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STATUS OF PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION

CAPACITY-BUILDING ACTIVITIES

REPORT ON CAPACITY-BUILDING ACTIVITIES

Report by the secretariat

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The Terms of Reference of the Committee on Economic Cooperation and Integration (CECI) stress the importance of demand-driven capacity-building activities in the mandated areas of work. At its third session held from 3 to 5 December 2008, the Committee welcomed a stronger emphasis on capacity-building activities and policy advisory services in 2009-2010 as reflected in the CECI Programme of Work for this period.

2. This report contains an overview of the capacity-building activities carried out by the Economic Cooperation and Integration Division (ECID) between September 2008 and July 2009 and some envisaged future activities.

3. The report covers activities carried out by the secretariat within the regular budget of ECID, the Local Technical Cooperation Trust Fund, financed or co-financed from other extrabudgetary sources, supported through the United Nations Development Account (UNDA) as well as undertaken and coordinated by the Regional Adviser on Economic Cooperation and Integration.

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4. The secretariat's ability to provide additional capacity-building activities depends on the availability of extrabudgetary resources. In the period of 2008-2009, ECID benefited from the voluntary contribution of the Government of the Russian Federation in support of UNECE technical cooperation activities, and donations by Pfizer Incorporated and Dolby Laboratories Inc. targeted to support activities of the UNECE Team of Specialists on Intellectual Property (TOS-IP).

5. A number of the activities during this period were carried out in cooperation with other United Nations agencies and international organizations, and in consultation with other subregional initiatives.

6. ECID took the lead in organizing some of these events, taking responsibility for the major part of the substantive, logistical and financial arrangements of the meetings. In other events, ECID participated as co-organizer and/or contributed to the substantive part of the event. In all these events, the secretariat sought to mobilize substantive support from the extensive CECI expert networks.

II. FIELD-BASED CAPACITY-BUILDING ACTIVITIES CARRIED OUT BY THE ECONOMIC COOPERATION AND INTEGRATION DIVISION

7. In accordance with the CECI Programme of Work and at the request of member State Governments, the secretariat carried out a number of field-based capacity-building activities, supported by regular budget as well as extrabudgetary resources:

(a) **International Conference "Taking Public-Private Partnerships Forward: New Opportunities for Infrastructure Development in Transition Economies", Moscow, Russian Federation, 21 and 22 October 2008.** The event was organized by the UNECE in cooperation with the State Corporation "Bank for Development and Foreign Economic Affairs (Vnesheconombank) and the State University – Higher School of Economics. The first session of the Conference addressed issues on the policy and institutional requirements for successful PPPs and was attended by more than 600 participants from 30 UNECE member States. The second session of the Conference discussed capacity-building issues related to PPPs with respect to the training for government officials at federal, regional and municipal levels and was attended by some 100 participants.

(b) **Subregional Seminar on the Role of Intellectual Property Rights in Technology Transfer: Problems, Solutions, Examples from Turkey and World, Ankara, Turkey, 12 and 13 March 2009.** The Seminar was co-organized by the UNECE Team of Specialists on Intellectual Property and the Turkish Patent Institute. It was attended by some 50 representatives of intellectual property offices, government ministries, universities, and technology parks from Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Turkey, as well as international experts from the United Kingdom, the United States and the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO). The Seminar discussed international good practices and national experiences on the management of intellectual property rights (IPRs) at public research organizations, and ways and means through which intellectual property (IP) offices and other government agencies can facilitate the successful commercialization of university-generated IP.

(c) **Subregional Seminar on the Commercialization and Enforcement of Intellectual Property Rights, Skopje, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, 1 to 3 April 2009.** The Seminar was co-organized by the UNECE TOS-IP and the State Office of Industrial Property of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. It was attended by some 120 representatives of intellectual property offices, government ministries, universities, technology parks, courts, police, customs authorities and the business community from Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Montenegro, Romania, Serbia, Slovenia, and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, as well as international experts from the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), the United Kingdom and the United States. The Seminar had two parallel sessions, one discussing the management of IPRs at public research organizations, and the other discussing international good practices and national experiences on IPR enforcement, including the cooperation between rights holders and enforcement agencies.

