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Committee on Innovation, Competitiveness and Public-Private Partnerships

Eleventh session

Geneva, 20-22 March 2017

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

I. Overview

1. The eleventh session of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe's (ECE's) Committee on Innovation, Competitiveness and Public-Private Partnerships (CICPPP) was held from 20 to 22 March 2017.

2. The officer-in-charge of the ECE Economic Cooperation and Trade Division opened the session, noting the strong interest and participation in this year's high-level substantive segment on impact investing. He highlighted the importance of impact investment in achieving the ambitious goals set out in the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. He noted the crucial importance of both innovation and public-private partnerships for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the massive investments this will require. Impact investing, which combines a return on investment with non-financial environmental, social and governance benefits, can make a significant contribution to mobilizing the necessary financial resources. The results of this session will help ECE develop standards and best practice guidelines in this sphere, advising member States on necessary reforms and devising ways of monitoring and supporting progress towards the SDGs.

II. Attendance

3. A total of 134 delegates participated in the meeting. The session was attended by representatives from the following ECE countries: Armenia, Belarus, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, France, Germany, Greece, Israel, Italy, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Republic of Moldova, Russian Federation, Sweden, Tajikistan, Turkey, Ukraine, and United States of America.

4. Representatives of China, Congo, India, Indonesia, Lebanon, Mongolia, Morocco, Nigeria, and Qatar participated under article 11 of the Commission's terms of reference.

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5. The following specialized agencies in the United Nations system were represented: United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) and the World Meteorological Organization (WMO).
6. The following intergovernmental organizations were represented: European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, Medicines Patent Pool, and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD).
7. Other organizations (local authorities, academic institutions, non-governmental organizations and private sector entities), present at the invitation of the secretariat included the following: ADEC Innovations (Philippines and United Kingdom), Aephoria.net, Sustainable-Business Startup Incubator (Greece), Al Farabi Kazakh National University (Kazakhstan), Anglo Euro Developers Ltd (Singapore), Bessarab and Partners Attorneys at Law (Ukraine), BlueOrchard Finance AG (Switzerland), Bolz and partner consulting AG (Switzerland), C.R.E.A.M. Europe PPP Alliance (Germany and Italy), Cabinet Privé de Conseils (Switzerland), Capital Normal University (China), CMS Cameron McKenna LLP (United Kingdom), Concept Realisation Management Consultancy (United Arab Emirates), Criss Cross International (Germany), Directorium NPP (Russian Federation), Dornier Consulting International (Germany), Econ-Trade (Switzerland), European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (Russian Federation), 4IP consulting group (Italy), Friends World Committee for Consulation (Switzerland), Georgetown University (United States), Global Infrastructure Basel Foundation (Switzerland), Global Solutions (Portugal), Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies (Switzerland), Hellenic Single Public Procurement Authority (Greece), Higher Council for Privatization (Lebanon), Impact Hub Geneva (Switzerland), Infralinx Capital (Germany and United States), Ingeniería y Economía del Transporte INECO (Spain), Institute of Economics and Forecasting, National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine (Ukraine), Institute of Friendship of peoples in Caucasus (Russian Federation), International Association TIP (Georgia), International Investment Center (Russian Federation), International Law Institute, Washington, D.C. (United States), International Science and Technology Center (Armenia), International Tourism Institute (Slovenia), Kanzlei PreussLegal Counsel PPP EMEA (Germany), Kazakh Research Institute of Culture (Kazakhstan), Kiev Taras Chevchenko National University (Ukraine), LLP "New & Rare Resources" (Kazakhstan), MBA student from Alliance Manchester Business School (United Kingdom), Medicines Patent Pool (Switzerland), Moroccan Agency for Energy Efficiency (AMEE), Mott MacDonald (United Kingdom), Narxoz University Thomson Reuters (Kazakhstan), National Academy of Development and Strategy, RUC (China), National Agency of Investment and Privatization (Belarus), National Council for Public-Private Partnerships (United States), OECD (France), OPORTA RUSSIA (Russian Federation), PMF Project Management and Finance (Italy), University of Rome Tor Vergata Vice-Chairman of the Committee on Innovation, Competitiveness and PPPs (Italy), Public Private Partnership Center (Tajikistan), Public Property Agency (Republic of Moldova), Public Works Authority (Qatar), Queisser & Cie (Switzerland), Satellite Towns Development Department (Nigeria), Secretariat Special for Public-Private Partnerships (Greece), Seedstars World (Ukraine), SEG Civil Society Support Center NGO (Armenia), Shah Muqem Trust (Pakistan), Shenzhen Rail Transit Association (China), Specialist Center on PPP in Smart & Sustainable Cities, IESE Business School (Spain), St. Gallen University (Switzerland), Belarusian Institute of System Analysis & Information Support of Scientific & Technical Sphere (Belarus), Studio D - Centre for Development & Dialogue (Albania), Symbioticsgroup (Switzerland), The Scientific and Technological Research Council of Turkey (Turkey), TMF Group (Switzerland), TR Associates Ltd. (Switzerland), TRANSPROEKT Group JSC (Russian Federation), UBS (Switzerland), Ukrainian PPP Center (Ukraine), University Hasselt & AMS (Belgium), University of Geneva Institute of Service Science CINTCOM (Switzerland), University of Manchester (United Kingdom), VINNOVA Swedish

Governmental Agency for Innovation Systems (Sweden), Virtual Education (Italy), World Federation of Engineering Organizations (Switzerland).

III. Adoption of the agenda (Agenda item 1)

Documentation:

Annotated provisional agenda (ECE/CECI/2017/1).

Decision 2017 - 1

The Committee adopted the agenda for its eleventh session.

IV. Election of officers (Agenda item 2)

8. Mr. Piotr Baltrukovich (Belarus) stepped down as Vice-Chairperson. Ms. Maria Yamalchuk (Russian Federation) and Mr. Arthur L. Smith (United States) completed their first two-year terms in office.

