

**ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE**

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

Thirty-sixth Meeting  
Geneva, 12 July 2010

Item 3

Informal document No. **2010/6**

**Annual Report on Technical Cooperation Activities**



# Annual Report on Technical Cooperation Activities

## Report by the Secretariat

15 June 2010

### *Summary*

The present report is submitted pursuant to the UNECE Technical Cooperation Strategy<sup>1</sup> adopted by the sixty-second Session of the Commission held on 25-27 April 2007 in which the member States requested the Secretariat to submit the annual reports on UNECE technical cooperation activities to the Executive Committee.

The principles and priorities established by the UNECE member States in the Technical Cooperation Strategy as part of the 2006 UNECE reform guided all technical cooperation activities of UNECE. These activities were carried out upon requests of governments and recommendations of the UNECE Sectoral Committees, implemented in those areas where the Commission has strong in-house expertise and clear comparative advantage over other organizations, and undertaken with the involvement of beneficiary countries to ensure national ownership. Such activities also promote closer linkages and stronger synergies, particularly within subregional frameworks and intersectoral areas.

UNECE technical assistance was linked to its normative work and focused on assisting countries of the region to accede to, adopt and implement UNECE legal instruments, norms, standards and regulations and addressing regional/subregional and transboundary issues. Most of the activities were either of regional, subregional or inter-regional nature which enabled the UNECE to make the optimal use of its limited resources.

Following the 2007 Triennial Comprehensive Policy Review which encouraged the UN development system to intensify its collaboration at the country level, the UNECE has increased its involvement in the UN Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) process, including through the CEB Inter-Agency Cluster on Trade and Productive Capacity. Participation in the UNDAF and the work of the CEB Inter-Agency Cluster has contributed to greater coherence of the UN operational work, enhanced cooperation with the UN country teams and increased visibility of the UNECE at the country level.

---

<sup>1</sup> UNECE Technical Cooperation Strategy (E/ECE/1447/Add.2).

## **I. Introduction**

1. The present report is submitted pursuant to the UNECE Technical Cooperation Strategy adopted by the sixty-second Session of the Commission held on 25-27 April 2007 in which the member States requested the Secretariat to submit the annual reports on UNECE technical cooperation activities to the Executive Committee.

2. As requested by the 24<sup>th</sup> meeting the Executive Committee held on 1 July 2008, the report is focused on the results of the technical cooperation activities carried out by the UNECE Divisions and the Regional Advisers.

3. This report provides information about the UNECE accomplishments in technical cooperation under programmes “Economic development in Europe”, “Regular Programme of Technical Cooperation” and “United Nations Development Account”, as well as the sources and the uses of the funding of the UNECE technical cooperation activities. It ends with conclusions and recommendations and is accompanied by annexes containing graphical representations of sources and uses of funds.

## **II. UNECE accomplishments in technical cooperation in 2009**

4. The UNECE technical cooperation activities were carried out under the following three programmes: (i) Programme “Economic development in Europe”, (ii) Regular Programme of Technical Cooperation, and (iii) United Nations Development Account.

### **2.1. Programme “Economic development in Europe”**

5. During the reporting period, the UNECE technical cooperation services were provided under the following subprogrammes.

#### **Subprogramme 1 – Environment**

6. The main focus of technical cooperation activities in the area of environment was on supporting countries with economies in transition in their accession to, and implementation of, UNECE multilateral environmental conventions, and improving environmental performance in these countries.

7. Technical cooperation services contributed to enhancing the capacity of EECCA and SEE countries to implement environmental conventions and protocols and facilitated accession to these instruments by providing training, and legal and technical advice to governments and other stakeholders, in particular:

- Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context (Espoo, 1991): An independent review of Ukraine's legal, administrative and other measures to implement the provisions of the Convention was carried out and recommendations were provided to the Government. Armenia received technical advice on drafting the strengthened legislation which the Government is planning to enact. A pilot implementation project was launched in Belarus and Lithuania to build common experience in applying the Convention. In addition, a subregional workshop was organised in Montenegro with a view to raising awareness of the application of the Convention in South-Eastern Europe;

- Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes (Helsinki, 1992): A publication aimed at exchanging experiences and knowledge between EU and non-EU countries and improving international cooperation in the field of flood management was issued as a follow-up to a workshop on transboundary flood risk management organized in cooperation with WMO. Based on recommendations of a capacity-building workshop organised under the Convention's Protocol on Water and Health, draft guidelines for setting targets, evaluation of progress and reporting were elaborated to assist Parties with implementing the Protocol. These guidelines will be submitted for possible adoption by the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol in November 2010. National Policy Dialogues were organized in Armenia, Kyrgyzstan, the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine to support the implementation of the Convention and the Protocol and promote approximation to water-related EU legislation;
- Convention on the Transboundary Effects on Industrial Accidents (Helsinki, 1992): Under the Pilot project on joint management of transboundary emergencies from spills of hazardous substance into the Danube River, three countries (Bulgaria, Romania and Serbia) have worked together to identify further needs for ensuring joint reactions in case of accidents with effects on the Danube River. Two awareness-raising missions were carried out in Albania and Bosnia and Herzegovina to increase their awareness of the basic requirements for the implementation of the Convention. Implementing basic tasks under the Convention is a prerequisite for a country to participate in the assistance activities provided to EECCA and SEE countries. As a first result, Albania was invited to participate in the implementation phase of the assistance programme under the Convention. A training session on integrated approaches to major hazards organised in the framework of the Convention contributed to raising awareness of EECCA and SEE countries of the importance of improving national legislation and strengthening cooperation among authorities dealing with major hazard prevention and crisis management; and
- Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution (Geneva, 1979): Under a capacity-building project on strengthening the implementation of the Convention and its protocols, five SEE countries started developing national action plans for the implementation and ratification of the three latest protocols to the Convention: the Protocol on Persistent Organic Pollutants, the Protocol on Heavy Metals and the Protocol on Acidification, Eutrophication and Ground-level Ozone (Gothenburg Protocol). These protocols address some of the most harmful air pollutants with established links to serious consequences including environmental and health degradation. As a result of the project, Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, Serbia and The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia are expected to ratify the above-mentioned protocols and thus become part of the pan-European efforts to reduce harmful air pollutants such as sulphur dioxide, nitrogen dioxide, persistent organic pollutants, lead and mercury amongst others.

8. The UNECE Environment Performance Review (EPR) programme promoted dialogue between the UNECE member States on the effectiveness of specific environmental policy measures, and provided recommendations on how to improve environmental performance in EECCA and SEE countries. The second review of Kyrgyzstan was carried out to assess the environmental situation and environmental governance in this country. As of 2008, Kyrgyzstan has implemented 65 per cent of the recommendations for improving the country's environmental governance that were addressed in the first review in 2000. A new set of recommendations contained in the second EPR covered such issues of importance to Kyrgyzstan as policymaking, financing of environmental policies and projects, and the integration of environmental concerns

into economic sectors, in particular water management, land management, biodiversity conservation and sustainable management of forests. The second EPR of Uzbekistan was carried out to take stock of the progress achieved in the management of its environment since the country was first reviewed in 2001, and provide specific recommendations to the Government. Particular emphasis in the EPR and its recommendations was placed on consolidating environmental legislation and addressing emerging environmental challenges in such areas as climate change, energy, water and land management. The work has continued on the second EPRs of Azerbaijan and Georgia. Bosnia and Herzegovina is the next country to undergo the second cycle of EPRs.

9. The Subprogramme also provided capacity-building and advisory services to assist EECCA and SEE countries in strengthening their environmental information and observation capacities, in particular:

- Guidelines were prepared for developing national strategies to use air quality monitoring as an environmental policy tool;
- Practical guidance was given to the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine on how to strengthen environmental monitoring and information management;
- An intersectoral training workshop organized by CEP and CES jointly with the United Nations Statistics Division increased skills and knowledge of environmental experts and statisticians in EECCA and SEE countries for the publication of indicator-based environment assessment reports and environmental statistical compendiums; and
- A roundtable on latest developments in monitoring and assessment in UNECE countries helped to raise awareness of EECCA and SEE officials of good practices in modernizing and upgrading national monitoring networks and information systems.

10. Most of the UNECE technical cooperation in the area of environment was provided in partnership with relevant stakeholders in the region, in particular, UNEP, UNDP, WMO, World Bank, OSCE, EBRD, the European ECO-Forum, EurAsEC, IFAS and the Regional Environmental Centres, as well as national governments in beneficiary countries.

### **Subprogramme 2 – Transport**

11. Technical cooperation activities in the area of transport were focused on strengthening the capacity of countries with economies in transition to implement UNECE legal instruments on transport, facilitating international transport in the UNECE region and promoting coordinated development of pan-European transport networks and Euro-Asian transport links.

12. Technical cooperation services provided by the Subprogramme contributed to raising awareness and improving knowledge of UNECE legal instruments and recommendations on transport, and promoted the implementation of the UNECE regulatory framework in the area of transport. New accessions<sup>2</sup> to UNECE legal instruments on transport registered in 2009 could partly be attributed to increased efforts by the Subprogramme to promote their implementation through capacity-building and advisory activities.

13. The Subprogramme provided assistance in the development of efficient, safe and secure Euro-Asian land and land-cum-sea transport links. In the framework of the “Euro-Asian transport Links” (EATL) project (Phase II), a comprehensive work plan on the development of the EATL was approved to ensure the implementation of various components of the “Euro-Asian transport

---

<sup>2</sup> 2009 accessions of UNECE member States to UNECE legal instruments on transport were: Andorra – 2; Croatia – 1; Netherlands – 1; Serbia – 1; Slovakia – 1; and Switzerland – 1.

links” initiative. A network of national focal points for this project was established comprising experts from 26 European and Asian governments. The BSEC meeting of the Ministers of Transport (Yerevan, March 2009) invited BSEC member States to enhance cooperation between UNECE and BSEC in the development of EATL and international transport facilitation, including through organization of joint capacity-building events. In response, two regional workshops were organized under the EATL project in cooperation with BSEC and ECO. These activities contributed to improved capacity of participating countries to effectively implement international conventions and agreements in the field of transport and address border crossing and transport facilitation issues. Work has started to review and update priority routes and projects of transport infrastructure identified in the previous project phase, identify non-physical obstacles to international transport and recommend ways to remove them.

