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Team of Specialists on Public-Private Partnerships

Eighth session

Geneva, 20 - 21 October 2016

Item 4 of the provisional agenda

Draft Report of the Team of Specialists on Public-Private Partnerships at its seventh session^{1 2}

Summary

The Team of Specialists on Public-Private Partnerships (TOS PPP) held its seventh session on 18 June 2015 in London, United Kingdom at the premises of the International Maritime Organisation (IMO) with over 150 participants from 38 countries.

The Substantive segment of the seventh session of the Team was devoted to the activities of the UNECE International PPP Centre of Excellence and the progress on the development of international standards and best practice in PPPs and agreed to continue focusing its work on their development to support the emerging Sustainable development Goals (SDGs).

Among the issues that the Team discussed was the progress of the standards on health policy, the charter on zero tolerance to corruption in PPP Procurement (ZTC), and a mechanism for compliance with the charter on ZTC.

At its seventh session, the Team of Specialists;

- i. Elected one new vice-Chairperson;
- ii. Reviewed the work done since the sixth session in June 2014, including the setting up of the International Specialist Centre of Excellence on PPPs in smart and sustainable cities in Barcelona, Spain, and the International Specialist Centre of Excellence on PPPs in policy, laws and institutions in Paris, France;
- iii. Reviewed the progress in setting up specialist centres; and
- iv. iv. Agreed on the implementation plan for 2015-2016.

¹ In accordance with the conclusions of TOS PPP under agenda item 7, this report is submitted as a pre-session document to the eighth session of the TOS-PPP for approval.

² The TOS PPP Bureau has endorsed this draft report that was submitted for information to the 9th session of the Committee on Innovation, Competitiveness and Public-Private Partnerships held in Geneva from 3 to 4 September 2015.

I. Attendance

1. The Team of Specialists on Public-Private Partnerships (TOS PPP) held its seventh session on 18 June 2015 in London, United Kingdom. Over 150 experts representing national government agencies, the private sector, academic institutions and international organizations participated in the session. They came from the following member States: Anguilla, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Belgium, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, Chile, China, Cyprus, Democratic Republic of Congo, Egypt, France, Germany, India, Indonesia, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Lebanon, Lithuania, Malta, Mauritania, Netherlands, Pakistan, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Moldova, Russian Federation, Slovenia, Spain, Turkey, Uganda, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and the United States of America. The following international organizations and agencies participated in the session: European Commission, Asian Development Bank (ADB), European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD), Eurasian Economic Commission, International Finance Corporation (IFC), a member of the World Bank Group, International Maritime Organisation, and the World Bank.

II. Adoption of the agenda (Agenda item 1)

2. Documentation: Annotated provisional agenda for the seventh session (ECE/CECI/PPP/2015/1)

3. The Team adopted the provisional agenda as proposed by the secretariat with one amendment proposed by the Chairperson to Agenda item 7, namely, to adopt a set of conclusions and recommendations instead of a full report due to technical reasons in line with the Economic Commission for Europe's Guidelines on Procedures and Practices.

III. Election of officers (Agenda item 2)

4. The Team elected Ms. Angela Susanu (Moldova) as vice Chairperson, in accordance with the Economic Commission for Europe's Guidelines on Procedures and Practices.

5. The Team thanked the outgoing vice-Chairperson Mr. Valeriu Triboi (Moldova) for his contribution to the Team.

IV. Developing international standards and best practices in Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs) (Agenda item 3)

6. The Chairperson introduced the agenda item by informing the Team that the focus of this year's substantive segment is on the PPP standards and the work of the Business Advisory Board (BAB).

The Business Advisory Board

7. In his keynote speech, Mr. James Stewart, Chairperson of the BAB stated that one of the key services and the vision of the BAB is to improve the chances of a successful implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by developing international PPP standards, models and guidelines on best practices in PPP, ensuring the achievement of the goals and the preparation of the BAB on the post-2015 Development Agenda of the United Nations.

8. He also highlighted the strong interaction between infrastructure, investment and the achievement of the SDGs, and argued that a trillion US Dollars of investment are needed to

finance the infrastructure on healthcare services, water and sanitation, education, ICT, women empowerment, resilient infrastructure, and so on.

