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Report from other ECE bodies and international organizations on potential areas for collaboration with CICPPP

Cooperation with other ECE bodies and international organizations

Conference room paper submitted by the secretariat

I. Introduction

“As ECE member States, we are committed to sustainable development [...] With this vision in mind, ECE will build on its unique experience and expertise in different aspects of sustainable development, further its efforts to promote linkages between different aspects of the Commission’s work, and strengthen its cross-sectoral activities.”¹

1. ECE is ideally placed to make a strong contribution to sustainable development in all areas of its work, including Innovation, Competitiveness and Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs). In particular, SDG no.9 calls on the international community to “build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation”. There are also a number of other goals which have targets calling specifically for work on innovation and/or infrastructure development, including through PPPs.²

¹ High-level statement on the post-2015 development agenda and expected sustainable development goals in the ECE region, E/ECE/1475, p.2 para.5.

² Including Goal 7 with a target to enhance international cooperation to facilitate access to clean energy research and technology, including renewable energy, energy efficiency and advanced and cleaner fossil-fuel technology, and promote investment in energy infrastructure and clean energy technology, and a target to expand infrastructure and upgrade technology for supplying modern and sustainable energy services for all in developing countries, in particular least developed countries and small island developing States; Goal 8 with targets to “achieve higher levels of economic productivity through diversification, technological upgrading and innovation, including through a focus on high-

2. ECE is in the process of reviewing its programme activities to make sure that they are aligned with the Sustainable Development Agenda and with a view to further strengthening a cross-sectoral approach. The integration of policy goals in different areas will require measures such as improved information sharing through inter-sectoral consultations and coordination, and the implementation of joint activities.
3. In order to appropriately support its member States in the implementation of the post-2015 development agenda, ECE will also need to strengthen and develop further its initiatives to build partnerships. In particular, this calls for further strengthening collaboration with other international organizations, including in the context of structured forms of inter-agency cooperation like the Regional Coordination Mechanism (RCM).
4. Given the cross-sectoral nature of the Sustainable Development Agenda, the Committee on Innovation, Competitiveness and Public-Private Partnerships will be expected to continue and expand its cooperation with other programs of work within UNECE as well as with other international organizations.
5. This conference paper highlights existing cooperation between ECE Committee on Innovation, Competitiveness and Public-Private Partnerships (CICPPP) with other ECE bodies and international organizations and identifies potential areas of future cooperation with common interest. This exercise provides an opportunity to:
 - (a) Foster new cooperation with other ECE bodies and international organizations with whom the Committee has already established close links;
 - (b) Discuss ways in which such cooperation will bring additional values to the core works of the Committee, given the constraints of resources;
 - (c) Prioritize areas for future cooperation with other ECE bodies and international organizations.

II. Innovation and Competitiveness

A. Technology Facilitation Mechanism

6. At the third international conference on Financing for Development, held in Addis Ababa on 13-16 July 2015, UN Member States committed to the Addis Ababa Action Agenda.³ The Agenda reflects a strong political commitment to address the challenge of financing and creating an enabling environment at all levels for sustainable development in its three dimensions through promoting inclusive economic growth, protecting the environment, and promoting social inclusion. Issues related to science, technology and innovation are covered extensively in the Agenda.⁴

value added and labour-intensive sectors” and to “promote development-oriented policies that support productive activities, decent job creation, entrepreneurship, creativity and innovation, and encourage the formalization and growth of micro-, small- and medium-sized enterprises, including through access to financial services”; and Goal 17 with a target to “encourage and promote effective public, public-private and civil society partnerships, building on the experience and resourcing strategies of partnerships”.

³ http://www.un.org/esa/ffd/wp-content/uploads/2015/08/AAAA_Outcome.pdf

⁴ See in particular Chapter G, paragraphs 114-124, pp. 51-57.