14. The Subprogramme also supported the coordinated development of transport networks in Central, East and South-East European countries in the framework of two subregional cooperation projects, namely the UNECE Trans-European Motorway (TEM) and Trans-European Railway (TER) Projects. In 2009, the Revision of the TEM and TER Master Plan was pursued with a view to extending geographical coverage of the Master Plan to 25 UNECE member States and addressing new challenges, such as intermodality, funding and operational performance along the main routes. Workshops and training activities organized under the TEM and TER Projects contributed to the transfer of know-how and best practices and ensuring closer cooperation with other countries further east, including the Caucasus and Central Asian landlocked developing countries.

15. Particular attention by the Subprogramme was placed on road traffic safety which has become a major global social, economic, development and health concern. A number of capacity-building activities were implemented under the United Nations Development Account funded project “Improving global road safety: setting regional and national road traffic casualty reduction targets” carried out by the UNECE in cooperation with the other UN Regional Commissions. Two sets of best practices in the area of road safety were published in 2009, and the First Global Ministerial Conference on Road Safety was organized to raise the political profile of this issue. The summary report of the UNDA project was widely distributed during the Conference. The Conference adopted a Declaration which formed the basis for the new UN General Assembly Resolution on road safety (A/RES/64/255).

16. Advisory services provided by the Subprogramme also contributed to improved capacity of beneficiary countries to effectively apply the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and labelling of chemicals (GHS), as well as to implement rules and regulations that govern the transport and handling of dangerous goods.

17. In providing assistance to countries with economies in transition, the Subprogramme closely cooperated with other relevant stakeholders, such as OSCE, UNDP, UNESCAP, UNITAR, ECO, IRU, TRACECA and CAREC, as well as national governments and the private sector in beneficiary countries.

### **Subprogramme 3 – Statistics**

18. Technical cooperation activities in the area of statistics were focused on assisting the EECCA and SEE countries in building and improving their statistical capacity and legislation, promoting the application of international statistical standards and recommendations, including the UN Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics, and disseminating good practices.

19. Eighteen countries in EECCA and SEE benefited from advisory services and training aimed at strengthening their capacity in such areas as the organization of national statistical systems, improving statistical legislation, preparation for the 2010 round of population and housing censuses, national accounts, measuring non-observed economy, price statistics, gender statistics, measuring sustainable development, monitoring the achievement of Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), and dissemination and marketing of statistical information.

20. As a result, a number of mutually agreed recommendations from previous global assessments were implemented in 2009 by Kazakhstan and Romania. After a global assessment of its state statistical system in 2009, Armenia started implementing a set of 20 mutually agreed recommendations for further development of the institutional framework. Preparations have started for global assessments of the statistical systems of Azerbaijan and Kyrgyzstan in 2010. Bulgaria and Kazakhstan updated their statistical legislation to reflect better the requirements of the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics. Training tools on gender statistics, such as multimedia presentations and training modules, developed in collaboration with the World Bank Institute and used in training events contributed to improved gender sensitivity of national statistical systems. A number of demand-driven methodological materials comprising good practices in such areas as population and housing censuses, consumer price indices, measuring sustainable development, and building a common metadata framework were produced at the request of national statistical offices. Preparatory work began in 2009, in coordination with UNDP, UNFPA, UNSD and other Regional Commissions to create a new regional MDG database aimed at providing a dissemination platform for MDG-relevant data on UNECE countries. Furthermore, UNECE is establishing a network of national MDG focal points in statistical offices with the goal to identify capacity-building needs and develop activities to address them.

21. Intersectoral work on environmental indicators was undertaken in cooperation with the UNECE Environment, Housing and Land Management Division, and a Joint Intersectoral Task Force on Environmental Indicators was established to improve environmental data production and promote comparability of environmental statistics in the EECCA and SEE countries. The first meeting of the task force was organized to train environmental experts and statisticians, facilitate the exchange of experiences and contribute to strengthening the capacity of these countries in producing environmental reports and indicators.

22. Technical cooperation services in the area of statistics were provided in close cooperation with UNICEF, UNDP, UNFPA, UNESCAP, OECD, EFTA, World Bank, World Bank Institute and the Interstate Statistical Committee of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS-STAT), as well as national governments in countries with economies in transition.

#### **Subprogramme 4 – Economic Cooperation and Integration**

23. The UNECE capacity-building activities under this Subprogramme were focused on promoting policy, financial and regulatory environment conducive to economic growth, innovative development and higher competitiveness in countries with economies in transition.

24. Policymakers, government experts, representatives of academia and the business sector from more than 20 UNECE member States benefited from capacity-building and policy advisory activities of the Subprogramme which aimed at strengthening their capacity to implement UNECE policy recommendations/guidelines and best practices. The concrete activities were carried out in the following areas: (a) promoting efficient public-private partnerships (PPP); (b) facilitating regulatory protection and commercialization of intellectual property rights; (c)



promoting knowledge-driven economic development; (d) creating a supportive environment for financing of innovative development; and (e) promoting innovation-based entrepreneurial opportunities in the UNECE region.

25. As a result of the work, several<sup>3</sup> member States have taken practical steps to incorporate recommendations made by the Subprogramme into national legislation and regulations. Five new sets of good practices and policy options were prepared and disseminated at capacity-building seminars and trainings in 2009 to facilitate the sharing of lessons learned and best regional and international practices in the areas outlined above.

26. Promoting knowledge-based development (KBD), with particular attention to Central Asian countries, was another focus area of the capacity-building activities of the Subprogramme, carried out under the framework of the United Nations Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia (SPECA). The Subprogramme supported the creation and strengthening of the SPECA Project Working Group on KBD as well as the network of the SPECA policy makers on KBD. National and regional seminars on KBD and in the area of information and communication technology policy contributed to increased awareness and knowledge of policymakers and experts in Central Asia and facilitated the sharing of lessons learned and best practices.

27. The implementation of the project “Capacity building for civil servants and business associations in the area of competitiveness and innovative policies, including through commercialization of intellectual property and promotion of public-private partnerships” has contributed to strengthening the national capacity in the CIS countries to advance knowledge-based development by developing relevant substantive skills and increasing the organizational capacity of the institutions involved.

28. A training toolkit on public-private partnerships aimed at enhancing skills of government officials and the private sector to launch PPP programmes and ensuring effective governance of PPPs at regional and municipal levels was developed to assist countries in implementing UNECE recommendations in this area. This training toolkit has been already used for PPP-training in Russia and other CIS countries. Work has continued on developing a capacity-building programme to promote effective PPPs, assist governments in developing their national PPP programmes, and improve coordination and cooperation between the private and the public sectors. Work has started on the development of training materials on innovation policy and on the financing of innovation activities.

29. Through this project, the Subprogramme has also increased the scope and scale of its technical cooperation services, responded more thoroughly to the growing demand from countries in Central Asia and the CIS region for capacity-building activities, and facilitated subregional economic cooperation and integration within the CIS, EurAsEC and SPECA member countries.

30. An UNECE Information Exchange Platform, an interactive online tool hosted on the website, has been created to facilitate the networking of the policymakers, including the Network of the SPECA Policymakers on knowledge-based development.

---

<sup>3</sup> The following nine countries reported to the Secretariat to have incorporated UNECE recommendations into national legislation and regulations during the 2008-2009 biennium: Albania, Croatia, Czech Republic, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Republic of Moldova, Russian Federation, Ukraine and Uzbekistan. However, most of them did not indicate whether they had done so in 2008, in 2009 or in both years.

31. The Subprogramme has been implementing the project “Development of sustainable biomass trade and export opportunities for selected regions of the Russian Federation” aimed at building the capacity of the participating regions of the Russian Federation to develop and market their biomass resources in a sustainable way. The main results achieved in 2009 included the following:

- The introduction of the concept of the “Biomass action plan” in the participating regions to enable them to meet the obligations on renewable energy as stipulated in the Decrees of the Russian Government;
- The introduction of innovative ways of producing renewable energy including biocoal;
- The establishment of the first working group on biomass in the Republic of Tatarstan; and
- Direct support provided to Russian biomass traders and producers through eight workshops on sustainable biomass practice and ten missions to selected biomass enterprises to provide advice on incorporating the principles of sustainable management in their business strategy.

32. The Subprogramme provided its technical cooperation services in close partnership with UNESCAP, UNDP, UNIDO, WIPO, World Bank, OECD, EBRD, EurAsEC and CIS, as well as national governments and the private sector in beneficiary countries.

#### **Subprogramme 5 – Sustainable Energy**

33. Technical cooperation activities in this area were focused on promoting greater integration of energy economies in the region, and addressing energy conservation and efficiency issues, including the formation of energy efficiency markets in countries with economies in transition.

34. Through its “Energy efficiency 21” (EE21) project the Subprogramme provided technical assistance to countries with economies in transition in developing sustainable energy policies and enhancing regional cooperation on energy efficiency market formation. In the framework of the EE21 subregional project “Financing energy efficiency and renewable energy investments for climate change mitigation”, the Regional Analysis for Policy Reforms to Promote Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Investments has been conducted in the 12 project countries,<sup>4</sup> and barriers to investments in energy and renewable energy projects in these countries have been identified. The Regional Analysis included 12 case studies providing the policymakers with examples of success stories on how to overcome bottlenecks and barriers for investments. The publication “Investor interest and capacity-building needs” was issued to serve as the basis for the regional analysis of policy reforms and a tool for decision-makers to promote energy efficiency and renewable energy policies in the participating countries. A set of recommendations is currently being finalized to assist the project countries to develop and implement policy reforms that will support market formation and promote energy efficiency (EE) and renewable energy (RE) investments.

35. The UNECE experience on energy efficiency market formation has been shared with other regions of the world under the EE21 interregional project “Global energy efficiency 21” (GEE21) which is implemented through the UN Regional Commissions and within the framework of the UN Energy Programme. The following main results were achieved under this project in 2009:

---

<sup>4</sup> Albania, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Kazakhstan, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Serbia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Ukraine.

