



## **Inauguration Session of the SPECA Project Working Group on Knowledge-based Development**

(Baku, Azerbaijan, 12 November 2008)

### **REPORT**

The inauguration session of the SPECA Project Working Group on Knowledge-based Development (PWG on KBD) was organized by UNECE in cooperation with ESCAP and the Government of the Republic of Azerbaijan on 12 November 2008 in Baku. In conjunction with the session, UNECE Regional Capacity-building Seminar on Legal Aspects of ICT Policymaking with a focus on E-Commerce was also organized in Baku on 13-14 November 2008.

Representatives of Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan participated in the session along with representatives of UNECE and ESCAP. A representative of the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation also participated as an observer.

#### **Opening session**

H.E. Mr. Elmir Velizadeh, Deputy Minister for Communications and Information Technologies of the Republic of Azerbaijan welcomed the representatives from SPECA member countries participating in the session. He highlighted the importance of the knowledge-based sector's activities for economic development, and expressed appreciation to UNECE and ESCAP for the support in creating the PWG on KBD within the SPECA framework.

Mr. Andrey Vasilyev, Director, UNECE Economic Cooperation and Integration Division, in his opening speech expressed appreciation to the Government of the Republic of Azerbaijan for hosting this important event. He addressed the fact that UNECE Economic Cooperation and Integration Division is committed to support the newly created PWG by providing secretariat support, contributing capacity-building of the senior policymakers in the area such as innovation and competitiveness policies for innovative development, financing innovative development, commercialization and protection of intellectual property rights and public-private partnerships in addition to the ICT policy and legal issues which UNECE has been providing supports since 2005.

Mr. Xuan Zengpei, Director, ESCAP Information and Communications Technology and Disaster Risk Reduction Division, in his speech expressed appreciation to the host Government and UNECE for taking lead in organizing this important event. He expressed

continued support from ESCAP to the PWG under its renewed mandates on ICT and disaster risk reduction.

### **Election of officers and adoption of the agenda**

Mr. Andrey Vasilyev recalled that the SPECA Governing Council at its second session (Berlin, 14 November 2007) welcomed the interest of Azerbaijan to continue Co-Chairing the PWG with a broadened mandate and invited other SPECA member countries to consider nominating the second Co-Chair of the Group. He, therefore, invited the PWG to endorse Co-Chairmanship of Azerbaijan.

**Decision: The PWG elected Azerbaijan as the Co-Chair of the SPECA PWG on Knowledge-based Development.**

The session was conducted under the chairmanship of Azerbaijan. The Chairperson invited the representatives of other SPECA member countries to consider nominating the other Co-Chair of the Group in accordance with procedures established by the SPECA Governing Council. Representative of Kyrgyzstan expressed his country's interest to become another Co-Chair of the PWG.

**Decision: The PWG elected Kyrgyzstan as the Co-Chair of the SPECA PWG on Knowledge-based Development.**

The Chairperson introduced the annotated provisional agenda, which has been circulated to the participants in advance of the meeting and asked if delegations have any amendments. In absence thereof, the Chairperson invited the Project Working Group to adopt the agenda.

**Decision: The PWG on KBD adopted the agenda for its inauguration (first) session.**

### **Approval of the Terms of Reference of the Project Working Group on Knowledge-based Development**

The Chairperson recalled that the Governing Council of SPECA at its second session (Berlin, 14 November 2007) supported the proposal to broaden the mandate of the Project Working Group on ICT for Development (PWG on ICT) and to transform it into the Project Working Group on Knowledge-based Development (PWG on KBD). The Governing Council in principle agreed with the Terms of Reference of the PWG on KBD and invited the Group to approve them.

The Chairperson asked if delegations have any comments on the Terms of Reference.

Representative of Kyrgyzstan suggested that considering the thematic orientation of the PWG as suggested in its expanded Terms of Reference, Governments need to involve in its work experts from academia, private sector and other relevant stakeholders.

