



# Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General  
25 May 2016

Original: English

## Economic Commission for Europe

Committee on Innovation, Competitiveness and Public-Private Partnerships

Tenth session

Geneva, 23-25 May 2016

### Report of the Committee on Innovation, Competitiveness and Public-Private Partnerships on its tenth session

#### Contents

	<i>Paragraphs</i>	<i>Page</i>
I. Overview .....	1-2	3
II. Attendance .....	3-8	3
III. Adoption of the agenda (Agenda item 1) .....		4
IV. Election of officers (Agenda item 2) .....	9	4
V. High-level substantive segment on public-private partnerships and innovation in support of sustainable development (Agenda item 3) .....	10-11	5
A. Guiding principles for good governance in public-private partnerships for the Sustainable Development Goals		
B. Innovation in support of national strategies for sustainable development		
VI. Matters arising (Agenda item 4) .....	12	5
VII. Implementation of the programme of work (Agenda item 5) .....	13-23	6
A. Team of Specialists on Innovation and Competitiveness Policies (TOS-ICP) (Agenda item 5 (a)) .....	13-18	6
B. Team of Specialists on Public-Private Partnerships (TOS-PPP) (Agenda item 5 (b)) .....	19-28	7
C. Capacity-building activities (Agenda item 5 (c)) .....	29-30	9
VIII. Areas of common interest with other ECE bodies and international organizations (Agenda item 6) .....	31-32	9

IX.	Main conclusions of the high-level substantive segment (Agenda item 7) .....	33	11
X.	Programme of Work (Agenda item 8) .....	34-41	11
	A. The role of the CICPPP in supporting the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda.....	34	11
	B. Intersessional Activities for 2016-2017 .....	35-36	11
	C. Strategic Framework of the Economic Cooperation and Integration Subprogramme for 2018-2019.....	37	12
	D. Laying the foundation in the ECE region for greater integration, economic development and achievement of the sustainable development goals: joint conference .....	38-41	12
XI.	Other business (Agenda item 9).....		13
XII.	Adoption of the report (Agenda item 10).....		13
Annexes			
	1. Main conclusions of the high-level substantive segment (Agenda item 7).....	1-14	14
	2. Intersessional implementation plan for 2016-2017.....	1-18	17

## I. Overview

1. The tenth session of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe's (ECE's) Committee on Innovation, Competitiveness and Public-Private Partnerships (CICPPP) was held from 23 to 25 May 2016.

2. The director of the ECE Economic Cooperation and Trade Division opened the session, noting that in September 2015, the United Nations' member States unanimously adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development which reinforced their shared commitment to sustainable development for "people, planet, prosperity and peace" through the approval of a single comprehensive and coherent framework for delivery and results. Innovation and Public Private Partnerships (PPPs) are cross cutting mechanisms for implementation and essential components in the "tool boxes" available to national and international authorities for realising all of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals included in the 2030 Agenda. In addition, the work of this Committee is at the heart of Sustainable Development Goal 9 which calls for countries to "build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation".

## II. Attendance

3. A total of 132 delegates participated in the meeting. The session was attended by representatives from the following ECE countries: Armenia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Belgium, Croatia, France, Georgia, Germany, Israel, Italy, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Spain, Switzerland, Tajikistan, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, and United States of America.

4. Representatives of Bangladesh, China, Congo, Haiti, India, Indonesia, Iraq, Lebanon, Nigeria, Pakistan, the Philippines, and United Arab Emirates participated under article 11 of the Commission's terms of reference.

