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STATUS OF PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION

CAPACITY-BUILDING ACTIVITIES

REPORT ON CAPACITY-BUILDING ACTIVITIES

Note by the secretariat

Summary

This report contains an overview of the capacity-building activities carried out by the Economic Cooperation and Integration Division between September 2007 and August 2008, and outlines envisaged future activities. It includes work undertaken within the regular budget, activities supported through the Local Technical Cooperation Trust Fund and the United Nations Development Account, as well as activities undertaken and coordinated by the Regional Adviser on Economic Cooperation and Integration. A number of activities were carried out in cooperation with other United Nations agencies and international organizations, and in consultation with other subregional initiatives.

INTRODUCTION

1. The Terms of Reference of the Committee on Economic Cooperation and Integration (CECI) stress the importance of demand-driven capacity-building activities in the mandated areas of work. The secretariat was requested to undertake fund-raising efforts in support of such activities, including from the United Nations Development Account.¹
2. This report contains an overview of the capacity-building activities carried out by the Economic Cooperation and Integration Division (ECID) between September 2007 and August 2008 and some envisaged future activities.
3. The report covers activities carried out by the secretariat within the regular budget of ECID, activities supported through the United Nations Development Account and the Local Technical Cooperation Trust Fund, activities financed or co-financed from other extrabudgetary sources, as well as activities undertaken and coordinated by the Regional Adviser on Economic Cooperation and Integration.
4. The secretariat's capacity to provide additional capacity-building activities depends on the availability of extrabudgetary resources. In the period 2007-2008, ECID benefited from a targeted donation by Pfizer Incorporated, which makes it possible to expand the scope of the activities. Some of the future activities will partly rely on funding from the voluntary contribution of the Government of the Russian Federation in support of UNECE's technical cooperation activities.
5. A number of the activities in this period were carried out in cooperation with other United Nations agencies and international organizations, and in consultation with other subregional initiatives.
6. ECID took the lead in organizing some of these events, taking responsibility for the major part of the substantive, logistical and financial arrangements of the meetings. In other events, ECID participated as co-organizer and/or contributed to the substantive part of the event. In all these events, the secretariat sought to mobilize substantive support from the extensive CECI expert networks.

I. TARGETED CAPACITY-BUILDING ACTIVITIES CARRIED OUT IN 2007-2008

A. EVENTS ORGANIZED OR CO-ORGANIZED BY ECID

7. In accordance with the CECI Programme of Work and at the request of member State Governments, the secretariat carried out a number of field-based capacity-building events, drawing from budgetary resources and mobilizing extrabudgetary resources, including funds from the United Nations Development Account and other sources:

¹ Report of the Committee on Economic Cooperation and Integration on its first session (ECE/CECI/2006/6, para 38).

(a) **National Capacity-Building Seminar on Information and Communication Technology (ICT) Policy and Legal Issues, Dushanbe, 30 and 31 October 2007.** Organized jointly with the Ministry of Transport and Communications and the Ministry of Economy and Trade of the Republic of Tajikistan. The seminar was part of the technical cooperation project, “Capacity-building for Information and Communication Technology (ICT) Policymaking”, which aims to support policymakers engaging innovative development policies, financed by UNDA. The CECI publication “*Information and Communication Technology Policy and Legal Issues – Guide for ICT Policymakers*” was used as a textbook for the seminar. Forty-two senior policymakers and representatives of academia and NGOs attended the event. The seminar was rated as highly relevant to the needs of the country.

(b) **Training Seminar on Intellectual Capital Readiness: the Role of Intangibles as a Tool for Raising Finance, Geneva, 19 November 2007.** Co-organized by the CECI Team of Specialists on Intellectual Property (TOS-IP), the CECI network of experts on financing innovative development, the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) and the European Business Angels Network (EBAN). The seminar was attended by some 50 representatives of national IP agencies, enterprise development agencies, technology transfer offices, and the business community from UNECE member States, as well as other countries.