9. In order to meet the needs and to tackle the lack of infrastructure, he argued that governments need to have investors to finance the projects as well as clear standards and guidelines to resurrect the numerous projects that are stuck in pre-procurement stage. This kind of work is currently undertaken by TOS PPP with the participation of BAB members.

10. A number of BAB members briefed the Team about the BAB policy advisory activities in countries over the last twelve months, including work in Belarus, Brazil, Morocco, Turkey and Ukraine.

11. On the specific work of the BAB in Belarus, the representative of EBRD acknowledged the role played by the BAB in identifying the M10 road project in Belarus as a PPP contender, and expressed EBRD's intention to participate in the next steps of the project's development leading to procurement and beyond.

12. Mr. Pedro Neves, a senior BAB member, presented a new BAB brochure on the BAB's role to support the implementation of the SDGs in countries.

PPP Standards under preparation

13. A number of draft standards in advanced stage of preparation were presented by the respective Team Leader.

(a) Draft Charter on Zero Tolerance to Corruption in PPP Procurement

14. Mr. Marc Frilet introduced the draft charter explaining the rationale for this standard and how the work could be organized. He informed the audience that a number of issues related to corruption were raised by different stakeholders and that these will be considered in future revisions of the draft charter.

15. The issues could be grouped in three categories: firstly, issues based on inadequate institutional and legal framework, governance, integrity, efficiency, judicial review and on the definition for corrupt practice; secondly, issues based on disclosure and dissemination of information to the public in full transparency in a number of steps ranging from preparing, evaluating and implementing the project; and a third group of issues is based on the procurement process.

16. He informed that since the list of issues is extremely long, the team focused on thirty issues identified for developing guidance, best practices and standards. He also explained that the draft charter already addresses some of the issues namely, avoidance of conflict of interest and vetted commitment of the participants to PPP project, compliance with laws and code of ethics, standards which applies to various units, committees and boards which are involved in the project preparation and evaluation of the project when awarding a PPP contract.

17. Mr. Frilet concluded his intervention by urging participants to read the draft charter and provide comments and feedback to be considered in the next revised version of the charter that will be presented to the Committee on Innovation, Competitiveness and PPPs in September 2015.

(b) Mechanism for compliance with the Charter on Zero Tolerance to Corruption in PPP Procurement

18. Mr. Scott Walchak presented a checklist of issues to be used by examiners when evaluating PPP units' compliance with the conditions laid down in the charter for zero tolerance to corruption and other key governance issues.

19. Some of the main topics that are covered in the checklist include: creation of a PPP enabling environment; legal and regulatory framework; human resource capacity; organizational integrity; tendering standards; and stakeholders' consultation. A special emphasis is mentioned on accountability and transparency in human resources, and the importance of retaining appropriate staff with good codes of conducts.

20. He explained that the checklist was still at an early draft stage, and that an evaluators' guidebook will also be prepared to accompany the checklist and to provide guidance to the evaluators undertaking the assessments of the PPP units.

21. Mr. Mark Romoff, vice-Chairperson of TOS PPP, explained that the next step is to identify an independent body that could act as a certifying organization. He explained that at the request of the secretariat he was exploring with the Department of Foreign Affairs of Canada the possibility that the Canadian Council for PPPs, of which he is President and Chief Executive, acts as the certifying body for the scheme.

(c) Incorporating PPP into a Health Policy framework

22. Mr. Peter Ward introduced the draft standard explaining the methodology that has been used, its objectives, and the main conclusions that emerged during the process. It was especially highlighted that the development of this standard relates to the UNECE recognition of the need to invest in healthcare infrastructure to respond particularly to SDG 3 through a widespread availability of healthcare to ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages.

23. The project work was subdivided in four work streams: one on policy and legislation, which was about making sure that governments have the necessary tools to identify the right prioritization in their agenda before they start considering the delivery route; the second, about the economic context and the affordability of the PPP programme for government; the third was about establishing a robust way of identifying planning objective and business cases to make sure that those business cases have a formal and transparent review process to deliver the right result. Finally, the fourth was about training and resources.

