



UNECE

International PPP Centre of Excellence

Expert level meeting on People-first Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs): Implementation challenges and actions for the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

26 March 2018, Palais des Nations, Geneva, Switzerland

starting at 9am in Room VII

[Provisional Programme](#)¹

About the meeting

A Declaration in support of the SDGs (in Annex I) was adopted by the **PPP units and infrastructure agencies** at the session of the Working Party on PPPs in November 2017, and the purpose of this informal expert meeting is to offer the opportunity for representatives from PPP units/infrastructure agencies to go into the details of some of the recommendations therein, viz:

- Promoting the people-first concept of PPPs for the SDGs;
- Belt and Road initiative; and
- Fighting corruption in PPPs.

The conclusions of the expert meeting will be presented to the Committee on Innovation, Competitiveness and PPPs, and results will input into the work of UNECE PPP Forum on 7-9 May 2018.

The meeting is divided into three sessions along the issues identified above. Participation is open to representatives from national PPP units/infrastructure agencies, and other PPP experts.

¹ As of 23 March 2018

Monday, 26 March 2018

09:00–10:30 **Session I: Promoting the People-First concept of PPPs for the SDGs**

Background:

The UNECE is leading a campaign to rebrand the PPP model from a value for money tool to make it more fit for purpose for the SDGs by broadening the PPPs to include social and environmental standards and debt sustainability, with people as the main beneficiaries. This revised PPP model has been termed by the UNECE as 'People First'. People-First PPP projects are PPP projects that have a transformational impact on communities; are inclusive without leaving anyone behind; are equitable; and are environmentally sound and climate change resilient.

Definition and actions

Questions:

- From the perspective of PPP units/infrastructure agencies: Do the five criteria presented by UNECE in the guiding principles adequately define People-First PPPs? What are the case studies and projects that you have implemented that can best exemplify the People First concept?
- How can PPP units and infrastructure agencies work together to promote People-First PPP for the SDGs and achieve an important transformation and scaling up of the programme?
- What actions do you recommend for raising international awareness of the People-First PPP model? How can its adoption be enhanced and spread?

Moderator: *Sonia Mezzour (Morocco)*

Panellists:	Canada	<i>Syed Zaidi</i>
	Croatia	<i>Ljerka Golubic Bregant</i>
	Greece	<i>Georgios Trantas</i>
	Italy	<i>Marco Tranquilli</i>
	Nigeria	<i>Olaniyi Olaniyan</i>
	Philippines	<i>Eleazar Ricote</i>
	Uganda	<i>Beatrice Florah Ikilai</i>

Discussant: *Marc Frilet (Head of the International PPP Specialist Centre of Excellence on PPP policy, laws and institutions, France)*

Documentation:

- [Declaration by national PPP Units and infrastructure agencies in support of the UN SDGs](#)
- [Guiding Principles on People-First PPPs for the SDGs](#)

Expected Outcome from the Session

- Further validation of the People First PPP definition

10:30–12:00 **Session II: The Belt and Road initiative**

Background:

Following the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding with the Government of China (NDRC) on 14 May 2017 to support countries along the Belt and Road (B&R) initiative with their PPP development, and the agreement by the UNECE Working Party on PPPs at its first session on 22 November 2017, what are the next steps in the implementation of this capacity building programme for countries along the B&R initiative?

Questions:

- From the perspective of PPP units/infrastructure agencies, why would PPPs play such a useful role in the B&R initiative?
- What are the best project areas where PPPs could play such a role?
- What are the barriers for the effective implementation of PPPs amongst countries participating in the B&R initiative?

- Would cooperation among the PPP Units and Infrastructure Agencies in the B&R countries add value to the development of PPP projects within the various participating countries?
- What role can people-first PPPs play in establishing a process to resolve B&R project disputes?