(c) **Follow-up Training Seminar on Intellectual Capital Readiness: the Role of Intangibles as a Tool for Raising Finance, Ljubljana, 26 and 27 November 2007.** Co-organized by TOS-IP, WIPO and the Slovenian Small Business Support Center. About 30 Slovenian business people and representatives of public-sector agencies took part.

(d) **Applied Policy Seminar on Early-Stage Financing and Investment Readiness of Innovative Enterprises, Moscow, 23 May 2008.** Co-organized jointly with the All-Russian Organization of Small and Medium Business (OPORA Russia). Fifty representatives of Governments, private companies and business associations from 11 UNECE member States attended the seminar. It provided opportunities to discuss various issues related to the early-stage financing of innovative enterprises and the related policy measures.

(e) **Pilot Training Course on Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs), Moscow, 16 to 21 June 2008.** Organized by the State University - Higher School of Economics, in cooperation with the UNECE Team of Specialists on Public-Private Partnerships (TOS-PPPs). The objectives of the course were to conduct needs assessment of government officials and to test the actual training course and to receive feedback from the participants. About 35 government officials at federal, regional and municipal level participated in the training. International and Russian experts, as well as participants, shared knowledge and experience, discussed on national applicability.

(f) **National Capacity-Building Seminar on Information and Communication Technology (ICT) Policy and Legal Issues, Tashkent, 1 and 2 July 2008.** Organized jointly with the Communication and Information Agency of Uzbekistan (UzACI). The CECI publication “*Information and Communication Technology Policy and Legal Issues – Guide for ICT Policymakers*” was used as a textbook for the seminar. Forty-eight ICT policymakers and other key stakeholders in the country had opportunities to learn and share experiences on a

variety of legal and regulatory issues that are key ingredients for facilitating sound ICT and eCommerce development. The seminar was rated as highly relevant to the needs of the country.

B. EVENTS WITH SUBSTANTIVE ECID CONTRIBUTION

8. ECID staff and members of the CECI expert networks contributed substantively to the following capacity-building events organized by partner organizations and coordinated with the CECI Programme of Work:

(a) **International Conference on Software Applications as Objects of Intellectual Property, Minsk, 26 and 27 September 2007.** Co-organized by the Government of Belarus and the Minsk High Technologies Park. About 60 participants representing the administration of the High Technologies Park, the companies residing in this park, the wider business community, the National Center for Intellectual Property, the ministries of Justice, Economy, and Taxation, as well as academia and the media, attended the conference. ECID staff and a member of TOS-IP made substantive contributions to the conference.

(b) **International Forum on Innovation and Technology Transfer, Kiev, 29 and 30 October 2007.** Organized by the Government of Ukraine and the German Technical Cooperation agency GTZ. About 150 participants, representing national government ministries and agencies, research organizations, and industry, took part. ECID staff made substantive contributions to the forum by sharing their expertise.

(c) **Seminar on Intellectual Property Right Enforcement (IPR) for Russian IPR Enforcement Officers, Moscow, 13 and 14 November 2007.** Organized by the European anti-counterfeiting network SNB-React. About 50 participants from Russian customs, police and internal market surveillance agencies attended the seminar. TOS-IP experts and ECID staff made a substantive contribution by sharing their expertise.

(d) **Workshop on Partnerships for Development and Diffusion of Innovation, Trent, Italy, 31 January and 1 February 2008.** Organized by the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD). ECID staff made a substantive contribution to the workshop.

(e) **9th International Academic Conference on Modernization of Economy and Globalization, Moscow, 1 to 3 April 2008.** Organized by the State University - Higher School of Economics. ECID staff made a substantive contribution to the conference and presented the CECI publication "*Guidebook on Promoting Good Governance in Public-Private Partnerships*".

(f) **Black Sea Economic Cooperation (BSEC) Business Forum on Innovation, Competitiveness, Investments, Kiev, 16 and 17 April 2008.** The forum was attended by representatives of companies and organizations from the Black Sea region. ECID staff made a substantive contribution with a presentation on innovation and competitiveness policies in UNECE countries.

