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DISCUSSION OF THE DRAFT PROGRAMME OF WORK FOR 2009-2010

DRAFT PROGRAMME OF WORK FOR 2009-2010

Note by the secretariat¹

**I. BACKGROUND AND BASIC PRINCIPLES IN STRUCTURING
THE CECI PROGRAMME OF WORK**

1. In accordance with its Terms of Reference, CECI promotes a policy, financial and regulatory environment conducive to economic growth, innovative development and higher competitiveness in the UNECE region. The Committee serves as a platform for policy dialogue, the exchange of experience and good practices; drawing on this dialogue, it develops guidelines and policy recommendations for Governments. This policy-oriented and normative work provides a basis for demand-driven policy advisory services and other capacity-building activities in the mandated areas.

¹ The Draft Programme of Work for 2009-2010 was consulted with the CECI Teams of Specialists and received support from them. It was then reviewed by the CECI Bureau at its meeting on 22 September 2008. The Bureau recommended that the document be submitted for the approval of the Committee.

2. The CECI Programme of Work for 2006-2008 was adopted at the first session of the Committee, 27-28 September 2006 and afterwards approved by the Executive Committee. At its second session, CECI made some adjustments to the Programme of Work for 2008 and endorsed a General Orientation of the Work in 2009 and Beyond. The third session of CECI is due to discuss and approve the specific activities and outputs for the period 2009-2010.

3. Based on the Terms of Reference, the CECI Programme of Work was structured in several focus areas as follows:

- (a) Creating a supportive environment for innovative development and knowledge-based competitiveness (abbreviated as “Innovation and Competitiveness Policies”);
- (b) Promoting an enabling environment for entrepreneurship and enterprise development (abbreviated as “Entrepreneurship and Enterprise Development”);
- (c) Promoting an enabling environment for efficient financial intermediation in support of innovative development (abbreviated as “Financing Innovative Development”);
- (d) Facilitating the effective regulatory protection of intellectual property rights and strengthening their role in innovative development (abbreviated as “Commercialization and Protection of IPRs”);
- (e) Promoting best practice in efficient Public-Private Partnerships (abbreviated as “Public-Private Partnerships”); and
- (f) Fostering wider and deeper international economic integration in the UNECE region.

4. The main activities and outputs in these focus areas envisaged in the CECI Programme of Work for 2006-2008 were successfully completed. As a result of the work carried out in this period, CECI discussed and endorsed at its annual sessions a series of policy relevant normative documents. The General Orientation of the Work in 2009 and Beyond endorsed by the second session of CECI envisages the continuation of the work in these focus areas.

5. The CECI Terms of Reference stress the importance of capacity-building activities and policy advisory services in the mandated areas of work. Starting from 2009, capacity-building activities and advisory services in requesting countries/subregions will be assigned greater emphasis in the Programme of Work. Given the available resources for programme implementation, the intensity and scope of capacity-building activities will depend on the amount of extrabudgetary resources for such activities.

6. As an intermediate step, the results of normative work carried out during the 2007-2008 period will be translated into capacity-building and training materials and modules, which will be an important target in the CECI Programme of Work for 2009-2010. The successful completion of this undertaking will require the concentration of sufficient resources, especially in 2009. Interested members of the CECI Teams of Specialists and networks of experts will be invited to contribute to the preparation of training materials and modules and to the planned capacity-building activities. The secretariat will continue developing and extending cooperation in capacity-building with other relevant international organizations.

7. Given the increasing focus on capacity-building, the amount of policy-oriented and normative work and the number of related documents and meetings in Geneva in 2009 will be reduced compared to the previous programming period. Nevertheless, such work will be maintained in order to keep the CECI expert networks operational and to continue adding new value in the form of soft regulation and policy recommendations based on the exchange of experiences aimed at the identification of best practice.

8. The experience gained in the implementation of the Programme of Work for 2006-2008 revealed close interconnectedness and complementarities among some of the focus areas. This experience suggests potential synergies in taking an integrating approach in future policy-oriented and capacity-building activities by addressing specific issues and topics that cut across several focus areas. Some of the activities and outputs envisaged in the period 2009-2010 embody such an integrating approach. In turn, the Committee will continue to devote special attention in its deliberations to broader cross-cutting policy issues aimed at fostering wider and deeper integration in the UNECE region.

9. The CECI Programme of Work also envisages an enhanced participation of the members of the Teams of Specialists in the policy deliberations at the annual session of CECI in 2009 and their contribution to the preparation of joint events. In addition, members of the Teams will be actively involved in the implementation of capacity-building activities and policy advisory services. This participation will provide, in close coordination with the respective Team Bureaus, better guidance in the implementation of the Programme of Work between the meetings of the Teams.

10. The secretariat will continue to promote broad dissemination of CECI policy-oriented and normative documents and training materials to governments, the business and academic community and other stakeholders inter alia through the CECI information-exchange platform and other electronic information tools.

11. The implementation of the CECI Programme of Work for 2009-2010, including the envisaged capacity-building activities will continue to be carried out in close cooperation with partner organizations operating in the UNECE region, in particular, the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA), United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the European Commission (EC), the Secretariat of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS), Eurasian Economic Community (EurAsEC), Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD), the World Bank, European Patent Office, World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), International Trade Centre of UNCTAD/WTO (ITC), World Customs Organization, among others. Drawing on its successful experience in 2006-2008, the secretariat will also continue its efforts to actively engage the private sector in programme implementation and to stimulate a broad multi-stakeholder dialogue on issues addressed in the Programme of Work.

12. The secretariat will continue to provide the CECI Bureau with timely feedback on progress in the implementation of the Programme of Work. In case of need and based on

feedback on implementation, the Bureau may propose to the annual sessions of CECI to consider possible amendments in the Programme of Work.