The Chairperson then invited the Project Working Group to adopt the Terms of Reference with the proposed amendment.

**Decisions:** The PWG approved the decision of the second session of the SPECA Governing Council (SPECA/GC/Dec/2007/4) to establish the SPECA Project Working Group on Knowledge-based Development by transforming the former Project Working Group on ICT for Development.

The PWG adopted Terms of Reference of the Project Working Group on Knowledge-based Development (see Annex I).

### Substantive Segment

Ms. Michiko Enomoto, Secretary to the PWG on KBD and the Secretary to the former PWG on ICT at UNECE, reported on activities carried out within the framework of these PWGs from 2006 to 2008.

Mr. Andrey Vasilyev introduced possible thematic areas and activities which could be dealt with by the PWG on KBD with a reference to the mandate as well as ongoing and future work of the UNECE Committee on Economic Cooperation and Integration (CECI). He introduced five focus areas for the consideration of the PWG: (a) innovation and competitiveness policies for innovative development; (b) financing innovative development; (c) entrepreneurship in innovative firms; (d) commercialization and protection of intellectual property rights; and (e) public-private partnerships. He underlined that UNECE has already carried out substantive work in those areas in cooperation with the UNECE Teams of Specialists and UNECE's willing to contribute expertise for the new PWG activities.

Mr. Cihat Basocak, Information Technology Officer, ESCAP ICT and Disaster Risk Reduction Division, introduced possible areas of future ICT and disaster risk reduction related activities for the consideration of the Project Working Group on Knowledge-based Development.

Representative of Kyrgyzstan underscored the importance of ensuring that all members of the Group in its work use the same terminology, especially as far as legal definitions of certain terms related to KBD are concerned. In this context, he highlighted the importance of harmonization of related terminology used in various SPECA member countries as well as by various international organizations. This is particularly relevant for the private sector and foreign investors, which may be confused by different definitions used by different countries. In addition, he stressed the importance of effective monitoring of progress in countries towards their knowledge-based development and implementation of their national development strategies, which requires the use of proper indicators as well as a participatory process involving all relevant stakeholders.

Tajikistan expressed its general support to the proposals made by Kyrgyzstan. At the same time, Uzbekistan informed that similar work on terminology may have been already carried out by several professional organizations such as *Incoterms* by International Chamber of Commerce as well as by ISO, ITU, SCO and CIS among others. The PWG noted that such tasks may be very complex and it may require thorough methodological approach, therefore, may be beyond the scope of the PWG. As far as the monitoring is

concerned, PWG felt that while this task is also important, monitoring should take place at the national level.

The Chairperson invited Kyrgyzstan to elaborate more in writing on the issues referred to above, and to circulate them to the members of the Group as well as UNECE and ESCAP for further clarifications and with a view to possibly addressing these issues at the next PWG session.

Representative of Tajikistan in general supported new thematic areas, such as promoting innovation and innovative development, supporting knowledge-based competitiveness, financing ICT infrastructure and innovative development, commercialization and protection of intellectual property, and private-public partnerships, in addition to the information and communication technologies for development. The importance of cooperation with other international and regional organizations and their participation for the activities of the PWG was highlighted.

#### **Conclusions and Recommendations:**

**The PWG studied the presentation on the activities carried out within the framework of the former Project Working Group on ICT for Development and the new Project Working Group on Knowledge-based Development during the period 2006-2008. It acknowledged with satisfaction the usefulness of the work accomplished in the period**

**The PWG agreed that the PWG on KBD could become a useful forum for exchanges of experience and best practices, as well as capacity-building in such areas as economic competitiveness and innovative development, attracting financial resources in support of innovative sectors of economy, commercialization and protection of intellectual property rights and public-private partnerships, in addition to already ongoing work in the area of ICT for Development.**

