



Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
20 September 2011

Original: English

Economic Commission for Europe

Committee on Economic Cooperation and Integration

Sixth session

Geneva, 30 November - 2 December 2011

Item 3 (e) of the provisional agenda

Review of the implementation of the programme of work since the fifth session and review of the work of subsidiary bodies after the 2005 ECE reform: Capacity-building activities

Report on capacity-building activities

Note by the secretariat

I. 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. At its fifth session held from 1 to 3 December 2010, the Committee welcomed the positive results of capacity-building activities undertaken and encouraged member Governments to fully benefit from the opportunities offered by its international expertise across the thematic areas.
2. This report contains an overview of the capacity-building activities carried out by the Economic Cooperation and Integration Division (ECID) between 1 September 2010 and 15 September 2011 and some envisaged future activities.
3. The secretariat carried out capacity-building activities within the regular budget of ECID, the Local Technical Cooperation Trust Funds, financed or co-financed from other extrabudgetary sources, or supported through the United Nations Development Account (UNDA). The report also contains 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, international and regional organizations.
4. The secretariat's ability to provide additional capacity-building activities and technical cooperation services depends on the availability of extrabudgetary resources. In the period 2010-2011, ECID benefited from voluntary contributions of the Governments of Israel and the Russian Federation, as well as of the Eurasian Development Bank, Dolby Laboratories, the Public-Private Infrastructure Advisory Facility (a member of the World Bank group), the United States Patent and Trademark Office, and Toyo University, Japan.

5. The secretariat took the lead in organizing the capacity-building activities, taking responsibility for the major part of the substantive, logistical and financial arrangements of the events. In some activities, staff of the secretariat participated as co-organizer and/or contributed to the substantive part of the event. In all these activities, the secretariat sought to mobilize substantive support from the extensive CECI networks of experts.

II. Field-based capacity-building activities and technical cooperation services carried out by the Economic Cooperation and Integration Division

6. In accordance with the CECI Programme of Work and at the request of Governments of the UNECE member States, the secretariat carried out the following field-based capacity-building activities, supported by regular budget, as well as extrabudgetary resources:

(a) International Conference on the Commercialization and Enforcement of Intellectual Property (IP), held in Moscow from 6 to 8 October 2010. It was co-organized by the secretariat, the All-Russian Association of Small and Medium-sized Enterprises, and the United States Patent and Trademark Office. It discussed the role of intellectual property in knowledge-based development and economic integration with particular focuses on: challenges and opportunities of open innovation across borders; managing intellectual property in research cooperation; the role of IPRs in the financing of innovation; intellectual property management for innovative companies; Internet piracy and counterfeiting; border enforcement and product identification; regional integration issues; and stopping counterfeits and pirated goods on the domestic market. Over 100 experts from six countries with economies in transition as well as international experts representing intellectual property offices, the business community, the academic community, law enforcement, and relevant international organizations participated in the Conference.

(b) Training Workshop held at the occasion of the sixth Annual Public-Private Partnerships (PPP) in Central, Eastern and South-East Europe Conference, held in Vienna on 20 October 2010. The Workshop was organized by the secretariat. It focused on the role of the UNECE International PPP Centre of Excellence and its Specialist Centres, and the UNECE PPP Toolkit, in particular, the PPP national readiness assessment tool. About 90 participants, mainly government officials from countries in Central, Eastern and South-Eastern Europe participated in the Workshop.

(c) International Conference "From Applied Research to Entrepreneurship: Promoting Innovation-driven Start-ups and Academic Spin-offs", held in Kiev, Ukraine from 9 to 10 November 2010. It was co-organized by the secretariat with the Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine and opened by the Deputy Prime Minister of Ukraine. The Conference discussed major issues related to the establishment of an enabling environment for setting up new innovative companies and developing their competitive advantages through the commercialization of their R&D results. About 180 government officials, innovative entrepreneurs, representatives of SME associations as well as national and international experts from 15 UNECE member States attended the Conference. The recommendations of the International Conference were discussed and endorsed by the Government of Ukraine at its meeting on 11 November 2010.

