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## Economic Commission for Europe

### Committee on Economic Cooperation and Integration

#### Seventh session

Geneva, 5-7 December 2012

Item 4 (e) of the provisional agenda

#### **Review of the implementation of the programme of work since the sixth session: 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 sixth session, held from 30 November to 2 December 2011, the Committee welcomed the positive results of capacity-building activities undertaken, in particular, field-based events organized in the member States. It encouraged member Governments to fully use the potential of its teams of specialists and networks of experts in the thematic areas for these activities.

2. This report presents an overview of the capacity-building activities carried out by the secretariat within the regular budget of the Economic Cooperation and Integration Division, the Division's Local Technical Cooperation Trust Funds between 1 September 2011 and 21 September 2012. It also includes (a) capacity-building activities that were financed or co-financed from other extrabudgetary sources, or supported through the United Nations Development Account (UNDA), (b) activities undertaken or coordinated by the Regional Advisor on Economic Cooperation and Integration and (c) some envisaged future activities.

3. In the period 2011-2012, the secretariat benefited from voluntary contributions (including in-kind contributions) from the Government of Finland, the Government of Israel, the Government of the Netherlands, the Government of the Russian Federation, the Eurasian Development Bank, Dolby Laboratories, the State corporation "the Bank for development and foreign economic affairs" (Vnesheconombank) of the Russian Federation, Deloitte, the United States Patent and Trademark Office, and Toyo University, Japan.

4. 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, secretariat staff 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 its extensive networks of experts.

## **II. Field-based capacity-building activities and technical cooperation services**

5. The secretariat carried out the following field-based capacity-building activities, supported by the regular budget, as well as extrabudgetary resources, in line with the CECI Programme of Work at the request of Governments.

### **International Conference on Promoting Efficient Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs), Kiev, 21-22 September 2011**

6. The Conference was 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. Participants discussed topics such as 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. A practical session was dedicated to national PPP readiness assessment, which identified existing barriers in the PPP enabling environment, such as in the overall investment climate that might hinder private-sector participation in infrastructure projects. The session served as a prelude to the national PPP readiness-assessment consultations that took place in the Republic of Moldova in October 2011. About 70 PPP experts from the public and private sectors participated.

### **Subregional Capacity-building Conference on the Valuation and Enforcement of Intellectual Property, held at the premises of the Kyrgyz Customs Authority, Bishkek, 11-12 October 2011**

7. The conference was co-organized by the secretariat, the State Intellectual Property Service of the Kyrgyz Republic, and the United States Patent and Trademark Office. It discussed: the methods of valuing intellectual property and their application in the context of accounting; licensing and litigation; internet piracy and counterfeiting; border enforcement; and regional integration issues in the context of enforcing intellectual property rights in Kyrgyzstan. Over 100 experts from Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, the Russian Federation and Tajikistan participated.

### **ECE National PPP Readiness Assessment Consultations for the Republic of Moldova, Chisinau, 24-28 October 2011**

8. A team of international PPP practitioners and the secretariat held a series of meetings with officials from lead and line ministries, municipal authorities, private sector operators and international organizations present in the Republic of Moldova. These meetings, together with a pre-visit questionnaire disseminated among the stakeholders, served as the basis for a national PPP readiness assessment. The consultations, which involved over 50 stakeholders, also served to raise awareness among public and private officials on the PPP model, assessed the enabling environment for the successful undertaking of PPP projects, and identified sectors where potential PPP projects could be

undertaken. A report was prepared and peer reviewed, a draft of which was presented to the Government in July 2012. It will be discussed at a national workshop that will take place in Chisinau on 9-10 October 2012.

### **Workshop on the Innovation Performance Review of Belarus, Minsk, 25 October 2011**

9. The workshop, which was organized in collaboration with the State Committee on Science and Technology of the Republic of Belarus, presented the final version of the Innovation Performance Review of Belarus. Within the workshop, there was a session with a knowledge-sharing component. Around 60 participants attended.