Decision 2017 - 2

The Committee re-elected Mr. Arthur L. Smith (United States) and Ms. Maria Yamalchuk (Russian Federation) as Vice Chairs for two year terms of office.¹ The Committee took note of the resignation of Mr. Piotr Baltrukovich (Belarus) as Vice Chair and thanked him for his service. The Committee elected Mr. Dmitry Poladenko (Belarus) and Mr. Rafis Abazov (Kazakhstan) as Vice Chairs for two year terms of office.

V. High-level substantive segment on impact investing – financing innovation and people-first PPPs for sustainable development (Agenda item 3)

Documentation:

Good Practices and Policy Options on Impact Investing – Financing Innovation for Sustainable Development (ECE/CECI/2017/3)

9. The Chair's summary of the discussions was presented under agenda item 6. The presentations made during the high-level substantive segment were made available on the UNECE website.² The Committee thanked the speakers and participants for the productive exchange of experiences, and their contributions to the discussion on the role of impact investing in financing innovation and people-first PPPs for sustainable development.

VI. Matters arising (Agenda item 4)

Documentation:

Decision approving the establishment of the Working Party on Public-Private Partnerships to replace the Team of Specialists on Public-Private Partnerships (ECE/EX/2016/L.17)

¹ Having been elected for two-year terms in 2016, the following Bureau members remain in office: Mr. Sharon Kedmi (Israel, Chair) and Mr. Salvatore Zecchini (Italy, Vice Chair).

² <http://www.unece.org/cicppp11.html#/>

10. The ECE Executive Committee had decided to transform the Team of Specialists on Public-Private Partnerships into a Working Party on Public-Private Partnerships.

11. A Multi-Stakeholder Forum on Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) will be organized by the Inter-Agency Task Team on Science, Technology and Innovation for Sustainable Development in New York on 15-16 May 2017 to discuss how science, technology and innovation can contribute to selected Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), including Goal 9 on building resilient infrastructure, promoting sustainable industrialization and fostering innovation. The Forum will also discuss national Science, Technology and Innovation plans and policies for achieving the SDGs, STI capacity building for achieving the SDGs, financing technologies and impact investing, and policies to enable investment and start-ups. The Committee has compiled expertise on all these issues and the Forum provides an opportunity to make this expertise available at the global level. The results of the Forum will feed into the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development to be held in New York in June 2017.

12. The Inter-Agency Task Force on Financing for Development had requested to explore opening up the ECE guiding principles on people-first PPPs for use by other UN agencies, and adopting them across the UN system. The Addis Ababa Action Agenda on Financing for Development calls for developing such guiding principles.

Decision 2017 – 4.1

The Committee took note of the decision made by the ECE Executive Committee to transform the Team of Specialists on Public-Private Partnerships into a Working Party on Public-Private Partnerships, which will hold its first session on 21-22 November 2017 (ECE/EX/2016/L.17).

Decision 2017 - 4.2

The Committee took note of the ongoing work of the Inter-Agency Task Team on Science, Technology and Innovation for Sustainable Development at the global level and the preparations for the second Multi-Stakeholder Forum on Science, Technology and Innovation for Sustainable Development to be held in New York on 15-16 May 2017.

Decision 2017 - 4.3

The Committee took note of the work of the Inter-Agency Task Force on Financing for Development related to PPPs, more specifically the ongoing technical discussions in New York on the draft UNECE guiding principles on people-first PPPs for the UN SDGs with a view to reach a consensus on presenting this work as ‘one UN’.

VII. Implementation of the programme of work (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 ninth session (ECE/CECI/ICP/2016/2)

Good Practices and Policy Options on Impact Investing – Financing Innovation for Sustainable Development (ECE/CECI/2017/CRP/1)

Draft Revised Mandate and Terms of Reference of the Team of Specialists on Innovation and Competitiveness Policies (ECE/CECI/2017/4)

13. The secretariat drew the attention of the Committee to the Report from the ninth session of the Team of Specialists on Innovation and Competitiveness Policies (TOS-ICP) (ECE/CECI/ICP/2016/2), the policy document Good Practices and Policy Options on Impact Investing – Financing Innovation for Sustainable Development (ECE/CECI/2017/3), and the draft revised Terms of Reference of the Team of Specialists on Innovation and Competitiveness (ECE/CECI/2017/4).

14. The secretariat emphasized the critical role which the 2030 Agenda assigns to innovation for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, and the many ways in which the expertise and the activities of the Team of Specialists on Innovation and Competitiveness Policies can contribute to advancing the 2030 Agenda, including the development of good practices and policies on how innovation can be fostered in areas critical for sustainable development; the national Innovation for Sustainable Development Reviews, which analyse national policies in the light of international best practice and make recommendations for improvement; and the follow-up policy advisory and capacity-building activities that assist Governments, upon their request, with the implementation of selected policy recommendations.

15. The secretariat briefed the Committee on the activities of the TOS-ICP since the last session, including the policy conference “Start-up Nations – Innovative Entrepreneurship for Sustainable Development” organized jointly with the Government of Israel; the applied policy seminar and resulting policy document on “Impact Investing – Financing Innovation for Sustainable Development”; and the progress of the work on national Innovation for Sustainable Development Reviews.

16. The conference on “Start-up Nations – Innovative Entrepreneurship for Sustainable Development” showcased specific examples from throughout the UNECE region of start-up companies developing and scaling up innovative solutions to sustainable development challenges. It brought together policy makers, entrepreneurs, and investors for an exchange of experience on how to create nurturing eco-systems in which innovative start-up companies can thrive.

17. The applied policy seminar on “Impact Investing – Financing Innovation for Sustainable Development” held as part of the Team’s last session discussed the current state and prospects of impact investment in innovative companies, the trade-off between financial return and social or environmental impact, the different types of financial instruments available, and the challenges that need to be overcome in order to scale up impact investments in innovative companies, including the need to improve the methodologies for measuring social and environmental impact in a comprehensive, realistic and cost-effective way that allows comparison across companies and industries, and to further develop the capacity of investors, investee companies, and auditors to apply these methodologies.