(d) Capacity-building Seminar on Intellectual Property Management at Public Research Organizations, held in Kiev, Ukraine on 11 November 2010. The Seminar was co-organized by the secretariat and the Ministry of Education, and Science and the National Technical University of Ukraine "Kyiv Polytechnic Institute", and with the support of the Science and Technology Centre in Ukraine. It focused on strategies to use, value and audit

intellectual property rights, as well as on how to manage research cooperation between public research organizations and private companies.

(e) Regional Conference on Addressing the Challenge of Doing Public-Private Partnerships in Specific Sectors in the Black Sea Region, the Caucasus and Central Asia, held in Istanbul, Turkey from 15 to 17 December 2010. It was co-organized by the secretariat and the Organization of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation, and the Public-Private Infrastructure Advisory Facility - a member of the World Bank group - in collaboration with the International PPP Platform Turkey. Participants exchanged experiences on the legal challenges and barriers to successful PPP development and implementation, risk allocation in PPP contracts, among others, and discussed international best practices in selected sectors, inter alia, water and waste water, health and roads. Participants also had an opportunity to visit an operational PPP in the waste water sector in Istanbul. About 50 PPP experts from the public and private sectors from over 10 countries participated in the Conference.

(f) Second Meeting of the Expert Group on PPP for Central Asia, held in Istanbul on 16 December 2010. The meeting was co-organized by the secretariat and the Organization of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation. The Group discussed ways and means of extending the network, including the possibility of involving other CIS countries¹ in its work. The Meeting was attended by 25 participants, including representatives from the five Central Asian countries and participants from Azerbaijan and Ukraine.

(g) UNECE PPP familiarization visit, held in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan from 26 to 27 January 2011. The visit was co-organized by the secretariat, the Ministry of Economic Regulation of the Kyrgyz Republic and the recently established private sector Centre for PPP and Investment Promotion. On 26 January, a Workshop, attended by some 140 participants, provided a general introduction to PPP and a series of PPP best practices in different sectors. This was followed on 27 January by a series of bilateral meetings with Ministers and Deputy Ministers, including the Ministry of Economic Regulation, which is the lead ministry in PPP development in Kyrgyzstan.

(h) International Conference on Addressing the Challenge of Doing PPPs in the South-Eastern European Region, held in Zagreb, Croatia from 7 to 8 February 2011. It was co-organized by the secretariat and the Croatian PPP Agency and the Regional Cooperation Council for South-East Europe. The focus of the Conference was on the PPP project cycle and on national PPP reports from 10 countries in South-Eastern Europe. 130 participants from 10 countries in South-Eastern Europe attended the Conference.

(i) High-level Policy Seminar on Developing Innovative Entrepreneurship, held in Haifa, Israel on 28 March 2011. It was co-organized by the secretariat in cooperation with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Israel (Israel's Agency for International Development Cooperation) and The Golda Meir Mount Carmel International Training Centre. It discussed issues related to the establishment and operation of innovative companies in the emerging market economies of the region. A special emphasis was made on the good practices of financing new innovative enterprises at various stages of their life cycle, as well as on the role of product quality in innovation. The special features related to women's' entrepreneurship were also addressed. About 30 government officials, business incubator practitioners, representatives of SME associations as well as national experts from 9 UNECE member States participated in the Seminar. Participants also had

¹ The Team of Specialists on PPPs, at its third session in April 2011, endorsed the recommendation by the Group to enlarge it to also include representatives from other CIS countries.

opportunity to visit MATAM - Haifa Life Science Park, Technion – Israel Institute of Technology and to L.N. Greentech Technologies – a Haifa-based technology incubator.