### **Review of the draft Innovation Strategy of Moldova, Chisinau, 27 October 2011**

10. At the request of the Government, the secretariat organized a workshop together with the Ministry of Economy and the Academy of Sciences to discuss and to provide advice on the country's National Innovation Strategy. Secretariat staff and a group of leading international expert members of the ECE Team of Specialists on Innovation and Competitiveness Policies participated in this workshop, which had around 60 participants.

### **Subregional Capacity-building Conference on Economic Aspects and Enforcement of Intellectual Property, Chisinau, 9-10 November 2011**

11. The conference was co-organized by the secretariat with the State Agency for Intellectual Property of the Republic of Moldova, and the United States Patent and Trademark Office. Representative of the World Intellectual Property Organization also participated as a speaker. The conference discussed the role of intellectual property in knowledge-based economic development and economic integration, as well as the enforcement of intellectual property rights at borders and on domestic markets. Some 100 experts from Armenia, Georgia, the Republic of Moldova, Romania and Ukraine participated.

### **Consultative visits to tsunami-hit Sendai and Tohoku regions of Japan, 15-19 November 2011**

12. The consultative visits to the tsunami-hit areas after the 11 March 2011 earthquake were organized jointly by ECE and United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction with the support of Toyo University. The purpose of the visits was to meet local government officials and to see how PPPs could help them to get "back in business". Locally these missions were supported by the PPP programme of the Toyo University, which is one of ECE's key partners in the PPP programme. A report on the visits has been prepared and will be issued as a United Nations publication in early 2013.

### **Third meeting of the Expert Group on PPPs for Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) member countries, Baku, 25 November 2011**

13. The meeting was organized by the secretariat, and was attended by 20 participants. The meeting contributed significantly to advancing the work on the draft comparative review of PPP legislative provisions in the CIS member countries.

### **ECE National PPP Readiness Assessment Consultations for Belarus, Minsk, 19-23 March 2012**

14. A team of international PPP practitioners and the secretariat held a series of meetings with officials from lead and line ministries, municipal authorities, private-sector operators, and international organizations with a presence in Belarus. These meetings, together with a pre-visit questionnaire disseminated among the stakeholders, served as the basis for a national PPP readiness assessment for Belarus. The consultations, which involved over 50 stakeholders, also served to raise awareness among public and private officials of the PPP model. The team assessed the enabling environment for the successful undertaking of PPP projects, and identified sectors where potential PPP projects could be undertaken. A draft report was prepared and peer reviewed, and a draft was presented to the Government in May 2012. It was discussed at a national workshop in Minsk on 9 and 10 July 2012.

### **Follow-up workshop to the ECE National PPP Readiness Assessment Consultations for Belarus, Minsk, 9-10 July 2012**

15. About 70 participants attended the workshop. The purpose of the workshop was:

- (a) to discuss the results of the readiness assessment with the various stakeholders and get feedback to be incorporated in the final report;
- (b) to provide basic PPP training on a number of potential areas where PPP pilot projects could be developed, including transport, healthcare and waste management.

16. A number of meetings were also held with other international partners working in Belarus to coordinate future capacity building and training activities in Belarus.

### **Expert Seminar “Financing high-risk projects” and training on financing of innovative enterprises, Minsk, 11-13 July 2012**

17. These events were organized by the secretariat, in collaboration with the State Committee on Science and Technology of the Republic of Belarus, in accordance with the Memorandum of Understanding that outlined future cooperation to support the implementation of the recommendations of the Innovation Performance Review of Belarus. The expert seminar, which was attended by around 70 persons, aimed to clarify for policymakers and other innovation stakeholders the various aspects related to risk and the financing of innovative projects. The training session on financing of innovative enterprises was conducted by the ECE secretariat, with the support of a software tool specifically developed for this purpose. Around 60 experts attended the training event, including policymakers, academics, science-park managers and staff of small and medium-sized enterprises.