18. The Innovation Performance Review of Tajikistan had been translated into Russian and that the Innovation for Sustainable Development Review of Belarus had been completed successfully following an international peer review held in Minsk in October 2016. As a result, Belarus had become the first country to complete a second review, five years after the initial review. The Review was in the process of being edited for publication, and the secretariat and the State Committee on Science and Technology of Belarus were in the process of concluding a Memorandum of Understanding on the follow-up to the Review.

19. A policy workshop on the implementation of recommendations from the Innovation Performance Review of Armenia was held in Yerevan in December 2016 jointly with the State Committee on Science of Armenia and hosted by UNIDO.

20. The Innovation for Sustainable Development Review of Kyrgyzstan was in progress. The Kyrgyz State Service of Intellectual Property and Innovation (Kyrgyzpatent) had been nominated as the national counterpart for the project. The preparations for the fact finding mission had been completed successfully, and the international team of experts would visit the country during the first week of April 2017.

21. The annual session of the Working Group on Knowledge-Based Development under the UN Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia was organized jointly with the UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific and hosted by the Government of Kazakhstan in Almaty. A regional workshop on ICT connectivity for the knowledge economy and SDGs was held back-to-back with the annual session.

22. The secretariat briefed the Committee on the proposed revision of the Terms of Reference of the TOS-ICP. The Terms of Reference had last been revised by a decision of the ECE Executive Committee in January 2015 and did not reflect the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the role it assigns to innovation for achieving the SDGs. Moreover, the name of the Committee had been changed in 2015, but the Terms of Reference did not yet reflect this change. In addition to reflecting the change in the Committee's name, the proposed revision of the Terms of Reference would reflect the implications for its work of the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development by adding a reference to the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda to the mandate as well as references to the role of innovation and competitiveness policies in fostering sustainable development to the list of mandated activities. The proposed revision would also add two additional activities subject to extra-budgetary funding: 1) providing inputs from a regional perspective to the global Multi-Stakeholder Forum on Science, Technology and Innovation for Sustainable Development; and 2) contributing to the regional follow-up and review of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in the areas of the Team's mandate.

23. The two-year mandate of the TOS-ICP was coming to an end. The secretariat asked the Committee to consider recommending to the UNECE Executive Committee a renewal of the mandate for another two years in view of the heightened relevance which innovation and competitiveness policies have attained within the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

24. The Committee expressed its appreciation for the useful and concrete work of the TOS-ICP, and thanked the experts and the donors for their in-kind and financial contributions.

Decision 2017 - 5a.1

The Committee expressed its satisfaction with the focus of the Team's work on innovation for sustainable development. It took note of the report of the TOS-ICP on its ninth session (ECE/CECI/ICP/2016/2). It welcomed the results of the international conference on "Start-up Nations – Innovative Entrepreneurship for Sustainable Development" jointly organized with the Government of Israel, and the development of good practices on impact investment. The Committee invited the secretariat to electronically disseminate the corresponding applied policy document (ECE/CECI/2017/3), and to make use of its conclusions in future capacity-building activities and policy advisory work.

Decision 2017 - 5a.2

The Committee also welcomed the findings and policy recommendations from the Innovation for Sustainable Development Review of Belarus and the planned Memorandum of Understanding between the UNECE secretariat and the State Committee on Science and Technology of the Republic of Belarus on joint activities to facilitate the implementation of

the policy recommendations from the Review. The Committee also welcomed the progress made on the Innovation for Sustainable Development Review of Kyrgyzstan.

Decision 2017 - 5a.3

The Committee took note of the policy advisory and capacity-building work carried out by the Team, including under the Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia and in follow-up to the Innovation Performance Review of Armenia, and noted the progress made in the implementation of the policy recommendations of this Review.

Decision 2017 - 5a.4

The Committee requested that the secretariat follow up, subject to available extra budgetary funding, on the interest expressed by the Governments of Armenia, Kazakhstan and Ukraine in policy advisory and capacity-building services, including to support the implementation of recommendations from Innovation Performance Reviews and Innovation for Sustainable Development Reviews. The Committee also requested that the secretariat follow up, subject to available extra budgetary funding, on the interest expressed by the Governments of Armenia and Kazakhstan in undertaking new national Innovation for Sustainable Development Reviews.

Decision 2017 - 5a.5

In view of the useful work carried out by the Team of Specialists on Innovation and Competitiveness Policies in the past two years and of the heightened relevance which innovation and competitiveness policies have attained within the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Committee recommended that the mandate of the Team be renewed for an additional two years. The Committee also recommended that the Terms of Reference of the Team of Specialists on Innovation and Competitiveness Policies be revised to reflect the implications for its work of the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and requested the revised Terms of Reference (ECE/CECI/2017/4) to be annexed to this report. The Committee agreed to submit these recommendations to the ECE Executive Committee for decision.

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

Documentation:

Report of the Team of Specialises on Public-Private Partnerships on its eighth session (ECE/CECI/2016/2)

Independent evaluation report of the project “Capacity Development to Support the Implementation of PPPs in Belarus” (ECE/CECI/2017/5)

Revised draft standard on a Zero Tolerance Approach to Corruption in PPP procurement (ECE/CECI/2017/CRP.2)

25. The Chairperson drew the attention of the Committee to the Report of the Team of Specialists on Public-Private Partnerships on its eighth and final session (ECE/CECI/2016/2), the independent evaluation report of the project “Capacity Development to Support the Implementation of PPPs in Belarus” (ECE/CECI/2017/5), and the revised draft standard on a Zero Tolerance Approach to Corruption in PPP procurement (ECE/CECI/2017/CRP.2).

26. The secretariat informed the Committee that the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, with its strong emphasis on partnerships and in particular PPPs, provides the UNECE PPP programme with a unique opportunity to showcase its international standards in people-first PPP for the SDGs, especially so because the UNECE

is the only UN agency actually involved in PPPs in a substantive way and the only UN agency with an inter-governmental body devoted to promoting good practices in PPPs.

27. UNECE has a strong mandate to identify and develop model standards and best practices in people-first PPPs for the SDGs, and to help countries with PPP implementation – with a focus on low and middle income countries and putting “people first”– and that, indeed, this is the focus of the UNECE’s PPP work.