(j) Subregional Conference on IP Commercialization and Enforcement, held in Belgrade, Serbia from 12 to 13 April 2011. It was co-organized by the secretariat and the Intellectual Property Office of Serbia and the Serbian Chamber of Commerce. The Conference discussed the role of intellectual property in knowledge-based development and economic integration, in particular the issues related to: border enforcement and product identification; stopping counterfeits and pirated goods on the domestic market; intellectual property management for SMEs in an international market; international IPR protection and exploitation strategies for SMEs; and policy support for SME IPR commercialization. Over 80 experts from intellectual property offices, the business community, the academic community, law enforcement, and relevant international organizations representing five Balkan countries, as well as international experts participated in the Conference.

(k) Training Workshop held at the occasion of the fourth Annual PPP in Central, Eastern and South-East Europe Summit, held in Prague on 8 June 2011. The Workshop was organized by the secretariat. It discussed issues related to the UNECE PPP Initiative, and the draft comparative review of PPP legal provisions in Central Asia and other Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) countries, which is being prepared by the UNECE Expert Group on PPP in CIS countries.² About 65 participants, mainly government officials from countries of Central, Eastern and South-Eastern Europe attended the Workshop.

(l) International Conference on Promoting Eco-innovation: Policies and Opportunities, held in Tel Aviv, Israel from 11 to 13 July 2011. It was organized by the secretariat in cooperation with the Prime Minister's Office and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the State of Israel under the patronage of H.E. Mr. Benjamin Netanyahu, Prime Minister of Israel. The Conference considered how innovation policies can contribute to address environmental and energy challenges, the existing barriers for eco-innovation and the ways in which the public and private sectors can collaborate to overcome these difficulties and take advantage of emerging opportunities in this area. More than 100 high-level policymakers, government experts, representatives from academia and the business sector – from 19 UNECE member States, representatives from the European Commission and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) attended the Conference. Participants also had opportunity to visit selected organizations in Israel dealing with issues considered at the Conference, where the visitors had the possibility to learn how these questions are dealt with in practice.

7. At the request of the Government of the Republic of Belarus, the secretariat started in 2010 a new demand-driven policy advisory service project, namely, the Innovation Performance Review with the financial support received from the Eurasian Development Bank. The Innovation Performance Review is a policy-oriented document which seeks to identify possible policy actions aimed at stimulating innovation activity in the country, enhancing its innovation capacity and improving the efficiency of the national innovation system. The work on the Review is a participatory policy advisory service jointly undertaken by a group of international and national experts mobilized by the secretariat.

(a) The Innovation Performance Review of Belarus identified possible policy actions for stimulating innovation activity in the country, enhancing its innovation capacity and improving the efficiency of the national innovation system. A multi-stakeholder policy

² Formerly, UNECE Expert Group on PPP for Central Asia.

discussion on the main outcomes of the Review took place on 1 December 2010 in Geneva, as part of the fifth session of the Committee on Economic Cooperation and Integration. The final version of the Review was released as a UNECE publication in April 2011.

(b) At the request of the Government of the Republic of Kazakhstan, the secretariat started an Innovation Performance Review of Kazakhstan in April 2011. The preliminary conclusions and recommendation of this Review will be discussed as part of the sixth session of CECI on 30 November 2011.

III. Field-based activities with substantive contribution of the Economic Cooperation and Integration Division

8. Staff of the secretariat contributed substantively to the following capacity-building activities organized by partner organizations in coordination with the CECI Programme of Work:

(a) Interregional Symposium on the Enforcement of Intellectual Property Rights (IPR), held in Prague, Czech Republic from 2 to 3 November 2010. The Symposium was organized by the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) in cooperation with the United States Patent and Trademark Office and the Czech Industrial Property Office. Staff of the secretariat made a plenary presentation on the situation of IPR enforcement in the UNECE region, co-moderated the break-out session on market surveillance and reported the results of the break-out session back to the plenary, including proposals on how to improve the toolkit. High-ranking IPR enforcement officials (customs, police, market inspectorates) from 26 countries attended the Symposium.