24. The standard is now ready for its next stage: public review. The development of the initial draft stage was organised in two phases, starting with a detailed analysis of worldwide practice in relation to PPPs in the healthcare sector and the policies that supported them.

25. Mr. Ward called on all participating to actively engage in the public review stage and to submit their comments and observations to be reflected in the revised draft.

26. A number of standards whose development has just started were also presented by the respective project team leaders. These included:

- (i) PPP Procurement
- (ii) PPPs for water supply and sanitation
- (iii) PPPs in Renewable Energy
- (iv) PPPs in Roads
- (v) PPPs in Railways
- (vi) PPPs in Airports

27. In summing up the discussion, the secretariat thanked all experts participating in the discussion and informed the Team that conclusions and recommendations on the standards and the work of the BAB will be taken under agenda item 5.

V. Review of the work of the Team since the sixth session on 23-24 June 2014 (Agenda item 4)

A. Progress report on the UNECE International PPP Centre of Excellence (ICoE)

28. The secretariat informed the Team that in the year when the United Nations will be adopting the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) – the most ambitious agenda in the Organization’s history – the focus of the UNECE PPP work is on developing best practices and international PPP standards in areas with strong UN development objectives, including, health, water and sanitation, transport, ICT, renewable energy, and good governance principles in PPPs.

29. The secretariat reiterated the crucial role that operational specialist centres play in backstopping the work on PPP standards by providing the empirical evidence by collecting international PPP best practices and case studies. In this regard, the secretariat informed the Team that it continued to work with the hosts and prospective hosts of Specialist Centres with a view to establish new Specialist Centres and to make the existing Centres operational and geared towards implementing the proposed SDGs. The following Specialist Centres were established in 2015:

- (i) Spain: International Specialist Centre of Excellence in smart and sustainable cities; and
- (ii) France: International Specialist Centre of Excellence on PPP laws, policy and institutions.

30. The secretariat also informed the Team about progress in existing Specialist Centres and their contribution to the development of PPP standards.

31. The Team commended the progress as reported by the secretariat on the work of the UNECE International PPP Centre of Excellence and agreed to continue focusing its work on the development of international PPP standards and recommendations that support the emerging Sustainable Development Goals.

32. In view of the role played by the country-hosted Specialist Centres in the development of the best practice guides that provide the basis for the development of international PPP standards, the Team took note of the establishment of the International Specialist Centre of Excellence on PPPs in smart and sustainable cities in Barcelona, Spain, and the International Specialist Centre of Excellence on PPPs in policy, laws and institutions in Paris, France.

B. Progress report on the development of UNECE PPP standards

33. The Chairperson referred to the discussion under agenda item 3 on the PPP standards under preparation and congratulated, on behalf of the Team, the Project Teams for their achievements. He also recalled that draft standards on health policy and zero tolerance to corruption were distributed for information by the secretariat in draft form as Conference Room Papers. He also reminded the Team that there was no action needed at this juncture by the Team other than taking note of the progress made so far.

34. The Chairperson informed the Team of the tragic death of a prominent member of the Project Team developing the standard on PPPs in health policy, Mr. Alessandro Abati, who was killed in Afghanistan on 14 May 2015 during a terrorist attack.

35. The Team took note of the draft standard on PPPs in health policy and the draft charter on zero tolerance to corruption in PPPs, and requested the respective Project Team Leaders to continue working with the Team Members, the Bureau, and the secretariat on the next phase of the standard-development process which will lead to the submission of the standards to the Committee on Innovation, Competitiveness and Public-Private Partnerships.

36. The Team agreed to take forward the work on a checklist on zero tolerance to corruption in PPPs for PPP units or similar public sector bodies in order to review their adherence to basic good governance principles in PPPs. As a next step, the Team requested that the secretariat undertake pilot tests of the draft checklist with member States requesting an evaluation of their PPP public bodies using the checklist.