**The PWG studied the presentation on possible thematic areas and activities which could be addressed by the PWG on KBD in its future programme of work with a reference to the latest findings and recommendations adopted by the UNECE Committee on Economic Cooperation and Integration (CECI). It noted that the latest findings and recommendations adopted by the CECI could have high relevance for its future work. It agreed that the future capacity-building activities of the PWG could greatly benefit from the findings, recommendations and training materials developed by the CECI.**

**The PWG studied the presentation on possible area of future ICT and disaster risk reduction activities for the consideration of the PWG on KBD. It took note of possible ICT, as well as disaster risk reduction activities proposed by ESCAP and their high relevance for its future work.**

**The PWG noted the importance of partnerships with all national and international stakeholders. In this regard, it recommended that national representatives actively involve relevant national stakeholders in the PWG activities. It recommended that host countries of the future activities of the PWG invite representatives of international and**

**regional organizations, in particular those located in the host countries, in addition to the invitations prepared by UNECE and ESCAP.**

**The PWG noted with interest the thematic proposals made by the representatives of Kyrgyzstan. It requested that the representatives of Kyrgyzstan elaborate the proposals and circulate them in written format to all focal points of the PWG and to UNECE and ESCAP for further clarifications.**

### **Adoption of the Programme of Work for 2009 of the SPECA PWG on KBD**

The Chairperson recalled that the SPECA Governing Council at its second session (Berlin, 14 November 2007) invited the PWG on KBD to agree on priority activities to be included in its programme of work and to discuss and approve its Programme of Work for 2009. The Chairperson invited representatives of UNECE and ESCAP to make proposals on activities that could be carried out in 2009.

Mr. Andrey Vasilyev introduced for consideration of the PWG the activities with confirmed funding by UNECE, such as regional and national capacity-building seminars in the area of financing of innovative enterprises, commercialization of intellectual property, public-private partnerships as well as on ICT policymaking for legal reforms.

Mr. Xuan Zengpei introduced for consideration of the PWG the activities with confirmed funding by ESCAP such as consultative networks meeting and training workshop on improving business opportunities through ICT access points, and improving awareness on ICT applications for disaster management.

Representative of the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation in Azerbaijan presented the areas of technical cooperation activities in Central Asia and the Caucasus, and expressed its strong interest in cooperation with the PWG on KBD.

The Chairperson invited delegates to make proposals on the proposed activities for 2009 and to indicate their interest in hosting regional/national capacity-building events and other related technical cooperation activities to be organized by UNECE and ESCAP.

Representative of Kyrgyzstan expressed interest in hosting of regional capacity-building seminar in the area of financing of innovative enterprises, commercialization of intellectual property to be held in conjunction with the second session of the PWG on KBD in Kyrgyzstan. He also suggested that the topic of PPPs could be included on the agenda of the proposed seminar.

Representative of Azerbaijan supported the idea on holding next session of the SPECA PWG on KBD in Bishkek, given the availability of the Global Information System (GSI) and accumulated experiences in Kyrgyzstan.

Representative of Tajikistan expressed interest in hosting a combined consultative networks meeting and a training workshop on knowledge hubs under the project on improving business opportunities through ICT access points in Dushanbe. Together with

ESCAP, it will also explore possibility of inviting representatives of both SPECA PWG on KDB and SPECA PWG on Trade to discuss issues related to trade facilitation

The participants underscored that the proposed awareness-raising workshop on ICT applications for disaster management should involve relevant policymakers dealing with matters related to natural disasters, including ministries responsible for emergency situations, environment, health, etc. It was suggested that experts and policymakers involved in the ongoing SPECA project on dam safety could be consulted to be involved in this event. Representative of Kyrgyzstan suggested hosting the workshop in his country in early 2009. Representative of Azerbaijan also expressed willingness in holding forthcoming events and seminars of UNECE and ESCAP in Baku, Azerbaijan.