5. Representatives of the International Trade Centre (ITC) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) were in attendance.
6. The following specialized agencies in the United Nations system were represented: World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) and the World Meteorological Organization (WMO).
7. The following intergovernmental organizations were represented: Asian Development Bank and International Atomic Energy Agency.
8. Other organizations (local authorities, academic institutions, non-governmental organizations and private sector entities), present at the invitation of the secretariat, were: "Internet Governance Forum" IGF Public Union (Azerbaijan), "Kazakh Research Institute of Power Engineering named after Academician Sh.Ch.Chokina" (Kazakhstan), 1875 Finance (Switzerland), Agency for Investments and Competitiveness (Croatia), Al Farabi Kazakh National University (Kazakhstan), Belarusian Institute of System Analysis and Information Support of Scientific and Technical Sphere (Belarus), C.R.E.A.M. Europe PPP Alliance (Germany), Center for International Environmental Law (Switzerland), Central University of Finance and Economics (China), Centre for Socio-Eco-Nomic Development (Switzerland), Charting Ventures (Switzerland), Everbright International Limited (China), Criss Cross International (Germany), Deutsche Bank (Germany), Econ-Trade (Switzerland), Federal Office for Spatial Development (Switzerland), Forests Alive (Belgium), Global Solutions (Portugal), Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies (Switzerland), Graduate Women International (Switzerland), GV Partners (Switzerland), Health-Bio-Pharm Group (Switzerland), Higher Council For Privatization (Lebanon), IBERDROLA S.A. (Spain), ICTSD (Switzerland), Innovation for GLOBAL INTEGRITY (Switzerland), Institute for Human Rights and Business (Switzerland), Institute of Economics and Forecasting (Ukraine), National Academy of Sciences (Ukraine), Institute of Technology in Architecture, ETH Zürich (Switzerland), InterHealth Canada (Canada), International Centre of Excellence Concessions and PPP "Policies, Laws and Institutions" (France), International Institute for Sustainable Development (Switzerland), International PPP Resilience & Recovery Specialist Centre, Inc. (United States), Investment promotion agency under the Ministry of Economy (Kyrgyzstan), Jakob Stiefel Technik AG (Switzerland), JSC NATD (Kazakhstan), Kiev Taras Chevchenko National University (Ukraine), Management Analysis, Incorporated (United States), MaxiTerra Sarl International Institute for Sustainable Development (Switzerland), Medicines Patent Pool International Institute for Sustainable Development (Switzerland), OAO "Federal Center for Project Finance" Vnesheconombank group (Russian Federation), Patent Office of the Republic of Poland (Poland), PPP & Infrastructure Finance Unit (France), University of Rome (Italy), Public Private Partnership Center (Tajikistan), Public Property Agency of Moldova (Moldova), Queisser & Cie (Switzerland), Satellite Towns Development Department - Federal Capital Territory Administration (Nigeria), SDG-Consulting (France), Sénéchal consulting (Switzerland), Shah Muqem Trust (Pakistan), Swiss Bonded Assets & Trust, Lee (Pakistan), Swiss Engineers AG (Switzerland), Swiss Lenten Fund (Switzerland), Teva Pharmaceuticals Industries (Israel), Scientific and Technological Research Council (Turkey), TMF Group (Switzerland), TR Associates Ltd. (Switzerland), UBS (Switzerland), University of Geneva (Switzerland), Visionarity AG (Switzerland), World Association for Small and Medium Enterprises (India), WUXISHI TONGJI Environmental Engineering Inc. (China).

### **III. Adoption of the agenda (Agenda item 1)**

Documentation:

Annotated provisional agenda (ECE/CECI/2016/1).

#### **Decision 2016 - 1**

The Committee adopted the agenda for its tenth session with agreed changes in the timing of discussions.

### **IV. Election of officers (Agenda item 2)**

9. Mr. Sharon Kedmi (Israel) and Mr. Salvatore Zecchini (Italy) completed their first two years' term as Chairperson and Vice Chairperson of the Committee respectively. The Committee thanked them for their valuable contributions during the past two years. Elections were held for the Chairperson and the Vice Chairperson.

#### **Decision 2016 - 2**

The Committee re-elected Mr. Sharon Kedmi (Israel) as Chairperson, and Mr. Salvatore Zecchini (Italy) as Vice Chairperson for a two year term of office.<sup>1</sup>

### **V. High-level substantive segment on public-private partnerships and innovation in support of sustainable development (Agenda item 3)**

Documentation:

Draft guiding principles on good governance in people-first PPPs for the Sustainable Development Goals (ECE/CECI/CRP/1)

10. Under this agenda item, the following panel discussions were held:

- (i) Guiding principles for good governance in public-private partnerships for the Sustainable Development Goals
- (ii) Innovation in support of national strategies for sustainable development

The presentations made during the high-level session are available at the following Internet address: <http://www.unece.org/cicppp10.html#/>

11. The Committee thanked the speakers and participants in the high-level substantive segment for their contributions to the discussion on the role of Public-Private Partnerships and innovation in support of sustainable development.

---

<sup>1</sup> Having been elected for two-year terms in 2015, the following vice Chairpersons in the Bureau remain in office: Mr. Arthur L. Smith (United States of America), Ms. Maria Yarmalchuk (Russian Federation) and Mr. Piotr Baltrukovich (Belarus).

**Decision 2016 – 3.1**

The Committee invited its Bureau and the secretariat, to further explore specific ways in which the Committee might contribute to achieving the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, in cooperation, as appropriate, with other ECE inter-governmental bodies.

**Decision 2016 – 3.2**

The Committee requested that the Chairperson's summary of the high-level substantive segment be annexed to the report of the tenth Session of the CICPPP.

**VI. Matters arising (Agenda item 4)**

12. The director of the Economic Cooperation and Trade Division briefed the meeting on matters arising from decisions made by the ECE Executive Committee and the United Nations General Assembly, including:

(a) The annual Forum on Science, Technology and Innovation for Sustainable Development to be held each year at the global level,

(b) The global report on progress in implementing the Addis Ababa Action Agenda (AAAA) and other Financing for Development outcomes and the means of implementation of the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda, which will be published annually,

(c) The first Regional Forum on Sustainable Development held at UNECE in May 2016 and the second such forum to be held at the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary session of the Economic Commission for Europe in April 2017, and

(d) The High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development to be held in New York in July 2016, at which nine UNECE member States will participate in the first set of voluntary national reviews of the implementation of the sustainable development goals.