- The formation of a global network of experts, focal points and intergovernmental representatives through the other UN Regional Commissions and establishment of a new Group of Experts on Global Energy Efficiency 21 to serve as a forum for the exchange of best practice and sharing of information on regulatory frameworks and policy reforms that encourage investment in EE and RE for climate change mitigation;
- An appraisal of global energy efficiency obstacles to investment in EE and RE and assessment of existing financing mechanisms to overcome these obstacles. These analyses, together with an overview of main activities and programmes in each region of the world, have been issued as the publication “Financing global climate change mitigation”, presented in Copenhagen during COP-15;
- The development, in cooperation with UNESCAP, of regional concepts for EE and RE for the Central Asian region; and
- Work has started toward developing a global strategy on EE aimed at facilitating policy reforms that support EE and RE and promote self-financing energy efficiency improvements.

36. The Subprogramme has been implementing the EE21 subregional project “Increasing energy efficiency for secure energy supplies” focused on promoting energy efficiency investments to reduce the domestic consumption of hydrocarbons and increase natural gas and petroleum exports of Kazakhstan, the Russian Federation and other Central Asia energy exporters. A network of international experts has been established under the project to identify and develop energy efficiency improvements in the production, transportation and use of natural gas and petroleum. An in-depth analysis of the investment climate, policy reforms and barriers to financing energy efficiency projects conducted under the project “Financing energy efficiency and renewable energy investments for climate change mitigation” will be used in the preparation of the study on barriers to increase energy efficiency in the Russian Federation and Central Asia to enable greater hydrocarbon availabilities.

37. Further efforts were taken to promote the implementation of the United Nations Framework Classification for Fossil Energy and Mineral Reserves and Resources (UNFC). A capacity-building workshop held by the Subprogramme increased awareness of the UNFC and potential benefits of its application in Central Asia, the Caucasus, Afghanistan and Mongolia, and contributed to strengthening the capacity of participating countries to apply the UNFC.

38. The Subprogramme provided its technical assistance in close cooperation with UNDP, UNF, UNFIP, UNESCAP, EC, IAEA, IEA, BSEC and EurAsEC, as well as national governments and the private sector in beneficiary countries.

### **Subprogramme 6 – Trade**

39. Technical cooperation activities in the area of trade aimed to assist member States with economies in transition in the implementation of UNECE recommendations, standards, guidelines and tools for trade facilitation, electronic business, regulatory cooperation as well as UNECE commercial agricultural quality standards.

40. Capacity-building and advisory activities contributed to increased knowledge by policymakers and experts of UNECE recommendations for trade facilitation; strengthened the capacity of countries with economies in transition to formulate more effective trade policies and strategies; and led to the implementation of specific recommendations from the UN Centre for Trade Facilitation and Electronic Business (UN/CEFACT) such as Recommendation 33 on

Single Windows for all export and import procedures. To further strengthen the delivery of capacity-building activities, UN/CEFACT has endorsed an integrated strategic capacity-building plan on the use and implementation of its trade facilitation instruments with particular focus on the needs of countries with economies in transition.

41. In the area of agricultural quality standards, the Subprogramme has been implementing a technical cooperation project aimed at increasing involvement of institutions in CIS countries in drawing up and applying international standards for commercial agricultural produce. Capacity-building and advisory services provided under the project contributed to the development of harmonized national standards and technical regulations in Russia and other CIS countries. The following main results were achieved in 2009:

- A Technical Committee was created in the Russian Federation to develop and implement quality standards for agricultural produce;
- 15 UNECE-based standards for fruits and vegetables, seed potatoes, poultry and bovine meat were drawn up with significant input from the Russian Federation (which intends to adopt them as national standards);
- A draft standard for horse meat has been developed to become a new UNECE standard and a national Russian standard; and
- A network of experts in CIS countries has been established to promote the application of UNECE agricultural quality standards as an important tool for regional trade.

42. The Subprogramme has been also implementing a project financed from the United Nations Development Account and aimed at enhancing the capacity of low-income agrarian economies to implement international standards for agricultural products with a view to improving their trade competitiveness. The main results achieved under this project are presented in section 2.3 below.

43. A Conference on Risk Assessment and Management and a capacity-building workshop, organized by the Subprogramme, increased understanding by policymakers in EECCA countries of risk assessment and management tools and their use for the development and implementation of technical regulations. These events also resulted in a recommendation to establish a new UNECE Group of Experts on “Risk management (RM) in regulatory and standardization policies” to develop and promote best practices on the use of risk management tools in countries with economies in transition.

44. Technical cooperation services in the area of trade were provided in close partnership with UNCTAD, UNDP, UNESCAP, WTO, World Bank, EC, EASC, as well as national governments and the private sector in countries with economies in transition.

#### **Subprogramme 7 – Timber and Forestry**

45. In the area of timber and forestry, the UNECE technical cooperation activities aimed at strengthening the capacity of countries with economies in transition to achieve sustainable forest management at the national level.

46. Two regional capacity-building workshops organized by the Subprogramme in Riga and Dubrovnik contributed to increased capacity of EECCA countries in the area of wood energy data development, dissemination and assessment; raised awareness at the national level of the benefits

of modern wood energy technology and the role of wood-based energy in mitigating climate change; improved knowledge of and information exchange on forest resources as well as forest policies and institutions; and strengthened UNECE/FAO regional network of experts for the reporting on sustainable forest management. As a result of the workshop in Riga, the Ministry of Forestry of Belarus has decided to host a capacity-building workshop on bio-energy development in CIS countries in 2010. Similarly, following the Dubrovnik workshop, a conference on sustainable energy management in public buildings was initiated by the Government of Montenegro in cooperation with GTZ.

47. The Subprogramme provided its technical cooperation services in close cooperation with FAO, GTZ, national governments and the private sector.

### **Subprogramme 8 – Housing, Land Management and Population**

48. Technical cooperation activities in the area of housing, land management and population were focused on improving national capacity of countries with economies in transition for housing-related, land management and population policy formulation and implementation.

49. Taking into account the importance of effective housing policy implementation and management for the success of economic and social reforms in countries with economies in transition, the UNECE provided assistance to these countries in assessing their policies, in particular, their institutional, legal and financial frameworks for the housing sector. The country profile on the housing sector of Belarus was launched in 2009, and its recommendations are being taken into account in preparing the national concept paper on affordable housing. The country profile of Kyrgyzstan was finalized and some of its recommendations had already been put into practice, e.g. the facilitation of property registration procedures was implemented in cooperation with banks, and a unified policy for land management and resources had also been initiated by the Government. Albania, Serbia, Romania and Slovakia continued to incorporate recommendations from their country profiles in the reform of national legislation on urban planning and new spatial development strategies. Assessments of the housing and land management sectors of Azerbaijan and Tajikistan will be finalized in 2010. Future country profile studies would incorporate land administration issues to better meet the needs of countries under review.

50. Increasing knowledge of policymakers and experts on energy efficiency in the housing sector was another focus area of UNECE technical cooperation assistance. A capacity-building workshop and an international forum on this topic examined the institutional, legal and financial challenges to improving energy efficiency in the UNECE region and contributed to the development of the Action Plan on Energy Efficiency in Housing for the UNECE region, to be presented to the UNECE Committee on Housing and Land Management for adoption in 2010. These intersectoral activities were implemented in cooperation with the Sustainable Energy Division in the framework of the “Energy efficiency 21” project. The study “Green homes” published in 2009 identified basic principles and priority areas that UNECE member States should consider for developing effective policies to improve energy efficiency in housing. Training courses on affordable housing and urban planning were under development in cooperation with UN-HABITAT.

51. In the area of Population, the Subprogramme developed capacity of countries in need through the project “Road map for mainstreaming ageing” that provided guidance on ageing-related policies. In 2009, a national strategy and action plan on ageing for the Government of Armenia were the main outputs of this activity. Work of local experts from the government and

academia in a joint team with international experts strengthened local capacities for developing and implementing ageing-related policies and programmes and contributed to the government's commitment to implement the strategy and action plan. The project foresees an evaluation of the implementation of the action plan after one year.

52. Technical cooperation services in the area of housing, land management and population were provided in close partnership with UN-HABITAT, UNDP, UNFPA, UNIFEM, the European Commission and the World Bank, as well as national governments in countries with economies in transition.

## **2.2. Regular Programme of Technical Cooperation**

53. In 2009, the UNECE technical cooperation activities under the RPTC were focused on:

- (a) Increasing knowledge of internationally recognized standards and best practices in the countries of Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia, and South-Eastern Europe and improving their national capacity to implement the UNECE legally binding instruments and other regional standards;
- (b) Finding solutions to cross-border problems through improved transboundary cooperation; and
- (c) Strengthening the ability of transition/emerging market economies to formulate and implement policies aimed at the achievement of internationally agreed goals.

54. Almost all activities under this Programme were implemented by the Regional Advisers who complemented and enhanced the work of the Divisions on promoting the UNECE legal instruments, norms and standards by providing advisory services and capacity-building activities for their implementation to beneficiary countries.

55. Technical cooperation activities under this programme were carried out in the following areas of work:

### **Subprogramme 1 – Environment**

56. Technical cooperation activities were implemented by the Regional Adviser on Environment in close collaboration with Convention Secretariats and focused on strengthening the capacity of EECCA and SEE countries to manage shared water and other natural resources and improve cooperation on common environmental problems.

57. Most of the technical cooperation activities were organized within the framework of eight technical cooperation projects managed and/or implemented by the Regional Adviser. Capacity-building and advisory services contributed to strengthening national capacities for transboundary environmental and water cooperation in Central Asia (SyrDarya, AmuDarya and Chu-Talas basins), the Caucasus (the Kura river basin), Eastern Europe (the Dniester river basin) and South-Eastern Europe (Drin river basin). Two agreements regulating cooperation between countries sharing water resources have been concluded with the establishment of the Drin process in South-Eastern Europe and the expansion of the Chu-Talas cooperation in Central Asia. A new legal and technical draft regulation on dam safety adapted to the conditions in Central Asia has been prepared to strengthen cooperation on this issue in the region. Progress has also been made in sustainable management of water resources of the Dniester river basin in Eastern Europe and the Kura River in the Caucasus. Activities under the Program on “Regional dialogue and cooperation

on water resources management in Central Asia” implemented jointly with the Regional Adviser on Economic Cooperation and Integration and the UNECE Environment, Housing and Land Management Division included the development of proposals for strengthening of regional institutions and legal frameworks for water resources management and for the elaboration of the Third Aral Sea Basin Programme (2011-2015), a five year regional plan of action on sustainable development in this basin.