II. MAIN ACTIVITIES AND OUTPUTS IN THE PERIOD 2009-2010

2009

A. Policy-oriented and Normative Work

A1. Policy-oriented meetings

- (a) Meeting of the Team of Specialists on Public-Private Partnerships (TOS-PPP).

Addresses Focus area(s): “Public-Private Partnerships”.

- (b) Expert meeting on technological readiness for innovation-based competitiveness and promoting an enabling ICT policy and regulatory framework (with the participation of the TOS-ICP and TOS-IP).

Addresses Focus area(s): “Innovation and Competitiveness Policies”, “Commercialization and Protection of IPRs”, “Financing Innovative Development”, “Entrepreneurship and Enterprise Development”.

- (c) PPP forum (to be organized in cooperation with the PPP Unit from the Ministry of Transport, Public Works and Water Management, Netherlands).

Addresses Focus area(s): “Public-Private Partnerships”.

- (d) International conference on promoting innovation-based entrepreneurial opportunities in the UNECE region. The conference will be held in conjunction with the annual session of CECI, with the participation of the TOS-ICP and TOS-IP. The Teams will hold brief meetings at the margins of the conference.

Addresses Focus area(s): “Innovation and Competitiveness Policies”, “Entrepreneurship and Enterprise Development”, “Financing Innovative Development”, “Commercialization and Protection of IPRs”.

A2. Normative work

- (a) Good practices and policy options in promoting innovation-based entrepreneurial opportunities.

- (b) Good practices in ICT policy for promoting innovation-based competitiveness.

B. Capacity-Building Activities and Policy Advisory Services

B1. Development of training materials and modules

- (a) Training module on policy options and practical instruments for enhancing the innovative performance of firms.
- (b) Training module on policy options and instruments for early stage financing of innovative firms.
- (c) Modular training toolkit on IPR commercialization focusing on improving framework conditions for entrepreneurs and SMEs.
- (d) Training Toolkit on “How to PPPs” (a synopsis of training modules covering key areas of PPP design and governance) – Part I.

B2. Field activities

- (a) Modular training and policy seminar on promoting knowledge-based development (covering all Focus areas) for policymakers and practitioners from CIS countries (Minsk) (in cooperation with the CIS Secretariat).
- (b) Regional capacity-building workshop on new opportunities for infrastructure development based on PPPs (in a CIS country)
- (c) Subregional capacity-building event for on IPR commercialization and enforcement (in a South-East European country).
- (d) Knowledge-sharing and capacity-building event on early stage financing of innovative firms (in a CIS country).
- (e) Meeting of the SPECA Project Working Group on Knowledge-based Development (PWG KBD) in conjunction with a capacity-building event in a SPECA member country.

Note: The secretariat will respond to ad hoc requests from member States Governments for capacity-building activities and policy advisory services on the basis of available capacity and extrabudgetary resources.

2010

A. Policy-oriented and Normative Work

A1. Policy-oriented meetings

- (a) Meeting of the Team of Specialists on Innovation and Competitiveness Policies (TOS-ICP), including Substantive Segment with a tentative thematic orientation on promoting innovation in the services sector.

Addresses Focus area(s): “Innovation and Competitiveness Policies”.

- (b) Meeting of the Team of Specialists on Intellectual Property (TOS-IP), including Substantive Segment with a tentative thematic orientation on commercialization and protection of IPRs in universities and public research organizations.

Addresses Focus area(s): “Commercialization and Protection of IPRs”.

- (c) Meeting of the Team of Specialists on Public-Private Partnerships (TOS-PPP).

Addresses Focus area(s): “Public-Private Partnerships”.

- (d) Expert meeting on policies to address financing and entrepreneurial challenges in high-growth innovative firms.

Addresses Focus area(s): “Financing Innovative Development”, “Innovation and Competitiveness Policies”, “Entrepreneurship and Enterprise Development”, “Commercialization and Protection of IPRs”.

A2. Normative work

- (a) Policy options for promoting innovation in the services sector.
- (b) Synopsis of good practices in commercialization and protection of IPRs in universities and public research organizations.
- (c) Policy recommendations on strengthening governance in public-private partnerships.
- (d) Synopsis of good practices and policies in address financing and entrepreneurial challenges in high-growth innovative firms.

B. Capacity-building Activities and Policy Advisory Services

B1. Development of training materials and modules

- (a) Training module on promoting entrepreneurial opportunities and growth in new innovative firms.
- (b) Training module on strategic management of IPRs and addressing the related regulatory challenges.
- (c) Training module on ICT policy for promoting innovation-based competitiveness, including e-commerce regulatory framework.
- (e) Training Toolkit on “How to PPPs” (a synopsis of training modules covering key areas of PPP design and governance) – Part II.

B2. Field activities

- (a) Modular training and policy seminar on promoting knowledge-based development for policymakers and practitioners from CIS countries.
- (b) Regional capacity-building event on the development of PPP units in South-East Europe.
- (c) Subregional modular cross-thematic training on promoting knowledge-based development (covering all Focus areas) for policymakers and practitioners in South-East Europe and/or the Caucasus.
- (d) Regional/subregional capacity-building event on ICT policy and regulatory framework for promoting innovation-based competitiveness and facilitating e-commerce.
- (e) Meeting of the SPECA Project Working Group on Knowledge-based Development (PWG on KBD) in conjunction with a capacity-building event in a SPECA member country.

Note: The secretariat will respond to ad hoc requests from member States Governments for capacity-building activities and policy advisory services on the basis of available capacity and extrabudgetary resources.

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