**Decision 2016 – 4.1**

The Committee took note of the matters arising from decisions made by the ECE Executive Committee and the United Nations General Assembly.

**VII. Implementation of the programme of work since the eighth session of the Committee on Economic Cooperation and Integration (Agenda item 5)****A. Team of Specialists on Innovation and Competitiveness Policies (Agenda item 5(a))**

Documentation:

Report of the Team of Specialists on Innovation and Competitiveness Policies on its eighth session (ECE/CECI/ICP/2015/2)

Accelerating the adoption of innovations (ECE/CECI/2016/3)

Second innovation performance review of Belarus – preliminary findings (ECE/CECI/CRP/2)

13. The secretariat drew the attention of the Committee to the Report from the eighth session of the Team of Specialists on Innovation and Competitiveness Policies (TOS-ICP) (ECE/CECI/ICP/2015/2). It also briefed the Committee on the activities of the TOS-ICP since the last session, including: the development of best practices on accelerating the adoption of innovations (ECE/CECI/2016/3); the launch of the Innovation Performance Review of Tajikistan; and the results of a conference which brought together representatives of Armenia, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Tajikistan and Ukraine to draw lessons learned from their respective Innovation Performance Reviews. The secretariat provided an update on the work of the Inter-Agency Task Team on Science, Technology and Innovation for Sustainable Development.

14. In addition, the secretariat briefed the Committee on the status of the second national innovation review of Belarus (ECE/CECI/CRP/2) which was under preparation and which would be a pilot for re-orienting the established programme of Innovation Performance Reviews towards Innovation for Sustainable Development Reviews by adding a dedicated chapter on the role of innovation in promoting sustainable development. The related presentation with more details can be found on the Internet at: [http://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/ceci/documents/2016/CECI/Presentations/ICP\\_review\\_of\\_work\\_2016.pdf](http://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/ceci/documents/2016/CECI/Presentations/ICP_review_of_work_2016.pdf).

15. The representative of Belarus thanked the secretariat for the very useful work done jointly with the Belarusian authorities on the original Innovation Performance Review and the related follow-up policy advisory work. He also expressed the expectation that the second Review would prove equally useful for improving innovation policy in Belarus and requested the secretariat to develop, jointly with the Belarusian authorities, a plan for joint follow-up work to support the implementation of the policy recommendations to come out of the second Review.

16. The representative of Kazakhstan thanked the secretariat for the very useful joint work on the Innovation Performance Review of Kazakhstan, including the related follow-up policy advisory work. He also supported the re-orientation of the national Innovation Performance Reviews towards Innovation for Sustainable Development Reviews and requested the secretariat to undertake such a review with Kazakhstan.

17. The representative of Armenia thanked the secretariat for the very useful joint work on the Innovation Performance Review of Armenia in 2014 and requested the secretariat to provide follow-up policy advisory services. She also expressed the interest of Armenia to have a second Review in due course in order to monitor progress.

18. The Committee expressed its appreciation for the useful work of the TOS-ICP and the concrete progress made on the second Innovation Performance Review of Belarus. It thanked all of the experts who had contributed to the work of the Committee through their participation in policy-advisory and capacity-building activities during the period under review.

#### **Decision 2016 - 5a.1**

The Committee took note of the report of the eighth session of the TOS-ICP (ECE/CECI/ICP/2015/2). It invited the secretariat to electronically disseminate the session's applied policy documents (ECE/CECI/2016/3, ECE/CECI/CRP/2), and to make use of their conclusions in capacity-building activities and policy advisory work.

#### **Decision 2016 - 5a.2**

The Committee requested that the secretariat follow up, subject to available extrabudgetary funding, on the interest expressed by the Governments of Armenia, Belarus, Kazakhstan and Tajikistan and in policy advisory and capacity-building services to support the implementation of recommendations from Innovation Performance Reviews. The

Committee also requested that the secretariat follow up, subject to available extrabudgetary funding, on the interest expressed by the Governments of Armenia, Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan in undertaking national Innovation for Sustainable Development Reviews.

## **B. Team of Specialists on Public-Private Partnerships (Agenda item 5(b))**

Documentation:

Draft guiding principles on good governance in people-first PPPs (ECE/CECI/CRP/1)

Report of the International PPP Forum (ECE/CECI/CRP/3)

Overview of the standards and recommendations under preparation (ECE/CECI/CRP/4)

Proposal for a Working Party on Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs) in support of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (ECE/CECI/2016/6).