58. Fourteen countries in EECCA and South-Eastern Europe benefited from capacity-building and advisory missions aimed at strengthening their national capacity for transboundary cooperation on water and other natural resources based on the principles of UNECE environmental conventions. This work has contributed to seven ratifications/accessions to UNECE Conventions and Protocols during the reporting period and improved implementation of these legal instruments. The direct beneficiaries of the regional advisory services were decision makers and experts from national authorities responsible for water and environmental protection.

59. Overall, more than 300 national experts improved their knowledge and skills by participating in the capacity-building workshops/training courses organized by the Regional Adviser.

### **Subprogramme 2 – Transport**

60. Technical cooperation activities implemented by the Regional Adviser on Transport were focused on strengthening the capacity of countries with economies in transition to implement UNECE legal instruments in the field of transport, and promoting inter-country cooperation with a view to developing the pan-European transport networks and Euro-Asian transport links.

61. Capacity-building and advisory services provided to EECCA countries contributed to three new accessions by these countries to the UNECE Conventions, mainly in the field of transport of dangerous goods.

62. Two countries (Azerbaijan and Belarus) have made progress towards membership in the TEM and TER projects, including through their active involvement in the revision of the TEM Master Plan. Capacity-building workshop organized in Istanbul contributed to strengthening the national capacities of participating countries to deal with international transit and fostered the development of transport infrastructures along the Euro-Asian transport routes.

### **Subprogramme 3 – Statistics**

63. Technical cooperation activities implemented by the Regional Adviser on Statistics were aimed at promoting further development of national institutional frameworks for official statistics and strengthening the capacity of EECCA and SEE countries to produce essential macroeconomic, social and demographic statistics in accordance with international standards and frameworks.

64. During the reporting period, training and advisory services were provided to 17 countries of EECCA. Owing to this assistance, Kazakhstan revised its statistical legislation in line with the UN Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics. A Global Assessment of the National Statistical System of Armenia carried out by the UNECE in cooperation with partners (EFTA and Eurostat) contributed to the development of the national framework of Official Statistics. The overall number of mutually agreed UNECE recommendations implemented by the EECCA and SEE countries in 2009 was 23.

65. Fourteen advisory missions to the EECCA and SEE countries were implemented in 2009, contributing to improved understanding of the role of Official Statistics, communication of statistical information, and other topical issues, such as the measurement of inflation. One hundred and fourteen participants enhanced their capacity in four capacity-building workshops, which contributed to strengthening the capacity of National Statistical Offices in such areas as monitoring progress towards the Millennium Development Goals, development and use of Business Registers, and implementation of Global Assessments of national statistical systems. A survey of the countries showed that, as a result of UNECE recommendations, significant changes in efficiency, quality and technology occurred in methods used for censuses.

#### **Subprogramme 4 – Economic Cooperation and Integration**

66. Technical assistance activities implemented by the Regional Adviser on Economic Cooperation and Integration were focused on promoting subregional economic cooperation among countries with economies in transition, particularly those participating in the United Nations Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia.

67. Through coordinated capacity-building work of six SPECA Project Working Groups (PWGs), the SPECA Governing Council has adopted a number of policy recommendations and guidelines related to best practices in economic cooperation and integration. Six out of seven SPECA member countries have demonstrated significant progress in their implementation, in particular, on dam and road safety. The Government of Afghanistan has requested increased technical support in key areas of regional economic cooperation, as a contribution to international stabilization efforts. Several Governments of SPECA countries have indicated their interest in acceding to the UNECE Water Convention and requested the UNECE to provide capacity-building and policy advisory services to promote the UNECE legal instruments and norms. Technical cooperation activities under the Programme on “Regional dialogue and cooperation on water resources management in Central Asia” which was implemented jointly with the Regional Adviser on Environment and the UNECE Environment, Housing and Land Management Division contributed to strengthening of regional institutions and legal frameworks for water resources management. The 2009 SPECA Economic Forum held an in-depth discussion with the participation of key partner organizations and international financial institutions on the importance of strengthened regional cooperation for the rapid recovery of SPECA countries from the world economic crisis. Some 300 government representatives and experts enhanced their capacity during the meetings of the SPECA Governing Council, Economic Forum and PWGs.

#### **Subprogramme 5 – Sustainable Energy**

68. Technical cooperation activities implemented by the Regional Adviser on Sustainable Energy were focused on assisting transition economies in accelerating the process of regional integration of their energy economies and energy infrastructure and addressing energy conservation and energy efficiency issues.

69. During the reporting period, eight countries with economies in transition strengthened capacities and skills of their experts to use various financing instruments with a view to promoting energy efficiency investments, accelerating integration of their economies in the region and developing sustainable energy systems. Capacity-building and advisory services contributed to strengthening the capacity of the recipient countries in addressing energy efficiency and energy conservation issues, in particular, the decision on establishing the Energy Efficiency and Energy Conservation Centre in Kyrgyzstan, development of the Energy Efficiency Centre and energy efficiency policies in Belarus, development of the Green Economy Vision in



Azerbaijan, and implementation of renewable energy projects in Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Poland and Uzbekistan. Four countries in the Caucasus and Central Asia and one country in South-Eastern Europe expressed their interest in establishing an Energy Efficiency and Energy Conservation Centre. Seven countries strengthened capacity of their national experts to eliminate existing barriers to the development of the renewable energy sector and prepared national reports on Renewable Energy Sources.

### Subprogramme 6 – Trade

70. Technical cooperation activities, implemented by the Regional Adviser on Trade, focused on increasing the implementation of UNECE recommendations, norms and standards for trade facilitation by countries with economies in transition.

71. As a result of capacity-building and advisory services, including those provided in the framework of two projects managed by the Regional Adviser, 26 countries strengthened their capacity to understand and implement UNECE's trade facilitation standards and measures, and improved trade development and facilitation policies. Five SPECA countries launched or strengthened Single Window national projects and two countries developed their Single Window Action Plans. Four countries adopted other trade facilitation measures and five EurAsEC countries reviewed their legislation in the areas of trade facilitation, e-commerce and the Single Window. Regional initiatives on the Single Window were reinforced in SEE and EurAsEC countries, and a new such initiative was launched in the South Caucasus. Nine South-East European countries strengthened their capacity to implement trade facilitation standards. The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia has finalized the first stage of a Single Window system, becoming the first transition economy to implement such a system.

72. More than 453 participants from 26 countries strengthened their capacity to implement trade development and regional integration policies and trade facilitation measures through participation in the capacity-building workshops and seminars organized by the Regional Adviser.

### **2.3. United Nations Development Account**

73. In the period under review, five UNECE-led projects funded under the fifth<sup>5</sup> and sixth tranches of the UNDA were under implementation by the UNECE, including three projects completed in 2009. The Development Account projects were focused on strengthening capacity building of countries with economies in transition, particularly the Central Asian states, in the areas of trade facilitation, road safety, statistics, application of international standards for commercial agricultural products, water quality, etc. Through the implementation of the UNDA-funded projects, UNECE contributed to achieving the following accomplishments/results:

**A. Project “Strengthening the statistical capacity of Central Asian countries to monitor progress towards the Millennium Development Goals”** (project duration – 2006-2009)

74. *Project objective, beneficiary countries and implementing entities:* The objective of this project was to strengthen the statistical capacity of member countries of the UN Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia (SPECA) to monitor demographic, social and economic progress toward the implementation of the Millennium Declaration. The main

---

<sup>5</sup> Includes two projects approved under additional funding to the fifth tranche.

beneficiaries of the project were the National Statistical Offices (NSOs) of Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan, and partially Afghanistan. The project activities were implemented by UNECE, in collaboration with DESA and UNESCAP.

75. ***Main accomplishments/results:*** As a result of the implementation of the project, progress was achieved in all three domains critical to the monitoring of the MDGs, namely: population and social conditions; health status of the population; and economic development, mainly in the area of the Non-Observed Economy (NOE). More than 170 national experts received training during 7 project training workshops. There were 3 study tours for the members of the SPECA Project Working Group on Statistics for sharing the best practices in the field. In addition, 5 advisory missions were implemented to provide advice on such issues as Population and Housing Censuses as well as NOE and National Accounts.

76. The project activities have contributed to achieving the following results:

- Strengthened capacity of National Statistical Offices (NSO) for tracking progress on MDGs, including the organization of next population censuses using regional UNECE standards: The 2010 round of Population and Housing Censuses have been prepared in Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, and Tajikistan in accordance with the CES Recommendations for the 2010 Censuses of Population and Housing<sup>6</sup>. Six countries have established statistical series and enhanced information datasets for tracking progress towards the MDGs. In addition, publications on specific MDG indicators have been released by the countries, e.g. *Women and Men* and *Access to Drinking Water and Sanitation* by the NSO of Kazakhstan;
- Increased capacity to produce and use statistics on the health status of population in Central Asia: Kazakhstan has moved from administrative register-based data collection to household surveys in the measurement of the health status of the population, conducting a survey on the access to health services and health status and a pilot survey on disability. Multiple household surveys providing data on health issues were carried out by Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan;
- Development and implementation of common methodologies needed for estimate the size and nature of the non-observed economy (grey and black markets): Six countries (Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan) have developed harmonized and comparable estimates of the non-observed economy in their national accounts; and
- Improved subregional cooperation in the area of statistics for tracking progress towards MDGs: The project has led to increased cooperation between the NSOs, promoting development and use of common procedures in line with international standards on population censuses, MDG indicators, health status and measurement of non-observed economy through joint training workshops, meetings, study visits, even though more tangible results will become evident in a longer time period.

77. According to an external evaluation report, the project has had a positive impact on national statisticians' ability to use international standards and best practices to monitor demographic, social and economic progress towards MDGs. To ensure continuity of these achievements and their replicability, the representatives of all Central Asian countries have expressed interest in acquiring better understanding of health indicators, specifically related to

---

<sup>6</sup> Joint publication of UNECE and EUROSTAT "Conference of European Statisticians Recommendations for the 2010 Censuses of Population and Housing", United Nations, New York and Geneva 2006, ISSN 0069-8458

disability statistics. Providing support in this area is crucial for accelerating the process towards signing and ratifying the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. In the light of this goal and as an immediate follow-up to the Project, UNECE will organize jointly with other international organizations a training workshop in 2010 for the National Statistical Offices and other MDG producing agencies of Central Asia and other CIS countries. The purpose is to address methodological issues in producing MDG-related health and mortality statistics as well as to raise awareness of good mechanisms for data sharing and dissemination of MDG indicators in the region. Several other activities have been planned to take place in the near future to reduce the gaps in the assessment of capacity to produce MDG-relevant statistics. These activities will focus on the countries of Eastern and South Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia.