(b) International Conference on Actual Problematic Issues of Intellectual Property and the Interregional Workshop on Economic Aspects of Intellectual Property in Countries in Transition, held in Lvov, Ukraine from 21 to 24 February 2011. The conference was organized by the Ukrainian State Department of Intellectual Property in cooperation with WIPO. Staff of the secretariat made a presentation on economic aspects of intellectual property (IP) in transition economies and moderated a break-out session at the Workshop, which WIPO organized as one of the parallel sessions of the Conference. About 170 participants from 18 countries representing national intellectual property offices, law enforcement entities, law firms and patent attorneys, copyright owners associations, and licensing professionals attended the Workshop.

(c) Fourth Interregional Symposium on Enforcement of Intellectual Property Rights, Belgrade, 6 - 7 September 2011. The Symposium was organized by WIPO in cooperation with the Serbian Intellectual Property Office and the United States Patent and Trademark Office. Representatives of government ministries and law enforcement agencies of 28 countries participated in this event. Staff of the secretariat moderated two sessions and reported the outcomes to the plenary.

IV. Other capacity-building and technical cooperation activities

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

9. The secretariat organized a number of capacity-building activities and provided advisory services in support of the United Nations Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia (SPECA) at the request of the SPECA member countries. Staff of the

secretariat, including the Regional Adviser on Economic Cooperation and Integration, contributed to the following SPECA-related activities and events:

(a) The Regional Capacity-building Workshop on Information and Communication Technology Applications for Disaster Risk Reduction and Economic Development, held in Astana from 28 to 29 September 2010. The Workshop was organized by the United Nations Economic Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) in cooperation with the secretariat as a capacity-building component of the third session of the SPECA Project Working Group on Knowledge-based Development.

(b) Third session of the SPECA Project Working Group on Knowledge-based Development, held in Astana, Kazakhstan on 30 September 2010. The session was jointly organized by the UNECE and ESCAP secretariats, hosted by the Government of the Republic of Kazakhstan. The session reviewed the programme implementation in 2010 and agreed on the revised Programme of Work of the Group for 2011. The Group took note with satisfaction the establishment of the Network of SPECA Policymakers on Knowledge-based Development which facilitated sharing of experiences and lessons learnt among policymakers of SPECA member countries.

(c) SPECA Economic Forum, held in Geneva, Switzerland from 18 to 19 October 2010. The Forum was organized by the secretariat in cooperation with the ESCAP secretariat. It discussed how strengthened regional economic cooperation in Central Asia can contribute to the sustainable economic development and stabilization of Afghanistan. Over 100 high-level representatives of the Governments of SPECA member countries, other UNECE member States, partner organizations, donor organizations and the academic community participated in the event, including the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan, United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, United Nations Industrial Development Organization, International Labour Organization, United Nations Regional Centre for Preventive Diplomacy for Central Asia the European Commission, Eurasian Economic Community, International Fund for Saving the Aral Sea (IFAS), North Atlantic Treaty Organization, Organisation on Economic Co-operation and Development, Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), German Technical Cooperation (GIZ), the Islamic Development Bank, the World Economic Forum and the East West Institute.

(d) Follow-up Meeting of the 2010 SPECA Economic Forum, held in Ashgabat, Turkmenistan from 7 to 8 June 2011. It was organized by the secretariat in cooperation with the Government of Turkmenistan and the UN Regional Centre for Preventive Diplomacy. The Meeting was organized by the initiative of the Government of Turkmenistan aiming at developing a plan of action to strengthen the stability and sustainable development of Afghanistan through regional economic cooperation in Central Asia. Over 150 high-level representatives of the host Government, the Governments of SPECA member countries, representatives of G8 countries and other UNECE member and non-member countries, as well as partner organizations, donors, the private sector and the academic community participated in the event, including the UNAMA, United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, United Nations Development Programme, UNEP, United Nations Office on Drug and Crimes, International Organization for Migration, the European Union, International Trade Centre, the Central Asia Regional Economic Cooperation organization, IFAS, the International Security Assistance Force for Afghanistan, OSCE, the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, the Islamic Development Bank, and the World Bank.