(d) **International Conference on Ways and Means of Attracting External Finance for New Innovative Enterprises, Astana, Kazakhstan, 21 and 22 May 2009.** The Conference was jointly organized by the UNECE and the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Budget Planning of the Republic of Kazakhstan. It brought together about 100 national and international experts from 13 UNECE member States, as well as representatives of the Secretariat of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS), Eurasian Economic Community (EurAsEC), Eurasian Patent Office and the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO). The Conference discussed major issues of financing of innovative enterprises throughout their life cycle and paid particular attention to the commercialization of research and development (R&D) results in strengthening the capacity of innovative enterprises to attract external funding.

(e) **International Conference on Knowledge-based Development, Minsk, Republic of Belarus, 10 to 12 June 2009.** The Conference was jointly organized by the UNECE and the State Committee on Science and Technology of the Republic of Belarus in cooperation with the Secretariat of the CIS, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Office in Belarus and the Belarusian Institute of System Analysis and Information Support of the Scientific and Technical Sphere. The Conference brought together more than 250 participants – high-level policymakers, government experts, representatives of academia and the business sector – from 15 UNECE member States, including participants from 10 CIS countries, as well as a participant from Australia. Representatives of the UNDP, the CIS secretariat, WIPO, the Parliamentary Assembly of the Union of Belarus and Russia also took part in the event. The Conference provided a platform for a broad exchange of practical experiences and lessons learned among policymakers, representatives of businesses and academia, and other experts and practitioners on good practices and policies promoting knowledge-driven economic development.

III. FIELD-BASED EVENTS WITH SUBSTANTIVE CONTRIBUTION OF THE ECONOMIC COOPERATION AND INTEGRATION DIVISION

8. ECID staff contributed substantively to the following capacity-building activities organized by partner organizations and coordinated with the CECI Programme of Work:

(a) **International Conference on Mega Growth outside the Megalopolis, Tambov, Russian Federation, 8 to 11 October 2008.** The Conference was organized by the Eastern European and Central Asian Network of Business Incubators and Techno Parks (ECABIT), with

the support of the infoDev Network of the World Bank, the Ministry of Economic Development of the Russian Federation and the Administration of Tambov oblast. The Conference was attended by some 200 representatives of business incubators, science and technology parks and government entities involved in the promotion of innovative development from the Russian Federation and its regions (including Kaluga, Karelia, Moscow, Tambov), Republic of Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Kyrgyzstan, Serbia, and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. ECID staff made a presentation at the Conference.

(b) **International Forum on “Russia-France: Priorities for Innovation Cooperation”, Paris, France, 3 June 2009.** This Forum, which was attended by around 75 participants, was a side event of the European Research and Innovation Exhibition. ECID staff made a presentation that highlighted the policy lessons and good practices that can be derived from a review of the international experience in the area of early stage financing.

(c) **Interregional Seminar on the Management of Academic Intellectual Property and Early Stage Innovation in Countries in Transition, Kiev, Ukraine, 9 June 2009.** The Seminar was organized by WIPO, the State Department of Intellectual Property of Ukraine, and the Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine. It was attended by some 60 representatives from intellectual property offices, ministries, public research organizations, technology transfer agencies and enterprises and enterprise associations from Ukraine, as well as from Albania, Armenia, Republic of Belarus, Georgia, Israel, Republic of Moldova, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Russian Federation, Tajikistan, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, and Uzbekistan. ECID staff made a presentation at the Seminar.

(d) **International Conference on Public-Private Partnerships (PPP) in Europe, London, United Kingdom, 24 and 25 June 2009.** More than 45 experts representing government bodies and private sector organizations from UNECE member States participated in the Conference, which provided a platform for exchange of experiences and policy learning. ECID staff made a presentation at the Conference on the activities of the UNECE Team of Specialists on Public-Private Partnerships (TOS-PPP).

