineate a fund-raising strategy, as well as provide the specifications of regional requirements for manuals, implementation guidelines and standardized training materials and learning modes for the global implementation strategy of the 2008 System of National Accounts (SNA) to be designed by the Inter-secretariat Working Group on National Accounts.

19. The Statistical Institute of Asia and the Pacific (SIAP) will continue providing statistical training to statisticians from the SPECA member countries. Participants from SPECA countries took part in the 2-month Area Focused Training Course (with translation in Russian) in Collection and Analysis of Official Economic Statistics for Central Asian Countries in Chiba, Japan, from 21 July to 18 September 2009.

20. In the field of Gender Statistics UNECE continues with enforced resources the project, commenced in 2007. A manual on production, engendering and disseminating gender statistics has been produced in 2008-2009 and numerous multimedia presentations on the related topics have been produced and translated into Russian. The emphasis will be on disseminating the voluminous results of the project in 2010 as well as deepening the analysis and putting more emphasis on producing statistical materials on monitoring violence against women. This is additionally supported by a global United Nations Development Account project on the latter topic.

21. A new field of training activities will take place starting from the end of 2009 up to 2010, possibly including 2011 in the field of Short-term economic statistics and seasonal adjustment on production and price statistics by UNECE for Central Asian and a selected number of other CIS countries. This ESCIS project is based on funding, made available by a grant to UNECE from the Trust Fund for Statistical Capacity Building (TFSCB) of the World Bank in the latter part of 2009.

22. A global project on developing Migration Statistics and other issues related to follow-up on migration processes, financed by the United Nations Development Account, has commenced in 2009 and will continue until the end of 2011. It is implemented by all the five United Nations regional commissions. In the part of the project UNECE is implementing a special focus of the project is given to statistics.

23. A stronger focus on improving monitoring progress on the Millennium Development Goals will be promoted in the SPECA member countries through an ESCAP-lead project in which the responsibility for the statistical component of the project, focusing on disaggregation of the MDG indicators, will be implemented by UNECE in 2009-2010. Another project, financed by the United Nations Development Account, will focus, on the global level, on the reconciliation of the Millennium Development Goal indicators produced by national statistical agencies, specialized United Nations agencies and other international organizations in 2010 and 2011.

24. The proactive dissemination of statistical information and the development of environmental monitoring into more sustainable forms of follow-up through the production of official environmental statistics on a more sustainable basis in the SPECA and other CIS countries and in South-Eastern European countries are also high on the future agenda of UNECE. Parts of these efforts are still subject to financing decisions of United Nations bodies or national donors.

STATISTICAL CAPACITY-BUILDING		
Name of Project/Activity	Time frame	Budget
Ongoing and planned projects/activities with funding secured or expected. These activities would be implemented in mutually reinforcing way. Additional support from interested partners would expand the scope and the number of beneficiaries of these projects/activities		
SPECA countries will participate in the Vital Statistics and Vital Registration Project which is expected to commence in early 2010.	2010-2011	
A number of SPECA countries will be invited to a regional workshop on measurement of informal sector and informal employment and implementation of best practices and methodologies for measuring informal sector's contribution to the GDP.	2010-2011	UNDA project "Interregional Cooperation on the Measurement of Informal Sector and Informal Employment" with a budget of US\$ 800,000.
Improving Gender Statistics in South-Eastern European and CIS Countries by UNECE.	2007-2011	Cooperation project of the UNECE and the World Bank Institute with a budget of US\$ 250,000 for the year 2010.
Support for SPECA member countries and other CIS and South-Eastern European countries for the development of methods to monitor violence against women by a global project, implemented by UNECE, ESCAP and other United Nations regional commissions.	2009-2010	UNDA project "Enhancing Key Statistics and Indicators to Monitor Progress toward the MDGs and Other Internationally Agreed Development Goals" with a budget of US\$ 736,000 (ECLAC-lead agency). The UNECE share is US\$ 145,000 and the ESCAP share is US\$ 48,000.
UNECE Capacity-Building Programme on New Challenges in Economic Statistics in Central Asian and East European Countries (ESCIS) Focus on Short-term economic statistics and seasonal adjustment of production and price statistics.	2009-2011	The total budget US\$ 355,000. World Bank TFSCB grant to UNECE
Support by the UNECE for SPECA member countries for the development of disaggregated production, improved coordination and proactive dissemination of MDG-related indicators and statistical information.	2009-2010	UNDA project "Supporting Millennium Development Goal-based development strategies through integrated regional action" with a budget of US\$ 593,000 (ESCAP—lead agency).
Support for SPECA member countries and other CIS and South-Eastern European countries for the development of Migration Statistics by UNECE, ESCAP and other United Nations regional commissions.	2009-2011	UNDA project "Enhancing Key Statistics and Indicators to Monitor Progress toward the MDGs and Other Internationally Agreed Development Goals" with a budget of US\$ 1,193,000 (ECLAC-lead agency). The UNECE share is US\$ 148,000 and the ESCAP share is US\$ 148,000. Subject to

