Dear Reader,

I would like to welcome you to the second of our newsletters concerning the development of UNECE's International PPP Centre of Excellence. The staff of the Secretariat, under the fine leadership of Mr. Geoffrey Hamilton, are working with the Bureau and the Team of Specialists, along with all of our friends and stakeholders, towards the continued development of the International PPP Centre of Excellence. As Chair responsible for the Centre, I would like to set out the "direction of travel" for you.

The entire team, led ably from Geneva by Mr. Geoffrey Hamilton, Head of the Secretariat, is focused on delivery of the objectives of the Centre of Excellence. Namely, consolidating its establishment and on the development of its activities, as well as the development of the sectorial International PPP Specialist Centers. Our draft business plan has been written and is due to be presented to the Bureau in September for its adoption. This business plan sets out our activities for the short to medium term. You will see from this newsletter that there are many exciting developments both ongoing and expected. It is therefore crucial that we succeed by retaining a delivery focus. The approved business plan will help us to do just that.

I feel strongly that the future success, and indeed the viability, of both the Centre of Excellence and the Specialist Centers depends predominantly upon resource availability and to that end we are working hard to develop our Funding Strategy. This will articulate our unique service offering and identify potential clients / stakeholders and other sources of funding. Our Funding Strategy is inextricably linked to our future success and thus to the successful development of PPP in many developing and transition economies. We expect to present the draft Funding Strategy to the Bureau for its adoption, in September, as part of our business plan.

So, please enjoy our latest newsletter and also be assured that all of us within the team are focused entirely on delivery and in helping many of you to advance the development and delivery of PPP programs and best practice within your countries.

Kind Regards,

Leo McKenna