**B. Project “Capacity-building in support of trade integration, with emphasis on integrated trade information flow management and trade facilitation in Central Asia” (project duration – 2006-2009)**

78. *Project objective, beneficiary countries and implementing entities:* The objective of this project was to increase the capacity of Central Asian countries to develop regional trade integration and facilitation policies, so as to increase their competitiveness in regional and global markets. The project was implemented by the UNECE in cooperation with the UNESCAP and UNCTAD.

79. *Main accomplishments/results:* The project has contributed to improved regional cooperation and increased understanding in SPECA countries of the importance of trade facilitation as a driver of development. It has led to a higher level of implementation of trade facilitation measures in Central Asia which is one of the most difficult regions to work on simplifying trade procedures. The project enhanced the knowledge of policy makers and the aid agencies active in the region of the key concepts, standards, and best practices, promoted by the UN Centre for Trade Facilitation and Electronic Business, the UNECE, UNESCAP, UNCTAD and the World Customs Organization. The objectives were achieved through the delivery of 5 regional capacity-building seminars, 4 meetings of the ministerial level SPECA Project Working Group (PWG) on Trade, and 8 additional capacity-building workshops supported through additional resources. Twenty one technical assistance missions were organised either with direct funding from the project or resources leveraged under the project. More than 750 national experts participated in the aforementioned capacity-building activities and meetings of the SPECA PWG on Trade. In addition to SPECA countries, the representatives of Armenia, Georgia, Mongolia and Ukraine benefited from some of the project activities.

80. The project activities have contributed to achieving the following results:

(a) Improved national capacity to formulate policy for trade integration, liberalization and facilitation, implementation of free trade agreements and improved trade information flows:

- A SPECA PWG on Trade was established at ministerial level and 4 meetings of the PWG were successfully organized;
- A regional Work Plan (of the PWG on Trade) and 2 Single Window Action Plans were implemented;
- 4 national Single Window and trade facilitation project plans and feasibility studies established (in Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Azerbaijan, and Kazakhstan);
- 9 sets of recommendations (from each seminar and SPECA PWG meeting) and a study on Free Trade Agreements in Central Asia were produced; and

- A pilot project on a “forms repository” for international trade was launched in Kyrgyzstan and a regional web page for such repositories was created;
- (b) Improved local capacity to implement policy in regional trade integration and to deal with innovative tools for trade facilitation and integrated management of trade information flows:
- A national trade and transport facilitation committee was set up in Kyrgyzstan;
  - 3 interagency working groups to support Single Window projects were established in Kazakhstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan and action plans to support the Single Window were developed; and
  - 5 national projects on the establishment of a Single Window were launched by countries of the region;
- (c) Increased capacity of local government agencies and the businesses to implement international standards for trade facilitation and electronic business: a number of international standards were implemented by beneficiary countries as a result of the project, in particular: the UN Layout Key for Trade Documents – in Kyrgyzstan; the UN Trade Data Elements Directory was translated into Russian for a project on trade facilitation in Kazakhstan; “Recommendation 4: National Trade Facilitation Bodies” was implemented in 6 countries; 5 countries have started implementing projects on “Recommendation 33: the Single Window” and Azerbaijan has finalized the first stage of the Single Window.

81. Participation of all the countries of the region in all activities (as opposed to organizing a series of national workshops), as well as participation of bilateral aid agencies and regional organizations in the project activities was the hallmark of the project. Due to cooperation amongst all of the SPECA countries as well as UNECE, UNESCAP, UNCTAD, UNDP, ITC, AITIC, WTO, WCO and other international organizations, the project significantly contributed to strengthening regional cooperation. The project also served as “seed money” for leveraging resources of other development agencies in the further implementation of trade facilitation measures and the UN norms, standards, and tools in projects of the development partners active in the region (GTZ, USAID, ADB, and others), as well as regional organizations and programmes, such as EurAsEC, TRACECA and CAREC. Those agencies and most of the project beneficiary countries included the concepts and standards presented in the framework of the project in their projects/activities on trade development and facilitation. In particular, the work on the Single Window initiated in Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan was taken aboard and is being implemented by various national agencies. The international donor organizations, such as GTZ, USAID, and ADB, plan to continue supporting this initiative. Additionally, the pilot project on the “forms repository” is being implemented in Kyrgyzstan on a continuous basis. The governments of the neighbouring countries expressed interest in replicating the “forms repository” project. Providing further support for this initiative would contribute to the overall positive spill-over effect of the UNDA project.

**C. Project “Improving global road safety: setting regional and national road traffic casualty reduction targets” (project duration: 2008-2009)**

82. *Project objective, beneficiary countries and implementing entities:* The objective of the project was to assist low and middle income countries to develop regional and national road traffic casualty reduction targets and provide them with examples of good road safety practice that could help them to achieve the targets selected by 2015. The project was implemented by the UNECE in cooperation with the other UN Regional Commissions (RCs), namely - Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), Economic Commission for Latin America

and the Caribbean (ECLAC), Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) and Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA).

83. **Main accomplishments/results:** Through a total number of 15 capacity-building seminars, conferences and study tours, as well as 10 national road safety case studies, the project has contributed to the improved understanding of good road safety practices, legal instruments and target setting approaches, and increased capacity of member countries of the UN Regional Commissions for developing their national road safety strategies, goals and targets. The project activities have contributed to achieving the following major results:

- In the UNECE region, the majority of countries have set a target to reduce fatalities by 50 per cent by 2012, and in almost all the low and middle income countries a lead agency for road safety was established and road safety legislation was either approved or in the process of being approved; in the UNESCAP region, countries have agreed to cut deaths by 600,000 by 2015; in the UNECA region, member countries have agreed to reduce road fatalities by 50 per cent by 2015; in the UNESCWA region, a target of 30 per cent reduction on road crash fatalities was preliminarily set for the year 2015, and 12 member States have established their national plans and strategies for road safety improvement; and in UNECLAC region, 30 per cent of member countries have established measurable national reduction targets, and 75 per cent of countries have established a national road safety agency;
- All the low and middle income countries in the UNECE region indicated that they intended to follow at least one good practice promoted by the project;
- 6 national case studies were conducted in the UNECA region to serve as successful examples of achieving a reduction in road traffic casualties;
- 16 UNECLAC countries made a written commitment to follow the best practices detected and diffused by the project;
- The final project report on regional and national road safety targets, including the recommendations on ways to achieve those targets, was issued in six languages; and
- Three UN Regional Commissions have created websites dedicated to road safety issues.

84. As a result of the project, target setting is now becoming mainstreamed in national road safety policy, being recognized as a necessary step towards casualty reduction. Most of the countries involved in the project are planning to continue or replicate some of the project activities:

- A new road safety project funded by the Russian Federation will be implemented by the UNESCAP in 2010-2011 to follow up on the First Global Ministerial Conference on Road Safety (November 2009, Moscow);
- The UNECE Road Safety Forum will follow up on the recommendations of this UNDA project;
- The Regional Commission for Road Safety in Latin America and the Caribbean has included in its Work Plan 2010 the monitoring of the road safety targets generated by the project; and
- Road safety targets identified under this UNDA project have been used for the preparation of the African Action Plan on Road Safety.

85. Achieving progress in decreasing the road safety fatalities would require continued international support and resources for monitoring and implementation of regional and national road safety targets set under the project.

**D. Project “Enhancing the capacity of developing countries to implement international standards for commercial agricultural products to improve their trade competitiveness” (project duration – 2008-2011)**

86. *Project objective, beneficiary countries and implementing entities:* The project aims to improve the ability of low-income agrarian economies to implement international standards for commercial agricultural products, and thus improve their competitiveness on international markets. Beneficiaries of the project are developing countries, particularly LDCs, and transition economies in UNECE, UNECA, UNECLAC, UNESCAP and UNESCWA regions. The project is implemented by the UNECE in cooperation with the other UN Regional Commissions, UNCTAD, UNIDO, Codex Alimentarius and other agencies.

87. *Main accomplishments/results in 2009:* Project activities increased understanding among policy-makers, growers and traders of the economic advantages of meeting the internationally agreed quality standards, and gave impetus to creating or improving the legal and technical infrastructures in beneficiary countries for the implementation of such standards in production and trade. Three regional workshops were held for countries of Africa and the Middle East (Cairo, Egypt, 16-19 March), Eastern and South-Eastern Africa (Nairobi, Kenya, 21-24 April), and Central Asia (Osh, Kyrgyzstan, 14-17 July) to train more than 190 national experts on agricultural quality standards. The conclusions and recommendations of these workshops were used by governments and the private sector to develop the legal, institutional and technical infrastructures necessary for the implementation of standards. A number of countries who participated in the workshops adopted national standards based on UNECE agricultural quality standards. The workshops’ training materials, provided to participants on CDs, have been used at the national level for further training of farmers, traders and inspectors on how to apply standards to raise quality of agricultural products. A network of national and international experts in standardization of agricultural products has been established, and local and regional networks have been formed to work on specific projects. Practical work has started on the preparation of regional workshops on agricultural commercial quality standards in Chile for Latin American countries, in Russia for CIS countries, and in Indonesia for Asian countries.

**E. Project “Water quality in Central Asia” (project duration – 2009-2011)**

88. *Project objective, beneficiary countries and implementing entities:* The objective of the project is to contribute to the development of efficient and coordinated national policies with regard to water-quality aspects of integrated water resources management in Central Asia. Beneficiaries of the project are Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan, which are dependent on each other with regard to the water resources of transboundary rivers, lakes and transboundary groundwaters. The project is implemented by the UNECE in cooperation with the UNESCAP and UNEP.

89. *Main accomplishments/results in 2009:* As a result of the first implementation year, national meetings on water quality management were held in all five countries, and national background studies including an overview of the existing legal frameworks were prepared for four participating countries. The first project year has revealed that low level of capacity on water quality management as well as interagency competition in the region could complicate the introduction of a concept that would effectively link the water quality monitoring, policymaking and evaluation aspects. Therefore, it was an important development that all five countries have

nominated the representatives of their environmental and water authorities to establish a regional working group on water quality management.