7. In particular, a Technology Facilitation Mechanism will be launched at the United Nations summit for the adoption of the post-2015 development agenda in order to support the sustainable development goals. It will be based on a multi-stakeholder collaboration between Member States, civil society, the private sector, the scientific community, United Nations entities and other stakeholders and will be composed of

(a) a United Nations inter-agency task team on science, technology and innovation for the sustainable development goals,

(b) a collaborative multi-stakeholder forum on science, technology and innovation for the sustainable development goals and

(c) an online platform.

8. UNECE has been invited to participate in the United Nations inter-agency task team on science, technology and innovation for the sustainable development goals. This task team will promote coordination, coherence and cooperation within the United Nations system on science, technology and innovation related matters, enhancing synergy and efficiency, in particular to enhance capacity-building initiatives. The task team is open to the participation of all United Nations agencies, funds and programmes and the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council, and it is initially composed of the entities that currently form the informal working group on technology facilitation, namely **UNDESA, UNEP, UNIDO, UNESCO, UNCTAD, ITU, WIPO** and the **World Bank**. The specific modalities of UNECE's participation remain to be worked out. The expertise which CICPPP can mobilize, along with related expertise from other UNECE committees, can be a significant asset to this task team. By the same token, CICPPP's work, including on capacity building, can benefit significantly from the expertise of the other members of the task team.

9. Inter alia, the above inter-agency task team will prepare the multi-stakeholder forum on science, technology and innovation for the sustainable development goals, which will be convened once a year, for a period of two days, to discuss science, technology and innovation cooperation around thematic areas for the implementation of the sustainable development goals, congregating all relevant stakeholders to actively contribute in their area of expertise. The forum will provide a venue for facilitating interaction, matchmaking and the establishment of networks between relevant stakeholders and multi-stakeholder partnerships in order to identify and examine technology needs and gaps, including on scientific cooperation, innovation and capacity-building, and also in order to help facilitate development, transfer and dissemination of relevant technologies for the sustainable development goals. The meetings of this forum will provide an input to the meetings of the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development in the context of the follow-up and review of the implementation of the post-2015 development agenda.

10. The online platform will be used to establish a comprehensive mapping of, and serve as a gateway for, information on existing science, technology and innovation initiatives, mechanisms and programmes, within and beyond the United Nations. As part of its existing programme on national Innovation Performance Reviews, CICPPP could contribute to this platform by collecting and channeling information from the UNECE region. By the same token, the information assembled on this platform from other regions can become an important source of information for CICPPP's work on developing good practices and policy recommendations.

11. Mechanisms for follow-up and review will be essential to the achievement of the sustainable development goals and their means of implementation. UN Member States invited the United Nations regional commissions, in cooperation with regional banks and organizations, to mobilize their expertise and existing mechanisms which could focus on thematic aspects of the Action Agenda. CICPPP could provide a forum for a regional

follow-up and review mechanism focusing on financing for innovation, competitiveness and sustainable development.

B. SDG Monitoring and Review at the Regional Level

12. More generally, the Secretary-General in his synthesis report emphasizes the need for an accountability framework for the new Sustainable Development Agenda that is based on a culture of shared responsibility, and built on national ownership, broad participation of stakeholders and full transparency. As one of the principal components of a multi-layered framework he suggests a regional component for peer reviewing, tailored to regional and subregional needs, and undertaken by existing mechanisms.

13. UNECE is currently in the process of determining the modalities of its possible contribution to such a regional review process. CICPPP has an established mechanism of peer reviewing the recommendations made in national Innovation Performance Reviews. In November 2015, UNECE will organise a conference in Minsk, Belarus, to bring together the five countries that have undertaken Innovation Performance Reviews so far (Armenia, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Tajikistan, Ukraine) to review progress made and lessons learned.