### **Fact-finding mission for undertaking the PPP Readiness Assessment in Kyrgyzstan, Bishkek, 10-14 September 2012**

18. A team of international PPP practitioners and the secretariat held a series of meetings with officials from lead and line ministries, municipal authorities, private sector operators and international organisations with a presence in Kyrgyzstan. These meetings, together with a pre-visit questionnaire disseminated among the stakeholders, served as the basis for a PPP readiness assessment. The consultations, which involved over 50 stakeholders, also served to raise awareness among public and private officials of the PPP model, assessed the enabling environment for the successful undertaking of PPP projects, and identified sectors where potential PPP projects could be undertaken. The main conclusions of the findings will be presented at the Joint National Seminar and the Stakeholder Meeting on Promotion and Financing of Innovative Green Technologies, Bishkek, from 7 to 9 November 2012. The report will be discussed in detail at a national workshop in Bishkek in 2013.

### **International Capacity-building Conference on Economic Issues of Intellectual Property Rights, Jerusalem, Israel, 11-12 September 2012**

19. The conference was organized jointly with the World Intellectual Property Organization and the Israeli Patent Office. It attracted experts and policymakers from some 20 countries with economies in transition and Israel, and discussed good practices and policy recommendations on strengthening the economic impact of intellectual property, including the interface between intellectual property and competition policies.

### **International Conference on Promoting PPPs in Montenegro and South-Eastern Europe, Podgorica, Montenegro, 18-19 September 2012**

20. The conference was co-organized by the secretariat, the Commission for Concessions of Montenegro, and the Chamber of Commerce of Montenegro. It covered topics including: international experience in getting started in PPPs; using PPPs for economic integration, regional cooperation and development in South-East Europe; governance and legal issues; efficient ways and means to identify and prepare PPP projects; and international best practices in selected sectors in the social and economic fields. One practical session dedicated to national PPP readiness assessment identified existing barriers in the enabling environment. About 90 PPP experts from the public and private sectors in South-East Europe participated.

### **Innovation Performance Review**

21. Since 2010, the secretariat has been conducting this demand-driven policy advisory service project. The Innovation Performance Review is a policy-oriented document that seeks to identify possible policy actions to stimulate innovation activity in a country, enhance innovation capacity and improve 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.

22. At the request of the Government, with financial support from the Eurasian Development Bank, the secretariat carried out an Innovation Performance Review of Kazakhstan. A multi-stakeholder policy discussion on the main outcomes of the Review took place on 30 November 2011 in Geneva, as part of the sixth session of the Committee

on Economic Cooperation and Integration. The final version of the Review was released as an ECE publication in April 2012.

23. At the request of the Government of Ukraine, the secretariat started an Innovation Performance Review of that country in May 2012. The preliminary conclusions and recommendations will be discussed as part of the seventh session of the Committee on Economic Cooperation and Integration.

## **II. Substantive contribution of the Economic Cooperation and Integration Division to capacity-building activities of partner organizations**

24. Staff of the secretariat contributed substantively to the following capacity-building activities organized by partner organizations in coordination with the Committee's programme of work.

### **Ninth Annual WIPO Forum on Intellectual Property and Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises for Intellectual Property Offices and other Relevant Institutions in the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) Countries, Munich, Germany, 19-20 October 2011**

25. The forum was held at the premises of the European Patent Office and was attended by some 20 experts from six countries and a number of international organizations. The secretariat made a presentation on good practices and policies in IPR awareness-raising.

### **International Conference on Intellectual Property and Innovation, Budapest, 3-4 April 2012**

26. The conference was co-organized by the Hungarian Intellectual Property Office and the United States Patent and Trademark Office. It was attended by around 100 representatives of the Hungarian Intellectual Property Office, enterprises, law firms and universities, research institutes and by participants from Poland, Romania and Slovenia. The secretariat contributed two presentations on good practices and policy recommendations for intellectual property management for small and medium-sized enterprises, and for intellectual property management in technology transfer.

### **Session on Intellectual Property and Economic Growth at the 5th Astana Economic Forum, Astana, 22- 24 May 2012**

27. The session was co-organized by the Committee on Intellectual Property Rights of the Republic of Kazakhstan and the World Intellectual Property Organization. It was attended by about 100 participants. The secretariat made a presentation on the topic "Intellectual property and competition policy".