B. Other related activities

10. Other related ECID work included:

(a) UNECE Project on Development of Sustainable Biomass Trade and Export Opportunities for Selected Regions of the Russian Federation. At the request of the Government of the Russian Federation, the secretariat has been supporting capacity-building of the Russian biomass sector, contributing technical cooperation and advisory services to the regions that are actively involved in the project:

(i) Project fact-finding mission for the delegation of Tatarstan, held in the Netherlands from 15 to 17 September 2010. The mission was lead by the Vice Prime Minister and Minister of Energy of Tatarstan. The delegation visited an algae biomass plant in the Netherlands and started negotiations on algae production in Tatarstan.

(ii) Workshop on Innovative Biomass Production, held in Moscow in conjunction with the 2nd Bioenergetics Conference on 28 September 2010. 120 participants attended the Workshop.

(iii) Workshops on Biomass Action Plans, held in St. Petersburg from 11 to 12 October 2010 at the occasion of the 12th International Forestry Forum, organized by the National Bio-energy Union of Russia.

(iv) Third session of the Working Group on Cooperation between the Government of Tatarstan and the UNECE in the Field of Innovation Technologies, held in Kazan, Tatarstan from 3 to 4 December 2010. It was organized by the Ministry of Energy of Tatarstan in cooperation with the secretariat. 50 participants attended the session.

(v) Consultative meeting for Tatarstan for the incorporation of the biomass project working group of Tatarstan under the responsibility of the Cabinet Council of the Government of Tatarstan, 9 February 2011. 50 participants attended the meeting.

(vi) Meeting of the Project Working Group on Innovative Technologies in Charcoal Production, held in St. Petersburg on 5 April 2011. It was organized by the St Petersburg State Technological University of Plant Polymers in cooperation with the secretariat. 80 participants attended the meeting.

(vii) Meeting of the Working Group on the Regional Biomass Action Plan for Karelia, held in Petrozavodsk on 19 May 2011. It was organized by the Government of Karelia in cooperation with the secretariat. 100 participants participated in the meeting.

(b) The following Geneva-based substantive meetings envisaged in the CECI Programme of Work were organized so as to include a capacity-building component, in particular to benefit countries with economies in transition:

(i) Special Policy Dialogue/Capacity-building Segment on the UNECE PPP Initiative, held in Geneva from 18 to 19 April 2011 at the occasion of the third session of the UNECE Team of Specialists on Public-Private Partnerships. It discussed the proposed UNECE International PPP Centre of Excellence, and the UNECE PPP Toolkit for capacity-building, among others. The session attracted 220 participants from more than 35 countries.

(ii) Applied Policy Seminar on Policies for Innovation in the 21st Century: Broadening the Horizons of Collaboration and Risk Sharing, held in Geneva from 12 to 13 May 2011. The seminar was part of the fourth session of the Team of

Specialists on Innovation and Competitiveness Policies. Some 60 experts representing government agencies, academic institutions and the private sector from 26 UNECE member States, as well as international organizations and agencies participated in the session.

(iii) International Conference on Raising Awareness of the Role of IPRs in Innovation and the Dangers and Economic Costs of IPR Infringements - Good Practices and Policy Recommendations, held in Geneva from 7 to 8 July 2011. The Conference was organized as the substantive segment of the 5th annual session of the UNECE Team of Specialists on Intellectual Property. It provided an opportunity for policymakers from member States to engage in an exchange of experience with representatives of relevant stakeholder groups, including global intellectual property rights owning companies, small and medium-sized companies, intellectual property law firms, and the academic community. About 50 participants from 15 member States participated in the Conference.