14. A number of other UNECE subprogrammes also undertake national reviews or assessments in their respective areas of work, such as assessments of Regulatory and Procedural Barriers to Trade (**Steering Committee on Trade Capacity and Standards**), Environmental Performance Reviews (**Committee on Environmental Policy**), or Housing Profiles (**Committee on Housing and Land Management**). Relatedly, monitoring and review will require measurement. While the United Nations Statistical Commission (UNSC) is in the lead to develop indicators to measure the achievement of SDGs and targets by March 2016, regions and countries may complement the global list with indicators that take into account regional and national priorities. The ECE region has a good basis for this in the **Conference of European Statisticians** Recommendations for Measuring Sustainable Development.

15. CICPPP may consider cooperating with the subprogrammes listed above in contributing to the SDG monitoring and review process at the regional level.

C. Pan-European Strategic Framework for Greening the Economy

16. The UNECE **Committee on Environmental Policy** (CEP) has mandated UNECE and UNEP, in cooperation with the OECD and other relevant international and regional organizations and other stakeholders working on greening the economy, to elaborate a proposal for a Pan-European Strategic Framework for Greening the Economy for consideration by CEP at its twenty-first session in October 2015. This document will be complemented by a menu of actions under the provisional title of “Batumi Action for Greening the Economy”, which is expected to be adopted at the Eighth Environment for Europe Ministerial Conference in Batumi, Georgia, in June 2016. The aim of the strategic framework for greening the economy in the pan-European region is to enable the region to make a transition to a green economy by 2030 and attaining the sustainable development goals related to green economy.

17. Given the key role which innovation will have to play in greening our economies, and given CICPPP’s previous work on innovation policy for green technologies in transition economies, CICPPP may consider contributing to the follow-up to the Pan-European Strategic Framework and Batumi Action Plan.

D. Speeding Up the Broad-Based Adoption of Critical Innovations

18. The substantive segment of the next annual session of the Team of Specialists on Innovation and Competitiveness Policies (TOS-ICP) will discuss policies to speed up the broad-based adoption of critical innovations, such as innovations with an impact on sustainable development. A case in point here is policies that encourage the broad-based deployment of new energy-saving technologies. The UNECE **Committee on Sustainable Energy** has recently developed a set of Best Policy Practices for Promoting Energy Efficiency. Similarly, the UNECE **Committee on Housing and Land Management** has an Action Plan for Energy-Efficient Housing in the UNECE Region. TOS-ICP will draw on the expertise of the above committees in the area of energy efficiency policies in preparing its next substantive segment and developing good practices on speeding up the broad-based adoption of critical innovations.

E. UNECE Regional Report on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development

19. The UNECE **Committee on Housing and Land Management** (CHLM) is in the process of preparing a regional report on housing and sustainable urban development for the ECE region as a key input to the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development - HABITAT III in Ecuador in 2016. The objective of the Conference is to secure renewed political commitment for sustainable urban development. CHLM has reached out to all UNECE sub-programmes to invite them to contribute to the regional report in their respective areas of expertise. CICPPP's expertise, for instance in the area of smart specialisation, but also on innovation and entrepreneurship, innovation in the public sector, or cluster policies could make a significant contribution to this report.

F. Knowledge-based Development in Central Asia

20. UNECE and the United Nations **Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific** (ESCAP) cooperate closely on the UN Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia (SPECA). SPECA has project working groups on a number of topics, including Knowledge-based Development (PWG on KBD). This project working group draws heavily on the normative work carried out by CICPPP. Most recently, it also provided a forum for the peer review of the draft Innovation Performance Review of Tajikistan.

G. Cooperation with the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA)

21. In 2014, ESCWA created a new Technology for Development Division with an Innovation Section and a Technology Centre. The aim is

- (a) to promote innovation in technology for sustainable social and economic development, and for building knowledge-based economies in the Arab region, and
- (b) to assist member countries and their public and private organizations to acquire the necessary tools and capabilities to accelerate socio-economic development in order to attain technological parity with other nations and regions.

22. ESCWA has expressed their interest in collaborating with UNECE in the field of innovation policy in order to bridge the policy gap between the ESCWA and other regions for building national innovation ecosystems and for establishing a regional hub for innovation.