IV. OTHER CAPACITY-BUILDING AND TECHNICAL COOPERATION ACTIVITIES

A. Contributions to the United Nations Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia

9. ECID organized a number of capacity-building activities and provided advisory services in support of the United Nations Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia (SPECA) as well as activities at the request of the SPECA member countries. ECID staff, including the Regional Adviser on Economic Cooperation and Integration contributed to the following SPECA-related activities and events:

(a) **Workshop on Future Security Challenges for Central Asia, Ashgabat, Turkmenistan, 1 to 4 September 2008.** The Workshop was organized by the United Nations Regional Centre for Preventive Diplomacy. The UNECE Regional Adviser on Economic Cooperation and Integration made a substantive contribution to the Workshop.

(b) **The 2008 SPECA Economic Forum on Investment Partnerships for Stronger Economic Cooperation and Integration in Central Asia, Moscow, Russian Federation, 20 October 2008.** The Forum was co-organized by UNECE and United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation. The 2008 SPECA Economic Forum brought together more than 100 high-level government policymakers, executives from the private sector, researchers from the SPECA member countries and neighbouring States, as well as representatives of international and regional organizations and financial institutions, including the Asian Development Bank (ADB) CAREC group, CIS, EurAsEC, International Road Federation (IRF), Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO), United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), UNDP, and the World Bank.

(c) **Inauguration Session of the SPECA Project Working Group on Knowledge-based Development, Baku, Azerbaijan, 12 November 2008.** The inauguration session of the Project Working Group on Knowledge-based Development (PWG on KBD) was organized by UNECE in cooperation with ESCAP and the Ministry of Communication and Information Technologies of the Republic of Azerbaijan. The session approved the Terms of Reference of the PWG on KBD, adopted its Programme of Work for 2009 and supported the creation of the Network of the SPECA Policymakers on Knowledge-based Development.

(d) **Regional Capacity-building Seminar on Information and Communication Technology Policy and Legal Issues – with Special Reference to eCommerce Development, Baku, Azerbaijan, 13 and 14 November 2008.** The Regional seminar was organized by UNECE in accordance with the SPECA Work Plan for 2008-2009 adopted at the second session of the SPECA Governing Council held in Berlin, Germany, November 2007. Organizational support was provided by the Ministry of Communication and Information Technologies of the Republic of Azerbaijan. Fifty senior policymakers and representatives of academia and non-governmental organizations from Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan attended the Seminar. The Seminar covered legal issues in areas essential for the sound development of eCommerce, such as legal infrastructure, legal certainty, legal security, legal protection and legal deterrence, and highlighted good practices and initiatives at the international level relevant to ICT policymakers in SPECA member countries.

(e) **The Second International Conference on Water Unites: Strengthening Cooperation on Regional Water Resources Management, Almaty, Kazakhstan, 17 and 18 November 2008.** The International Conference was co-organized by ECID and the Environment, Housing and Land Management Division, the Federal Foreign Office of Germany and the German Technical Cooperation agency (GTZ). The Conference was attended by around 140 participants including high-level representatives of Central Asian countries, international and regional organizations, the civil society and the academic community.

(f) **Coordination Meeting on Water Resources Management in Central Asia, Berlin, Germany, 15 January 2009.** The Coordination meeting organized by the Federal Foreign Office of Germany and GTZ discussed the Programme Component “Dialogue and Cooperation on Water Resources Management in Central Asia” which is funded by the Government of Germany. ECID staff contributed to the discussion of cooperative efforts in this area.

(g) **Workshop for Saving the Aral Sea, Almaty, Kazakhstan, 4 and 5 February 2009.** ECID staff participated in the Workshop with the Executive Committee of the International Fund for Saving the Aral Sea (IFAS). The Workshop discussed implementation of the programme on strengthening regional institutions and modernizing legal frameworks for water resources management.

(h) **Seminar on Central Asia and Global Challenges, Ashgabat, Turkmenistan, 9 to 11 March 2009.** The Seminar was organized by the United Nations Regional Centre for Preventive Diplomacy in Central Asia. The Regional Advisor on Economic Cooperation and Integration made a keynote speech and moderated the Seminar.