### **III. Funding of the UNECE technical cooperation activities**

90. The UNECE technical cooperation activities were funded from the UN regular budget as well as extrabudgetary resources. Funding from the UN regular budget included three sources: 1) the Programme “Economic development in Europe”; 2) the Regular Programme of Technical Cooperation; and 3) the United Nations Development Account.

91. Resources for technical cooperation from the regular budget under the Program “Economic development in Europe” were used in support of advisory services and capacity-building activities in countries with economies in transition aimed at facilitating their accession to, and implementation of the UNECE legal instruments, regulations, norms and standards.

92. Resources of the Regular Programme of Technical Cooperation were used for provision of advisory services, capacity-building workshops and training courses, and implementation of projects in the main areas of UNECE’s work. In 2009, RPTC final expenditures for the UNECE technical cooperation activities amounted to US\$ 1.72 million. The environmental subprogramme accounted for 21.2 per cent of the RPTC expenditures, representing the highest allocation of funds. The distribution of total RPTC expenditures among the rest of the subprogrammes - sustainable energy, economic cooperation and integration, statistics, transport, and trade was as follows: 18.8 per cent, 16.4 per cent, 15.9 per cent, 14.3 per cent, and 13.4 per cent respectively.

93. Funding from the United Nations Development Account regular budget was aimed at supporting the efforts of countries with economies in transition to achieve internationally agreed development goals, including the MDGs. The total expenditures of UNDA resources for the UNECE projects in 2009 amounted to US\$ 555,000. In 2009, the United Nations General Assembly approved 2 new UNECE project proposals under the seventh tranche of the Development Account (2010-2011). The total budget of these new Development Account projects is US\$ 1,368,000.

94. Extrabudgetary contributions to the UNECE Trust Funds were provided on a voluntary basis by individual Governments, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations (the World Bank, the WHO, UNDP, the International Road Union etc.), the European Commission and the private sector. In 2009, trust fund contributions amounted to US\$ 15.1 million, reflecting a 32 per cent increase over 2008. It is important to note that the extrabudgetary resources accounted for 87 per cent of all UNECE resources for technical cooperation.

95. As in previous years, member States have been the UNECE’s largest contributors, providing 77.2 per cent of the total extrabudgetary resources in 2009. The top ten bilateral donors, by the size of contributions, comprised Germany, Italy, France, the Russian Federation, Switzerland, Norway, the Netherlands, the United Kingdom, Spain, and Sweden. These countries accounted for 65 per cent of the total extrabudgetary contributions. Germany was the largest donor country in 2009, providing more than 16 per cent of all voluntary contributions of member States. Most of the German funds were allocated to a 3-year project in Central Asia that aims to improve dialogue and cooperation on water resources management in the region.

96. The share of European Commission and private sector contributions in extrabudgetary resources have dropped from 8 and 7 per cent in 2008 to 4.7 and 2.6 per cent in 2009

respectively. The amount of contributions from intergovernmental and non-governmental organisations has increased by 45 per cent, reaching 15.5 per cent of the total extrabudgetary resources in 2009.

97. It is noteworthy that the environment and sustainable energy sectors, with 54.5<sup>7</sup> and 27.5 per cent, represented the highest proportion of UNECE extrabudgetary expenditures in 2009. The shares of the other sectors (transport; economic cooperation and integration; trade; housing, land management and population; statistics; and timber and forestry) in extrabudgetary expenditures were substantially lower: 9.5 per cent, 3.4 per cent, 1.9 per cent, 1.7 per cent, 1 per cent and 0.5 per cent, respectively.

#### **IV. Conclusions and recommendations**

98. In 2009, the UNECE technical cooperation activities continued to be guided by the principles and priorities identified by the UNECE member States in the Technical Cooperation Strategy. Given the mandate of the organization, UNECE technical assistance was linked to its normative work and focused on assisting countries of the region to accede to, adopt and implement UNECE legal instruments, norms, standards and regulations and address regional/subregional and transboundary issues. All UNECE technical cooperation activities were provided upon requests of governments and/or upon recommendations of Sectoral Committees, implemented in areas where the Commission has strong in-house expertise and clear comparative advantage over other organizations, and undertaken with the full involvement of beneficiary countries. Closer linkages were established and stronger synergies promoted within the UNECE particularly when technical cooperation activities were carried out within subregional frameworks covering intersectoral areas, as stipulated by the UNECE Technical Cooperation Strategy.

99. During the reporting period, the UNECE carried out 75 advisory missions, 102 capacity-building activities (workshops, trainings and seminars) and 35 various projects including 5 projects funded from the United Nations Development Account. Countries with economies in transition remained the major beneficiaries of the UNECE technical cooperation, with more than 90 per cent of activities focused on countries eligible for ODA<sup>8</sup>.

100. Most of the UNECE technical cooperation activities were either of regional, subregional or interregional nature which enabled the UNECE to make the optimal use of its limited resources while promoting regional and/or subregional cooperation on issues of common concern or shared interests. Countries of Central Asia and South-Eastern Europe continued to be the major focus of the UNECE technical assistance, accounting for 30 and 14 per cent of the UNECE technical cooperation activities respectively. The SPECA programme remained the main framework for the delivery of technical cooperation assistance to the Central Asian region while the Regional Cooperation Council (RCC) served as an umbrella for the UNECE technical cooperation activities in South-Eastern Europe. The establishment of the UNECE-UNESCAP Joint Office in Central Asia is expected to further increase coherence in programme delivery and strengthen cooperation with partner organizations in providing technical assistance in this region.

---

<sup>7</sup> Includes the contribution of US\$3.0 million to the Trust Funds established under the Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution for funding the work of the coordinating programme centers.

<sup>8</sup> Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Montenegro, Republic of Moldova, Serbia, Tajikistan, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkmenistan, Ukraine and Uzbekistan.



Countries of Eastern Europe and the Caucasus accounted for 13 and 5 per cent of technical cooperation activities respectively while the remaining 38 per cent of such activities were of a regional nature, involving countries of two or more subregions.

101. In 2009, the UNECE has further strengthened partnerships with all relevant stakeholders in the region, including the UN system and international organizations, regional and subregional organizations and initiatives, financial institutions, the private sector, civil society and academia. Almost all UNECE technical cooperation activities were carried out in collaboration with UN entities such as UNDP, UNFPA, UNEP, UNCTAD, FAO, WIPO, UN regional economic commissions; international and regional organizations and financial institutions, including the World Bank, the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, and the Asian Development Bank. A large number of activities were implemented in partnership with regional and subregional organizations and initiatives, such as the Commonwealth of Independent States, the Eurasian Economic Community, the Organization of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation, etc. Partnerships with other stakeholders in providing technical assistance enabled the UNECE to attract external expertise, avoid potential overlap or duplication, and use more effectively its financial and human resources, as well as its comparative advantage in normative, analytical and technical work.

102. Following the 2007 Triennial Comprehensive Policy Review which encouraged the UN development system to intensify its collaboration at the country level, the UNECE has increased its involvement in the collective response of the UN system to national development priorities through active participation in the UNDAF process. The UNECE has become an UNDAF implementing partner in countries of South-Eastern Europe (Bosnia and Herzegovina and The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia) and Central Asia (Kazakhstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan) in 2009. It was also actively engaged in the UNDAF process in UNDAF roll out countries in the region (Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Serbia and Turkey) in 2009 both as an UN entity and as a member of the CEB Inter-Agency Cluster on Trade and Productive Capacity.

103. Participation in the UNDAFs and the work of the CEB Inter-Agency Cluster has contributed to greater coherence of the UN operational work, enhanced cooperation with the UN country teams and increased visibility of the UNECE at the country level.

104. Despite the recent financial crisis and economic recession, the total extrabudgetary contributions to the UNECE Trust Funds have increased by 32 per cent, bringing the total amount of extrabudgetary resources to US\$ 15.1 million in 2009. Member States were the UNECE's largest donors, raising their contributions by 60 per cent as compared to the previous year.

**105. Strengthening the UNECE technical cooperation requires the systematic sharing of good practices and lessons learned. To this end, evaluations are a primary tool for identifying those best practices and lessons learned with a view to integrating them in future project/activity planning processes. It is therefore important to ensure that both regular budget and extrabudgetary UNECE technical cooperation projects/activities are regularly evaluated and findings of evaluations are properly disseminated to improve future projects design and implementation.**

**106. In recent years the UNECE has increased the use of national expertise in providing its technical assistance to countries with economies in transition. This practice needs to be further enhanced to ensure sustainability and effectiveness, as well as greater impact of UNECE technical cooperation activities, and increase national ownership of development.**

107. The following information related to technical cooperation activities is available on the UNECE website:

(i) List of activities of the UNECE Regional Advisers in 2009:

