

UNECE Donor Meeting
06 April 2017, Palais des Nations, Geneva
Summary of discussions

Participants:

Representatives from the Governments of: Czech Republic, Estonia, European Union, Finland, France, Germany, Kazakhstan, Montenegro, Poland, Russian Federation, Serbia, Switzerland, United Kingdom, Ukraine.

Opening remarks:

Mr. Christian Friis Bach, UNECE Executive Secretary, welcomed participants, to the very first UNECE donor meeting. He welcomed the opportunity to collectively think about ways to implement the Resource Mobilization Strategy adopted in September 2016.

Internal governance measures and budgetary status of UNECE:

Mr. Friis Bach outlined the governance measures instituted in the Secretariat for receiving, monitoring and reporting on extrabudgetary resources. Mr. Friis Bach reassured participants of continuous efforts of the Secretariat to improve the efficiency and transparency of the management of extrabudgetary resources in UNECE, highlighting the availability of information contained in the Project Monitoring Tool, and OpenUNECE.

Mr. Friis Bach presented an overview of regular budget appropriations (US \$ 32.4m in 2016) and extrabudgetary contributions (US \$ 13.8m in 2016), as well as the analysis of contributions by donor group, top ten donors and extrabudgetary trends for the period 2006-2016.

While regular budget appropriations and extrabudgetary contributions overall show stable along the years; 2016 is marked by a 9.5% decrease in overall income. In addition, Mr. Friis Bach noted that the regular budget of UNECE will be reduced by an additional US \$ 1million for the 2018-2019 biennium.

In light of the above, Mr. Friis Bach reiterated the importance of strategically engaging with donors and partners to ensure that UNECE continues to deliver efficiently on all expected outputs, including the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

Presentation of project documents:

The highlight of the meeting was the presentation of nine project documents that UNECE Divisions presented as cross-sectoral work streams that require financial support, with a view to ensure the smooth delivery of mandated activities.

Mr. Friis Bach noted that all project documents had been quality assured by the Programme Management Unit as per the process for project documents for EXCOM approval (with the exception of the provisional proposal on Improving Poverty Measurement in the UNECE region). He highlighted that this consultation provided Member States with an opportunity to comment and guide UNECE resource mobilization efforts before the broader dissemination of the project documents with potential donors, namely: Member States, International Funds, International Financial Institutions, Foundations, Private actors as deemed appropriate.

List of presentations:

1)- Women's Economic Empowerment in Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia
Contributing to the achievement of SDG 5 in the UNECE region

Delivered by Malinka Koparanova, UNECE Gender Focal Point, Sustainable Development & Gender Unit

2)-The United Nations Framework Classification
For effective management of national resource endowments and socio-economically efficient development of the energy resources

Delivered by Charlotte Griffiths, Chief of Section, Sustainable Energy Division

3)-Presentation of the Regional Forum on Sustainable Development
Building a platform for stakeholders to support the implementation of the 2030 Agenda in the region

Delivered by Monika Linn, Principal Adviser & Chief, Sustainable Development & Gender Unit

4)- The Trade Facilitation Implementation Guide
Building capacity to ease trade across borders for sustainable growth in UNECE region

Delivered by Mika Vepsalainen, Officer in Charge, Trade Division

5)- Energy Efficiency Standards in Buildings
For improving the energy efficiency in buildings and reduce global greenhouse gas emissions in UNECE region

Delivered by Oleg Dzioubinski, Senior Officer, Sustainable Energy Division, in cooperation with the Forest, Land and Housing Division

6)- The ForFITS model and tool for CO2 reduction in transport - moving to the next stage
Assessing Future GHG and local air pollutant emissions to foster sustainable transport policies For Future Inland Transport Systems

Delivered by Eva Molnar, Director, Transport Division

7)- The Forests of the Future
Developing outlook studies to shape forest policies for the next thirty years.

Delivered by Florian Steierer, Economic Affairs Officer, Joint UNECE/FAO Forestry and Timber Section

8)- Improving poverty measurement in the UNECE region

Raising UNECE Member States' capacity in addressing the increasing demand for high quality and comparable data and promote common efficiencies.

Delivered by Andres Vikat, Chief, Social and Demographic Section, Statistical Division

9)- Green Living Goes East

Promoting sustainable lifestyles and consumption patterns through education for sustainable development in selected countries of Eastern Europe and the Caucasus.

Delivered by Marco Keiner, Director, Environment Division

Comments & questions by participants:

Participants welcomed UNECE's effort to engage Member States in the resource mobilization efforts in a transparent and inclusive manner.

The representative of the European Union recalled the importance of UNECE governance measures and asked for more details on the United Nations Framework Classification system for the management of national resource endowments (UNFC).

The representative of the Russian Federation asked about the synergy between the annual consolidated application to the Russian Federation and the multi-donor projects presented at the donor meeting, as well as UNECE's capacity to handle such projects. The Russian Federation indicated that no additional extrabudgetary funding will be allocated in 2017 and stressed the importance of evaluation and monitoring of projects in order to increase transparency and efficiency of UNECE initiatives.

The representative of France agreed with the proposal to organize other donor meetings with a view to follow and guide UNECE's efforts in resource mobilization. France welcomed the informal pager on UNECE governance measures and asked for additional information on the tracking (receipts) and execution of the extrabudgetary contributions by UNECE, including in the website. France showed interest in the project entitled "Statistics on Population, Gender & Society", and asked if it is possible to compare disaggregated data across countries and regions.

Conclusions:

Mr. Christian Friis Bach, UNECE Executive Secretary, thanked the participants for their interest in, and support to the initiative. He reassured participants that all planning, monitoring, reporting and evaluation of extrabudgetary projects in undertaken in compliance with UNECE governance measures as well as UN Administrative and Financial Rules and Regulations.

Ms. Vanessa Buchot, UNECE Resource Mobilization Officer reassured participants that the first donor meeting served as an informal consultation with UNECE member States to guide UNECE resource mobilization efforts and provided an opportunity for UNECE sub-programmes to present areas of work that require funding support in 2017 and beyond. Ms. Buchot availed herself shall Member States have any questions or wish to further comment the project documents.

Next step will consist in disseminating the project documents with request for funding and partnership across potential donor groups such as member States, International Funds, International Financial Institutions, Foundations, and Private sector actors as deemed appropriate. The Secretariat will submit project documents to EXCOM for approval when a donor pledges support as normal procedure.

UNECE intends to introduce a more systematic and effective promotion of UNECE Work Programmes with donors, with the aim to expand UNECE donor base, to increase the resources mobilised across all UNECE sub-programmes, provide Divisions with more predictable income and extrabudgetary staff capacity to manage their respective projects, as deemed appropriate. UNECE also aims at strengthening existing and build new strategic partnerships with partners such as International Organizations to access new sources of funding.

Finally, Mr. Christian Friis Bach offered to call on another UNECE Donor Meeting towards the end of 2017 in order to brief Member States on the progress made and actions undertaken towards mobilizing resources for UNECE Work Programmes.

Geneva, 12 April 2017