(c) Preparation of the training software "Promoting an enabling environment for efficient financial intermediation in support of innovative development" (English and Russian versions). This tool, which can be used in a classroom environment or for self-learning purposes, provides a comprehensive framework to study and discuss different aspects related to the financing of innovative enterprises, the development of specialized financial intermediaries and the related policy options. The software is structured into a number of modules which include questions for self-assessment and progress-tracking. The tool was successfully tested in the high-level policy seminar "Promoting Innovative Entrepreneurship", which took place on 28 March to 1 April 2011 in Haifa, Israel. The software was developed with the financial support received from the Russian Federation.

V. Forthcoming capacity-building activities

11. Capacity-building activities under preparation by the secretariat are as follows:

(a) Sustainable Biomass Trade and Export Opportunities: Project Workshop on Innovative Technologies in Russia Concerning Larch, St. Petersburg, Russian Federation on 20 September 2011. The Workshop will be organized by the Technological University for Plant Polymers in St Petersburg in cooperation with the secretariat.

(b) International Conference on Promoting Efficient PPPs in Ukraine, Kiev from 21 to 22 September 2011. It will be co-organized by the secretariat, the Ministry of Economic Development and Trade of Ukraine, the Ministry of Regional Development, Construction, Housing and Communal Services of Ukraine, and the Ukrainian Public-Private Partnership Development Support Centre. The Conference will cover topics including: international experience in getting started in PPPs; efficient ways and means of identifying and preparing PPP projects; governance and legal issues, as well as international best practices in selected sectors. One session will be dedicated to national PPP readiness assessment which will identify existing barriers in the enabling environment.

(c) Sustainable Biomass Trade and Export Opportunities: Workshop on the Development of Biomass Action Plans for the Regions of the Russian Federation, Moscow, Russian Federation on 28 September 2011 at the occasion of the Bioenergetics Conference.

(d) Sustainable Biomass Trade and Export Opportunities: Project Workshop on Biomass Action Plans in St. Petersburg, Russian Federation on 4 October 2011, at the occasion of the Thirteenth International Forestry Forum, organized by the National Bio-energy Union of Russia.

(e) Subregional Conference on Commercialization and Evaluation of Intellectual Property and on IPR Enforcement, Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan from 11 to 12 October 2011. The Conference will be co-organized by the secretariat, the State Intellectual Property Service of the Kyrgyz Republic, and the United States Patent and Trademark Office. The Conference will target national experts working on the accounting, auditing, valuation and commercialization of intellectual property, as well as on IPR enforcement from government agencies, academic institutions and the business community of six countries, as well as international experts working on these issues.

(f) UNECE National PPP Readiness Assessment Consultations for Moldova, Chisinau, Moldova from 24 to 28 October 2011. A team of international PPP practitioners and the secretariat will hold a number of meetings with officials from lead ministries, municipal authorities and private sector operators. These meetings, on the basis of which a national PPP readiness assessment for Moldova will be undertaken, will also serve to raise awareness among public and private officials of the PPP model, assess the enabling environment for the successful undertaking of PPP projects, and identify sectors where potential PPP projects could be undertaken. A draft report will then be prepared and peer reviewed, before presented to the Government of the Republic of Moldova at a workshop to take place in 2012.

(g) Review of the National Innovation Strategy of Moldova, Chisinau, Moldova, 27 October 2011. At the request of the Government of the Republic of Moldova, the secretariat will organize a workshop to discuss and provide advice on the National Innovation Strategy of Moldova with the participation of leading experts on innovation policies.

(h) Field-based Workshop on the Innovation Performance Review of Belarus, Belarus to be held in October 2011. The Workshop will present the main conclusions of the Review, accompanied by a session with a knowledge-sharing component.