23. Subject to the mobilization of additional extra-budgetary funding, such collaboration could entail the sharing of knowledge, lessons learned and good practices, research reports, expert group meetings, or advisory services in the area of innovation policy and strategies for enhancing knowledge base economy.

III. Public-Private Partnerships

24. The Committee's international Public-Private Partnerships (PPP) programme under the umbrella of the UNECE International PPP Centre of Excellence (ICoE) provides comprehensive support to countries in PPP through developing international PPP standards for the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and implement them in countries through the services of the UNECE PPP Business Advisory Board. Overall, the guiding light of the PPP programme is to create a 'one UN' in the development and implementation of international PPP standards and providing PPP training and capacity building. The ICoE works very closely with the Multilateral Development Banks upstream in developing the standards which they will finance as projects downstream. The strategic goal of the ICoE is to build cooperation with the Multilateral Development Banks and the UN system to improve the delivery of PPP projects in developing countries and transition economies.

H. Development of PPP Standards

25. The **UN Centre for Trade Facilitation and Electronic Business (CEFACT)** has been developing electronic business standards covering both commercial and government business processes that can foster growth in international trade and related services. The PPP programme has been working together with CEFACT for the use and adaptation of their successful methodology – a seven steps process - for the development and adoption of standards in trade facilitation. The same methodology and procedure is now used by the PPP programme for the development of international PPP standards in various sectors through the collaboration of project teams of experts from the public and private sector and academia and civil society representatives.

26. **The World Bank, the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD), and the European Investment Bank (EIB)** have been active partners in the development of PPP standards. The World Bank and EBRD have joined several Project teams. A meeting with the EIB will be held in the near future to discuss closer cooperation in the development of international PPP standards.

27. The PPP programme also cooperates with the **Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)** in the production of International PPP standards, and especially the International Specialist Centre of Excellence created on PPP Laws, Policy and Institutions, based in France, which is providing support to the development of standards in the legal and regulatory areas, including a standard on zero tolerance to corruption in PPP procurement.

28. The PPP programme was invited to Canberra, Australia to discuss with the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade of the Australian government on cooperation in PPP standards. The PPP programme also discussed with officials at the Treasury – the Ministry servicing the newly created **G20 Global Infrastructure Hub** - cooperation between UNECE and itself in the area of international PPP standards, including their implementation.

29. The Committee's PPP programme co-organized with the World Bank and the other **Multilateral Development Banks**, the PPP Days 2015 in London on 16-17 June 2015. The UNECE was the only organiser organisation from the UN system. The event – the most

high profile event in the PPP calendar - attracted 300 participants and over 50 Governments including many from the ECE region notably Belarus, which launched two infrastructure projects to investors. This event allowed UNECE to showcase its standards making work to the global community.

I. **SDG 6: Ensure Availability and Sustainable Management of Water and Sanitation for All**

30. In October 2014, the **World Bank** and ECE with the cooperation of the **EBRD** and the **Islamic Development Bank** organised an international conference on water and sanitation PPPs at the Palais des Nations in Geneva with the participation of 200 experts among representatives of national governments, local authorities, private water operators and representatives of civil society organisations. The Conference showcased best practices in water and sanitation PPPs across Europe, Central Asia, the Middle East and North Africa. The Conference declaration recognised the importance to establish an international Centre on Water PPPs and to develop international PPP standards on water supply and sanitation, rural water and water management.

31. The UNECE **Committee on Environmental Policy** manages the Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes (Water Convention) and the Protocol on Water and Health. The Water Convention aims to protect and ensure the quantity, quality and sustainable use of transboundary water resources. The Protocol on Water and Health aims to protect human health and well-being through better water management, including the protection of water ecosystems, and by preventing, controlling and reducing water-related diseases. The PPP programme has established a good cooperation and working relations with these programmes. Inter alia the Protocol members will review and provide feedback on the draft PPP standard on water.