19. The Chairperson drew the attention of the Committee to the Report of the International PPP Forum (ECE/CECI/CRP/3), a document entitled “Draft guiding principles on good governance in people first PPPs for the SDGs” (discussed extensively under agenda item 3) (ECE/CECI/CRP/1) and an overview of the standards and recommendations under preparation (ECE/CECI/CRP/4).

20. The secretariat reported to the Committee on the work of the International PPP Centre of Excellence and, in particular, its work in elaborating international PPP standards and recommendations for the SDGs with the support of the International Specialist Centres established in the following countries: China, France, Spain, and Japan. These Centres, and others in the process of being established, provide essential contributions to the work on PPP standards through the identification of international best practices and case studies. The secretariat also reported on how the ECE’s work on PPPs was attracting the attention of other UN bodies such as the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA), as well as the G20, and the multilateral development banks.

21. The secretariat also provided information on the work of the ECE PPP Business Advisory Board in assisting the standard setting process as well as in helping countries with the implementation of the standards, and with their project pipelines. The secretariat also informed the Committee of the outcome of the first International PPP Forum held in Geneva from 30 March to 1 April 2016, with its focus on People-First PPPs, which showcased PPP projects from around the world that are contributing to achieving the SDGs by providing access to key services such as water and sanitation, health, education, energy and transport. Finally, the secretariat informed the Committee of a dialogue with some civil society organisations on the latter’s further engagement in the UNECE PPP work in order to ensure that all key stakeholders – member States, the private sector and civil society – actively participate in the standard-setting process.

22. The Chairperson of the Team of Specialists on Public-Private Partnerships (TOS-PPP) explained how the ECE’s PPP work had evolved since its beginning in 2007 and, especially, the addition of work on PPP standards to its mandate. He recalled the decision at the ninth session of the Committee (decision 2015 - 6b-3) which requested the TOS-PPP to discuss and make a recommendation on the future intergovernmental status of the TOS-PPP.

23. The Chairperson of TOS-PPP informed the Committee that its Bureau had recommended that the PPP work be undertaken by a body that has a longer-term mandate than the two years which is currently given to ECE teams of specialists. Therefore, the

TOS-PPP Bureau and the TOS-PPP members unanimously recommended transforming the TOS-PPP into a Working Party on PPPs in support of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals in resource neutral manner. A detailed proposal by the TOS-PPP, including the draft terms of reference for the proposed Working Party on PPPs, is contained in the document: Proposal for a Working Party on Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs) in support of the UN Sustainable Development Goals (ECE/CECI/2016/6).

24. The delegations of the Russian Federation and the United States endorsed the work of the TOS-PPP in developing the standards and implementing them in countries, and supported the proposal by the TOS-PPP to transform TOS-PPP into a Working Party on PPPs.

25. The delegation of Portugal supported the ECE work on international PPP standards, in particular the standard on PPPs in water management, which is under preparation. The delegation announced its intention to become more involved in the ECE PPP work by hosting, in Lisbon, the international specialist centre on PPPs in water and sanitation, affiliated to the ECE International PPP Centre of Excellence.

26. Acknowledging the ECE's leadership role in PPPs within the United Nations system, the delegation of Lebanon announced its intention to host, in Beirut, the international specialist centre on PPPs in ports, affiliated to the ECE International PPP Centre of Excellence.

27. The Committee expressed its satisfaction with the orientation of the PPP work on developing PPP standards, the increasing interest and participation by countries as well the attention to the work being shown by many important stakeholders, including the World Bank, and recognising that, to date, no other body was preparing best practices and standards in PPPs for the SDGs.

28. The Committee expressed its appreciation for the useful and concrete work of the TOS-PPP. It also thanked all the experts who had contributed through their active participation in the standards-development, policy-advisory and capacity-building activities of the TOS-PPP during the period under review.

#### **Decision 2016 - 5b.1**

The Committee took note of the report of the International PPP Forum (ECE/CECI/CRP/3), the draft revised guiding principles on good governance on people-first PPPs (ECE/CECI/CRP1) and the status of the PPP standards and recommendations under preparation (ECE/CECI/CRP4). It invited the secretariat to disseminate these policy documents, and to make use of their conclusions in capacity-building activities and policy advisory work.

#### **Decision 2016 - 5b.2**

In light of the need for reliable and ongoing development and maintenance of PPP standards, the Committee supported the recommendation made by the TOS-PPP to transform the TOS-PPP into a Working Party on PPPs in support of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (ECE/CECI/2016/6, paragraph 13) and agreed to submit a proposal on this question to the ECE Executive Committee for decision.

### **C. Capacity-building activities (Agenda item 5(c))**

Documentation:

Report on capacity-building activities (ECE /CECI/2016/4)



29. The secretariat presented the Report on capacity-building activities (ECE/CECI/2016/4). The Committee welcomed the positive results and the relevance of the capacity-building activities undertaken during the reporting period.