		confirmation of the United Nations General Assembly in autumn 2009.
Improvement of Disability Measurement and Statistics in Support of the Biwako Millennium Framework and Regional Census Programme. Kazakhstan is one of the pilot countries that will undertake the pilot test of the revised Washington Group Extended Question Set for surveys in September 2009, results of which will be presented at a regional workshop towards mid 2010.	2007-2010	UNDA project with a budget of US\$ 628,000 (ESCAP-lead agency). This project started in 2007. The implementation in Kazakhstan and partly Mongolia is supervised and assisted by UNECE in cooperation with ESCAP.
Advisory services in different fields of statistics.	Upon request	ESCAP and UNECE
Fund-raising for the Economic Action Plan, implementation subject to identification of funds.	2010-2011	ESCAP
Possible projects/activities in areas where UNECE/ESCAP have considerable experience and in-house expertise and which could be implemented if supported by interested donors/partners. These projects could be implemented in addition to and in coordination with projects/activities listed above		
Support to SPECA member countries, other CIS and South-Eastern European countries for strengthening national and inter-institutional statistical capacities for monitoring Millennium Development Goals and reducing MDG indicators' discrepancies between national and international sources by UNECE, ESCAP and other United Nations regional commissions.	2010-2011	UNDA project "Strengthening statistical and inter-institutional capacities for monitoring the MDGs and reducing indicators discrepancies between national and international sources" with a budget of US\$ 1,150,000 (ECLAC—lead agency). The UNECE share is US\$ 148,000 and the ESCAP share is US\$ 148,000. Subject to confirmation of the United Nations General Assembly in autumn 2009.
Support to SPECA member countries, other CIS and South-Eastern European countries for strengthening national and inter-institutional exchange and dissemination of statistical information by UNECE, ESCAP and other United Nations regional commissions.	2010-2011	UNDA project "Enhancing Key Statistics and Indicators to Monitor Progress toward the MDGs and Other Internationally Agreed Development Goals" with a budget of US\$ 782,000 (UNDESA—lead agency). Subject to confirmation of the United Nations General Assembly in autumn 2009.
Development of sustainable and regularly monitored environmental indicators in CIS and South-Eastern European countries.	2009-2010	The UNECE Statistical Division has applied to receive US\$ 40,000 for the organization of and financing of the participation of national statistical institutes (NSIs) in CIS and South-Eastern European countries in a second and possibly a third work session on the theme mentioned

		from a national donor. In addition, the UNECE Division on Environment, Housing and Land Management is already in the possession of funding for inviting mainly specialists from line ministries of environment to participate in the development of the monitoring process mentioned.
Supporting statistical capacity-building in Turkmenistan in the domains of price statistics, business registers and national accounts.	2010-2011	The UNECE Statistical Division has applied to receive US\$ 75,000 for the organization and financing of the planned support activities for the development of statistical capacity in Turkmenistan from a national donor.
Support for improved analyzing capacities of the data collected in the 2010 rounds of population and housing censuses in the SPECA member countries by UNECE.	2010-2014	No funding available presently, but it could be sought if there are clear expressions of interest from the SPECA member countries.
Support for improved dissemination of statistical information materials, including setting up a Russian-speaking support group for service databases of NSIs with the aim of providing aggregated statistical information to end users and improving their service capacity by UNECE.	2010-2013	No funding available presently, but it could be sought if there are clear expressions of interest from the SPECA member countries.
Support for improved production capacities of different specialized satellite accounts, adjustments reflecting non-observed economy and implementing the United Nations recommendation of the 2008 SNA into the systems of national accounts in the Statistical Systems of the SPECA member countries by UNECE; This activity can be easily integrated with the Fund-raising for the Economic Action Plan, implementation subject to identification of funds ESCAP intends to perform in 2010-2011 (see above).	2010-2014	No funding available presently, but it could be sought if there are clear expressions of interest from the SPECA member countries.