Documentation:

- [Concept paper on the three pillars of cooperation between the UNECE and the NDRC](#)

Moderators: *Art Smith (United States) and Geoffrey Hamilton (UNECE)*

Speakers from participating countries:

Belarus	<i>Alena Dadzerkina</i>
China	<i>Kaimeng Li</i>
Kazakhstan	<i>Zhakin Yerlan</i>
Kyrgyzstan	<i>Kanat Abdrahmanov</i>
Russian Federation	<i>Hafiz Salikov</i>
Ukraine	<i>Irina Zapatrina</i>

Expected Outcome from the Session

- Create a list of objective criteria and standards to judge B&R-related PPPs.
- Increased awareness of the funding strategy for the implementation of this programme

12:00–13:30 **Lunch break**

13:30–15:00 **Session III: Fighting corruption in PPPs**

Background:

The ZTC standard was endorsed by the Working Party on PPPs in November 2017. The next step is to ensure its effective implementation, starting with the finalization of the ZTC Declaration at the UNECE PPP Forum in May. PPP units and infrastructure agencies play a critical role in PPP procurement. In what ways can they contribute to implementing the ZTC standard?

Questions:

- What mechanisms are governments using to fight corruption in PPP procurement? Is enough in place? Can the ZTC standard supplement the existing mechanisms? How precisely would it supplement them?
- Would a typology of corruption help reach a consensus on the forms of corruption targeted in PPPs and the forms of interventions used?
- Could the ZTC standard implementation process be further promoted by a group of countries volunteering to be ZTC champions?

Moderators: *Alecos Michaelides (Cyprus) and Steven van Garsse (Belgium)*

Panellists: *Doris Chevalier
Kathrin Hornbanger
Irina Zapatrina (Ukraine)
Daniel Escauriza (Paraguay)
Najat Saher (Morocco)*

Documentation:

- [Standard on a Zero Tolerance Approach to Corruption in PPP Procurement \(ZTC\);](#)
- [Declaration on Zero Tolerance to Corruption in People-first PPPs.](#)

Expected Outcome from the Session

- Identify an effective strategy for implementation of the ZTC standard
- Set up a drafting group under the Bureau's auspices to prepare a revised draft declaration for discussion at the UNECE Forum in May 2018
- Countries volunteer to be ZTC champions

Annex I

Declaration by national PPP Units and infrastructure agencies in support of the UN SDGs adopted on 22 November 2017²

We, the representatives of PPP Units and national infrastructure agencies participating in the first session of the UNECE Working Party on PPPs, fully recognise our commitments to the UN SDGs to build better conditions for our peoples, our planet and our collective prosperity, while leaving no one behind. In this regard,

1. We understand the important role given to Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs) to achieve the SDGs as elaborated in SDG No. 17: PPP can contribute to economic growth, environmental sustainability by cutting CO2 emissions, increase efficiency, and a more socially just society by improving access of essential services especially to the socially and economically disadvantaged.

2. We also recognize that, not all PPP models are in tune with the SDGs. Many of our countries are fragile, lacking financial resources and an institutional framework and policy for PPPs, a track record of effective PPP projects, with some indeed having been affected by conflict. Our local communities struggle to afford the fees required by PPPs for services and we have to adjust and adapt PPP models to these challenging circumstances.

3. Our response – based on the solidarity that exists by our common values, appreciation of the work of PPP units, infrastructure agencies and similar public bodies, it is our collaborative wish to support each other in reaching the highest standards of excellence, to give far greater participation to women within our profession and achieving gender equality.

4. Are minded on the following course of action in support of PPPs for the SDGs: ensuring transparency, inclusiveness, access, equity and a people-first approach:

(a) To work together to develop people first PPPs that contribute directly to the SDGs;

(b) To share information, expertise and perspectives;

(c) To contribute to a common pool of people first PPPs that can inspire others, supporting in this process other PPP units and embrace these new models that take PPP onto a higher plane and into a new generation;

(d) To support the achievement of 500 people first PPPs showcased for a common platform with private sector partners, the multilateral development banks and civil society organisations;

(e) To help each other to build the required capabilities to deliver such projects, by developing common professional standards, rules and procedures, aware too of the risks that can arise from PPPs, especially when they are poorly prepared and delivered;

(f) To fully support a zero tolerance approach to corruption in PPP procurement as enshrined in the UNECE standard on the same;

(g) To cooperate in an international network of public sector PPP units and infrastructure agencies that will seek to mobilise and create “one voice” behind projects that both do “good” and do well and help achieve the goals stated above; and

(h) To work with other partners, Regional Commissions, the multilateral development banks, and other supporting bodies from public and private sectors as well as civil society.

² The Declaration is contained in Annex III of report of the first session of the UNECE Working Party on PPPs on 21-22 November 2017 (document ECE/CECI/WP/PPP/2017/2).