30. The Committee expressed appreciation to the following donors who had made voluntary contributions (including in-kind contributions): the Government of the Russian Federation, the Government of Tajikistan, the European Union, the Bank for Development and Foreign Economic Affairs (Vnesheconombank) of the Russian Federation, the Confederation of International Contractors' Associations, the Eurasian Development Bank, the French Institute of International Legal Experts, and Toyo University, Japan.

#### **Decision 2016 - 5c.1**

The Committee took note of the report on capacity-building activities (ECE/CECI/2016/4). It emphasized the importance of financial and in-kind contributions for the success of its capacity-building activities and policy advisory services as well as for extending their reach. It invited member States to continue to provide support to its capacity-building activities.

#### **Decision 2016 - 5c.2**

The Committee welcomed the interest expressed by the following Governments in capacity-building activities to be organized in their countries: Armenia, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan. It requested that the secretariat examine the feasibility of carrying out these activities, on the understanding that their implementation will be subject to the availability of extra-budgetary resources.

#### **Decision 2016 - 5c.3**

The Committee encouraged member States to fully utilize the potential of the Committee to provide policy advisory and demand-driven capacity-building activities in the work areas covered by its terms of reference.

## **VIII. Areas of common interest with other ECE bodies and international organizations (Agenda item 6)**

Documentation:

Programme of work for 2016-2017 and plan for intersessional implementation of the programme of work of the Steering Committee on Trade Capacity and Standards (ECE/EX/2015/L.15)

31. The Director of the Economic Cooperation and Trade Division briefed the Committee on current and prospective future cooperation with the ECE Steering Committee on Trade Capacity and Standards (SCTCS), other ECE Committees, the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA), DESA, UNDP, United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), UNITAR, the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD), the World Bank Group and other multilateral development banks.

32. The ECE Gender Focal Point briefed the meeting on UN-wide initiatives in gender mainstreaming, and suggested that the Committee consider how it also might integrate gender aspects into the future work of the Committee. Among the suggestions she made were to incorporate a gender perspective into policy dialogues held under the Committee and in its capacity building and policy advisory activities; to request and include gender-disaggregated data in the national reviews prepared under the Committee; to use these data

to identify gaps in gender mainstreaming; to make recommendations on how to close such gaps; and to incorporate in its work, as appropriate, the innovation-relevant targets under Sustainable Development Goal 5 on gender equality, as well as the gender-related targets under SDGs 8, 9 and 17.

**Decision 2016 - 6.1**

The Committee took note of the programme of work and plan for intersessional implementation of the Steering Committee on Trade Capacity and Standards (ECE/EX/2015/L.15).

**Decision 2016 - 6.2**

The Committee agreed that it is ideally placed to make a strong contribution to sustainable development by improving competitiveness in the ECE region through its support to public-private partnerships, entrepreneurship and innovation. In this context, the Committee invited its Bureau and the secretariat to further explore possibilities for collaboration with other ECE inter-governmental bodies, as well as other international organizations.

**Decision 2016 - 6.3**

The Committee requested that the secretariat explore ways to mainstream gender aspects into its future work and report back to the next session of the Committee.

**Decision 2016 - 6.4**

The Committee took note of the work being carried out at the ECE in order to contribute to the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and noted the ongoing and potential collaboration between the work of the CICPPP and that of other ECE inter-governmental committees.

**Decision 2016 - 6.5**

The Committee took note of the useful and important cooperation with ESCAP and OECD in the area of innovation, enterprise and knowledge-based development. It also noted potential areas of cooperation with ESCWA and UNIDO on innovation related issues.

**Decision 2016 - 6.6**

The Committee took note of the useful and important cooperation with DESA and UNITAR with whom joint PPP activities were held in New York, United States of America and in Annemasse, France respectively. It also noted ongoing important and mutually beneficial cooperation with the World Bank Group and other Multilateral Development Banks in the development of PPP standards, as well as with the EBRD in jointly organizing a seminar on PPP legal best practices in Almaty, Kazakhstan.

## **IX. Main conclusions of the high-level substantive segment (Agenda item 7)**

33. The Chairperson presented a summary of the discussions at the high-level substantive segment on public-private partnerships and innovation in support of sustainable development.

**Decision 2016 - 7.1**

The Committee noted the main conclusions of the high-level segment, which are contained in the Chairpersons' summary. It requested that the Chairpersons' summary be annexed to the report of the tenth Session of the CICPPP.

**Decision 2016 - 7.2**

The Committee encouraged the Bureau and the secretariat to take into account the discussions and recommendations of the high-level substantive segment when developing its future work in support of Sustainable Development.

**X. Programme of Work (Agenda item 8)****A. The role of the CICPPP in supporting the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda**

Documentation:

The role of CICPPP in supporting the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda (ECE/CECI/CRP/5)

34. The director of the Economic Cooperation and Trade Division introduced this agenda item, highlighting the important role which the CICPPP could play in supporting the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda.