(i) **Coordination Meeting on Water Resources Management and Energy, Brussels, Belgium, 16 June 2009.** The Coordination meeting was organized by the European Commission Directorate-General for External Relations (RELEX) in cooperation with EuropeAid Cooperation Office (AIDCO), the Federal Foreign Office of Germany, GTZ and UNECE. It discussed cooperation in the area of water resources management and energy in Central Asia as preparations for the Third European Union - Central Asia High-level Conference.

B. Other related activities

10. Other related ECID work included:

(a) **UNECE Project on Development of Sustainable Biomass Trade and Export Opportunities for Selected Regions of the Russian Federation.** At the request of the Government of the Russian Federation, the secretariat has been supporting capacity-building by a project in the Russian biomass sector. UNECE contributed technical cooperation and advisory services to Russian regions that are actively involved in the project:

(i) **Project Workshop on Biomass Enterprise Development** was held in Rostov on 25 September 2008 as part of the Seminar on Conditions and Perspectives of the Development of Renewable Energies in the Southern Federal Okrug. The workshop attracted 120 participants;

(ii) **Workshops on Biomass Enterprise Development** were also organized within the framework of the Conference "Bioenergy in Russia", St. Petersburg, 9 October 2008 (with 100 participants) and the third International Congress "Biodiesel 2008", Moscow, 26 November 2008 (with 100 participants);

(iii) **Project Conference** "New Biofuels as a Factor for Sustainable Development of the Forestry Complex and Rational Use of Forest Resources" was held in St. Petersburg from 23 to 25 March 2009 with more than 120 participants; and

(iv) At the invitation of the regional governments of the Krasnodar region and the Republic of Tatarstan, **capacity-building activities** were initiated **with enterprises and support institutions** in these regions.

(b) **Consultative Meeting between the Government of the Republic of Kazakhstan and the UNECE Business Advisory Board on Public-Private Partnerships, Astana, Kazakhstan, 13 March 2009.** The purpose of the meeting was to exchange views between the Board members and high-level policymakers in order to elaborate national PPP policy and assess

the attractiveness of proposed PPP project pipeline. The Consultative meeting gathered 40 participants and contributed to increasing public confidence in the PPP model and to understanding how to make the investment environment more attractive.

(c) **Expert Meeting on the Preparation of a Toolkit “How to do PPPs”, London, United Kingdom, 14 May 2009.** The main objective of the Expert meeting was to further elaborate a programme of training modules identified by the TOS-PPP at its first session (28-29 February 2008) with a view to finalizing the first set of modules initially prepared for a capacity-building event in Moscow (21-22 October 2008) and identifying first steps in the preparation of the remaining modules. Some 40 collaborating experts participated in the meeting who came up with an agreement on the forthcoming practical steps in this area.

(d) The Geneva-based substantive meetings envisaged in the CECI Programme of Work are organized by the secretariat so as to include a capacity-building component, in particular to benefit countries with economies in transition. **The International Conference on Technological Readiness for Innovation-based Competitiveness, 29 and 30 June 2009,** was attended by 67 experts from 22 UNECE member States and representatives from other international organizations, such as EurAsEC, European Patent Office, International Trade Centre, International Telecommunication Union, OECD, WIPO and the World Bank Group. The Conference provided an opportunity for all relevant stakeholders (policymakers, practitioners, representatives of industries, academia and other experts) to discuss and share practical experiences on various topical issues related to ICT, such as ICT- and innovation-based competitiveness, open innovation, ICT-driven entrepreneurship and business opportunities as well as cybersecurity.

(e) At the request of member States, the secretariat has created an **Information Exchange Platform**, which is an interactive online tool hosted on the UNECE website and accessible to all members of the CECI Teams of Specialists and expert networks. The Platform provides an online environment for preparing documents envisaged in the Programme of Work, as well as for facilitating the networking of the policymakers, including the Network of the SPECA Policymakers on Knowledge-based Development.