37. The Team commended the progress of existing Project Teams in developing international PPP standards on:

- (i) Water and sanitation
- (ii) Roads
- (iii) Rail
- (iv) Airports, and
- (v) On-grid variable renewable energy (wind and solar)

38. It then requested the Project Team leaders and Team Members to adhere to the timetables that were included in their respective project proposals in order to respond to the large demand for these standards in a timely manner.

39. The Team expressed its sorrow at the tragic death of a prominent member of the Project Team developing the standard on PPP in health policy, Mr. Alessandro Abati, who was killed in Afghanistan on 14 May 2015 during a terrorist attack. The Team requested that the secretariat convey its deepest condolences to his family in Italy.

40. The Team requested that the final versions of the standards, after endorsement by both the Bureau and the relevant Project Teams, be submitted as official documents to its next session and/or to the session in 2016 of the Committee on Innovation, Competitiveness and Public-Private Partnerships.

C. Consultative meetings of the UNECE PPP Business Advisory Board (BAB), policy advisory missions and capacity-building activities

41. The secretariat provided detailed information on the policy advisory missions and capacity-building activities held since the sixth session in June 2014.

42. The main activities undertaken by the UNECE PPP Business Advisory Board were:

- (i) Turkey: Meeting of the Business Advisory Board with the Ministry of Health of Turkey on improvement of PPP enabling environment and advice on potential PPP projects, Ankara and Istanbul, (November 2014);
- (ii) Morocco: Meeting of the Business Advisory Board with the National Agency on Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency, with a focus on the legal and regulatory framework, Rabat, (8-11 November 2014); and
- (iii) Ukraine: Participation of the Business Advisory Board in the PPP session at a seminar on trade facilitation “From Local Solution to National Strategy” to advise

local authorities on the enabling environment for PPPs, and on models to develop PPPs in ports, Odessa, (1-2 June 2015).

43. The following policy advisory missions and capacity-building activities were also organized by the Team since the sixth session:

- (i) Workshop in Kazakhstan to present the national PPP readiness assessment report, Astana, (8 April 2014);
- (ii) PPPs Master Class on international PPP best practices in different sectors for public sector participants from ten (10) developing countries and transition economies, Geneva (16-18 September 2014);
- (iii) International Conference on PPPs in water and sanitation, organized in cooperation with the World Bank, the EBRD and the Islamic Development Bank, showcasing a number of case studies and best practices, Geneva (23-24 October 2014);
- (iv) International Conference on PPPs to launch and promote the work of UNECE on the development of a new international standard on PPP procurement, Moscow, (28-29 October 2014); and
- (v) PPP session in the Global South-South Development Expo 2014 to promote the UNECE work on PPP international best practices and standards, Washington DC, (17-21 November 2014).

44. The secretariat also informed the Team of a number of activities organised in the context of the extrabudgetary capacity-building and training project in Belarus, funded by the European Union and jointly implemented by the UNECE and UNDP. The following activities took place in the following venues:

- (i) PPPs Master Class: dedicated training on PPPs to senior policy makers and government officials of Belarus organized in partnership with UNDP and the Ministry of Economy of Belarus, Geneva (7-11 July 2014);
- (ii) Meeting between Belarus high level national authorities and Infrastructure United Kingdom (IUK): to discuss and learn from PPP best practices in the UK, London, (1-4 October 2014); and
- (iii) PPP Parliamentary Hearing in Minsk: to increase the understanding of the Belarussian Parliament on the international legal PPP best practices and the changes needed to improve the draft PPP law, Minsk, (24-26 November 2014).

45. The Chairperson expressed his gratitude to the PPP experts participating in these activities, especially those who did so on a pro bono basis, and to the secretariat for organizing and servicing these activities. He also thanked, on behalf of the Team, the secretariat for co-organizing, together with the Multilateral Development Banks, a very successful PPP Days 2015 on 16-17 June 2015.

46. The Chairperson also reminded the Team that its policy advisory services and capacity building programme depended on extra budgetary funding. He then expressed his appreciation to the Government of the Russian Federation for providing funding for some of the Team's activities, the European Union for providing funding for the capacity building project in Belarus, Vneshekonombank for its generous contribution for 2015, the Government of the Netherlands and Toyo University for their in kind contribution towards the UNECE International PPP Centre of Excellence, under whose auspices all the UNECE PPP advisory services and capacity building activities are undertaken. The Chairperson urged member States and other stakeholders to follow the footsteps of existing donors and

support the work of the UNECE International PPP Centre of Excellence with extra budgetary resources and in-kind contribution.