**Decision 2016 - 8a.1**

The Committee took note of the background paper on the role of the CICPPP in supporting the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda (ECE/CECI/CRP/5).

**Decision 2016 - 8a.2**

The Committee requested its Bureau and the secretariat to explore further ways to promote the role of innovation, competitiveness and PPPs in implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda.

**B. Intersessional Activities for 2016-2017**

Documentation:

Intersessional implementation plan for 2016-2017 (ECE/CECI/2016/5)

35. The secretariat introduced this agenda item, explaining that the intersessional implementation plan provided more detailed information on the specific activities envisaged under the Programme of Work for 2016 -2017.

36. The representative of Israel added that a conference on innovative entrepreneurship, to be organized jointly by Israel and the Committee, would be held in Geneva on 2 November 2016, on the eve of the annual session of the Team of Specialists on Innovation and Competitiveness Policies.

**Decision 2016 - 8b.1**

The Committee adopted the Intersessional implementation plan for 2016-2017 (ECE/CECI/2016/5), to be annexed to the report of the tenth session of CICPPP.

### **C. Strategic Framework of the Economic Cooperation and Integration Subprogramme for 2018-2019**

Documentation: Strategic Framework of the Economic Cooperation and Integration Subprogramme for 2018-2019 (ECE/CECI/2016/7)

37. The secretariat briefed the delegates on the Strategic Framework of the Economic Cooperation and Integration Subprogramme for 2018-2019.

#### **Decision 2016 - 8c.1**

The Committee took note of the Strategic Framework of the Economic Cooperation and Integration Subprogramme for 2018-2019 (ECE/CECI/2016/7).

### **D. Laying the foundation in the ECE region for greater integration, economic development and achievement of the sustainable development goals: joint conference**

Documentation:

Laying the foundation in the ECE region for greater integration, economic development and achievement of the sustainable development goals: background note

38. The representative from the Government of Belarus introduced the background, objectives, expected outcome and the draft programme of the proposed joint conference.

39. The delegate of the Russian Federation commended Belarus for taking the initiative to organize this event and highlighted its timeliness in the context of the adoption of the United Nations Agenda 2030 and the upcoming 70th anniversary of the UNECE. He also emphasized that the conference should be inclusive and should look at integration in the ECE region in a broad sense, rather than focusing only on the European Union and Eurasian Economic Community perspectives.

40. The delegation of Kyrgyzstan also welcomed the conference. She emphasized the opportunity the conference could provide to discuss policy and implementation aspects of the Sustainable Development Goals.

41. The delegates of Armenia, Tajikistan and Turkmenistan also expressed their support for the event and their intention to contribute to it.

#### **Decision 2016 - 8d.1**

The Committee took note of the background paper for the proposed conference (ECE/CECI/CRP/6, ECE/CTCS/2016/NONE/1). It agreed to organise the conference jointly with the Steering Committee on Trade Capacity and Standards (SCTCS) in Minsk in October 2016. The Committee requested that the Government of Belarus and the secretariat report on the Conference to the 11th session of the Committee.

## **XI. Other business (Agenda item 9)**

#### **Decision 2016 - 9.1**

The Committee agreed that its eleventh session would, provisionally, take place in Geneva from 20 to 22 March 2017.

**Decision 2016 – 9.2**

The Committee requested that its bureau make an analysis of the type of delegates who are attending CICPPP session and the Steering Committee on Trade Capacity and Standards since they began meeting back to back in order to determine the impact, if any, of organizing the two sessions back to back. It will then report the results of this analysis, with any relevant recommendations, to the UNECE Executive Committee for discussion.

**XII. Adoption of the report (Agenda item 10)****Decision 2016 - 10.1**

The Committee adopted the report of its tenth session and requested the secretariat to publish it in English, French and Russian.

## Annexes

### Annex I

#### **Main conclusions of the high-level substantive segment (Agenda item 7)**

##### **Chairperson's summary**

#### **High-level substantive segment on Public-Private Partnerships and Innovation in Support of Sustainable Development (Agenda item 3)**

1. Building on work initiated at the Committee's 9th session, the high-level substantive segment continued the Committee's discussions on how public-private partnerships and innovation can support sustainable development.
2. The United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development has a hugely ambitious goal and a large price tag for its achievement. The preferred implementation mechanism is partnerships of various types, including Public-Private and Civil Society Partnerships.
3. At the same time, innovation also has a key role to play in achieving most, if not all, the sustainable development goals. Without innovative solutions, it will not be possible to align the three pillars of sustainable development, i.e. to reconcile economic prosperity with a sustainable use of the planet's resources and with social inclusion.