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**International Conference “The Role and Importance of Small Business in the Implementation of Social and Economic Policy in Uzbekistan”, Tashkent, on 12-14 September 2012**

28. The conference was organized by the Ministries of Economy, and for Foreign Economic Relations as well as by the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Uzbekistan. The secretariat made two substantive presentations on government policies fostering entrepreneurship and on ways and means of promoting innovative entrepreneurship.

### **III. Other capacity-building and technical-cooperation activities**

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

29. 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.

**The 2011 SPECA Economic Forum, entitled “20 Years of Regional Economic Cooperation and Integration in Central Asia: Successes, Challenges and Prospects”, Ashgabat, Turkmenistan, 10-11 November 2011**

30. The 2011 SPECA Economic Forum undertook a review of the progress achieved in regional economic cooperation in the two decades since the independence of Central Asian countries, and discussed steps that member countries could take. Participants underlined that SPECA, supported by ECE and ESCAP, had the mandate and capacity to assist its member countries in addressing the complex challenges that they face. Over 100 senior representatives participated in the SPECS Economic Forum. They came from SPECA member countries; 17 neighbouring or interested countries; several members of the United Nations family, including the United Nations Regional Centre for Preventive Diplomacy for Central Asia, the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan, the United Nations Industrial Development Organization, the United Nations Development Programme, UN Women, the International Trade Centre and the United Nations University; several regional and international organizations, and donors including the European Union, the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, Eurasian Economic Community, the Commonwealth of Independent States, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, the Asian Development Bank, the Islamic Development Bank, the International Monetary Fund, the International Water Management Institute, the International Fund for Saving the Aral Sea and several bilateral donors.

**Sixth session of the SPECA Governing Council, Ashgabat, Turkmenistan, 11 November 2011**

31. Over 50 representatives of the Governments of SPECA member countries, neighboring countries and regional organizations participated in the session. The Governing Council discussed and approved activities carried out by the SPECA Project Working Groups and adopted the SPECA Work Plan for 2012-2013.

### **Fourth session of the SPECA Project Working Group on Knowledge-based Development, Baku, 24 November 2011**

32. The session was jointly organized by the secretariats of ECE and ESCAP and hosted by the Government of Azerbaijan. The Working Group reviewed the implementation of the programme in 2011 and adopted on the programme of work of the Group for 2012-2013.

### **International Conference on Knowledge-based Development and Innovative Entrepreneurship, Baku, 24-25 November 2011**

33. The Conference was organized by the secretariat in cooperation with the Ministry of the Communications and Information Technologies and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. It included discussions on strategic policy issues such as 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. Participants also discussed the role of PPPs in promoting ICT infrastructure development. A number of case studies were discussed including the high-speed broadband infrastructure projects in sparsely populated areas, which are providing crucial primary services to citizens, such as access to telemedicine services in remote rural areas.

### **Seminar on Information and Communication Technology (ICT) Policy and Legal Issues for the Heads of Ministries and Agencies of Turkmenistan, Ashgabat, 13-14 June 2012**

34. The seminar was jointly organized by the secretariat with the Ministry of Economy and Development. The event was attended by 65 senior policymakers and government experts, including 8 deputy ministers. The seminar enhanced awareness of the complexities of the legal aspects of ICT. It also raised awareness of the need for harmonized legal and regulatory frameworks in order to facilitate the development of e-government and other e-services in the country, and conduct domestic and international trade using ICT. It also addressed other important issues related to ICT security and legal protection, as well as suitable regulations to fight against ICT related crimes.

## **B. Other related activities**

35. Other activities include the ECE Project on Development of Sustainable Biomass Trade and Export Opportunities for Selected Regions of the Russian Federation. The project focuses on innovation in the Russian biomass sector. At the request of the Russian Federation, the secretariat has been providing technical cooperation and advisory services to the Russian regions that are actively involved in the project:

### **Project Workshop at the “Focus on Russia” Seminar, Beijing, 20 September 2011**

36. The Workshop was organized by the Technological University for Plant Polymers in St Petersburg in cooperation with the secretariat.