(g) **International Northern Dimension Forum, Saint-Petersburg, Russian Federation, 13 and 14 May 2008.** Organized by the United Nations Development Programme.

ECID staff made a substantive contribution by presenting the CECI Guidebook “*Good Governance in Public-Private Partnerships*” and the related capacity-building activities.

C. OTHER CAPACITY-BUILDING WORK

1. Contributions to the United Nations Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia

9. ECID contributed to a number of advisory activities in the context of the Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia (SPECA), undertaken and coordinated by the Regional Adviser on Economic Cooperation and Integration. These included:

(a) **Meeting of the Secretariats of Regional Organizations Active in Central Asia, Istanbul, 3 and 4 October 2007.** The meeting was attended by representatives of UNECE, Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), the Central Asia Regional Economic Cooperation Program of the Asian Development Bank (CAREC/ADB), the Eurasian Economic Community (EurAsEC) and the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO). Participants agreed on regular information exchange in order to improve coordination and synergy and strengthen the effectiveness of technical cooperation work in the region.

(b) **Second meeting of the SPECA Economic Forum “Central Asia and Europe: A New Economic Partnership for the 21st Century”, Berlin, 13 November 2007.** Co-organized jointly with the Federal Foreign Office of Germany, The meeting discussed how to promote private investment in the SPECA region through improving the business and investment climate. Some 200 high-level representatives of SPECA member countries, international and regional organizations, the European Union, international financial institutions, private business and the research community participated in the event.

(c) **International Conference “Water Unites”, Berlin, 1 April 2008.** Co-organized with the Federal Foreign Office of Germany and the UNECE Division of Environment, Housing and Land Management. Some 150 high-level representatives of SPECA member countries, international and regional organizations, international financial institutions, the European Union and private business participated in the event.

(d) **Workshop on Conflict Prevention: Analysis for Action, Ashgabat, 1 to 4 September 2008.** The Workshop was jointly organized by the United Nations Regional Centre for Preventive Diplomacy for Central Asia and the United Nations System Staff College, with substantive input from UNECE. The participants in the workshop identified problems related to the water and energy nexus as important challenges to stability in Central Asia and agreed that SPECA and, in particular, its Project Working Group on Water and Energy should play a key role in addressing these complex challenges.

2. Other capacity-building work

10. Other ECID work related to capacity-building:

(a) **Project on the sustainable use of biomass for energy production.** At the request of the Government of the Russian Federation, the secretariat has been supporting capacity-building by a project in the Russian biomass sector. The project examines the sustainable use of biomass for energy production at local energy plants and as a new export commodity. It aims at strengthening the Russian biomass sector by contributing specific expertise in the following areas: innovation through the introduction of new technologies in biomass production; support to establishing woody biomass plants in rural areas; and facilitating the development of entrepreneurship, through cross-sectoral capacity-building workshops.

(b) **Expert Meeting on the Preparation of a Toolkit “How to do PPPs”, Antwerp, Belgium, 10 and 11 June 2008.** Organized by the Flemish Public-Private Partnership Unit, which participates in the CECI TOS-PPPs. The meeting provided an opportunity for about 30 international experts, representatives from the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) and the World Bank Institute to exchange experiences and to identify training needs in their countries. The experts reviewed existing toolkits and other reference materials on PPPs and discussed the way to transform them into training tools.

(c) **Consultative Meeting for the Establishment of a Regional Knowledge Network of Telecentres in Central Asia, Baku, 6 and 7 May 2008.** Organized by UNESCAP with substantive contributions from UNECE. The meeting was part of the activities of the technical cooperation project “Knowledge Networks through ICT Access Points for Disadvantaged Communities”, financed by the United Nations Development Account.