<http://www.unece.org/operact/opera/RegionalAdvisoryActivities2009.pdf>

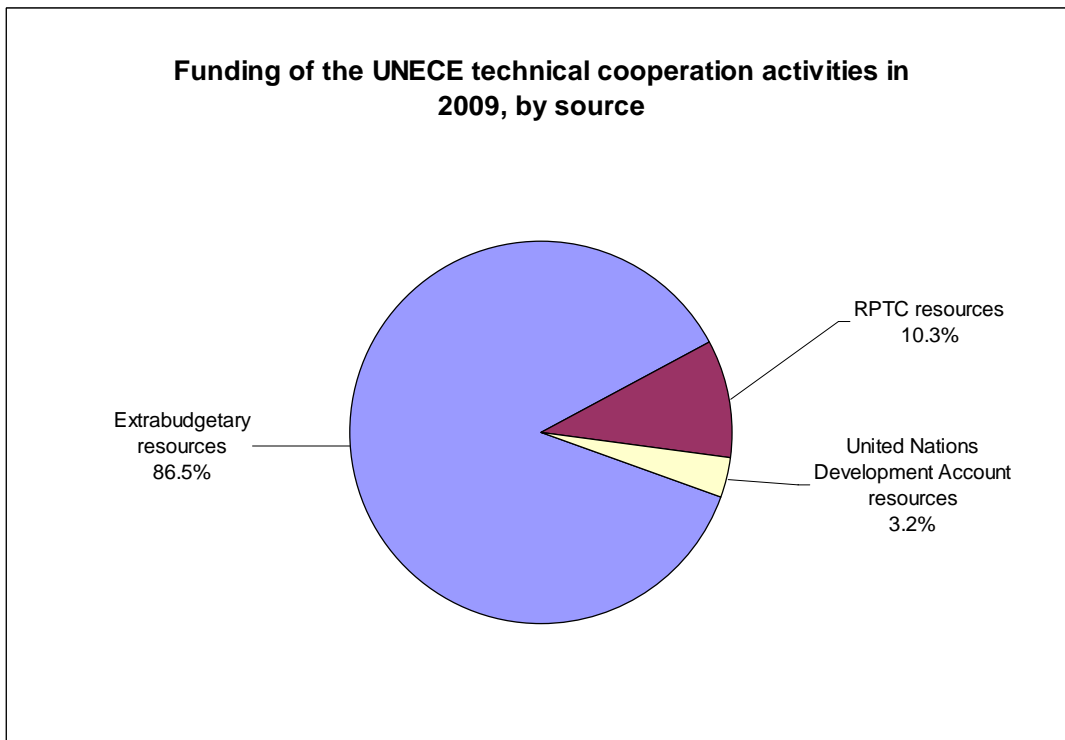
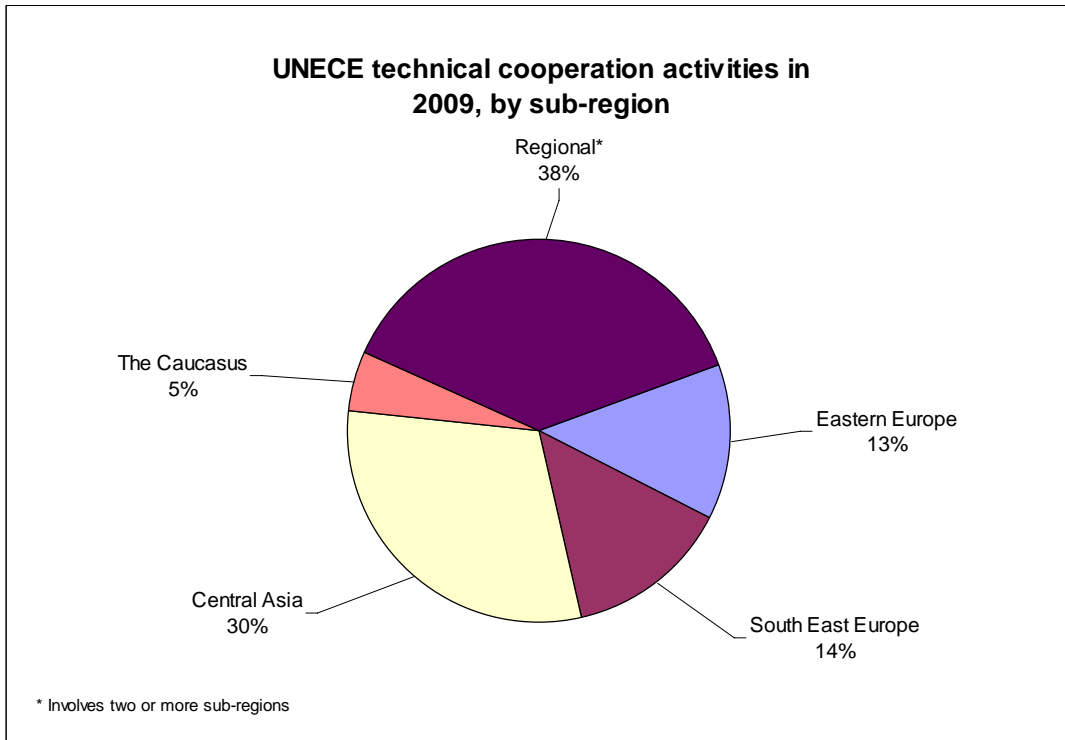
(ii) List of UNECE technical cooperation projects:

<http://www.unece.org/operact/opera/ogtheme.pdf>

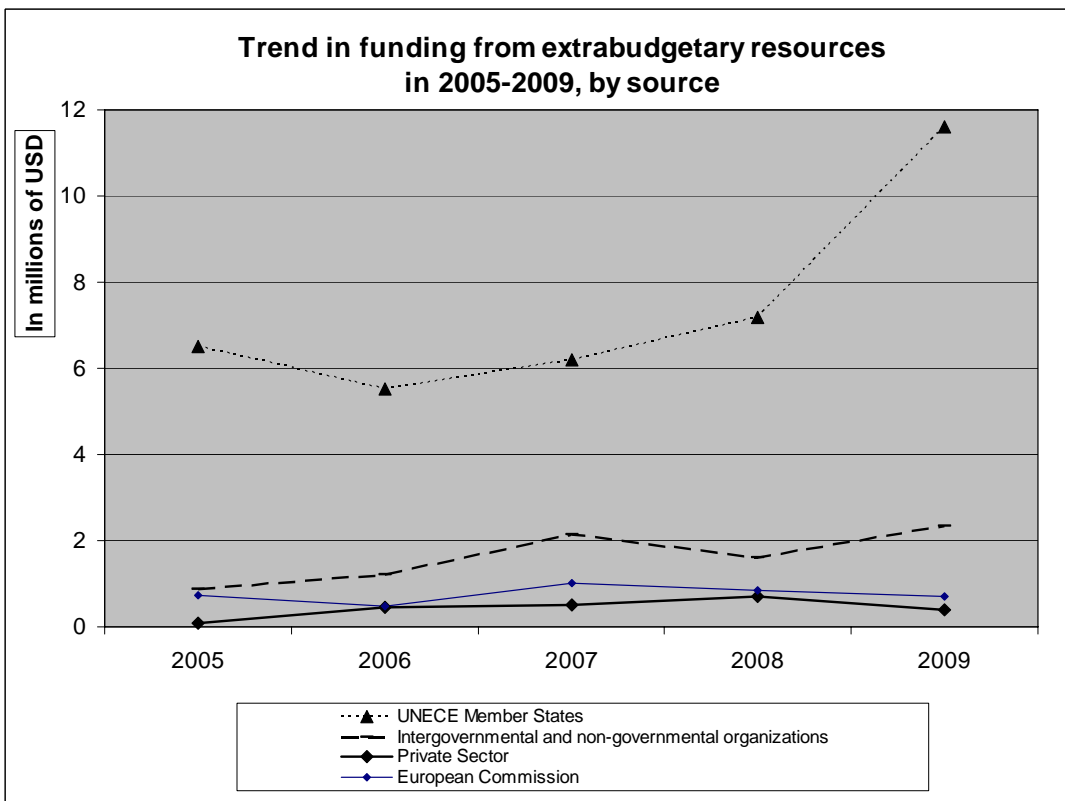
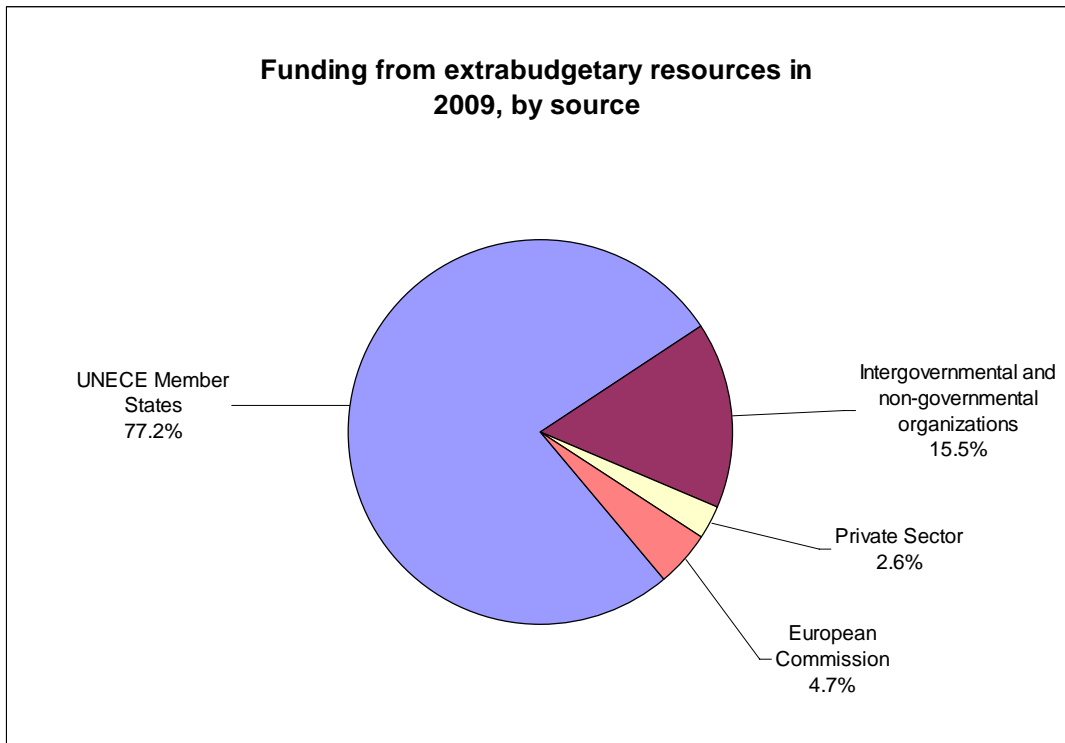
(iii) Expenditures under the UNECE technical cooperation trust funds:

