

### Executive Secretary



## Dialogue of the Executive Secretaries with the Second Committee

The Executive Secretary participated in the Dialogue of the Executive Secretaries of the Regional Commissions with the Second Committee on "Interregional Cooperation: an enabler for the Post-2015 Development Agenda" on 31 October in New York.

The Executive Secretary spoke alongside Alicia Barcena, Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) and current Coordinator of the Regional Commissions; Rima Khalaf, Executive Secretary of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA); Shun-ichi Murata, Deputy Executive Secretary of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) and Aida Opoku-Mensah, Special Advisor to the Executive Secretary on the Post 2015 Development Agenda, Economic Commission for Africa (ECA).

In his address he recalled that UNECE has been intensely involved in promoting economic integration and cooperation among its member countries. Since UNECE programmes and activities address core developmental challenges faced by middle income countries, there is reason to believe that they can be shared and replicated with other regions. Examples from several areas (environment, transport, statistics, innovation, housing etc.) show the relevance of these activities also in the context of the MDGs and the post-2015 development agenda. More interregional cooperation could assist countries in achieving the goals and targets incorporated into the post-2015 agenda, and the agenda itself may provide a scaffolding that could further enhance this cooperation. □

For more information, read the [statement](#).

### PPP

## UNECE International PPP Centre of Excellence wins Special Award for South-South Cooperation

The UNECE International Public-Private Partnership (PPP) Centre of Excellence received the Special Award for South-South Cooperation at the closing ceremony of the Global South-South Development EXPO 2013 on 1 November in Nairobi, Kenya.

Established in February 2012, the UNECE International PPP Centre of Excellence has become a global leader in preparing international PPP best practices and standards to guide governments in implementing PPPs successfully. The objectives of the International PPP Centre of Excellence are to significantly reduce the time, cost and inefficiency which currently tend to hamper the preparation, structuring and implementation of PPPs. It also aims at increasing significantly the proportion and scope of PPPs which can be considered as successful and as having achieved both their social and financial objectives.

In addition to developing standards, the UNECE International PPP Centre of Excellence also helps governments to implement them. Regional hubs are being established to assist countries to contextualise and adapt the standards to their local conditions. Furthermore, a Business Advisory Board was recently established to support governments in implementing PPPs through high-level national and regional consultations. □

For more information, please visit: <http://www.unece.org/ceci/ppp.html>  
or contact Geoffrey Hamilton at: [geoffrey.hamilton@unece.org](mailto:geoffrey.hamilton@unece.org).



### Transport

## UNECE promotes the work of the World Forum for Harmonization of Vehicle Regulations in Latin America and the Caribbean

UNECE participated in the third edition of the Transport Network organized by the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) in Miami from 24 to 25 October. The Transport Network is composed of ministers and vice ministers from the 26 countries of the Latin America and Caribbean region.

This third edition aimed at fostering regional dialogue and identifying transport policies to increase road safety and support the adoption of vehicle standards introducing cleaner fuels and emissions control. The region faces high numbers of casualties on the roads and high concentrations of air pollutants from transport. The latter are a major cause of respiratory illnesses and Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions in the region and aggravate climate change.



Juan Ramos, Chief of UNECE's Vehicle Regulations and Transport Innovations Section and Secretary of the World Forum for the Harmonization of Vehicle Regulations (WP.29), presented the World Forum's regulatory activities. These encompass both vehicle safety and environmental performance. Mr Ramos further highlighted the opportunities and challenges Latin American and Caribbean countries face in incorporating the World Forum's regulations into national law or international law at the regional level. □

For more information on the World Forum, please visit: <http://www.unece.org/trans/main/welcwp29.html>.

## Population



## UNECE kicks off Road Map on Ageing in Georgia

Following the successful completion of Road Maps on Ageing in Armenia and the Republic of Moldova, UNECE has launched work in Georgia. Based on an in-depth analysis of the ageing-situation in each country, Road Maps aim to provide concrete recommendations on how to facilitate the regional implementation of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing. Together with stakeholders in the country, these recommendations are then translated into concrete activities in an action plan.

During a field mission to Georgia from 28 October to 1 November, UNECE population experts travelled to Tbilissi to meet with Maka Jashi, Deputy Minister for Health at the Ministry of Labour, Health and Social Affairs. On this occasion, the substantive focus of the Road Map was agreed upon. In the course of the week, more than twenty meetings were held with public authorities at the national and municipal level, NGOs, international organizations, employers' organizations, media and academia. Site visits included older people's homes in Tbilissi and Kutaisi. The visit provided an invaluable first impression on the strengths and challenges of the policy framework on ageing currently in place.

A second field visit is planned for December in order to follow up on a number of more specific issues. In the meantime, UNECE's Population Unit will look for a local consultant to assist in the analysis of the housing and transport sectors, as well as the labour market situation from the perspective of older persons. □

For more information, please visit: <http://www.unece.org/pau/welcome.html> or contact: [ageing@unece.org](mailto:ageing@unece.org).

## Environment



## UNECE supports Croatia in training inspectors of hazardous industrial sites

The Croatian Ministry of Environmental and Nature Protection, together with the Environmental Inspectorate, organized a training session in Zagreb on 28 and 29 October 2013 for colleagues from the inspectorates of other ministries and authorities on the coordinated inspection of hazardous industrial sites. The secretariat of the UNECE Convention on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents (Industrial Accidents Convention) facilitated the meeting, in which experts from the Joint Research Centre of the European Commission and of the DCMR Environmental Protection Agency of the Netherlands also participated.

The experts from the Ministry of Environment and from the Environmental Inspectorate organized the training to share knowledge with their colleagues about the various elements to be checked when performing inspections at hazardous industrial sites. To do so, they took stock of the experience gained at previous training sessions organized by UNECE.

The trainers, mainly experts from Croatia, highlighted that the elements to be checked when inspecting hazardous industrial sites require expertise from different areas, e.g., environmental assessment, permits, rescue services, fire regulations, labour and health, as well as cross-cutting areas. For this reason, it was important that inspectors from different authorities got together to join their expertise in inspecting such hazardous installations.

Pilot inspections carried out by different inspectorates at the same time — termed coordinated inspections — were also described at the training. Such inspections were appreciated by the operators, as it meant they had to deal with fewer inspections per year.

The training was useful for the different authorities to discuss and clarify the respective roles in inspections and the way forward for the inspection of hazardous industrial sites in the country.

The Croatian training was the first under the aegis of the UNECE Convention on Industrial Accidents in which the training programme was completely drafted by the beneficiary country; with UNECE having only an advisory and facilitating role. □

For more information, please visit: <http://www.unece.org/env/teia.html>

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