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Item 5 (a) of the agenda

Team of Specialists on Innovation and Competitiveness Policies

Draft Revised Mandate and Terms of Reference of the Team of Specialists on Innovation and Competitiveness Policies

Note by the Secretariat

Background

The Team of Specialists on Innovation and Competitiveness Policies was originally established in 2006 by decision of the Committee on Economic Cooperation and Integration (since re-named Committee on Innovation, Competitiveness and Public-Private Partnerships). The Team's mandate has been renewed every two years since then. It was last revised by decision ECE/EX/16 of the UNECE Executive Committee dated 23 January 2015.

The present document updates the mandate and terms of reference in light of the decision taken by the Committee on Innovation, Competitiveness and Public-Private Partnerships, at its tenth session in Geneva on 23-25 May 2016, to contribute to achieving the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (ECE/CECI/2016/2, Decision 3.1).

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Mandate and Terms of Reference

I. Mandate

1. The Team of Specialists on Innovation and Competitiveness Policies (TOS-ICP) supports the implementation of the Programme of Work of the Committee on Innovation, Competitiveness and Public-Private Partnerships. The TOS-ICP addresses issues related to the creation of a supportive environment for innovation-based development and knowledge-based competitiveness in UNECE member States in support of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Its activities aim at facilitating the exchange of experience and lessons learned, as well as of good practices in these areas, among UNECE member States. In its work, the TOS-ICP responds to the needs of Governments, and takes into account the needs of consumers as well as the academic and business communities.

II. Areas of work

2. To support the Committee on Innovation, Competitiveness and Public-Private Partnerships in achieving its objectives, the TOS-ICP engages in the following activities:

(a) Organizing international policy dialogues on knowledge-based economic development in the UNECE region with the aim of identifying international good practices and policy recommendations on the role of innovation and competitiveness policies to foster sustainable development as well as on selected key issues within the mandate of the Team. As part of this policy dialogue, the Team will hold applied policy seminars at its annual sessions;

(b) Preparing synopses of good practices and policy recommendations on the roles of innovation policies to foster sustainable development and selected key issues within the Team's mandate for discussion and endorsement by the Committee on Innovation, Competitiveness and Public-Private Partnerships;

(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 for Sustainable Development Reviews") with the aim of providing peer-reviewed policy recommendations to improve national innovation performance and the achievement of sustainable development outcomes;

(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 Team;

(f) Subject to the availability of extrabudgetary resources, and in cooperation with requesting Governments, organizing technical assistance and capacity-building activities on issues within the mandate of Team;

(g) Subject to the availability of extrabudgetary resources, support the CICPPP in providing inputs from a regional perspective to the work of the Multi-stakeholder Forum on Science, Technology and Innovation for the SDGs;

(h) Support the CICPPP in contributing to the regional follow-up on and review of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda in the areas covered by its mandate.

III. Membership

3. 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 those government authorities responsible for cooperation with the Committee on Innovation, Competitiveness and Public-Private Partnerships. 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.

IV. Modalities of operation

4. The TOS-ICP operates in accordance with the Guidelines for the Establishment and Functioning of Teams of Specialists within the UNECE (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).

5. The TOS-ICP is established for a period of two years with a possibility of extension, if so decided by the Committee on Innovation, Competitiveness and Public-Private Partnerships, and approved by the Executive Committee of the UNECE. The Committee on Innovation, Competitiveness and Public-Private Partnerships may modify the Terms of Reference of the TOS-ICP as required, subject to approval by the Executive Committee of UNECE.

6. Secretariat support to the TOS-ICP is provided by the UNECE secretariat.

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

8. As indicated under “Areas of work”, 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.