**Decision:** The PWG adopted the Programme of Work for 2009 of the PWG on Knowledge-based Development as contained in Annex II. It agreed that these projects could be further elaborated and refined as practical experience is gained in their implementation.

**Recommendation:**

**The PWG requested UNECE and ESCAP to work closely with other international organizations relevant to the activities of the PWG.**

#### **Network of SPECA Policymakers on Knowledge-based Development**

Ms. Michiko Enomoto introduced the idea of establishing a network of SPECA Policymakers on Knowledge-based Development and made a presentation on the CECI Information Exchange Platform developed by the UNECE as a possible tool to facilitate networking activities. CECI Information Exchange Platform has already been used by policymakers, experts, academia and professional organizations working in the area on knowledge-based development, such as UNECE Teams of Specialists on Intellectual Property, on Innovation and Competitiveness Policies and on Public-Private Partnerships.

Representatives of countries supported the proposal to set up the Network on KBD. Representative from Kyrgyzstan acknowledged usefulness of the information exchange platform and expressed appreciation for developing such tools for the PWG. He suggested including all other stakeholders in the area of KBD to the Network, such as experts, academia and NGOs and other members of the CECI Teams of Specialists from SPECA member countries. Additional proposals regarding national policymakers to be included in the Network will be submitted by SPECA member countries.

Representative from Azerbaijan also acknowledged the usefulness of the CECI information platform.

It has also been suggested to appoint national focal points to facilitate efficient communications between UNECE and ESCAP.

## **Conclusions and Recommendations:**

The PWG studied the presentation on the idea of establishing a network of SPECA Policymakers on Knowledge-based Development and on the Information Exchange Platform developed by UNECE. It agreed that more efficient networking among policymakers in the region could facilitate the future activities of the PWG and promote knowledge-based development in the SPECA member countries.

The PWG acknowledged with appreciation that the Information Exchange Platform is a useful tool to facilitate networking of the PWG members and with other relevant stakeholders in the area of KBD. It requested UNECE to provide access to the members of the Network to the CECI Information Exchange Platform.

The PWG requested that national representatives of the PWG submit names and contact details of national focal points to the UNECE and ESCAP to facilitate future communications.

The PWG recommended to national representatives of the PWG nominate additional names to be included in the Network. These could be policymakers, experts, representatives of academia and professional organizations who are active in the areas of information and communication technologies for development, promoting innovation and innovative development, supporting knowledge-based competitiveness, financing ICT infrastructure and innovative development, commercialization and protection of intellectual property, and public-private partnerships.

### **Date and venue for the second session of the SPECA PWG on KBD**

Representative of Kyrgyzstan reiterated his proposal to host the second session of the PWG in Bishkek in 2009.

**Decision:** The PWG agreed to hold the second session of the SPECA PWG on KBD in Bishkek tentatively in October 2009.

### **Closing session**

The Chairperson expressed satisfaction on the achievements that the PWG on KBD made during the inauguration session, and encouraged the members of the PWG for further good works in implementing forthcoming project activities. The Chairperson and all other participants in the session expressed appreciation to UNECE and ESCAP for successful preparation and organization of the session.

Mr. Andrey Vasilyev and Mr. Xuan Zengpei expressed gratitude to the Government of the Republic of Azerbaijan for hosting this important event and hospitality extended to its participants. They also expressed sincere appreciation to all representatives from SPECA member countries for their active participation and cooperation which made this event successful.

**Conclusion:**

The PWG expressed its appreciation to UNECE and ESCAP for organizing the inauguration session of the SPECA PWG on KBD and to the Government of the Republic of Azerbaijan for hosting this important event and hospitality extended to its participants.