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**Project Workshop on Forest Energy and Biomass Action Plans, St. Petersburg, Russian Federation, 4-5 October 2011**

37. The Workshop was organized by the National Bio-energy Union of Russia on the occasion of the Thirteenth St. Petersburg International Forestry Forum. One hundred and eighty participants attended.

**Project Workshop on Innovative Technologies in Russia Concerning Larch, St. Petersburg, Russian Federation, 6 October 2011**

38. The Workshop was organized by the Technological University for Plant Polymers in St Petersburg in cooperation with the secretariat. One hundred participants attended.

**Project Workshop at the Forum, “Investing in the Future”, Petrozavodsk, Karelia region of the Russian Federation 25 November 2011**

39. The Workshop was organized by the Government of the Republic of Karelia. One hundred and twenty participants attended.

**Meeting with Russian Energy Agency on cooperation requested by this agency, Moscow, 20 December 2011**

40. The Meeting was organized by the Russian Energy Agency. Eighteen participants attended.

**Videoconference on biomass action plans, at the Adam Smith Conference on the Russian Wood and Timber, Moscow, 29 March 2012**

41. The videoconference was organized by the Adam Smith Conferences, a leading conference and forum organizer. One hundred and twenty persons participated.

**Project Workshop on Biomass Action Plans, held at the Energy Efficiency and Innovation Forum in Anapa, Krasnodar region of the Russian Federation, 19 April 2012**

42. The Workshop was organized by the Government of the Krasnodar region. Eighty participants attended.

**Project Workshop held on the occasion of the EU – Russia 7th International Symposium, Moscow, 31 May 2012**

43. The Workshop was organized by the European Commission. Ninety participants attended.

### **Project Workshop on Danish Cooperation in Biomass Action Plans in Russian Regions, Copenhagen, 14 June 2012**

44. The Workshop was organized by the Russian Danish Energy Efficiency Centre. Thirty participants attended the Workshop, including representatives of leading Danish energy companies and a delegation from the Russian Trade Mission in Denmark.

### **Project publication on Innovative technology in Russian Forest Sector – The way to green economy**

45. The publication was prepared by the secretariat in June 2012 to support capacity-building activities of the project.

46. The following Geneva-based meetings and activities envisaged in the programme of work were organized so as to include a capacity-building component, in particular to benefit countries with economies in transition.

### **Preparation of a pilot training tool on the valuation of intellectual property**

47. The tool is structured in four modules, with additional modules foreseen to be added. It covers the standard methods for valuing intellectual property and their application in various contexts. The modules were tested at the Subregional Capacity-building Conference on the Valuation and Enforcement of Intellectual Property in Bishkek, on 11 and 12 October 2011.

### **PPP Days 2012, Geneva, 21-24 February 2012**

48. The secretariat organized the biennial premier PPP event jointly with the World Bank Institute (WBI) and the Asian Development Bank (ADB). The four-day event was divided into two parts: the first two days were reserved for public-sector PPP practitioners, focused on policy issues, namely the institutions and governance in PPPs, as well as the new financial challenges facing PPPs worldwide. Representatives of the private sector joined them on the third and fourth day. During the PPP Days 2012, a Business Forum was held, which allowed 17 countries to present their projects to prospective investors. Virtual and physical site visits were conducted on the last day to learn from the world's best practices and projects. The event brought together over 700 PPP practitioners from the public-sector PPP units and senior PPP executives worldwide from over 70 countries. It provided an excellent opportunity to network and to gain insights from the PPP experiences in other countries. In addition, there were a number of other significant outputs and outcomes:

(a) Practical and highly valuable training materials such as the training videos on PPP case studies were created. These materials can be used by delegates and international organizations long after the event is over;

(b) The event stimulated private-sector interest in the pipelines projects of emerging countries PPP programmes. Top level delegates from different countries presented concrete projects and proposals to the private sector delegates;

(c) It consolidated a unique partnership between the ECE and the International Financial Institutions in the field of PPP capacity building. 'PPP days 2012' constituted an exemplary

model of cooperation between three organizations that was universally perceived as positive by the respective ECE, WBI and ADB teams.