(i) Subregional Conference on Economic Aspects of Intellectual Property, Chisinau, Moldova from 9 to 11 November 2011. The Conference will be co-organized by the secretariat, the State Intellectual Property Office of the Republic of Moldova, the United States Patent and Trademark Office, and React Moldova. It will discuss the role of intellectual property in the process of economic development with a particular focus on international technology transfer and cross-border enforcement. The Conference will bring together international experts and national policymakers from six countries representing intellectual property offices, enforcement agencies, agencies engaged in economic development work, and the business community.

(j) The 2011 SPECA Economic Forum in Ashgabat, Turkmenistan from 10 to 11 November 2011. It will review the successes and challenges of regional economic cooperation in Central Asia since 1991, the year when Central Asian countries gained their independence.

(k) International Conference on Knowledge-based Development and Innovative Entrepreneurship, Baku, Azerbaijan from 24 to 25 November 2011. The Conference will be organized by the secretariat in cooperation with the Ministry of the Communications and Information Technologies and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Government of the Republic of Azerbaijan in the framework of SPECA Project Working Group on Knowledge-based Development. The Conference will discuss strategic policy issues related to the promotion of knowledge-based development and innovative entrepreneurship with special reference to the role of Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) as a driver of innovation and entrepreneurial activities. The Conference will also discuss on the role of PPP in promoting ICT infrastructure development.

(l) Fourth session of the SPECA Project Working Group on Knowledge-based Development (PWG on KBD), Baku, Azerbaijan on 25 November 2011. The session will be jointly organized by the UNECE and ESCAP secretariats and hosted by the Government of the Republic of Azerbaijan. The session will review the programme implementation in 2011 and will discuss on the Programme of Work of the Group for 2012-2013.

(m) Third meeting of the Expert Group on PPP for CIS Countries, Baku, Azerbaijan on 25 November 2011. The meeting will be organized by the secretariat. It will provide a significant contribution to advance the work on the draft comparative review of PPP legislative provisions in the CIS countries. The Group will also agree on its programme of work for the coming period.

(n) Sustainable Biomass Trade and Export Opportunities: Workshop on the Implementation of the Tatarstan Biomass Action Plan, Kazan, Tatarstan, from 5 to 6 December 2011. The Workshop will be organized by the Ministry of Energy of Tatarstan in cooperation with the secretariat.

(o) PPP Days 2012, Geneva, Switzerland from 21 to 24 February 2012. The secretariat will organize the biennial premier PPP event jointly with the World Bank Institute and the Asian Development Bank (ADB). While the first two days - 21 and 22 February - will be wholly dedicated to public sector discussions and presentations, a PPP Business Forum will be organized on 23 February, where both the public and private sectors will actively participate in the discussions. Optional site visits will be arranged on 24 February. About 500 to 600 government officials from all UN member countries, representatives from public and private sector practitioners, and intergovernmental organizations, and international financial institutions, who are engaged in capacity-building and technical assistance in support of national PPP development, are expected to participate in the event.

(p) Special Capacity-building/Policy Dialogue Segment at the occasion of the fourth session of the UNECE Team of Specialists on Public-Private Partnerships, Geneva, Switzerland on 24 February 2012. A number of case studies and best practices on PPP from around the world will be presented in the form of short audio-visual presentations. These case studies will provide participants with the lessons learnt, including the difficulties encountered in all phases of the project development until it becomes operational, and also beyond.

(q) International Conference on Promoting Efficient PPPs in South-Eastern Europe, in 2012. Subject to extrabudgetary funding, the Conference will have special focus on the UNECE national PPP readiness assessment and best international practices in selected sectors.

(r) Advisory activities to promote further PPP development in Belarus, Minsk, Belarus in 2012. A consultative mission of the UNECE PPP Business Advisory Board, a UNECE national PPP readiness assessment, and a PPP capacity-building event for policymakers and practitioners are among the number of activities to be held in Belarus in 2012 and beyond, subject the availability of extrabudgetary funding.