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## ANNEX I

### TERMS OF REFERENCE OF THE SPECA PROJECT WORKING GROUP ON KNOWLEDGE-BASED DEVELOPMENT

#### A. PREAMBLE

1. The Project Working Group on Knowledge-Based Development (PWG on KBD) is a subsidiary body within the governing structure of the United Nations Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia (SPECA). The member countries of the Programme are Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan. The United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) and the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) provide overall support to the Programme.
2. The PWG on KBD draws on previous forms of regional cooperation in related areas, in particular, on the work of the SPECA Project Working Group on Information and Communication Technologies for Development (PWG on ICT).

#### B. OBJECTIVES

3. In line with the overall objectives of SPECA to support its member countries in developing subregional cooperation, and integrating their economies into the world economy, the PWG on KBD shall: (i) promote and support policies on knowledge-based development in the member countries; (ii) facilitate cooperation in the initiatives related to knowledge-based development between the member countries and other regional initiatives; (iii) support and coordinate capacity-building and institutional strengthening activities and programmes related to knowledge-based development in the member countries; (iv) serve as a forum for discussion of issues related to knowledge-based development, including ICT-related policy and regulatory issues.
4. The thematic orientation of the activities of the PWG on KBD will include, but not be limited to, areas such as: (i) information and communication technologies for development; (ii) promoting innovation and innovative development; (iii) supporting knowledge-based competitiveness; (iv) financing ICT infrastructure and innovative development; (v) commercialization and protection of intellectual property; (vi) private-public partnerships.

#### C. PARTICIPANTS

5. The PWG on KBD shall comprise National Representatives, nominated by the Governments of SPECA member countries. The National Representatives shall be senior officials involved in the formulation and implementation or be aware of national policies and programmes, which affect national policies related to knowledge-based development in their respective countries and able to effectively follow up the recommendations and decisions of the PWG on KBD.

6. Each participating country shall also nominate, on a permanent or on an ad hoc basis, experts on various aspects of knowledge-based development from private sector, academia and other stakeholders as required.

7. Neighbouring countries of the SPECA region are invited to nominate their representatives to participate in the work of the PWG on KBD, especially when issues concerning cooperation with neighbouring regions are discussed.

8. Relevant subregional organizations implementing programmes related to knowledge-based development are invited to nominate their representatives to participate in the work of the PWG on KBD.

9. United Nations organizations bodies as well as other bilateral and multilateral agencies and organizations operating in the knowledge-based development issues in the SPECA member countries are invited to participate in the work of the PWG on KBD and to nominate liaison officers on matters related to its work.

#### **D. MODALITIES OF OPERATION**

10. The PWG on KBD shall elect two Co-Chairpersons from among the National Representatives nominated by the Governments.

11. The Secretariats of UNECE and ESCAP will provide secretarial support to the PWG on KBD. The Secretariats will facilitate the preparation and organization of the sessions of the Group and will maintain records of its activities.

12. The PWG on KBD shall hold annual sessions at a date and venue agreed by the participating countries.

#### **E. FUNDING**

13. The operational costs of the PWG on KBD as well as the costs of participation of National Representatives and experts in its sessions shall as a rule be borne by the Governments of participating countries. In addition, the UNECE and ESCAP shall support, within their available resources, the functioning of the PWG on KBD.

14. The PWG on KBD shall also seek funds and technical assistance for its operations from multilateral and bilateral donors.

#### **F. PROGRAMME OF WORK AND ACTIVITIES**

15. The PWG on KBD shall develop, agree upon and implement an annual work programme.

16. The PWG on KBD shall formulate and agree upon specific projects and programmes and seek extrabudgetary resources for their implementation.

17. Important policy conclusions should be brought to the attention of high-level policymaking authorities in the SPECA member countries.

18. Recommendations along with agreed investment and project ideas should be presented to relevant international organizations and international programmes as well as to private investors.

**G. OTHER MATTERS**

19. The current Terms of Reference will be reviewed in 3 years or sooner if the SPECA member countries so decide.

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## ANNEX II

### PROGRAMME OF WORK FOR 2009 OF THE SPECA PWG ON KBD

#### **1. Capacity-building in policy options and practical instruments for promoting knowledge-based development**

##### **Objectives**

To strengthen the national capacity of the SPECA member countries to advance knowledge-based development by developing relevant substantive skills and increasing the organizational capacity of the institutions involved.

