



UNITED NATIONS
ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

UNECE International PPP Centre of Excellence

“Defining PPP Excellence: Meeting of the PPP Specialist Centres”

Tuesday, 25 June 2013, Geneva, Switzerland

Room V

Provisional Programme

The UNECE Executive Committee on 7 February 2012 agreed to set up the UNECE International PPP Centre of Excellence (ICoE) as a Coordinating Centre in Geneva working in tandem with International PPP Specialist Centres hosted in countries and whose main tasks is to identify excellence in PPPs, preparing best practice guides and helping governments build their capabilities to develop a successful pipeline of projects.

The first meeting of the International PPP Specialist Centres affiliated to the ICoE will be held in Geneva on 25 June 2013 in order to accomplish the following objectives:

- (a) To present the methodology and criteria identified by each Specialist Centre to determine the best practice in their respective sectors or procedures, with a view to exploring a common set of criteria for best practice that can be used by all Specialist Centres; and
- (b) To explore ways and means under which International Financial Institutions (IFIs) and the private sector supports the Specialist Centres.

The secretariat prepared a discussion paper for this event whose structure follows each of the sections contained in the conference programme. This paper provides more details on the goals and deliverables of the Specialist Centres and is based on feedback received from several hosts and potential hosts of Specialist Centres.

09:30-10:30 **Opening Round Table**

The opening round table will provide an opportunity to countries hosting or aspiring to host Specialist Centres to provide a brief five minute overview of their:

- Activities;
- Future plans; and
- Challenges that lie ahead.

Moderator: *Geoffrey Hamilton*, UNECE

Round table discussion: representatives of hosts of Specialist Centres from the following countries:

Azerbaijan, France, Germany, India, Japan, Republic of Korea, Morocco, the Netherlands, the Philippines, Russian Federation, Spain and Turkey

10:30-11:30 **Session 1: Financial and Organisational modalities of the Specialist Centres**

The session will discuss specific issues related to the Specialist Centres as they relate to the ICoE and to one another, including: the use of deliverables produced by Specialist Centres; funding and fund raising; the community of practices; and the relations with the private sector. **Note:** see [Section 2 of the Discussion Paper](#).

Introduction to the topic by the UNECE PPP secretariat

Round table discussion with representatives of the Specialist Centres and other participants

Facilitator: *Jan van Schoonhoven*, UNECE

11:30-12:00 **Coffee break**

12:00-13:00 **Session 2: The Role of the Specialist Centres in defining Best Practices**

One of the key deliverables of Specialist Centres is to define and develop international best practices in the sector or procedure for which they are responsible. Such practices can fill the PPP capability gap within public administrations. This session will discuss the process by which reports made by Specialist Centres will become approved as best practice of the ICoE. **Note:** see [Section 1 of the Discussion Paper](#).

Introduction to the topic by the UNECE secretariat

Round table discussion with representatives of the Specialist Centres and other participants

Facilitator: *Leo McKenna*, Chairman responsible for the ICoE, TOS PPP

13:00-14:30 **Lunch break**

14:30-15:30 **Session 3: Challenges and priority deliverables of the Specialist Centres in the first six months¹**

The session will identify and deliberate on the short term challenges and priority deliverables of the Specialist Centres with a special focus on best practice guides in sectors or procedures to be prepared according to a template prepared by the ICoE for review by peers. **Note:** see [Section 3 of the Discussion Paper](#).

Introduction to the topic by the UNECE secretariat

Round table discussion with representatives of the Specialist Centres and other participants

Facilitator: *Art Smith*, Chairperson, TOS PPP

15:30-16:00 **Coffee break**

16:00-17:00 **Session 4: Consolidating the work of the Specialist Centres: from Best Practices to UNECE ICoE International Standards**

The medium term goals and objectives of the Specialist Centres will be the focus of discussion in this session. In the subsequent months, Specialist Centres are expected, among other things, to draw up the work plan and a list of potential best practice projects, while at the same time contributing to the development of UNECE ICoE PPP standards through a validation process. **Note:** see [Section 4 of the Discussion Paper](#).

Introduction to the topic by the UNECE secretariat

Round table discussion with representatives of the Specialist Centres and other participants

Facilitator: *Geoffrey Hamilton*, UNECE

17:00-17:30 **Recommendations and follow-up activities (including dates and venue for next meeting)**

Moderator: *Geoffrey Hamilton*, UNECE

¹ From 1 September 2013 to 28 February 2014