#### ***Good Governance in People-First Public-Private and Civil Society Partnerships for the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)***

4. The first part of the high level substantive segment was devoted to a discussion on the draft guiding principles on good governance in people-first PPPs for the United Nations SDGs (ECE/CECI/PPP/2016/CRP/1). These guiding principles are a response to:
  - i) SDG 17, which describes the importance of partnerships as the implementation mechanism for the SDGs and refers to different forms of partnerships: "public, public private and civil society" partnerships; and
  - ii) The follow-up to the Addis Ababa Agenda Action Agenda which calls for the elaboration of guidelines on PPPs<sup>2</sup>.
5. The participants appreciated the quality of the presentations made by a panel composed of eminent PPP experts representing key PPP stakeholders (from the public sector, business community and civil society) – which considered what constituted people-first PPPs for the SDGs; showcased projects from around the world which best illustrated this concept; and discussed how the UNECE could best engage with other key stakeholders

---

<sup>2</sup> Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development, para. 48, available at: [http://www.un.org/esa/ffd/wp-content/uploads/2015/08/AAAA\\_Outcome.pdf](http://www.un.org/esa/ffd/wp-content/uploads/2015/08/AAAA_Outcome.pdf)

including United Nations' bodies, multilateral development banks and civil society – in the further development of the guiding principles.

6. Delegates recognised that the concept “people first” PPP was a good and innovative way to describe the type of projects that the United Nations 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda requires. It was also recognised that public-private partnerships need to be carefully analysed to ensure that they genuinely contribute to meeting the SDGs. Clearly each country will choose the best PPP strategy and vision based on its own circumstances; nevertheless, these partnerships can be adapted relatively easily to suit the specifics of each national jurisdiction. Some participants argued that the criteria of evaluation in the draft guiding principles, namely, “access”, “equity”, “efficiency” and “replicability” should be expanded to also include “sustainability” and “effectiveness”.

7. Several panellists gave examples of PPP projects that could inspire governments and the private sector to replicate them in other countries. Projects specifically mentioned included: the Pamir project in Tajikistan: *luz para todos* (electricity for all) in Brazil; an agricultural project in Haiti; and a port project in Madagascar. In this context, delegates recognised the unique contribution to shared knowledge and experience of the UNECE compendium of PPP case studies which they believed should be further elaborated and disseminated, and urged interested parties to submit their own cases for inclusion in the compendium.

8. Delegates agreed that these draft guiding principles should be further developed and suggested that this might be undertaken through a series of roadshow consultations with key stakeholders (member States, other United Nations agencies, the multilateral development banks, and civil society). The first of these consultations will take place at the Qingdao Forum in China on 22 June 2016. A further consultation also will be held with the Conference of NGOs in Consultative Relationship with the United Nations (CoNGO).

#### ***Innovation in support of national strategies for sustainable development***

9. The second part of the high-level substantive segment was devoted to a discussion on how national innovation strategies can contribute to achieving national sustainable development priorities, and on how innovation policies and other sustainable development policies can be aligned.

10. Delegates appreciated the exchange of experience based on presentations from Belarus, Kazakhstan and Ukraine, three countries which had undertaken UNECE Innovation Performance Reviews, and from Switzerland and Turkey, two countries that would participate in the first voluntary follow-up and review process on SDG implementation at the global level later in 2016.

11. The discussion showed that, in order to achieve the priorities set in long-term national strategies, such as greening the economy, making consumption and production patterns more sustainable, or improving energy efficiency, it is necessary to put in place adequately funded short-and medium-term legislative and policy programmes to promote innovation and behavioural change. The discussion also showed the need to address, at both the strategic and implementation levels, the interdependencies between different aspects of sustainable development.

12. Participants discussed examples of, and progress on, promoting innovation in pursuit of the economic growth pillar of sustainable development, including financial support for education, science and research, the promotion of innovative entrepreneurship and business sector R&D, the facilitation of commercialization activities, and the creation of innovation clusters and other innovation infrastructures.

13. Delegates also discussed examples of innovation as a tool to pursue the other pillars of sustainable development and, particularly, environmental sustainability. In this regard,

there was a discussion on structural and regulatory policies that can complement traditional innovation policies by orienting innovation efforts towards sustainable development priorities. Among these policies were:

(a) Taxes, levies and incentive charges to internalize negative environmental externalities and, thereby, provide undistorted price signals for investments in innovation;

(b) Mandatory regulations and voluntary standards to force or encourage the adoption of environmentally sustainable products and processes and thereby create demand for innovation in these areas;

(c) Awareness raising campaigns and education programs to affect behavioural change; and

(d) Publicly supported flagship projects that demonstrate innovative solutions to sustainability problems.

14. The discussion also highlighted the need for further work on reliable and internationally comparable indicators to measure progress on innovation for sustainable development, and the importance of nurturing private venture capital funding for new, innovative companies. In this regard, the public sector may have to initially provide co-financing and to assume a significant part of the investment risk in order to attract private capital.