28. Through the work of the Committee and the TOS-PPP, UNECE is becoming the world leader in developing PPP standards for the SDGs, based upon its unique intergovernmental process. It is widely recognised by its international partners, including the World Bank and the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA), as the leading agency developing PPP guidelines on good governance as called for in Article 48 of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda.

29. At the request of the Executive Secretary, the secretariat prepared a detailed report of the PPP activities, which it intends to submit to the ECE Executive Committee for information and decision.

30. The International PPP Centre of Excellence continued its work to elaborate international standards on people-first PPPs for the UN SDGs. The revised draft standard on a Zero Tolerance Approach to Corruption in PPP procurement (ECE/CECI/2017/CRP.2) were expected to be finalised in April 2017 after a final round of peer review and to be submitted to the Bureau and the Working Party on PPPs at its first session in November 2017. Work on other standards in transport (airports, roads, rail and urban rail), water and sanitation, and renewable energy were at various stages of development. Work had also started on the best practice guide on PPPs in waste to energy projects led by China Everbright International.

31. The secretariat briefed the Committee on the ongoing work on the guiding principles on people-first PPPs for the UN SDGs, and referred to the secretariat’s report under agenda item 4 and its efforts to coordinate this work with other UN agencies and the World Bank as part of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda framework. The revised version of the guiding principles would be ready in time for the United Nations Economic and Social Council’s (ECOSOC) Partnership Forum and the Global Infrastructure Forum in New York and Washington DC in April 2017.

32. The people-first PPP case studies were being collected and evaluated according to the people-first criteria. The next batch of the case studies would be presented at the second UNECE International people-first PPP Forum in Hong Kong on 9-11 May 2017.

33. The International Specialist Centres play a crucial role in backstopping the work on PPP standards by providing the empirical evidence based on collecting international PPP best practices and case studies. The following Specialist Centres were established since its tenth session:

- (a) Lebanon: International Specialist Centre of Excellence on PPPs in ports hosted by the Higher Council for Privatization of the Government of Lebanon in Beirut; and
- (b) Portugal: International Specialist Centre of Excellence on PPPs in water and sanitation hosted by the *Laboratorio Nacional de Engenharia Civil*, a public institution aimed at coordinating and promoting scientific research and technological development, with the support of the Ministry of Environment of Portugal in Lisbon.

34. The International PPP Centre of Excellence had carried out capacity building and advisory missions based upon two main activities since the ninth session: (a) consultative missions of the PPP Business Advisory Board with national authorities on national PPP

policies, programmes and projects; and (b) participation in international fora and conferences for the exchange of PPP best practices and models.

35. During the reporting period, a total of eight capacity building and policy advisory activities were organised: five policy advisory missions and consultative meetings of the PPP Business Advisory Board; and three more PPP activities with a capacity building component.

36. The main activities undertaken by the UNECE PPP Business Advisory Board, whose mandate is due for renewal at the end of 2017, were:

- (a) Geneva: Meeting of the PPP Business Advisory Board with senior policy makers from Belarus, Kazakhstan, the Russian Federation and Ukraine, with a focus on project identification, risk allocation and the legal and regulatory framework, Palais des Nations (31 March 2016);
- (b) Russian Federation: Meeting of the PPP Business Advisory Board with the Ministry of Economy of the Russian Federation to advise the Government on risk allocation in PPPs and to share international best practices on the involvement of regional and local authorities in the PPP process, Moscow (12-13 October 2016);
- (c) Belarus: Meeting of the PPP Business Advisory Board with the Interministerial Infrastructure Board of Belarus with a focus on PPP pilot projects and issues pertaining to the legal and regulatory framework, Minsk (28 October 2016);
- (d) Kazakhstan: Meeting of the PPP Business Advisory Board with a focus on PPP projects in the health sector and the draft PPP health policy of Kazakhstan, Astana (27-28 October 2016);
- (e) China: dialogue between the PPP Business Advisory Board and government officials from China to learn from the Chinese PPP experience to be shared with countries with economies in transition in Central Asia, Beijing (16 December 2016)

37. The following policy advisory missions and capacity-building activities were also organized by the UNECE International PPP Centre of Excellence since the ninth session:

- (a) Training Workshop, to provide PPP training to government officials in Asia, Shenzhen, China (21-23 September 2016);
- (b) International PPP Workshop, to showcase people-first PPP case studies in a number of countries in Asia and Europe, Bangkok, Thailand (23 September 2016); and
- (c) International Conference on Smart and sustainable cities and meeting on people-first PPPs, Barcelona, Spain (17-18 November 2016)

38. The Committee heard presentations on the evaluation report of the project “Capacity Development to Support the Implementation of PPPs in Belarus” (ECE/CECI/2017/5) by:

- (a) Mr. Marius Birsan, the independent evaluator, who gave an overview of the evaluation and its recommendations, highlighting the vital contribution of the UNECE PPP Business Advisory Board to the success of the project;
- (b) The delegate from Belarus confirmed the main achievements of the project and said that the recommendations pertaining to the staff at the PPP unit in Belarus had already been implemented. He said that support from ECE to provide staff members with efficient training on the details of PPPs would be greatly appreciated. The delegate expressed the hope that UNECE will provide further assistance and technical support on PPP development in Belarus;

- (c) The delegate from UNDP at the time of the project implementation spoke of the excellent cooperation between UNDP and UNECE in implementing the project. He mentioned that the UNECE played a leading role in the initiation of a readiness assessment on PPPs, and that this project has been a showcase of cooperation within the UN system;
 - (d) The delegate from EBRD expressed their gratitude to UNECE for their work on the identification of pilot PPP projects in Belarus with the support of the PPP Business Advisory Board, especially the M10 road project, and recommended the UNECE capacity building project as a model to be replicated in other countries. She informed the Committee that IFC is providing financial support to a healthcare project in Grodno identified by UNECE, and that the EU delegation in Minsk is providing financial support to a kindergarten project in Minsk, also identified by UNECE.
39. The representative of the United States, speaking also in his role as co-Chairperson of the TOS PPP, referred to the report by the secretariat on the PPP work, and suggested that the Committee endorses the proposal to submit this report to the ECE Executive Committee for information and decision. He also reiterated that the capacity building project in Belarus should become a case study on how to do PPP capacity building in other countries.
40. The delegate of China provided an overview of PPP development in China and cooperation with UNECE on the One Belt One Road initiative.
41. The representative of Lebanon informed the Committee on the work of the International Specialist Centre of Excellence on PPPs in ports in Beirut.
42. The representative of Belarus thanked the Business Advisory Board and the secretariat for the successful meeting with the Interministerial Infrastructure Board of Belarus in October 2016.
43. The representative of Ukraine thanked the Business Advisory Board for its advice on a number of PPP issues in the health sector discussed with senior government officials in March 2016.
44. The Committee expressed its appreciation for the useful and concrete work of the TOS-PPP, and thanked the experts and the donors for their in-kind and financial contributions.