KNOWLEDGE-BASED DEVELOPMENT

25. Following the decision of the Governing Council at its second session (SPECA/GC/Dec/2007/4, Berlin, 14 November 2007), the inaugural session of the SPECA Project Working Group on Knowledge-based Development was held in Baku on 12 November 2008. The inaugural session agreed to establish the PWG on KBD and adopted its terms of reference and programme of work for 2009. The PWG elected Azerbaijan and Kyrgyzstan as its Co-chairs.

26. In accordance with its terms of reference, the PWG on KBD aims to support its member countries in developing subregional cooperation seeking to promote knowledge-based development and the further integration of their economies into the world economy. To this effect, the PWG on KBD: (i) promotes and supports policies on KBD in the member countries; (ii) facilitates cooperation in the initiatives related

to KBD between the member countries and other regional initiatives; (iii) supports and coordinates capacity-building and institutional strengthening activities and programmes related to KBD in the member countries; and (iv) serves as a forum for discussion on issues related to KBD, including ICT-related policy and regulatory issues.

27. With a view to achieving its objectives, the PWG on KBD supports capacity-building activities of its member countries in the following thematic areas: (i) ICT for development; (ii) promoting innovation and innovative development; (iii) supporting knowledge-based competitiveness; (iv) financing ICT infrastructure and innovative development; (v) commercialization and protection of intellectual property; (vi) private-public partnerships.

28. The activities to be carried out by the PWG on KBD are demand-driven, focused on a limited number of priority topics and matched with available resources.

KNOWLEDGE-BASED DEVELOPMENT		
Name of Project/Activity	Time frame	Budget
Ongoing and planned projects/activities with funding secured or expected. These activities would be implemented in a mutually reinforcing way. Additional support from interested partners would expand the scope and the number of beneficiaries of these projects/activities		
Capacity-building on ICT policy for promoting innovation-based competitiveness and facilitating eCommerce	2010-2011	Supported by UNECE extrabudgetary resources
ICT policies and applications to achieve MDGs and WSIS goals	2010-2011	Supported by ESCAP budgetary resources
Possible projects/activities in areas where UNECE/ESCAP have considerable experience and in-house expertise and which could be implemented if supported by interested donors/partners. These projects could be implemented in addition to and in coordination with projects/activities listed above		
Capacity-building in policy options and practical instruments for promoting knowledge-based development	2010-2011	Supported by UNECE extrabudgetary resources
Capacity-building on ICT applications for disaster management	2010-2011	Supported by ESCAP extrabudgetary resources
Capacity-building on APCICT Academy of ICT Essentials for Government Leaders - National Roll-Outs, and the APCICT Virtual Academy	2010	Supported by ESCAP extrabudgetary resources provided to APCICT
Interregional cooperation project on capacity-building in multi-hazard disaster management and socio-economic assessment of disaster impacts	2010	Supported by the World Bank, ECLAC, UNECE and ESCAP

GENDER AND ECONOMY

29. Gender equality objectives continue to be of great importance in the economies of Central Asia. Engendering economic policies makes economic sense from the perspective of innovation, employment and sustainable growth and it ever so timely in the context of the current economic crisis affecting the region. The SPECA Project Working Group on Gender and Economy is committed to supporting its member countries in developing gender-sensitive policy responses to economic challenges. In 2010 and 2011, this objective will continue to be pursued, as agreed in the Group's terms of reference, in particular through: (i) raising awareness among all stakeholders on gender and economy issues and exchanging good practices in mainstreaming gender into economic policies; (ii) developing pilot projects in selected areas such as financing and other support measures for women's entrepreneurship and gender budgets;

and (iii) promoting cross-sectional linkages and synergies with other relevant areas of SPECA activities, such as statistics, trade and ICT.

