



**UNITED NATIONS SPECIAL PROGRAMME FOR THE ECONOMIES OF
CENTRAL ASIA (SPECA)**

**Expert meeting on the United Nations Special Programme for the
Economies of Central Asia (SPECA)**

Almaty, Kazakhstan, 11-12 June 2018

INFORMATION NOTE

I. INTRODUCTION

This Information note provides some details regarding the Expert meeting on the United Nations Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia (SPECA) jointly organized by the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) and the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP).

The Expert Meeting will review latest developments in the region and the SPECA to reinvigorate regional cooperation with a view to reach the goals of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Experts are expected to review the SPECA Evaluation Report and its recommendations, inform the meeting on their countries' position, provide or support ideas for the way forward.

II. VENUE

The Expert meeting will take place on 11 and 12 June 2018 in the conference room "Alatau" of the Grand Hotel "Tien-Shan" (address: 115, Bogenbay Batyr Street, Almaty, Kazakhstan, <http://ts-hotels.kz>).

III. ORGANIZATION

Participants are requested to register at the desk in front of the conference room "Alatau" between 09:00 to 09:30 hours on 11 June 2018. Only the names of duly registered participants will be included in the list of participants of the meeting. Please send your completed registration form to the organizers by the email address indicated in the form.

IV. PASSPORTS AND VISAS

All participants are advised to consult with the consulate of Kazakhstan in their respective countries of residence regarding the latest applicable visa requirements and, if needed, to obtain an appropriate visa prior to their departure. Requests for issuance of a visa support letter should be sent to Ms. Indira Konelbayeva, Administrative Assistant, ESCAP Subregional Office for North and Central Asia at e-mail: escap-sonca@un.org together with the passport copy, registration form, indicating home address and travel dates/flight details, if available, not later than 24 May 2018.

V. TRAVEL OF MEETING PARTICIPANTS

The UNECE secretariat will provide financial support for the participation of two delegates per country, nominated by the Governments of the SPECA countries. The nomination of delegates should be send to the UNECE secretariat by email: mijidgombo.oyunjargal@un.org.

VI. TRANSPORTATION

The participants are responsible for their transfer from airport to hotel and from hotel to airport. Taxis from the EcoTaxi booth with the green logo below are readily available at the Almaty International Airport. Transfers cost approximately 3,000-4,000 Kazakhstani tenge (KZT).



VII. ACCOMMODATION

Participants are expected to make their own hotel booking in Almaty. Special UN rate of KZT 21,000 (approximately USD 65) for single standard room per night with breakfast included is offered to the meeting participants at the Grand Hotel "Tien-Shan" where the meeting will be held.

The Grand Hotel "Tien-Shan" can provide an airport transfer service in Almaty at the cost of KZT 5,500 (approximately USD 17) for one-way from the airport to the hotel. The contact details of the hotel for reservations are: +7 (727) 244 96 11, reservations@ts-hotels.kz. The participants are requested to inform the organizers whether they are staying in Grand Hotel "Tien-Shan" or not.

VIII. DOCUMENTATION

Documents for the Expert meeting on the United Nations Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia (SPECA) can be downloaded as they become available from <http://www.unece.org/index.php?id=48613>.

IX. INTERPRETATION AND VISUAL AIDS

Simultaneous interpretation in English and Russian as well as facilities for computer-aided presentations (e.g. PowerPoint) will be provided.

X. FURTHER INFORMATION

Further information on the expert meeting on SPECA can be obtained from:

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XI. USEFUL INFORMATION

Climate: The climate in Kazakhstan is continental with cold winters and hot summers. In June, the average daily temperature in Almaty usually varies from +24 to +30 °C.

Time: GMT+6

Smoking: In accordance with the law of Kazakhstan, smoking in public places is prohibited.

Banking services: ATMs are available in the majority of hotels.

Currency: The local currency is “Tenge”. Most hotels and shops accept credit cards, including Visa and Mastercard.

International calls: For international calls, please dial: 8 + 10 + country code + dialed number.

Emergency phone number:

- 101 – Fire emergency
- 102 – Police
- 103 – Ambulance

Electricity: Alternating current, 220V with 50 Hz frequency.

Taxi services: For local taxi services, please contact the hotel reception.