## Annex II

### Intersessional implementation plan for 2016-2017

#### I. Introduction

1. The present document is based on the programme of work of the Committee for 2016-2017 (ECE/CECI/2015/9). It provides additional information on activities planned and proposed for the period between the tenth and eleventh sessions of the Committee. To facilitate discussion, this document presents activities grouped by the main thematic areas covered by the Committee, i.e. Innovation and Competitiveness, and Public-Private Partnerships.
2. The plans and proposals reflect demand expressed by member States as well as the resources available to the Secretariat at the time of writing. Delegates are invited to bring additional proposals and requests to the Session.

#### II. Innovation and Competitiveness Policies

3. The tenth session of the Team of Specialists on Innovation and Competitiveness Policies (ToS-ICP) will be held at Geneva on 3 and 4 November 2016. As part of the session, an international policy conference will provide an opportunity for experts from across the UNECE region to exchange experiences on innovation policy. The bureau of the Team will decide on the specific topic in consultation with the Team members. The tenth session will decide on the date for the eleventh session to be held in 2017.
4. Immediately prior to the ToS-ICP session, on 2 November, an event on innovative entrepreneurship will be organized together with the Government of Israel.
5. The Innovation Performance Review of Tajikistan has been completed and is currently being translated into Russian. A launch event will be organized in Dushanbe back-to-back with a follow-up policy advisory mission in 2016.
6. The new Innovation for Sustainable Development Review of Belarus (following the Innovation Performance Review carried out in 2010-2011) will be completed in the third quarter of 2016. It will then be published, translated into Russian and launched in the country in early 2017. This Review will describe changes in the five years since the first review, will identify additional options for improving innovation performance and will, for the first time, analyze the role of innovation in achieving the country's sustainable development priorities.
7. Expressions of interest for Innovation Performance Reviews have also been received from Azerbaijan and Kyrgyzstan. Kazakhstan has expressed interest in a second-round review. The sequencing and timing of these reviews will depend on the availability of extra-budgetary resources. Preparatory missions, fact finding missions, peer reviews and launch events will be organized accordingly in 2017.
8. Together with the respective national counterparts from the Reviews, policy advisory workshops to support the implementation of policy recommendations will be held in follow-up to the Innovation Performance Reviews of Kazakhstan in June and in Armenia

and Ukraine after the summer break. Similar events will be organized in 2017 subject to demand from member States and available resources.

9. A high-level international conference on “Laying the foundation in the ECE region for greater integration, economic development and achievement of the sustainable development goals” will be organized jointly with the ECE Steering Committee on Trade Capacity and Standards and with the Government of Belarus in Minsk during the week of 24 October 2016. The conference will provide input to the 70th anniversary session of the Economic Commission for Europe in 2017.

10. An official UN publication on Closing Innovation Adoption Gaps will be published at the end of 2016 based on the results of the substantive segment of the 2015 session of the Team of Specialists on Innovation and Competitiveness Policies. A similar publication will be developed in 2017 based on the 2016 meeting of the same body.

### **III. Public-private Partnerships**

11. The focus of the work on Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs) is on developing international PPP standards and best practices in support of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and supporting the implementation of these standards and best practices in countries through demand-driven national, regional, and international capacity-building activities as well as through policy advisory services carried out by the UNECE PPP Business Advisory Board.

12. The following meetings of the Business Advisory Board (BAB) with senior policy makers in member States are planned in the coming months. Additional BAB meetings will be organized, both in 2016 and 2017, subject to demand from member States and the availability of extra-budgetary resources:

- (i) Tbilisi, Georgia, June 2016;
- (ii) Chisinau, Moldova, June 2016;
- (iii) Brasilia, Brazil, July 2016;
- (iv) Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan, October 2016.

13. Capacity-building workshops will be organized in Shenzhen, China in August and in Sochi, Russian Federation in October 2016. Additional workshops will be organized, both in 2016 and 2017, subject to demand from member States and the availability of extra-budgetary resources.

14. Two PPP Forums will be held, to further advance the work on international PPP standards, one in Geneva, Switzerland, on 30 March-1 April 2016, and one in Qingdao China on 21-22 June 2016.

15. International standards on PPPs in health policy, in water and sanitation, in renewable energy, and in transport (roads, rail, ports and airports) will be finalized during 2016 and 2017.

16. The next session of the Team of Specialists on PPPs will be held in Geneva on 20-21 October 2016.

17. The UNECE Guidelines on Principles of Good Governance in PPPs will be revised in the second quarter of 2016, in order to address the need to accommodate sustainable development priorities.

18. A publication on the proceedings of an International Conference on PPPs in Water and Sanitation, where a number of case studies were presented from the UNECE region and beyond, will be published in the third quarter of 2016.

---