### **Special Capacity-building/Policy Dialogue Segment at the occasion of the fourth session of the ECE Team of Specialists on Public-Private Partnerships, Geneva, 24 February 2012**

49. A number of case studies and best practices on PPP from around the world were presented in the form of short audiovisual presentations. These case studies provided participants with the lessons learned, including the difficulties encountered in all phases of the project development until it becomes operational, and also beyond. The meeting was attended by some 200 participants.

### **Round Table of ECE – Eurostandard, Geneva, 28 March 2012**

50. The Round Table was organized by the ECE secretariat in cooperation with Eurostandard. The objectives were: to raise the awareness of the Russian Federation business operators of the activities of ECE and in particular, of those of the Committee on Economic Cooperation and Integration ; and to strengthen the capacity of these companies to apply the outcomes of the Committee's work in their activities. During the round table, the secretariat briefed the participants on its activities in the areas of innovation and competitiveness policies, enterprise development and trade facilitation, and answered their questions.

### **Applied Policy Seminar on Policies for Innovation in the 21st Century: Building Strategies for Regions of Innovation, Geneva, 12-13 April 2012**

51. The seminar was part of the fifth session of the Team of Specialists on Innovation and Competitiveness Policies. Some 100 experts representing government agencies, academic institutions and the private sector from 24 ECE member States, as well as international organizations and agencies, participated.

### **International Conference on Intellectual Property and Competition Policy, Geneva, 21-22 June 2012**

52. The conference was organized as the substantive segment of the sixth annual session of the ECE Team of Specialists on Intellectual Property. It provided an opportunity for policymakers from member States with economies in transition to establish contacts and engage in an exchange of experience with leading international experts on intellectual property and competition policy. About 60 participants from 19 member States participated.

## **IV. Forthcoming capacity-building activities**

53. The following are the capacity-building activities being prepared by the secretariat.

**Workshop on the Development of Regional Biomass Action Plans, on the occasion of the Eighth International Conference on Biomass for Energy, Kiev, 25 September 2012**

54. As one of the activities of the technical cooperation project on Development of Sustainable Biomass Trade and Export Opportunities for Selected Regions of the Russian Federation, this Workshop is being organized by the National Academy of Science of Ukraine, and 100 participants are expected.

**Sub-regional Capacity-building Conference on Intellectual Property Valuation and IP and Competition Policy, Skopje, 25-26 September 2012**

55. The conference is being co-organized with the Macedonian Academy for Judges and Prosecutors and the United States Patent and Trademark Office. Representative of the World Intellectual Property Organization will participate as a speaker. The conference will attract judges from five countries with economies in transition and will discuss good practices and policy recommendations on the valuation of intellectual property in infringement litigation, and on the treatment of intellectual property in anti-trust cases.

**Fact-finding mission for undertaking the PPP Readiness Assessment in Tajikistan, Dushanbe, 24-28 September 2012**

56. Together with a team of international PPP practitioners, the secretariat will hold a series of meetings with officials from lead and line ministries, municipal authorities, private sector operators and international organizations with a presence in Tajikistan. These meetings, in conjunction with a pre-visit questionnaire disseminated among the stakeholders, will serve as the basis for a PPP readiness assessment. The multi-stakeholder consultations will serve the purpose of raising awareness 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 report will be prepared and be used in the Joint National Seminar and the Stakeholder Meeting on Promotion and Financing of Innovative Green Technologies, to be held in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan from 7 to 9 November 2012, and at a national workshop in Dushanbe, Tajikistan to be held in 2013.

**Two Workshops on Innovative Development in the Biomass Sector to be organized on the occasion of the Fourteenth International Forestry Forum, St. Petersburg, 2-3 October 2012**

57. As part of the activities of the technical cooperation project on “Development of Sustainable Biomass Trade and Export Opportunities for Selected Regions of the Russian Federation”, workshops are organized by the National Bioenergy Union of the Russian Federation. 120 participants are expected to participate.