J. **SDG 11: Make Cities and Human Settlements Inclusive, Safe, Resilient and Sustainable**

32. The UNECE **Committee on Housing and Land Management** manages the multi-stakeholder project “United Smart Cities” which aims to promote the use of ICTs to address SDG 11 in medium-sized cities with countries with economies in transition. The PPP programme, and in particular the International Specialist Centre of Excellence on Smart and Sustainable Cities in Barcelona, is working with the United Smart Cities Project to improve cooperation between the public and private sectors in the research and implementation of the most innovative solutions to sustainable urban environments. The PPP Programme is also working closely with the Programme on their work on smart city indicators which will become standards for smart cities.

33. Target 11.2 under SDG 11 calls for providing access to safe, affordable, accessible and sustainable transport systems for all. The UNECE **Inland Transport Committee** has a **Working Party on Rail Transport** whose objective is to promote rail transport in UNECE member countries and to ensure its economic efficiency and environmental sustainability. The PPP programme is developing International PPP standards in transport specifically in roads, railways and airports. The Working Party will contribute to the development of the standard on railroads by providing feedback and reviewing the draft.

35. Target 11.b under SDG 11 inter alia calls for substantially increasing resilience to disasters, and for developing and implementing, in line with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030, holistic disaster risk management at all levels. The **United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR)** is cooperating with ECE in its preparation of a “last building standing” standard that seeks through PPPs to establish

a dedicated facility powered by solar energy to coordinate relief operations and to treat people in the immediate aftermath of disasters.

K. Developing Training Tools

36. The **United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR)** is offering training to government officials on the SDGs and has found that PPP is a knowledge gap that needs to be filled. UNITAR recognises the value of the ECE PPP Business Advisory Board as a private sector body with vast knowledge in PPP and with a strong orientation towards country training and consultations. UNITAR also has taken a valued initiative with the local government of Annemasse (France) to promote learning amongst other local governments around the world in the contribution of PPP to sustainable development. The UNECE is working closely with UNITAR in the event on PPP in Annemasse on 29- 30 October 2015, and organising the Business Forum there. UNITAR has a global reach with its training centres around the world.

37. UNECE and UNITAR will sign a Memorandum of Understandings (MOUs) for cooperation on PPP standards and training on 3 September 2015 in Geneva. This agreement provides a framework for a closer cooperation and synergies, starting with a joint event at UN Headquarters in New York on 13 October 2015 to showcase the work of the PPP Business Advisory Board on the SDGs.

38. The **World Bank** is also launching a Massive Open Online Course (MOOC) on PPPs to engage large number of people globally, using some of the training tools developed by ECE, including training videos. The ECE is also contributing to the work of the World Bank on a Certification for PPP consultants.

L. Capacity Building and Policy Advice

39. Another major partner of the Committee's PPP programme is the **United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)**. The Committee's PPP programme has centres and / or capacity building programmes within UNDP offices in several countries. For example, UNDP has worked closely with ECE in a three year capacity building project, funded by the European Union in Belarus. This project has successfully led improvements in the PPP legal framework in Belarus, the setting up of a PPP Unit and the identification of a number of pilots, two of which are expected to be closed early next year with the financial support of the EBRD and the International Finance Corporation (a member of the World Bank).

40. UNDP offices have actively supported the setting up of affiliated PPP centres in a number of countries, providing advice support and partnership with these Centres. Such cooperation has taken place, in Azerbaijan, Brazil, Morocco and China.

41. The **European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD)** is a key participant in the ECE PPP Business Advisory Board and has organised joint policy advisory missions with ECE. This year a consultation is planned with the EBRD in Georgia. The EBRD also hosted a meeting of the ECE PPP Business Advisory Board in London in June 2015.

IV. The way forward

42. This conference paper reviewed current and possible future cooperation with other ECE bodies and international organizations. Such cooperation enriches the work of the Committee and helps the outreach of the Committee's work.

43. Taking into account the valuable experiences of other ECE programmes and international organizations, the secretariat will continue to seek cooperation in areas of common interest with a view to assuring complementarities and synergies.