II. GENERAL FOCUS ON CAPACITY-BUILDING IN THE COMMITTEE’S ACTIVITIES IN GENEVA

A. CONFERENCES, SEMINARS, MEETINGS

11. The substantive meetings envisaged in the CECI Programme of Work are organized by the secretariat so as to include a capacity-building component, in particular to benefit countries with economies in transition. Participating delegations from these countries have the opportunity to benefit from the knowledge shared by first-class international experts and to learn from the experiences and best practices presented at these meetings. The secretariat has received positive feedback from delegations, in particular from countries with economies in transition, on the learning component of these meetings. In the period from September 2007 to August 2008, the secretariat organized a number of substantive meetings covering the thematic areas of the CECI Programme of Work, as follows:

(a) **Applied Policy Seminar on Enhancing the Innovative Capacity of Firms in the UNECE Region: Policy Options and Practical Instruments, 14 and 15 February 2008.** Organized in the context of the second session of the Team of Specialists on Innovation and Competitiveness Policies (TOS-ICP). The seminar provided an opportunity for all major stakeholder groups (policymakers, practitioners, representatives of industry associations,

academia and other experts) to discuss and share practical experiences on policy options and instruments for enhancing the innovative capacity and innovation performance of firms. The seminar was attended by some 50 experts from 28 UNECE member States, as well as various international organizations and agencies.

(b) **First session of the Team of Specialists on Public-Private Partnerships (TOS-PPPs), 28 and 29 February 2008.** The TOS-PPPs consists of experts from the public and private sectors, as well as from the academic community. During the session, the Team adopted its Programme of Work, which includes a significant capacity-building component.

(c) **International Conference on Strengthening Integration of the Economies in Transition into the World Economy through Economic Diversification, 2 to 4 April 2008.** Co-organized with the Development Policy and Analysis Division of the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA). More than 60 experts representing government bodies, academic institutions and NGOs from UNECE member States, the European Commission and intergovernmental agencies participated in the conference, which provided a platform for knowledge sharing and policy learning.

(d) **International Conference on Investing in Innovation: Promoting New Opportunities in the UNECE Region, 10 and 11 April 2008.** The conference provided an occasion for knowledge sharing among a varied and large group of stakeholders, including a substantial representation from countries with economies in transition. It was attended by some 90 experts representing government ministries and agencies, public financial institutions, international organizations, industry associations, private investors and academic institutions from 31 UNECE member States.

(e) **Third session of the Team of Specialists on Intellectual Property (TOS-IP), 3 and 4 July 2008.** The session included a special substantive segment on Intellectual Property Rights Capacity-Building: Experiences, Lessons and Prospects. Seventy-eight representatives of government agencies, academic institutions and the business community from 21 UNECE member States took part in the session.

B. PUBLICATIONS: POLICY-ORIENTED PUBLICATIONS, GUIDEBOOKS

12. The policy-oriented publications included in the CECI Programme of Work are prepared in such a way as to serve as a basis for future capacity-building activities. The secretariat has prepared the following publications, working in close cooperation with the Teams of Specialists and expert networks, and drawing on their substantive contributions:

(a) *Creating a Conducive Environment for Higher Competitiveness and Effective National Innovation Systems. Lessons Learned from the Experiences of UNECE Countries* (ECE/CECI/3).

(b) *Financing Innovative Development. Comparative Review of the Experiences of UNECE Countries in Early-Stage Financing* (ECE/CECI/2).

13. The secretariat has also published or is currently developing, partly through funding from the United Nations Development Account, the following guidebooks for capacity-building purposes:

(a) *Guide to Promoting Good Governance in Public-Private Partnerships* (ECE/CECI/4) both in English and Russian. The *Guide* aims to assist governments and relevant stakeholders from the private sector in improving governance in PPPs, and thereby maximizing the benefits of PPPs and their contribution to bridging the infrastructure gap and improving economic competitiveness. A translation into Russian was prepared with the support received from the Moscow High School of Economics.

(b) *Information and Communication Technology Policy and Legal Issues for Central Asia – Guide for ICT Policymakers* (ECE/CECI/1), both in English and in Russian. The *Guide* was produced at the request of the member countries of the United Nations Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia (SPECA). It examines legal issues related to the sound development of eCommerce in five distinct areas: legal infrastructure, legal certainty, legal security, legal protection and legal deterrence. The *Guide* has already been used in capacity-building activities in Tajikistan and Uzbekistan.