**Workshop on PPPs in Broadband Infrastructure, Riva del Garda, Italy, 4 October 2012**

58. This workshop will be held back-to-back with the Internet as Innovation Eco-System Summit and Exhibition 2012 on 4-5 October. It is designed to acquaint ICT experts from across Europe with the potential use of the PPP model in broadband infrastructure.

Presentations will focus on both the legal and the financial aspects of the PPP model, with selected case studies in broadband infrastructure from around the world.

### **Follow-up Workshop to the ECE National PPP Readiness Assessment Consultations for Moldova, Chisinau, 9-10 October 2012**

59. The workshop will discuss the results of the readiness assessment with the various stakeholders and get feedback to be included in the final report. It will also provide basic PPP training on a number of potential areas where PPP pilot projects could be developed, including transportation, healthcare, water and wastewater.

### **Workshop on the occasion of the “Forest and Man” Forum, Moscow, 23 October 2012**

60. This workshop is one of the activities of the technical cooperation project on “Development of Sustainable Biomass Trade and Export Opportunities for Selected Regions of the Russian Federation”. It will be organized by the Union of Timber Manufacturers and Exporters of Russia. About 120 participants are expected.

### **High-level Conference on PPPs in Health, “Developing Models, Ensuring Sustainability: Perspectives from Asia and Europe”, Manila, 23-25 October 2012**

61. The Conference will be co-organized by the secretariat and the Asian Development Bank. During the conference, the International PPP Specialist Centre on Health in Manila, which is affiliated to the ECE International PPP Centre of Excellence, will be launched. The Specialist Centre will be the international focal point in the identification, collection, analysis and dissemination of PPP best practices in the area of healthcare. The conference will show salient case studies and best PPP practices in Asia, Europe, and in other parts of the world and highlight key lessons. It will initiate the policy dialogue on the advisability of using PPPs to address key health problems, and discuss the main barriers to implementing successful PPP projects in health.

### **Field-based workshop on the Innovation Performance Review of Kazakhstan, October 2012**

62. The Workshop will present the main conclusions of the Review, accompanied by a session with a knowledge-sharing component. This activity will be organised in cooperation with the National Agency for Technological Development of the Republic of Kazakhstan.

### **Session on International Experiences of Support to Innovative Companies, within the framework of the Annual Meeting of the Russian Private Equity and Venture Capital Association, Moscow, 29 October 2012**

63. This Session will be organized by the secretariat at the invitation of the Ministry of Education and Science of the Russian Federation.

**Fifth session of the SPECA Project Working Group on Knowledge-based Development, Bishkek, 6 November 2012**

64. Subject to the final confirmation of the host Government of the Kyrgyz Republic. The session will be jointly organized by the secretariats of ECE and ESCAP, hosted by the Government. It will review the programme implementation in 2012 and discuss the updates to the Group's programme of work for 2013.

**Joint National Seminar and Stakeholder Meeting on Promotion and Financing of Innovative Green Technologies, Bishkek, 7-9 November 2012**

65. These activities are carried out under the United Nations Development Account project, "Building the capacity of SPECA countries to adopt and apply innovative green technologies for climate change adaptation". The events will be organized by the secretariat, under the framework of the activities of the SPECA Project Working Group on Knowledge-based Development. The Joint National Seminar will contribute to increase the capacity of policymakers from Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan to deal with issues on innovation policy for climate change adaptation and financing of green technology infrastructure projects using PPPs. The Stakeholder meeting will facilitate networking of public and private sector stakeholders of Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan working in these substantive areas.

**Session on Gender Aspects of Innovative Entrepreneurship at the third ECE Forum of Women Entrepreneurs: "Building partnerships to close the entrepreneurship gender gaps in the ECE region", Baku, 14 - 15 November 2012**

66. This Session will consider drivers of innovation-based entrepreneurship, as well as bottlenecks such as inadequate regulatory framework, lack of government assistance to innovative companies. It will also discuss corrective actions required from Governments and other stakeholders aimed at improving the regulatory and institutional environment to promote innovation-based enterprises, including those operated by women.

