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

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Note by the secretariat

At its eighty-first meeting on 23 November 2015, the Executive Committee of ECE reviewed the draft ECE Strategic Framework for 2018-2019. This draft will be discussed by the Committee for Programme and Coordination in June 2016 and then will be presented to the 71st session of the General Assembly for approval.

This document provides the strategic framework of the subprogramme on Economic Cooperation and Integration for 2018-2019, which was extracted from the ECE Strategic Framework 2018-2019. It defines the objective of the subprogramme, expected accomplishments and a strategy for its work.

This document is presented to the Committee on Innovation, Competitiveness and Public-Private Partnerships for information.

Subprogramme 4

Economic cooperation and integration

Objective of the Organization: To improve a policy, financial and regulatory environment conducive to the sustained economic growth, innovative development and greater competitiveness of economies in the ECE region

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat

Indicators of achievement

(a) Improved international policy dialogue on promoting sustained economic growth, innovative development and greater competitiveness in the ECE region

Number of new international best practices and standards resulting from policy dialogue among member States

(b) Improved understanding at the national level of policy options to promote sustained economic growth, innovative development and greater competitiveness

Number of new national assessments and sets of tailored policy recommendations developed in cooperation with recipient member States

(c) Enhanced national implementation of ECE policy recommendations and standards on promoting a policy, financial and regulatory environment conducive to sustained economic growth, innovative development and greater competitiveness

Number of new measures taken by member States to implement ECE policy recommendations

Strategy

1. The Economic Cooperation and Trade Division is responsible for implementing the subprogramme. The subprogramme will contribute to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development including the achievement of SDGs 8, 9, 12 and 17 related to innovation, competitiveness and public-private partnerships through the following strategy:

(a) International policy dialogue promoting a financial and regulatory environment conducive to sustained economic growth, innovative development and greater competitiveness, resulting in the identification of international good practices and where appropriate, development of international standards;

(b) Demand driven national assessments of policy, financial and regulatory environments in the areas of the subprogramme's work, resulting in tailored policy recommendations; and

(c) Capacity building and policy advice to support implementation of ECE policy recommendations and standards.

2. The subprogramme will focus on two complementary areas: (a) innovation and competitiveness policies; and (b) public-private partnerships for infrastructure development, in areas such as roads, ports, water and waste management. The work on innovation and competitive policies will support sustainable economic growth, innovative development and competitiveness by promoting best practices in national innovation systems, innovation financing and the creation of a supportive business climate. The work on public-private partnerships will support the same objective by promoting innovative ways of financing, building and managing infrastructure critical for international competitiveness.
3. Policy dialogues will draw on the knowledge of national and international experts in order to identify a wide range of best practices. Implementation will be supported through the development of policy recommendations and standards based on the outcome of intergovernmental dialogue. Policy advisory services and capacity-building assistance will be demand driven and focused on supporting the implementation of ECE policy recommendations and standards.
4. The subprogramme will draw upon the work of other relevant organizations and institutions operating in this field. It will strengthen partnerships with United Nations agencies, funds and programmes and national public-private partnership units in the region.
5. The work of the subprogramme will be supported by the teams of specialists on innovation and competitive policies and on public-private partnerships.