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Economic Commission for Europe

Committee on Innovation, Competitiveness and Public-Private Partnerships

Twelfth session

Geneva, 26-28 March 2018

Item 4 (a) of the agenda

Implementation of the Programme of Work

Recommendations adopted by the Governing Council of the United Nations Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia on Innovation for Sustainable Development

Note by the secretariat

1. The secretariat is circulating herewith, for the information of the Committee, the English version of Annex V of the Report of the Twelfth session of the Governing Council of the United Nations Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia (SPECA), which was held in Dushanbe, Tajikistan, on 6 December 2017.
2. The secretariat wishes to draw the attention of the Committee to decisions 1 and 2 below. The full report in English, including the conclusions from the 2017 SPECA Economic Forum on “Innovation for Sustainable Development”, is available on the SPECA website at:

http://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/SPECA/documents/gc/session12/Report_of_the_12th_session_of_the_SPECA_Governing_Council_English_final.pdf

TWELFTH SESSION OF THE SPECA GOVERNING COUNCIL

(Dushanbe, Tajikistan, 6 December 2017)

DECISIONS

Decision 1 (SPECA/GC/Dec/2017/1)

The Governing Council notes with satisfaction the outcomes of the 2017 SPECA Economic Forum on “Innovation for the SDGs in the SPECA region” held in Dushanbe on 5-6 December 2017. The Governing Council calls upon UNECE and ESCAP, other United Nations agencies and programmes, as well as the international development partners, to provide active support to the efforts by the SPECA participating countries, undertaken on the national and regional levels, in promoting innovation for the achievement of the Sustainable Developments Goals.

Decision 2 (SPECA/GC/Dec/2017/2)

The Governing Council adopts the Conclusions and Recommendations of the 2017 SPECA Economic Forum on “Innovation for the SDGs in the SPECA region”. The Governing Council underscores the importance of elaborating an innovation strategy for the SPECA region to achieve the SDGs.

Decision 3 (SPECA/GC/Dec/2017/3)

The Governing Council notes with appreciation the Progress Reports on the work carried out by the SPECA Thematic Working Groups since its last session. The Governing Council expresses satisfaction with the scope of activities covered by SPECA.

Decision 4 (SPECA/GC/Dec/2017/4)

The Governing Council approves the SPECA Work Plan for 2018-2019 as presented to the session. It encourages SPECA participating countries, Thematic Working Groups, donors and partner organizations to support the implementation of activities contained in the work plan.

Decision 5 (SPECA/GC/Dec/2017/5)

The Governing Council welcomes progress made in strengthening cooperation between SPECA and regional organizations and institutions in providing support to the SPECA participating countries in their achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals through enhanced regional economic cooperation in the SPECA region. The Governing Council invites UNECE, ESCAP and their partner organizations to continue developing close cooperation, including on joint projects and activities.

Decision 6 (SPECA/GC/Dec/2017/6)

The Governing Council notes with satisfaction the UNECE study on “Implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals in the SPECA region”.

Decision 7 (SPECA/GC/Dec/2017/7)

The Governing Council notes with satisfaction the summary report on the SPECA evaluation and strengthening its role as a mechanism for cooperation in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, in line with the Ganja Declaration adopted by the eleventh session of the SPECA Governing Council in 2016. The Governing Council decides that the final evaluation report will be submitted to an expert group meeting, to be organized in May or June 2018, in preparation for the twentieth anniversary of the SPECA (see Decision 8 below). The Governing Council decides to consider at its thirteenth session how the recommendations contained in the evaluation will be operationalized so that SPECA fully serves as the mechanism for cooperation for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Decision 8 (SPECA/GC/Dec/2017/8)

The Governing Council recalls that 2018 will mark the twentieth anniversary of the SPECA, which provides an opportunity to review achievements and challenges faced by the Programme and to identify possible measures to further strengthen support to the participating countries, notably in their efforts to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals.

Decision 9 (SPECA/GC/Dec/2017/9)

The Governing Council welcomes the offer by the Government of the Republic of Kazakhstan to assume the Chairmanship of SPECA in 2018, and elects Kazakhstan as the Chair country of SPECA for 2018.

Decision 10 (SPECA/GC/Dec/2017/10)

The Governing Council decides that the thirteenth session of the SPECA Governing Council and the 2018 SPECA Economic Forum will be held in Kazakhstan in 2018. The exact dates and venue of these events will be agreed upon and communicated through the diplomatic channels. The 2018 SPECA Economic Forum and 13th session of the SPECA Governing Council in Kazakhstan would also serve as a platform to mark the twentieth anniversary of SPECA, review its achievements and challenges, and propose measures for strengthening the Programme. The topic of the 2018 SPECA Economic Forum will be determined later.

Decision 11 (SPECA/GC/Dec/2017/11)

The Governing Council expresses its sincere gratitude to the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan for chairing the 2017 SPECA events as well as for the excellent organization and hospitality offered to the participants of the 2017 SPECA Economic Forum and the twelfth session of the SPECA Governing Council.

Decision 12 (SPECA/GC/Dec/2017/12)

The Governing Council expresses its special appreciation to the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in Tajikistan for its significant support provided to the organization of the 2017 SPECA events in Dushanbe.

Decision 13 (SPECA/GC/Dec/2017/13)

The Governing Council expresses its appreciation to donors for supporting SPECA projects and activities, as well as to the Russian Federation for supporting the work of SPECA, including its thematic working groups and economic fora with the view to strengthening the contribution of SPECA to the achievement of the SDGs.

Decision 14 (SPECA/GC/Dec/2017/14)

The Governing Council expresses its deep appreciation to the UNECE and ESCAP secretariats for their efforts to organize these important annual events and for their active work aimed at strengthening SPECA and their continued support to Programme implementation.