**Workshop on "Promoting innovation as a source of international competitiveness", Minsk, 15 November 2012**

67. The Workshop will be organized together with the State Committee on Science and Technology of the Republic of Belarus.

**Workshop on the Implementation of a Regional Biomass Action Plan, Tomsk, Tomsk region of the Russian Federation, 20-21 November 2012**

68. Subject to the availability of extrabudgetary funding. This is another of the activities of the technical cooperation project on "Development of Sustainable Biomass Trade and Export Opportunities for Selected Regions of the Russian Federation". The workshop will be organized by the Government of the Tomsk region.

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### **2012 SPECA Economic Forum "Strengthening Regional Economic Cooperation and Integration in Central Asia by Sharing the Asian Experience", Bangkok, 27-28 November 2012**

69. Forum will highlight the main drivers and challenges of regional cooperation, overview the achievements and lessons learned, as well as identify experiences that could be adapted to the needs of Central Asia. Participants will overview Asian experiences that could be relevant and the ways of how to adapt them.

### **Seventh session of the SPECA Governing Council, Bangkok, 28 November 2012**

70. The Governing Council will discuss the SPECA activities since its sixth session, cooperation between SPECA and regional organizations and institutions, and elect the next Chair (country) of SPECA for 2013.

### **Conference on Regional Biomass Action Plans in Russia, St. Petersburg, 19-20 February 2013**

71. Subject to the availability of extrabudgetary funding. This is also one of the activities of the technical cooperation project on "Development of Sustainable Biomass Trade and Export Opportunities for Selected Regions of the Russian Federation". The Conference will be organized by the Federal Forest Service. About 120 participants are expected to attend.

### **International Conference on Entrepreneurship and Innovation, Dubrovnik, 23-24 May 2013**

72. This conference, which will also include a capacity-building component, will be organized in collaboration with the Ministry of Entrepreneurship and Crafts of the Republic of Croatia.

### **Field-based activities to support the implementation of the recommendations of the Innovation Performance Review, during 2013**

73. In accordance with the Memorandum of Understanding concluded with the National Agency for Technological Development of the Republic of Kazakhstan, these activities will take place in 2013.

### **PPP Readiness Assessments in countries with economies in transition**

74. The secretariat will organize a number of PPP Readiness Assessments in 2013 in particular, in the context of the United Nations Development Account project on "Building the capacity of SPECA countries to adopt and apply innovative green technologies for climate change adaptation".

75. Demand driven consultative visits will be organized. The consultative meetings will: serve as the basis for the PPP readiness assessments; contribute to raise awareness of public and private officials on PPP; assess the enabling environment for the successful undertaking of PPP projects; identify sectors where potential PPP projects could be

undertaken in these countries. Draft reports will be prepared and peer reviewed before they are presented to the Governments of the respective countries at the follow-up workshops.

76. In 2013, the secretariat will conduct a number of national workshops based on the results of the PPP Readiness Assessments in several countries with economies in transition. A team of international practitioners and the secretariat will present the results of the PPP readiness assessments, undertaken in these countries. The focus of the workshops will be on feedback and general discussion on the results of the PPP readiness assessments; identification of priority pilot PPP projects; and in-depth discussions on the strategic action plans for PPP development in the various countries.

## **V. The way forward**

77. The secretariat has noted that there has been a growing demand from countries with economies in transition for the Committee's capacity-building activities and other technical cooperation services, in particular for activities that have a national focus. It will continue to respond to such a growing demand within the available resources.

78. As was suggested by the Committee at its sixth session, held from 30 November to 2 December 2011, the secretariat will make use of the conclusions of its applied policy-oriented documents and publications in the capacity-building activities and policy advisory works.

79. Taking into account the valuable experiences gained, the secretariat will continue to carry out its capacity-building activities in close cooperation with other international organizations in areas of common interest with a view to assuring complementarities and synergies.

80. The secretariat will continue to invite members of the teams of specialists to actively contribute to the capacity-building activities and other technical-cooperation activities.

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