47. The Team took note of the policy-advisory missions and capacity building activities carried out since the sixth session in June 2014, including the consultative meetings of the UNECE PPP Business Advisory Board. The Team expressed its appreciation to all the experts who took part in these activities for their contributions to the success of the Team's policy advisory missions and capacity building activities.

48. The Team expressed its satisfaction that the "PPP Days 2015" event held on 16-17 June 2015 was successfully organized and thanked the secretariat for co-organizing the event with the Multilateral Development Banks. It further thanked the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development for hosting the event at its head office in London, United Kingdom.

49. The Team also expressed its gratitude to the numerous donors: the Governments of the Netherlands and the Russian Federation; the European Union; Vnesheconombank; and Toyo University, who have provided in-kind and financial contributions in support of the policy advisory services and capacity building activities of the UNECE International PPP Centre of Excellence.

VI. Implementation plan for the rest of 2015, proposals for the work plan for 2016 and discussion on the future of the Team of Specialists on Public-Private Partnerships (TOS PPP) (Agenda item 5)

50. The secretariat introduced Conference Room Paper 4 containing a list of standards in areas with strong UN development objectives that the Team is expected to develop over the next two years³. The secretariat also referred to the discussion under agenda item 3 and informed the Team that a number of project teams are expected to be established in the course of 2015 to develop some of these standards.

51. The secretariat also informed the Team of the activities planned in the coming months, namely:

(a) Policy advisory services of the Business Advisory Board (BAB):

- (i) Belarus: BAB meeting with the Interministerial Infrastructure Board of Belarus and with the joint Parliamentary Commissions on Economic and Social Policy to discuss PPP pilot projects and issues pertaining to the legal and regulatory framework, Minsk (24-25 September 2015);
- (ii) United States: BAB meeting on the Sustainable Development Goals, New York (12-13 October 2015);
- (iii) Russian Federation: BAB meeting with government officials of the Russian Federation on project planning and implementation, Moscow (16 October 2015);
- (iv) Georgia: BAB meeting to assist Georgia to improve its PPP delivery (October 2015);
- (v) Moldova: BAB meeting to assist Moldova to improve its PPP delivery (November 2015);

³ The list is included in Annex I.

- (vi) Poland: BAB dialogue with Poland on the PPP enabling environment and project implementation (1-2 December 2015);
 - (vii) Ukraine: BAB meeting to assist Ukraine to improve its PPP delivery (3-4 December 2015);
 - (viii) Brazil: BAB dialogue with government officials in Brazil to learn from the Brazilian PPP experience to be shared with countries with economies in transition (December 2015); and
 - (ix) China: BAB dialogue with government officials in China to learn from the Chinese PPP experience to be shared with countries with economies in transition in Central Asia (second half of 2015);
- (b) Other capacity building and training activities, seminars and conferences**
- (i) Russian Federation: Roundtable to present best practice guides for PPPs in roads, Saint Petersburg (15 October 2015);
 - (ii) France: International forum for the promotion of Public-Private Partnerships for sustainable development jointly organised with UNITAR and the Government of France, Annemasse (29-30 October 2015);
 - (iii) Belarus: International Conference on PPPs, Minsk (5-6 November 2015);
 - (iv) Spain: International Conference on Smart and sustainable cities and meeting of the specialist centres, Barcelona (17-18 November 2015);

52. The secretariat also informed the Team that it was in advance discussions with a number of countries to set up Specialist Centres in 2015: Japan (Local Government); Russian Federation, Moscow (CIS Countries) and Saint Petersburg (Transport research); India (Water); Morocco (Renewable energy); and China (Transport logistics in Hong Kong and Training Centre, Shenzhen);