30. The next meeting of the SPECA Project Working Group on Gender and Economy is planned to be held in Geneva, Switzerland, on 4 November 2009. At this meeting, the terms of reference for the PWG will be reviewed and the programme of work for 2010 and 2011 will be adopted. Planned activities will be subject to the outcome of this review.

31. Proposals for specific activities as reflected in the current workplan will be further elaborated through partnership and consultations involving UNECE, ESCAP, UNDP, the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM), OSCE, the International Organization for Migration (IOM), the Council of Europe, and other partners actively involved in Central Asia in the field of Gender and Economy area.

Ongoing activities which are planned to be further pursued during 2010 and 2011:

32. Building on the experience of previous activities and the expertise gained, the following activities are ongoing and will be continued in 2010 and 2011.

MAINSTREAMING GENDER INTO ECONOMIC POLICIES

33. The key objectives of information sharing, advocacy and guidance on mainstreaming gender into economic policies which are pursued through the UNECE Knowledge Hub on the Economics of Gender will remain a strong priority of the PGW in 2010-2011. The Knowledge Hub will be further developed as an interactive platform to support networking between policymakers and experts across the region.

CAPACITY-BUILDING ACTIVITIES

34. Building on the successful cooperation with the Government of Israel in capacity-building since 2006, training workshops in support of women's entrepreneurship in Central Asia will be continued to be provided in 2010 and 2011. The work of the PWG in support of women's entrepreneurship in the region will draw on the insights gained from pilot studies on the assessment of the environment for entrepreneurship in the region in cooperation with the International Labour Organization.

35. In addition to the core areas of activity outlined above, and building on the core areas of expertise in UNECE and ESCAP the following proposed project areas are envisaged to be pursued in 2010 and 2011 provided support by interested donors and partners is obtained.

Directions for possible future activities

1) INNOVATION AND KNOWLEDGE-DRIVEN DEVELOPMENT: MAINSTREAMING A GENDER PERSPECTIVE

36. Addressing economic challenges and sustaining growth for all through gender-sensitive policies in innovation and knowledge-driven development in SPECA countries. Project activities would build on the knowledge gained from pilot studies of the business environment for women entrepreneurs (cooperation project with ILO).

2) GENDER IMPACT ASSESSMENTS AND GENDER-RESPONSIVE BUDGETING

37. Evaluating the gender implications of national economic policies in the region. Particular emphasis will be given to the promotion of gender impact assessments and gender-responsive budgeting in core policy areas.

3) POVERTY AND ECONOMIC WELL-BEING IN THE CONTEXT OF MIGRATION

38. Evaluating gender differentiated effects of the crisis on poverty and economic well-being via the channels of remittances and migration flows. Research and analysis would be undertaken to enhance understanding of the importance of migration policies and gender implications in the SPECA region.

4) GENDER AND CLIMATE CHANGE

39. Assessing the gender implications of climate change in the region: policy recommendations to mitigate potential adverse effects of changes to the environment on gender equality.

GENDER AND ECONOMY	
Name of Project/Activity	Time frame
Ongoing and planned projects/activities with funding secured or expected.	
Mainstreaming Gender into Economic Policies	2010-2011
Further development of the Knowledge Hub on the Economics of Gender as a networking tool for policymakers across the region, information source on gender mainstreaming techniques as well as the sharing of good policy practices	
Capacity-building activities	2010-2011
Training workshops on support systems for women in small business in Haifa, Israel to strengthen the business environment for women's entrepreneurship in Central Asia	2010 - 2011
Two training workshops on the use of information and communication technologies targeted at women entrepreneurs in Central Asia	2010 - 2011
Possible projects/activities in areas where UNECE/ESCAP have considerable experience and in-house expertise and which envisage additional supported by interested donors/partners. These projects could be implemented in addition to and in coordination with projects/activities listed above	
Gender-sensitive policies in innovation and knowledge-driven development	2010 - 2011
Gender Impact Assessments and Gender-Responsive Budgeting in core policy areas	2010 - 2011
Analysis of poverty and well-being in the context of migration in SPECA countries	2010 - 2011
Gender equality in the context of climate change in Central Asia	2010 - 2011

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