



**Terms of Reference of the SPECA Governing Council**

(based on Decision 2 of the Special Meeting of National Coordinators of SPECA adopted in Astana, Kazakhstan, on 27 May 2005)

1. The SPECA Governing Council (former Regional Advisory Council of SPECA) provides overall policy guidance to the work carried out within the SPECA framework, oversees the work of the SPECA Project Working Groups, takes stock of progress achieved, identifies priorities for the future and approves the SPECA work plans.
2. The Governing Council is composed of the National Coordinators appointed by each SPECA member country, as well as, *ex officio*, the Executive Secretaries of UNECE and UNESCAP as institutional members of the Council.
3. The Chairperson of the Governing Council is elected, on a rotational basis, from among the National Coordinators at the end of the annual session of the Governing Council, normally for a period of one year.
4. UNECE and UNESCAP provide substantive secretariat support to the Governing Council on a rotational basis.
5. The annual sessions of the Governing Council are open for participation, as observers, by the representatives of: (a) interested countries which are not members of SPECA; (b) European Community; (c) UNDP and other institutions participating in CAREC as well as other interested international organisations and agencies, (d) regional and sub-regional organisations and programmes in which the SPECA member countries are also members; and (e) other partner organisations and donors involved or interested in the implementation of activities in support of SPECA.
6. SPECA member countries, hosting annual sessions of the Governing Council, will consider organising in conjunction with the Council's sessions, a one-day "SPECA Economic Forum" with broad participation of all interested partners and stakeholders, including the business community. The agendas of such forums will focus on selected strategic issues of economic development and cooperation in the SPECA region and provide a platform for high-level policy dialogue and interaction among all relevant stakeholders.

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