##### **Rationale**

The project is fully in line with the objectives of the PWG on KBD as specified in its Terms of Reference. Implementation will be financed from UNECE extrabudgetary funds including the Russian contribution in support of UNECE technical cooperation activities.

##### **Activities in 2009**

- 1) A regional capacity-building seminar in the area of financing of innovative enterprises, commercialization of intellectual property and public-private partnerships to be held in conjunction with the second session of the PWG on KBD to be held in Kyrgyzstan in October 2009.
- 2) Participation of SPECA experts in the UNECE subregional seminar on the role of intellectual property rights in the transfer of technology (Ankara, Turkey, first quarter of 2009).
- 3) Participation of SPECA experts in UNECE policy-oriented meetings, expert seminars and capacity-building activities on promoting knowledge-based development (Geneva, Switzerland and other locations, throughout the year).

#### **2. Improving business opportunities through ICT access points**

##### **Objectives**

To enhance enterprise development of SPECA member countries through improved capacity and usage of ICT access points for business purposes with a focus on trade facilitation.

##### **Rationale**

This is an ongoing project, which was approved by the former PWG on ICT for Development and included in the SPECA Work Plans for 2005-2007 and for 2008-2009. The

implementation of the project activities is funded by the UNDA through inter-regional commission project entitled "Knowledge networks through ICT access points for disadvantaged communities".

### **Activities in 2009**

A combined consultative networks meeting, with possible participation of SPECA PWG on Trade and a training workshop on improving business opportunities through ICT access points. The workshop would be held at a location in Tajikistan and tentatively scheduled from 12 to 14 August 2009. Participation is expected from SPECA member countries as well as from neighbouring countries.

## **3. Capacity-building on ICT policymaking for legal reforms**

### **Objectives**

To enhance knowledge and capacity of senior decision makers on legal issues of ICT policy development and to empower them for necessary legal reforms.

### **Rationale**

The project is a follow-up of the project "Capacity-building for ICT policymaking" which was approved by the former PWG on ICT and included in the SPECA Work Plan for 2008-2009.

### **Activities in 2009**

National capacity-building seminar(s) for senior policy and decision makers on ICT policy and legal issues for Central Asia, upon request. UNECE has produced the publication "Information and Communication Policy and Legal Issues for Central Asia – Guide for ICT Policymakers" which serves as training material for the seminar(s) – on request.

## **4. Improving awareness on ICT applications for disaster management**

### **Objectives**

To enhance awareness among policy and decision makers on the importance of ICT for disaster management and to identify gaps in policy, institutional and human capacity in the area of ICT for disaster management.

### **Rationale**

The project aims at raising awareness among relevant policy and decision makers on the importance of ICT for disaster management with focus on Sentinel Asia. The project is funded by the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA).

## Activities in 2009

This activity will be co-organized with the Ministry of Extreme Situations of the Kyrgyz Republic and will take place in Bishkek tentatively from 25 to 27 February 2009. Participation is expected from SPECA member countries as well as from neighbouring countries.

### SUMMARY TABLE

<b>Area of Activity</b>	<b>Lead Agency</b>	<b>Timeframe</b>
Capacity-building in policy options and practical instruments for promoting knowledge-based development	UNECE	2009
Improving business opportunities through ICT access points	ESCAP	2009
Capacity-building on ICT policymaking for legal reforms	UNECE	2009
Improving awareness on ICT applications for disaster management	ESCAP	2009