Decision 2017 - 5b.1

The Committee expressed its satisfaction with the focus of the work on people-first PPPs and noted with appreciation the increasing interest and participation by countries from all regions and by other important stakeholders, including the World Bank.

It endorsed the report of the TOS-PPP on its eighth and final session (ECE/CECI/PPP/2016/2), and took note of the status of the PPP standards and recommendations under preparation, especially the advanced version of the standard on a Zero Tolerance Approach to Corruption in People-first PPP Procurement (ECE/CECI/2017/CRP2), the collection and dissemination of case studies that fulfil the people-first criteria, and the setting up of new PPP specialist centres in Lebanon and Portugal to identify international PPP best practice and support the work on the standards.

Decision 2017 - 5b.2

The Committee encouraged the secretariat to continue working closely with UN DESA, other UN agencies and the World Bank in the context of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda framework on the draft

UNECE guiding principles on people-first PPPs for the UN SDGs. 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 2017 - 5b.3

The Committee also noted with appreciation the independent evaluation of the project “Capacity Development to Support the Implementation of PPPs in Belarus” and its recommendations (ECE/CECI/PPP/2016/5). It particularly noted the positive appraisal by the independent evaluator of the work of the UNECE PPP Business Advisory Board in providing targeted policy advisory services to Belarus on project identification and the legal and regulatory framework in the country.

Decision 2017 - 5b.4

In light of the useful work carried out by the UNECE PPP Business Advisory Board since its setting up in April 2014, and given its role in providing practical policy advisory services to member States, the Committee recommended that the mandate of the UNECE PPP Business Advisory Board be extended by a further three years until December 2020 and agreed to submit this proposal to the ECE Executive Committee for decision.

Decision 2017 – 5b.5

The Committee took note of the policy advisory and capacity-building work carried out by the TOS-PPP. It requested that the secretariat follow up, subject to available extra budgetary funding, on the interest expressed by the delegations of Belarus and Kyrgyzstan in new policy advisory and capacity-building services.

Decision 2017 – 5b.6

The Committee endorsed the initiative by the secretariat to submit a detailed report on the PPP activities to the ECE Executive Committee for information and decision.

C. Joint Activities (Agenda item 5(c))

45. The secretariat briefed the Committee on joint work with other ECE committees, in particular: the Conference jointly organized with the Steering Committee on Trade Capacity and Standards (SCTCS) and the Government of Belarus, in Minsk in October 2016 on “Laying the foundation in the UNECE region for economic integration and sustainable development towards 2030” (<https://www.unece.org/vision2030.html>); the Recommendation on PPPs in Trade Facilitation jointly developed with the United Nations Centre for Trade Facilitation and Electronic Business (UN/CEFACT); and a Workshop on People-First PPPs jointly organized with UN/CEFACT in Bangkok, Thailand.

46. At the request of the World Bank and other multilateral development banks, the UNECE joined the PPP Knowledge Lab as a partner. This platform, managed by the World Bank, provides a key resource to PPP practitioners in member States and allows its partners, including the UNECE, to showcase and promote its PPP programmes and outputs, including the UNECE PPP standards and guides.

Decision 2017 - 5c.1

The Committee took note of the joint work with the Steering Committee on Trade Capacity and Standards (SCTCS) and the Government of Belarus on the international conference “Laying the foundation in the UNECE region for economic integration and sustainable development towards 2030”. It also took note of the contribution of the TOS PPP to the mandated work of UN CEFACT on the formulation of a

recommendation on PPPs in Trade Facilitation, and the joint workshop organised in Bangkok, Thailand on people-first PPPs for the UN SDGs. It also noted with appreciation the accession of UNECE to the PPP Knowledge Lab as a partner.

Decision 2017 – 5c.2

The Committee thanked the donors whose financial contributions greatly contributed to the Committee's work on developing good practices and standards, analysing national policies, and providing policy advice and capacity building for the implementation of policy reforms, i.e. the Government of the Russian Federation, the Government of Israel, Vnesheconombank (VEB), Toyo University in Japan, Tshingua University in China, City University of Hong Kong, and the French Institute of International Legal Experts (IFEJI). The Committee 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 and other donors to continue to provide support to its activities.

VIII. Main conclusions of the high-level substantive segment (Agenda item 6)

47. The chair presented the summary of the discussion during the high-level substantive segment and opened the floor for a discussion of the summary with a view to identifying suggestions for follow-up activities.

Decision 2017 – 6.1

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

Decision 2017 – 6.2

The Committee invited its Bureau and the secretariat to further explore specific ways in which the Committee might contribute to the promotion of impact investing as a means to finance innovation and people-first PPPs for sustainable development, in cooperation, as appropriate, with other UNECE inter-governmental bodies.

IX. Programme of Work (Agenda items 7(a) Programme of Work for 2018-2019 and 7(b) Inter-sessional Implementation Plan)

Documentation:

Draft Programme of Work of the Economic Cooperation and Integration subprogramme for 2018-2019 (ECE/CECI/2017/6)

Inter-sessional implementation plan until the twelfth session (ECE/CECI/2017/CRP/3)

48. The secretariat presented the draft programme of work for 2018-2019, including the list of planned publications, and the inter-sessional implementation plan for the activities to be undertaken in 2017 and until the next session in 2018.