53. The Chairperson thanked the secretariat for providing this overview of the future standards, and new specialist centres and the policy advisory and capacity building activities. He remarked that the work of the Team has dramatically changed since its setting up in 2007, and informed the Team that the Bureau, at its meeting on 26 March 2015, had a long discussion on the appropriate future intergovernmental structure of the Team to sustain this work and decided to recommend to TOS PPP to recommend to the UNECE Committee on Innovation, Competitiveness and PPPs that TOS PPP be converted from a Team of Specialists to a Working Party. The Chairperson gave the following rationale for this decision by the Bureau:

- (i) A Team of Specialists – a transitory body with specifically focused work – is not the appropriate intergovernmental structure to undertake the work of developing global PPP standards. A Team of Specialists is typically established to service a short term activity, which once completed, it may be dissolved.
- (ii) In no cases have Teams of Specialists in UNECE been engaged in the development of standards, and as a general rule, the UNECE standard development work is carried out by Working Parties (such as Working Party 7 on agricultural standards, and UN/CEFACT developing standards and recommendations in trade facilitation and electronic business).
- (iii) The UNECE PPP work has now grown and expanded globally, and this interest has been stimulated by the proposed SDGs, in particular SDG 17 which validates PPPs as a key tool to implement the SDGs. Moreover, several countries have created affiliated centres in specific sectors to prepare international PPP best

practices and support the standards being developing by international Project Teams.

54. The Chairperson also informed the Team that the proposed change is in effect extremely limited and that above all it is a “technical correction.” He added that the change has a “resource neutral” impact and the work will be carried out within the existing resources already devoted to the PPP work.

55. The Chairperson then opened the floor for comments by member States, the vast majority of whom agreed with the Bureau’s recommendation. One delegation, although agreeing in principle with the Bureau’s recommendation, requested additional time to consult with its capital on this issue, prompting the Chairperson to suggest that this agenda item is kept on the agenda.⁴

56. The Team took note, with appreciation, that the Project Teams are in the process of being established in accordance with the procedures for developing PPP standards (described in document ECE/CECI/PPP/2014/2). These covered the following areas: procurement; on-grid controllable renewable energy (hydro and biomass); off-grid rural electrification; energy efficiency in public buildings; rural water; flood management; education; and ports. The Team also encouraged the Bureau and the secretariat to work together with the Project Team Leaders to start the work on these draft standards for consideration in the next meeting.

57. The Team agreed with the topics for the standards to be initiated during 2015 and 2016, as reflected in the table prepared by the secretariat and annexed to this report which is based on requests from member States and Specialist Centres.

58. The Team welcomed the cooperation of the UNECE ICoE with UNITAR and the city of Annemasse (Annemasse Agglo) in the organization of an international forum for the promotion of Public-Private Partnerships for sustainable development that will be held in Annemasse on 29-30 October 2015 and encouraged the strong participation of the UNECE and its experts in this forthcoming event.

59. The Team took note of the meetings currently planned for the BAB during the coming year in Poland, Belarus, Moldova, the Russian Federation, Ukraine, Georgia, China

⁴ Since the 7th session of the TOS-PPP (London, 18 June 2015) the following developments took place:

- i. The Chairperson of the TOS-PPP raised the issue at the 9th session of the Committee on Innovation, Competitiveness and Public-Private Partnerships (CICPPP) in September 2015. The CICPPP requested the TOS-PPP to discuss this issue and to make a recommendation to its 10th session (ECE/CECI/2015/2, Decision 2015-6b.3).
- ii. Under the leadership of the Bureau, the TOS-PPP members were requested to express their views on the matter. Over 50 per cent of the members of the TOS-PPP took part in the consultation which was performed through an online survey, and they unanimously expressed their support to a resource neutral change in the intergovernmental status of the UNECE PPP work from a TOS to a Working Party.
- iii. The TOS-PPP submitted a recommendation to the 10th session of the (CICPPP) to consider the proposal to convert the TOS-PPP to a Working Party on Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs) in support of the UN Sustainable Development Goals.
- iv. At its 10th session held in May 2016 the CICPPP supported the recommendation made by the TOS-PPP to transform the TOS-PPP into a Working Party on PPPs (ECE/CECI/2016/2, Decision 2016 - 5b.2) and agreed to submit the proposal to the ECE Executive Committee (ExCom) for decision at its next session that will take place in September 2016.
- v. The outcome of the ECE ExCom decision at its September 2016 meeting will be reported to the TOS-PPP by the secretariat under Provisional Agenda Item 5, Matters Arising (ECE/CECI/PPP/2016/1).

and Brazil. It also congratulated the BAB on its new brochure which will facilitate communications with member States on its work to promote PPPs in the context of the proposed Sustainable Development Goals. The Team called interested member States wishing to cooperate with the BAB to communicate directly with the UNECE secretariat.