<http://www.unece.org/operact/opera/TFExpenditures2009.pdf>

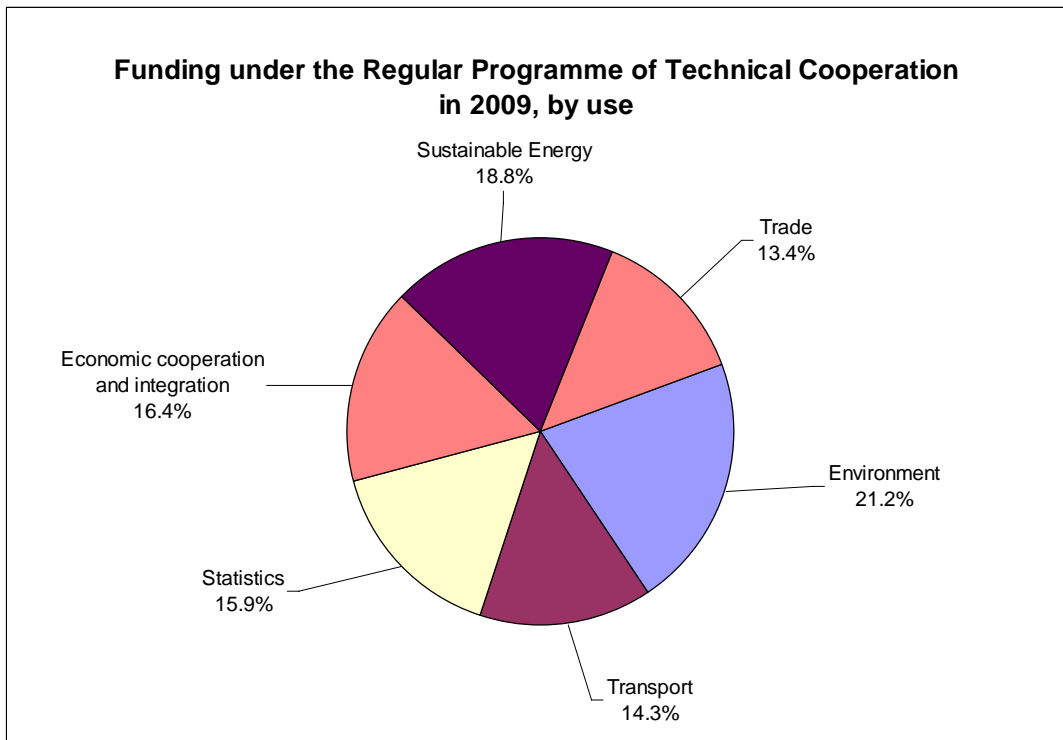
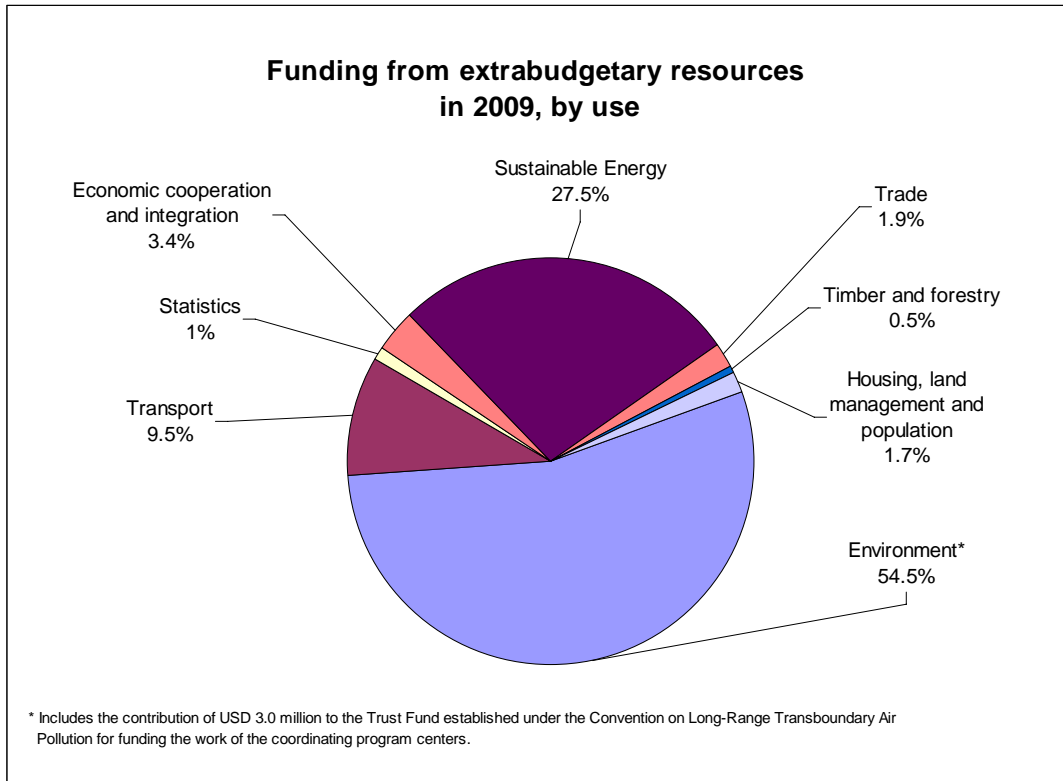
## Annex I



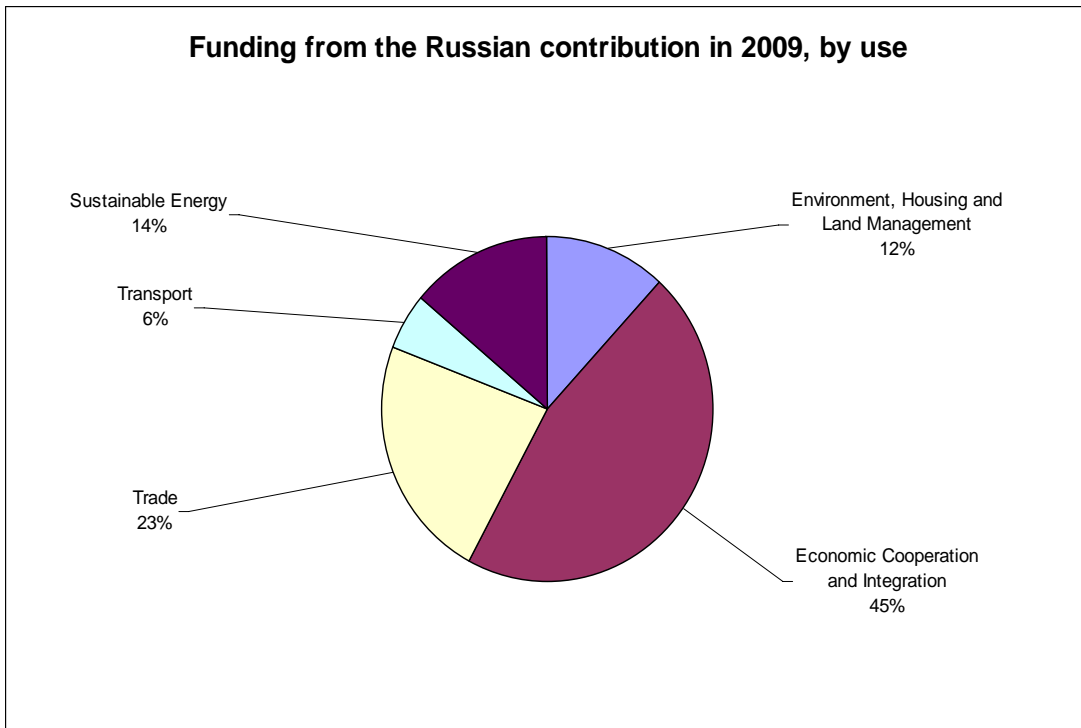
## Annex II



### Annex III



## Annex IV



## Annex V

### List of acronyms

|            |   |
|------------|---|
| ADB        | Asian Development Bank  |
| AITIC      | Agency for International Trade Information and Cooperation                                |
| BSEC       | Black Sea Economic Cooperation  |
| CAREC      | Central Asia Regional Economic Cooperation  |
| CEB        | Chief Executives Board  |
| CEP        | Committee on Environment Policy   |
| CES        | Committee of European Statisticians   |
| CIS        | Commonwealth of Independent States  |
| DESA       | Department for Economic and Social Affairs  |
| EATL       | EURO-ASIAN Transport Linkages   |
| EASC       | Euro-Asian Interstate Council for Standardization, Metrology and Certification            |
| EBRD       | European Bank for Reconstruction and Development  |
| EC         | European Commission   |
| ECO        | Economic Cooperation Organization   |
| EECCA      | Eastern Europe, the Caucasus, and Central Asia  |
| EFTA       | European Free Trade Association   |
| EPR        | Environmental Performance Review  |
| EU         | European Union  |
| EurAsEC    | Eurasian Economic Community   |
| FAO        | Food and Agriculture Organization   |
| GTZ        | Deutsche Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit                                       |
| IAEA       | International Atomic Energy Agency  |
| IEA        | International Energy Agency   |
| IFAS       | International Fund for Saving the Aral Sea  |
| IRU        | International Road Union  |
| ITC        | International Trade Commission  |
| KBD        | Knowledge-based development   |
| LDCs       | Least Developed Countries   |
| MDGs       | Millennium Development Goals  |
| ODA        | Official Development Assistance   |
| OECD (DAC) | Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (Development Assistance Committee) |
| OSCE       | Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe                                       |
| PPP        | Public-private partnerships   |
| RCC        | Regional Cooperation Council  |
| RPTC       | Regular Programme of Technical Cooperation  |
| SEE        | South-Eastern Europe  |
| SPECA      | Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia                                       |
| TEM        | Trans-European Motorway   |
| TER        | Trans-European Railway  |
| TRACECA    | Transport Corridor Europe-Caucasus-Asia   |
| UNECA      | United Nations Economic Commission for Africa   |
| UNECLAC    | United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean                    |
| UNESCWA    | United Nations Economic and Social Commission for West Asia                               |
| UN/CEFACT  | United Nations Centre for Trade Facilitation and Electronic Business                      |

|            |  |
|------------|--|
| UNCTAD     | United Nations Conference on Trade and Development                     |
| UNDA       | United Nations Development Account                                     |
| UNDAF      | United Nations Development Assistance Framework                        |
| UNDP       | United Nations Development Programme                                   |
| UNECE      | United Nations Economic Commission for Europe                          |
| UNEP       | United Nations Environment Programme                                   |
| UNESCAP    | United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific |
| UNF        | United Nations Foundation  |
| UNFIP      | United Nations Fund for International Partnership                      |
| UNFPA      | United Nations Population Fund   |
| UN-HABITAT | United Nations Human Settlements Programme                             |
| UNICEF     | United Nations Children's Fund   |
| UNIDO      | United Nations Industrial Development Organization                     |
| UNIFEM     | United National Development Fund for Women                             |
| UNITAR     | United Nations Institute for Training and Research                     |
| UNSD       | United Nations Statistics Division                                     |
| USAID      | U.S. Agency for International Development                              |
| WCO        | World Customs Organization   |
| WIPO       | World Intellectual Property Organization                               |
| WMO        | World Meteorological Organization                                      |
| WTO        | World Trade Organization   |

---