49. The delegation of Ukraine emphasised the importance of smart specialisation strategies as a policy framework to promote innovation, and urged this framework to be taken into account in the work of the Committee.

50. The delegation of Ukraine also expressed its interest in a revised Innovation for Sustainable Development Review and in continued cooperation with UNECE on innovation policy reforms.

51. The delegation of Kazakhstan thanked the Committee for its ongoing support in the area of innovation policies and confirmed its request for a new Innovation for Sustainable Development Review.

52. The representative of Armenia thanked the secretariat for the recent capacity building workshop on the implementation of policy recommendations from the Innovation Performance Review of Armenia. She requested the secretariat to organize another workshop on the topic of commercializing research and development results and to make the Committee's expertise available to provide advice on the draft Science and Technology Development Strategy of Armenia. She also expressed the interest of Armenia in carrying out a new Innovation for Sustainable Development Review with UNECE.

53. The delegation of Belarus thanked the Committee for its ongoing PPP support, and requested that this practical support continues in 2017 on the legal and regulatory framework and project training for regional authorities.

54. The delegation of Kyrgyzstan requested PPP support in the area of agriculture.

A. Programme of Work for 2018-2019

Decision 2017 - 7a.1

The Committee adopted the programme of work, including the list of publications, for 2018-19 (ECE/CECI/2017/6) and recommended them to the Executive Committee for approval.

B. Inter-sessional Implementation Plan

Decision 2017 – 7b.1

The Committee adopted the inter-sessional implementation plan for the activities to be undertaken in 2017 and until the next session in 2018 (ECE/CECI/2017/CRP.3) taking into account the additional proposals received at the session, and requested for it to be annexed to the report of the eleventh session of the Committee.

X. Areas of common interest with other ECE bodies and international organisations (Agenda item 8)

55. The secretariat presented areas of common interest as well as ongoing and potential collaboration with other ECE bodies and other international organizations.

56. The Committee's programme on national Innovation for Sustainable Development Reviews has been informed by earlier Environmental Performance Reviews of these countries carried out under the Committee on Environmental Policy. The Inland Transport Committee is in the process of launching a programme on national Transport Reviews and has expressed an interest in learning from the experience of the Committee on Innovation, Competitiveness and PPPs about the methodologies and processes underlying the Innovation for Sustainable Development Reviews.

57. The Committee's good practices on accelerating the adoption of innovations critical for sustainable development benefitted from expertise provided by the secretariat of the Inland Transport Committee, the Sustainable Energy Committee and the Committee on Housing and Land Management. There have been consultations and cooperation at the level

of the secretariat with the Committee on Housing and Land Management on the topic of sustainable smart cities.

58. There is significant potential to expand this cooperation and to explore the possibility of joint work on topics such as green growth, clean technologies, or energy efficiency, where the Committee's innovation-related expertise could complement the expertise available in the Inland Transport Committee, Sustainable Energy Committee and Committee on Environmental Policy.

59. In its work on public-private partnerships, the Committee is cooperating with the UNECE Committee on Sustainable Energy on defining PPP-friendly business models in the area of energy recovery from waste. The two committees will organize an international workshop in Astana, Kazakhstan in June 2017.

60. There is potential for cooperation with the Committee on Housing and Land Management on the development of a standard for PPPs and smart cities and for further cooperation with the Committee on Sustainable Energy on a standard for PPPs in renewable energy.

61. UNECE is cooperating with the World Bank and other multilateral development banks on a revised PPP Reference Guide. Version 3 of the guide will be released in April 2017 at the 2017 IMF-World Bank Group Spring Meetings.

62. UNECE and the EBRD will launch a joint effort in 2017 to prepare general legal framework conditions for PPPs. The two Organisations already work jointly to improve the legal and regulatory framework in CIS countries, with the next joint seminar scheduled for 24 March 2017 in Moscow.

63. The secretariat reported to the Committee on possible ways to mainstream gender aspects into its future work as requested at the last session under this agenda item (document ECE/CECI/2016/2, decision 2016-6.3). A gender dimension was included in the evaluation of the extra-budgetary project "Capacity Development to Support the Implementation of PPPs in Belarus". The evaluator found that gender balance had been good in the project management and the PPP Unit, as well as in the training events organized as part of the project. The project indicators did not mention any gender disaggregated data, and they were not monitored as such. The evaluator therefore recommended that in the future, project documents should foresee provisions for collecting gender disaggregated data for the relevant indicators, and the secretariat accepted this recommendation. There has also been a lack of analysis of gender-disaggregated data in the programme of national Innovation Performance Reviews, and efforts will be made to collect and analyse such data on human capital, employment in research and development, and entrepreneurship in future reviews.

Decision 2017 - 8.1

The Committee took note of the ongoing and potential collaboration with other ECE inter-governmental committees to contribute to the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Decision 2017 - 8.2

The Committee invited its Bureau and the secretariat to continue to explore additional opportunities for collaboration with other ECE inter-governmental bodies and other international organizations in implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda. The Committee also invited the Bureau and the Secretariat to consider possibilities to step up dialogue with the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) on its areas of work (innovation, competitiveness and

public-private partnerships) to facilitate cooperation in the Eurasian region, pending approval and guidance from the ECE Executive Committee.

Decision 2017 - 8.3

The Committee invited its Chair to share the results the discussions under this agenda with the bureaus of the other sectoral committees under ECE.

Decision 2017 - 8.4

The Committee took note of possible ways to mainstream gender aspects into its work.

XI. Other business (Agenda item 9)

64. The secretariat briefed the Committee on preparations for the Strategic Framework of the Economic Cooperation and Integration Subprogramme for 2020-2021, on the forthcoming evaluation of the extra-budgetary project “Competitiveness, innovative policies and public-private partnerships: Capacity building for civil servants and business associations”, and the planned date for the twelfth session of the Committee.

Decision 2017 – 9.1

The Committee took note of the ongoing preparations for the Strategic Framework of the Economic Cooperation and Integration Subprogramme for 2020-2021.