60. The Team took note of the international conference planned to take place in Barcelona, Spain, in November 2015 to launch the International Specialist Centre of Excellence on smart and sustainable cities located in Barcelona and affiliated to the ICoE.

61. The Team took note, with appreciation, of the plans for the establishment of International Specialist Centres affiliated to the ICoE in: Moscow and Saint Petersburg, Russian Federation; New Delhi, India; Rabat, Morocco; Tokyo, Japan; and Shenzhen and Hong Kong, China, and encouraged all parties to work closely with the Bureau and the secretariat in order to conclude the preparatory processes for its establishment during 2015.

62. The Team took note of the conclusion by the Bureau at its meeting on 26 March 2015 as presented by its Chairperson to discuss the future intergovernmental status of the Team and to propose that the Team be recommended to the Committee on Innovation, Competitiveness and Public-Private Partnerships the conversion of the Team into a Working Party, and then decided to keep this item on the agenda. The Team also agreed that a paper on this topic be prepared for discussion.

VII. Other business (Agenda item 6)

A. Dates of the next session

63. The Team agreed that its next meeting be held in the first half of 2016.

64. The secretariat will fix the dates in consultation with the Bureau and the conference room services at the Palais des Nations in Geneva.

B. Acknowledgement to the International Maritime Organization (IMO)

65. The Team expressed its gratitude to the secretariat of the International Maritime Organization for hosting, at no cost to the UNECE, the seventh session of the Team at its headquarters' facilities in London, United Kingdom.

VIII. Adoption of the report (Agenda item 7)

66. The Team adopted the conclusions for submission to the Committee on Innovation, Competitiveness and Public-Private Partnerships at its session in September 2015.

67. The Team requested the secretariat to prepare a draft report of the seventh session for its next session as a pre-session document and requested that it be published in English, French and Russian.

68. The draft report will be adopted by the Team of Specialists on Public-Private Partnerships at its eighth session.

Annex

List of the proposed standards for development in 2015 and 2016

<i>Sector</i>	<i>No.</i>	<i>Standards</i>	<i>Status⁵</i>
Empowering women through PPPs	1	Empowering women through PPPs	
Governance and compliance	2	Charter on Zero Tolerance to Corruption in PPP	√
	3	Certification scheme for PPP Units: Criteria and mechanism for awarding PPP units with certification	√
	4	Certification scheme for PPP Units: An evaluation tool to assess PPP Units	
	5	PPP Procurement	
Health	6	PPP in Health Policy	√
	7	Developing a “Last Building” standing facility to coordinate relief in natural disasters	
	8	Diagnostics via telemedicine	
	9	Hospitals	
	10	Primary Care/Polyclinics	
Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency	11	Variable on-grid renewable energy (Solar and Wind)	√
	12	Controllable on-grid renewable energy (Hydroelectricity and Biomass)	
	13	Energy Efficiency in Public Buildings	
	14	Off-grid rural electrification	
Smart and Sustainable Cities	15	Models for developing smart and sustainable cities	
	16	Social housing/urban regeneration	
Transport Infrastructure	17	Airports	√
	18	Ports	
	19	Railways	√
	20	Roads	√
Water and Sanitation	21	Water and Sanitation	√
	22	Rural Water	
	23	Water Management	
Others	24	Education	
	25	ICT and broadband	
	26	Increasing food security through PPPs involving the water, energy and agriculture nexus	
	27	Unlocking pension funds to finance infrastructure projects (water, energy, transport, etc.)	
	28	Renovation of public buildings	

⁵ Project Teams have already been established and draft standards are in development