



Economic and Social Council

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Economic Commission for Europe

Executive Committee

Decision approving the establishment of a Public-Private Partnership Business Advisory Board and the revised mandate and terms of reference of the Team of Specialists on Innovation and Competitiveness Policies

The Executive Committee, at its sixty-eighth meeting on 30 April 2014, approved the following:

- (a) Establishment of the PPP Business Advisory Board, with its mandate and Terms of Reference as contained in Annex I with request for regular reporting of the Board on its activities;
- (b) Revised mandate and terms of reference of the Team of Specialists on Innovation and Competitiveness Policies until 31 December 2016, as contained in Annex II, with amendments.

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Annex I

Mandate and Terms of Reference of the PPP Business Advisory Board

I. Background

1. Since the establishment of the UNECE Team of Specialists on Public-Private Partnership (TOS PPP) in 2008, the idea to create a body that brings private sector expertise to the ECE PPP capacity-building programme has been fully supported by ECE member States. With the setting up of the International PPP Centre of Excellence (ICoE) in 2012, the proposal for a private sector advisory body gathered momentum and led to the decision of the Committee on Economic Cooperation and Integration (CECI), at its eighth session in February 2014, to recommend the establishment of a PPP Business Advisory Board (BAB).

II. Objectives

2. The Business Advisory Board will:
- (a) Advise the ICoE on the elaboration of international best practices and standards.
 - (b) Assist member States with the implementation of international PPP best practices and standards through high-level consultative meetings.
3. The expected duration of the Business Advisory Board is until 31 December 2017, with the possibility of extension.

III. Areas of work

4. The activities of the Business Advisory Board include:
- (a) Direct face-to-face consultations with key policy makers in member countries on project delivery, development and implementation;
 - (b) Peer reviews of selected draft PPP recommendations and standards; and
 - (c) Assistance to PPP Specialist Centres hosted in countries, and affiliated to the ICoE, to become operational and to identify international PPP best practices in their respective sector.

IV. Membership

5. Participation in the PPP Business Advisory Board will be open to senior representatives from the business sector with a proven track record of international PPP experience.
6. The BAB will consist of between 20 and 30 distinguished high-level business persons who are recognized for their outstanding contributions to the development and use of public-private partnerships either in their respective countries or worldwide.

Members will be selected in such a way as to provide a comprehensive coverage of key issues and sectors.

7. Nominations for the BAB can be made by CECI and TOS PPP delegates and by member States. The nominations will be reviewed by the Governing Body of the ICoE, which will make recommendations to the Executive Secretary. The Executive Secretary will appoint the Chairman and the Members of the BAB for a period of two years, with a possible extension of an additional two-year term for a total of two consecutive terms, subject to review by the Governing Body of the ICoE.

8. The Bureau of TOS PPP and representatives from relevant international organizations working in the area of public-private partnership (including the Asian Development Bank, the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, the European Investment Bank, and the World Bank) will be invited to participate in BAB meetings and contribute their expertise as observers.

V. Modalities of operation

9. The BAB will report to the TOS PPP. It derives its legitimacy and mandate from this body. It will carry out its work on the basis of an annual work plan.

10. The BAB will meet physically at least once a year, usually in conjunction with the annual session of CECI or TOS PPP. BAB Members will participate in a number of high-level consultation missions in member States. Consultation missions will be based on requests from member States received by the secretariat and will be considered on the basis of available capacity and extrabudgetary resources.

11. The secretariat will:

- (a) Provide secretariat support to the BAB;
- (b) Organize and participate in its consultation missions and meetings; and
- (c) Assist in preparing the BAB's annual work plan

12. As the work of the BAB develops, the secretariat will prepare a code of conduct for BAB members that covers the major elements for protecting the UN interests, such as confidentiality of information, and the protection of use of the UN emblem and name.

13. The BAB Chairman and Members will provide their time and expertise on a pro bono basis without remuneration.

14. The BAB Members participating in consultation missions in member States may have their local expenses and airfare covered through extrabudgetary funding, when such funding is needed and available.

Annex II

Revised mandate and terms of reference of the Team of Specialists on Innovation and Competitiveness Policies

I. Introduction

1. The Programme of Work of the Committee on Economic Cooperation and Integration (CECI) stipulates the establishment of a Team of Specialists to support the implementation of its work in the area of “Strengthening the competitiveness of member States’ economies by promoting the knowledge-based economy and innovation” and taking into account cross-cutting issues related to innovation and competitiveness.

II. Mandate

2. The Team of Specialists on Innovation and Competitiveness Policies (TOS-ICP) supports the implementation of the Programme of Work of CECI. The TOS-ICP addresses issues related to the creation of a supportive environment for innovative development and knowledge-based competitiveness in ECE member States, with a specific focus on countries of the ECE region. Its activities aim at facilitating the exchange of experience and lessons learned, as well as of good practices in these areas, among ECE member States. In its work, the TOS-ICP responds to the needs of Governments, and takes into account the needs of consumers, and the academic and business communities.

III. Areas of work

3. To support CECI in achieving its objectives, the TOS-ICP engages in the following activities:

- (a) Organizing an international policy dialogue on knowledge-based economic development in the ECE region with the aim of identifying international good practices and policy recommendations on selected key issues within the mandate of the TOS-ICP. As part of this policy dialogue, the Team will hold applied policy seminars as part of its annual sessions;
- (b) Preparing synopses of good practices and policy recommendations on selected key issues within the Team’s mandate for discussion and endorsement by CECI;
- (c) Broadly disseminating the above good practices and policy recommendations;
- (d) Subject to the availability of extrabudgetary resources, and on request from Governments, carrying out assessments of national innovation systems and policies (“Innovation Performance Reviews”) with the aim of providing peer-reviewed policy recommendations to improve national innovation performance;
- (e) Subject to the availability of extrabudgetary resources, and on request from Governments, providing advice on the implementation of policy reforms in areas within the mandate of the TOS-ICP;

- (f) Subject to the availability of extrabudgetary resources, and in cooperation with Governments of countries of the ECE region, organizing technical assistance and capacity-building activities on issues within the mandate of the TOS-ICP.

IV. Membership

4. The TOS-ICP comprises government experts, as well as experts from relevant research and academic institutions, the business community and NGOs. National experts are nominated by the respective government authorities responsible for cooperation with CECI. In accordance with United Nations procedures, the TOS-ICP is also open for other experts from intergovernmental organizations, national and international business and research institutions and associations who wish to contribute to the implementation of its work plan.

V. Modalities of operation

5. The TOS-ICP operates in accordance with the Guidelines for the Establishment and Functioning of Teams of Specialists within the ECE (ECE/EX/2/Rev.1) and the Guidelines on Procedures and Practices for ECE Bodies (E/2013/37 E/ECE/1464, Annex III, Appendix III).

6. The TOS-ICP is established for a period of two years with the possibility of extension if so decided by CECI, and approved by the Executive Committee of the ECE. CECI may modify the Terms of Reference of the TOS-ICP as required, subject to approval by the Executive Committee of ECE.

7. Secretariat support to the TOS-ICP is provided by the ECE secretariat.

8. The TOS-ICP develops its plan of work and reports to the annual session of the Committee on its implementation.

9. Expenses associated with the implementation of the TOS-ICP plan of work are supported through extrabudgetary contributions of member States and other stakeholders, and are to be provided, managed and used in accordance with United Nations rules and regulations.