Decision 2017 - 9.2

The Committee took note of the forthcoming evaluation of the technical cooperation project “Competitiveness, innovative policies and public-private partnerships: Capacity building for civil servants and business associations” in keeping with the Evaluation Policy of UNECE,³ and invited the beneficiaries of the activities financed under this project to participate actively in this evaluation.

Decision 2017 - 9.3

The Committee agreed that its twelfth session would take place in Geneva from 26 – 28 March 2018, subject to confirmation of room availability.

XII. Adoption of the report (Agenda item 10)

Decision 2017 - 10.1

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

³ http://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/press/pr2014/UNECE_Evaluation_Policy_October_2014.pdf

Annex I

Main conclusions of the high-level substantive segment (Agenda item 6)

Chairperson's summary

High-level substantive segment on Financing Innovation and People- First Public-Private Partnerships for Sustainable Development (Agenda item 3)

1. Impact investing is a relatively new phenomenon. Its scope and size is still relatively in flux. Various definitions have been offered. The Global Impact Investing Network for instance defines it as “investments made into companies, organizations, and funds with the intention to generate social and environmental impact alongside a financial return.”
2. Given its goal to simultaneously achieve an economic return and to deliver social or environmental benefits, impact investing is a form of financing that has significant potential to contribute to the financing of the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda.
3. Governments have recognized this potential explicitly in the Addis Ababa Action Agenda on Financing for Development, which complements the 2030 Agenda.
4. Two defining characteristics of impact investing are *intentionality* (an investor's intention to have a positive social or environmental impact) and the *expectation of a financial return*.
5. Intentionality sets impact investing apart from traditional investments, which are motivated purely by financial gain, and which may happen to also generate some (unintended) social or environmental benefits.
6. The expectation of a financial return sets impact investing apart from pure philanthropy, where no financial return is expected. While impact investors always expect some financial return, they may be ready to accept a below-market returns depending on the nature of the investment project.
7. Impact investing can be seen as part of a broader trend of socially responsible or ethical investing. The latter also includes investment strategies that exclude companies perceived as having unsustainable (or unethical) business models or practices (“negative screening”), or investment strategies that focus on companies that emphasize sustainability in their products and operations (“positive screening”), such as mutual funds specializing e.g. in green technologies.
8. The balance between financial performance and social or environmental impact can vary significantly across investment projects. Financial instruments need to be tailored to the investment project in question, and to the intended balance between financial return and non-financial impact. Where the financial return is expected to be below market, grants and subordinated loans may be provided instead of or in addition to equity, senior loans or guarantees.
9. Another key dimension when matching investors and projects is the allocation of risks. Examples were given of public-private partnerships that mobilize private capital for high-risk, high-impact projects in developing and emerging economies in the sectors of finance, agriculture and renewable energy by implementing a layered financial structure in

which the public sector investor provides first-loss risk protection to the private investors in an effort to attract more private capital.

10. Case studies were presented on impact investment projects in both companies and infrastructure from a variety of countries in the UNECE region and in developing countries and from a diverse set of sectors ranging from sustainable food production to clean energy, integrated waste water treatment, and transport.

11. There was a discussion of the potential of impact investing to make a significant contribution to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals and of the need for and challenges to scaling up this type of investments.

12. A mismatch between the capital available for impact investment and investment opportunities is often cited as one of the main obstacles to the further growth of the impact investment market, and options for increasing the number of “bankable” projects as well as attracting more investors into the market were discussed.

13. There was also a discussion on the importance of political commitment, and of political and regulatory risks as factors that can promote or hold back the growth of impact investing.

14. One particular issue that was identified as critical for the future of impact investing was improving the measurement of social and environmental impact.

15. The measurement of social and environmental impact is still at a relatively early stage. Many companies, Governments and impact investors use their own idiosyncratic measures, and many do not consistently measure impact at all.⁴ Rather than trying to measure actual impact *ex post*, some investors target sectors and business models where, *ex ante*, they expect to generate a large positive impact.

16. Going forward, adopting reliable, realistic and comparable impact measurements will be critical in order to grow both supply and demand for impact investment and for the market to realize its full potential in contributing to the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda.

17. Reliable measurement will also be critical for designing and implementing effective policies that could support the sector. Without solid measures of impact, it will not be possible to target policies to those who will benefit the most, and it will not be possible to assess the effectiveness of policies, and to learn from the policy experience.

18. A lack of knowledge and skills in the public sector was identified as a barrier to the successful implementation of “People First” public-private partnerships. Several delegates suggested executive education programs for senior public sector officials could fill this gap.

⁴ According to a recent survey among the members of TONIIC, a global network of impact investors, 96 percent of respondents intended to introduce impact measurement within the coming three years, implying that at the time of the survey, there was virtually no measurement.

Annex II

Inter-sessional implementation plan for 2017-2018

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 eleventh and twelfth 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 eleventh session of the Team of Specialists on Innovation and Competitiveness Policies will be held at Geneva on 19-20 October 2017. 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 eleventh session will decide on the date for the twelfth session to be held in 2018.

4. The Innovation for Sustainable Development Review of Kyrgyzstan will be completed. The fact finding mission will be held at the beginning of April 2017. A peer review will be held in Bishkek at the end of June.

5. A launch event for the Innovation for Sustainable Development Review of Belarus will be held in Minsk back-to-back with a follow-up policy advisory mission.

6. Expressions of interest for follow-up policy advisory workshops to support the implementation of policy recommendations from earlier reviews have been received from Kazakhstan, on the promotion of science and techno parks, Armenia on the commercialization of research results, and Ukraine. Similar events will be organized in 2018 subject to demand from member States and available resources.

7. A new Innovation for Sustainable Development Review will be carried out in 2018 subject to the availability of extra-budgetary funding. The secretariat will follow up on expressions of interest for second-round innovation for sustainable development reviews received from Armenia and Kazakhstan.

8. An "Ideas4Change" Start-up Competition will be organized as a side event of the Regional Forum on Sustainable Development on 25 April to showcase the power of innovative entrepreneurship for achieving sustainable development priorities. The winners of the competition will be given the opportunity to receive mentoring by two leading business accelerators (MassChallenge Israel and IP4 Politecnico di Torino).