(s) UNECE PPP familiarization visit, Dushanbe, Tajikistan, to be held in the first half of 2012, subject to extrabudgetary funding. The two-day visit will be composed of a workshop (on the first day) to provide a general introduction to PPP, including PPP best practice in selected sectors, and a series of bilateral meetings (on the second day) with Ministers, Deputy Ministers, other senior public officials, and municipal authorities involved in PPP development in Tajikistan. The UNECE visit will be followed by a UNECE national PPP readiness assessment provisionally scheduled for the second half of 2012.

(t) The secretariat will organize a number of UNECE National PPP Readiness Assessments in countries with economies in transition in 2012. Demand driven consultative visits, subject to extrabudgetary funding, will be organized in 2012 for countries with economies in transition. These consultative meetings will not only serve as the basis for the national PPP readiness assessments but also serve to raise the PPP awareness of public and private officials, to assess the enabling environment for the successful undertaking of PPP projects, and to identify sectors where potential PPP projects could be undertaken in these countries. Draft reports will then be prepared and peer reviewed, before presented to the governments of the respective countries at follow-up workshops.

(u) The secretariat will conduct a number of national workshops based on the results of the UNECE National PPP Readiness Assessments in countries with economies in transition in 2012. Subject to extrabudgetary resources, a team of international practitioners and the secretariat will present the results of the UNECE national PPP readiness assessments, undertaken in these countries. The focus of the workshops will be on feedbacks and general discussion on the results of the UNECE PPP national readiness assessments; identification of priority pilot PPP projects; and in-depth discussions on the strategic action plans for PPP development in the respective countries.

(v) Fourth meeting of the Expert Group on PPP for CIS Countries to be held in a CIS country in the second half of 2012. Subject to extrabudgetary funding, the Expert Group will hold its fourth meeting in the second part of 2012 to share information and agree on its programme of work for the coming period.

(w) Field-based Workshop on the Innovation Performance Review of Kazakhstan in 2012. The Workshop will present the main conclusions of the Review, accompanied by a session with a knowledge-sharing component.

(x) Innovation Performance Review of Ukraine in 2012. The secretariat has already received the request from the Government of Ukraine and will conduct this participatory policy advisory exercise in 2012, subject to the availability of extrabudgetary funding. It will include a multi-stakeholder policy discussion and be followed by a workshop to present its main conclusions in Ukraine.

(y) Subregional Seminar on IPR Enforcement for Judges and Prosecutors, Skopje, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, date to be determined. The seminar will bring together judges and prosecutors from the Balkan region and will discuss international good practice in the application of intellectual property law in IPR infringement cases.

VI. The way forward

12. The secretariat noted that there has been a growing demand on CECI capacity-building activities and other technical cooperation services from countries with economies in transition, in particular for activities that have a national focus.

13. The secretariat will continue to respond to such growing demand for CECI capacity-building activities and other technical cooperation services within the available resources.

14. The secretariat will undertake further fund-raising efforts to expand and diversify the resources in support of additional capacity-building activities and other technical cooperation services. As it was reiterated by the Committee at its fifth session from 1 to 3 December 2010, the secretariat will work with member States' Governments, together with other stakeholders and potential donors, to explore possibilities of strengthening their support for capacity-building activities.

15. In line with the CECI Terms of Reference and the conclusions of the Committee at its fifth session, the secretariat will further explore potential synergies between thematic areas and undertake capacity-building activities based on these synergies. It will involve collaboration across different groups of experts with a view to maximize the coherence of outputs across the various thematic areas.

16. Taking into the valuable experiences gained, the secretariat will continue to execute its work in close cooperation with other international organizations in areas of common interests with a view to assuring complementarities and synergies.

17. The secretariat will continue to invite members of the Teams of Specialists for their active contributions to the CECI capacity-building activities and other technical cooperation services.

18. Given the positive feedback by the Committee at its fifth session, the secretariat will carry forward the preparation of National Innovation Performance Reviews and organize joint follow-up activities to facilitate the implementation of recommendations contained in the Review, subject to the demand and the availability of resources.