(c) *Toolkit on How to do Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs)*. The secretariat is currently preparing a toolkit to assist Governments and other stakeholders and to facilitate policy discussions on improving governance of PPP projects. The toolkit includes an introductory module followed by clusters of modules covering policy and other critical issues on PPPs.

C. INFORMATION EXCHANGE PLATFORM

14. At the request of member States, the secretariat has created an Information Exchange Platform, which is an interactive online tool hosted on the official UNECE website and accessible to all members of the CECI Teams of Specialists and expert networks. The Platform provides an online environment for preparing documents envisaged in the Programme of Work. CECI experts are actively using the platform for posting information, requests for, and offers of capacity-building services, as well as information on ongoing capacity-building activities.

III. CAPACITY-BUILDING ACTIVITIES UNDER PREPARATION

A. CONFERENCES AND SEMINARS

15. Capacity-building activities under preparation include:

(a) **International Conference “Taking Public-Private Partnerships Forward: New Opportunities for Infrastructure Development in Transition Economies”, Moscow, 21 and 22 October 2008.** The first session of the conference covers issues on the policy and institutional requirements for successful PPPs and is organized in cooperation with the Bank for Development and Foreign Economic Affairs (Vnesheconombank). The second session of the conference discusses capacity-building issues related to PPPs and is hosted by the State University – Higher School of Economics, an institution, which already provides training for government officials at federal, regional and municipal levels. Both host organizations are key

partners in implementing the UNECE PPP capacity-building programme in the Russian Federation and neighbouring countries.

(b) **Regional Seminar on Information and Communication Technology Policy and Legal Issues, Baku, 13 and 14 November 2008.** The Seminar is to be held in conjunction with the Inauguration session of the SPECA Project Working Group on Knowledge-based Development as decided by the SPECA Governing Council in November 2007.

(c) **Capacity-Building Seminar on the Role of Intellectual Property Rights in the Transfer of Technology from Research Institutions to the Business Sector, Ankara, February 2009.** The seminar is co-organized by the TOS-IP, the Turkish Patent Institute, the Turkish Copyright Agency and the State Planning Organization.

(d) **Policy Seminar on Venture Capital Financing, envisaged to be held in Minsk in 2008 or 2009.** It will be organized in cooperation with the Centre for International Studies of the State University of the Republic of Belarus.

B. ADVISORY SERVICES

16. The Regional Adviser on Economic Cooperation and Integration will continue to undertake advisory activities in the context of the SPECA Programme of Work, in particular:

(a) **2008 SPECA Economic Forum “Investment Partnerships for Stronger Economic Cooperation and Integration in Central Asia”, Moscow, 20 October 2008.** The forum is co-organized jointly with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation and ESCAP. The agenda includes discussions on investment in the transport, water and energy infrastructure and economic diversification through investment facilitating the development of knowledge-based economy.

(b) **International Conference on Cooperative Regional Water Management in Central Asia, Almaty, 17 and 18 November 2008.** The conference is a follow-up event to the earlier Berlin Conference “Water Unites”. It is organized jointly with the Federal Foreign Office of Germany in cooperation with the UNECE Division of Environment, Housing and Land Management and the Executive Committee of the International Fund for Saving the Aral Sea (IFAS).

IV. THE WAY FORWARD

17. In accordance with the CECI Terms of Reference, capacity-building activities will be assigned a greater emphasis in the CECI Programme of Work. The secretariat will continue to respond to the capacity-building needs expressed by member States and to provide demand-driven activities within the available resources.

18. It will continue to undertake fund-raising efforts to expand and diversify the available resources in support of additional capacity-building activities.

19. In designing future capacity-building activities, the secretariat will continue to explore links between different thematic areas of works and deepen its cooperation with other international organizations.

20. The secretariat will continue to work in close cooperation with the members of the CECI Teams of Specialists and networks of experts in preparing future capacity-building activities and in transforming the results of normative work into capacity-building and training materials and modules.

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