9. A workshop will be organized together with the Russian Venture Capital Association at the Novosibirsk Venture Fair on 20-22 June 2017.

10. The SPECA Working Group on Knowledge-Based Development will be held in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan, in the last week of June 2017, subject to final confirmation by the Government.
11. The 2017 SPECA Economic Forum, which will be held in conjunction with the 12th session of the SPECA Governing Council, will be organized with a focus on innovation for sustainable development in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan in October or November 2017, subject to final confirmation by the Government.
12. A panel on Sustainable Development Goal 9 on building resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and fostering innovation will be held jointly with the Inter-Agency Task Team on Science, Technology and Innovation for Sustainable Development at the Second annual Multi-stakeholder Forum on Science, Technology and Innovation for the Sustainable Development Goals (STI Forum), New York, 15-16 May.
13. A book on Innovation in the Public Sector will be published, reflecting the results of an earlier policy conference.

III. Public-private Partnerships

14. 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 implementing their 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.
15. 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 2017 and 2018, subject to demand from member States and the availability of extra-budgetary resources:
 - (a) Tbilisi, Georgia, June 2017
 - (b) Brasilia, Brazil, July 2017
16. Capacity-building workshops will be organized in Shenzhen, China in August 2017 and in Moscow, Russian Federation in November 2017. Additional workshops will be organized, both in 2017 and 2018, subject to demand from member States and the availability of extra-budgetary resources.
17. Two International PPP Forums will be held, to further advance the work on international PPP standards, one in Hong Kong, on 9-11 May 2017, and one in Qingdao China in July 2017.
18. International standards on PPPs in health policy, in water and sanitation, in renewable energy, and in transport (roads, rail, urban rail and airports) will be finalized during 2017 and 2018.
19. The inaugural session of the Working Party on PPPs, replacing the Team of Specialists on PPPs, will be held in Geneva on 21-22 November 2017.
20. The revised version of the guiding principles on people-first PPPs for the UN SDGs will be ready in the first semester of 2017, and will be presented to other UN agencies and the World Bank as part of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda framework.
21. The people-first PPP case studies will continue to be collected and evaluated according to the people-first criteria. The next batch of the case studies will be presented at the second UNECE International people-first PPP Forum in Hong Kong on 9-11 May 2017.

Annex III

Revised Mandate and Terms of Reference of the Team of Specialists on Innovation and Competitiveness Policies

Mandate and Terms of Reference

I. Mandate

1. The Team of Specialists on Innovation and Competitiveness Policies (TOS-ICP) supports the implementation of the Programme of Work of the Committee on Innovation, Competitiveness and Public-Private Partnerships. The TOS-ICP addresses issues related to the creation of a supportive environment for innovation-based development and knowledge-based competitiveness in UNECE member States in support of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Its activities aim at facilitating the exchange of experience and lessons learned, as well as of good practices in these areas, among UNECE member States. In its work, the TOS-ICP responds to the needs of Governments, and takes into account the needs of consumers as well as the academic and business communities.

II. Areas of work

2. To support the Committee on Innovation, Competitiveness and Public-Private Partnerships in achieving its objectives, the TOS-ICP engages in the following activities:

(a) Organizing international policy dialogues on knowledge-based economic development in the UNECE region with the aim of identifying international good practices and policy recommendations on the role of innovation and competitiveness policies to foster sustainable development as well as on selected key issues within the mandate of the Team. As part of this policy dialogue, the Team will hold applied policy seminars at its annual sessions;

(b) Preparing synopses of good practices and policy recommendations on the roles of innovation policies to foster sustainable development and selected key issues within the Team's mandate for discussion and endorsement by the Committee on Innovation, Competitiveness and Public-Private Partnerships;

(c) Broadly disseminating the above good practices and policy recommendations;

(d) Subject to the availability of extrabudgetary resources, and on request from Governments, carrying out assessments of national innovation systems and policies ("Innovation for Sustainable Development Reviews") with the aim of providing peer-reviewed policy recommendations to improve national innovation performance and the achievement of sustainable development outcomes;

(e) Subject to the availability of extrabudgetary resources, and on request from Governments, providing advice on the implementation of policy reforms in areas within the mandate of the Team;

(f) Subject to the availability of extrabudgetary resources, and in cooperation with requesting Governments, organizing technical assistance and capacity-building activities on issues within the mandate of Team;

(g) Subject to the availability of extrabudgetary resources, support the CICPPP in providing inputs from a regional perspective to the work of the Multi-stakeholder Forum on Science, Technology and Innovation for the SDGs;

(h) Support the CICPPP in contributing to the regional follow-up on and review of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda in the areas covered by its mandate.

III. Membership

3. The TOS-ICP comprises government experts, as well as experts from relevant research and academic institutions, the business community and NGOs. National experts are nominated by those government authorities responsible for cooperation with the Committee on Innovation, Competitiveness and Public-Private Partnerships. In accordance with United Nations procedures, the TOS-ICP is also open for other experts from intergovernmental organizations, national and international business and research institutions and associations who wish to contribute to the implementation of its work plan.

IV. Modalities of operation

4. The TOS-ICP operates in accordance with the Guidelines for the Establishment and Functioning of Teams of Specialists within the UNECE (ECE/EX/2/Rev.1) and the Guidelines on Procedures and Practices for ECE Bodies (E/2013/37 E/ECE/1464, Annex III, Appendix III).

5. The TOS-ICP is established for a period of two years with a possibility of extension, if so decided by the Committee on Innovation, Competitiveness and Public-Private Partnerships, and approved by the Executive Committee of the UNECE. The Committee on Innovation, Competitiveness and Public-Private Partnerships may modify the Terms of Reference of the TOS-ICP as required, subject to approval by the Executive Committee of UNECE.

6. Secretariat support to the TOS-ICP is provided by the UNECE secretariat.

7. The TOS-ICP develops its plan of work and reports to the annual session of the Committee on its implementation.

8. As indicated under “Areas of work”, expenses associated with the implementation of the TOS-ICP plan of work are supported through extrabudgetary contributions of member States and other stakeholders, and are to be provided, managed and used in accordance with United Nations rules and regulations.