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### ANNEX III

#### DECISIONS, CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE INAUGURATION SESSION OF THE SPECA PWG ON KBD

1. The Project Working Group (PWG) elected Azerbaijan and Kyrgyzstan as the Co-Chairs of the SPECA Project Working Group on Knowledge-based Development (PWG on KBD).
2. The PWG approved the decision of the second session of the SPECA Governing Council (SPECA/GC/Dec/2007/4) to establish the SPECA Project Working Group on Knowledge-based Development by transforming the former Project Working Group on ICT for Development.
3. The PWG adopted Terms of Reference of the Project Working Group on Knowledge-based Development (Annex I).
4. The PWG studied the presentation on the activities carried out within the framework of the former Project Working Group on ICT for Development and the new Project Working Group on Knowledge-based Development during the period 2006-2008. It acknowledged with satisfaction the usefulness of the work accomplished in the period.
5. The PWG agreed that the PWG on KBD could become a useful forum for exchanges of experience and best practices, as well as capacity-building in such areas as economic competitiveness and innovative development, attracting financial resources in support of innovative sectors of economy, commercialization and protection of intellectual property rights and public-private partnerships, in addition to already ongoing work in the area of ICT for Development.
6. The PWG studied the presentation on possible thematic areas and activities which could be addressed by the PWG on KBD in its future programme of work with a reference to the latest findings and recommendations adopted by the UNECE Committee on Economic Cooperation and Integration (CECI). It noted that the latest findings and recommendations adopted by the could have high relevance for its future work. It agreed that the future capacity-building activities of the PWG could greatly benefit from the findings, recommendations and training materials developed by the CECI.
7. The PWG studied the presentation on possible area of future ICT and disaster risk reduction activities for the consideration of the PWG on KBD. It took note of possible ICT, as well as disaster risk reduction activities proposed by ESCAP and their high relevance for its future work.
8. The PWG noted the importance of partnerships with all national and international stakeholders. In this regard, it recommended that national representatives actively involve relevant national stakeholders in the PWG activities. It recommended that host countries of the future activities of the PWG invite representatives of international and regional

organizations, in particular those located in the host countries, in addition to the invitations prepared by UNECE and ESCAP.

9. The PWG noted with interest the thematic proposals made by the representatives of Kyrgyzstan. It requested that the representatives of Kyrgyzstan elaborate the proposals and circulate them in written format to all focal points of the PWG and to UNECE and ESCAP for further clarifications.

10. The PWG adopted the Programme of Work for 2009 of the PWG on Knowledge-based Development as contained in Annex II. It agreed that these projects could be further elaborated and refined as practical experience is gained in their implementation.

11. The PWG requested UNECE and ESCAP to work closely with other international organizations relevant to the activities of the PWG.

12. The PWG studied the presentation on the idea of establishing a network of SPECA Policymakers on Knowledge-based Development and on the Information Exchange Platform developed by UNECE. It agreed that more efficient networking among policymakers in the region could facilitate the future activities of the PWG and promote knowledge-based development in the SPECA member countries.

13. The PWG acknowledged with appreciation that the Information Exchange Platform is a useful tool to facilitate networking of the PWG members and with other relevant stakeholders in the area of KBD. It requested UNECE to provide access to the members of the Network to the CECI Information Exchange Platform.

14. The PWG requested that national representatives of the PWG submit names and contact details of national focal points to the UNECE and ESCAP to facilitate future communications.

15. The PWG recommended to national representatives of the PWG nominate additional names to be included in the Network. These could be policymakers, experts, representatives of academia and professional organizations who are active in the areas of information and communication technologies for development, promoting innovation and innovative development, supporting knowledge-based competitiveness, financing ICT infrastructure and innovative development, commercialization and protection of intellectual property, and public-private partnerships.

16. The PWG agreed to hold the second session of the SPECA PWG on KBD in Bishkek tentatively in October 2009.

17. The PWG expressed its appreciation to UNECE and ESCAP for organizing the inauguration session of the SPECA PWG on KBD and to the Government of the Republic of Azerbaijan for hosting this important event and hospitality extended to its participants.