V. FORTHCOMING CAPACITY-BUILDING ACTIVITIES

11. Capacity-building activities under preparation include, but are not limited to, the following events:

(a) **Meeting on Promoting Capacity-building in PPPs - PPP Training Center: Bridging the Gap in PPP Knowledge and Skills, London, United Kingdom, 14 September 2009.** ECID staff will contribute to this meeting at which public and private sector experts will discuss how to establish a centre to coordinate research, education and training activities in the area of PPPs.

(b) **International Conference Public-Private Partnerships in Strategic Network Industries: Developing the PPP Enabling Environment in South-East Europe, Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina, 25 September 2009.** The Conference co-organized by the Regional Co-operation Council and UNDP aims to bring together high-level policymakers from South-

East Europe as well as international and private sector representatives to discuss possibilities for helping develop PPP markets in the region. ECID staff will make presentation on the CECI capacity-building programme and on possible cooperation with other international partners with similar activities in this subregion.

(c) **First Meeting of the Working Group on Institutional and Legal Reform and the Third Aral Sea Basin Programme, Almaty, Kazakhstan, October 2009.** The meeting will be organized by UNECE in cooperation with the IFAS Executive Committee within the framework of the UNECE-GTZ Programme Component on Dialogue and Cooperation on Water Resources Management in Central Asia.

(d) **Second Session of the SPECA Project Working Group on Knowledge-based Development, Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan, 9 November 2009.** The session of the SPECA PWG on KBD will discuss status of the implementation of its Programme of Work for 2009 and will adopt the Programme of Work of the PWG on KBD for 2010-2011.

(e) **Regional Capacity-building Seminar on Financing of Innovative Enterprises, Commercialization of Intellectual Property and Public-Private Partnerships, Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan, 10 and 11 November 2009.** The Seminar will be organized in conjunction with the second session of the SPECA Project Working Group on Knowledge-based Development in accordance with the Programme of Work for 2009 of the SPECA PWG on KBD approved at its first session held in Baku, Azerbaijan, November 2008.

(f) **The 2009 SPECA Economic Forum, Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan, 12 November 2009,** jointly organized by UNECE, ESCAP and the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic, will focus on the impact of the current economic and financial crises on the economies of the SPECA member countries. It will also discuss individual, bilateral and collective measures and policy initiatives taken by the member countries to mitigate the consequences of the crises. The Forum will also examine, how regional cooperation can speed up the economic recovery and accelerate development in Central Asia.

(g) **UNECE Project on Development of Sustainable Biomass Trade and Export Opportunities for Selected Regions of the Russian Federation.** A series of forthcoming events is under preparation, including:

- (i) **Project Workshop** to be organized within the framework of the Energy Fresh Conference, Moscow, 23 September 2009;
- (ii) **Workshop on the Latest Developments in Biomass Production** to be held in conjunction with the 11th International Forestry Forum, St. Petersburg, 7 October 2009;
- (iii) **Workshop on New Developments in Biomass Enterprise Development in Regions of the Russian Federation** to be held within the framework of the Bioenergetics and Biotechnologies Conference, Moscow, 15 October 2009; and
- (iv) **Workshop on Biomass Enterprise Development** to be organized in Kazan, Republic of Tatarstan, 2 December 2009.

VI. THE WAY FORWARD

12. In accordance with the CECI Terms of Reference and the conclusions of the Committee at its third session held from 3 to 5 December 2008, capacity-building activities will be assigned a stronger emphasis in the CECI Programme of Work.

13. The secretariat will continue to respond to the growing demand for CECI capacity-building activities and other technical cooperation services from countries with economies in transition within the available resources, taking into account the concern expressed by the Committee at its third session that there would be a need to match with growing demand an adequate level of regular budget and extrabudgetary resources.

14. The secretariat will continue to undertake fund-raising efforts to expand and diversify the available resources in support of additional capacity-building activities.

15. In designing future capacity-building activities, the secretariat will continue to explore links between different thematic areas of work and deepen its cooperation with other international organizations and partner organizations.

16. The secretariat will continue to work in close cooperation with the members of the CECI Teams of Specialists and networks of experts, taking into account the invitation to the Teams of Specialists extended by the Committee at its third session to continue their active contribution to the programme implementation, including capacity-building activities and policy advisory services.

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