

Revised Declaration

By national PPP Units and infrastructure agencies in support of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

We, the representatives of PPP Units and national infrastructure agencies participating in the first session of the UNECE Working Party on PPPs, fully recognise our commitments to the UN SDGs to build better conditions for our peoples, our planet and our collective prosperity, while leaving no one behind. In this regard,

1. We understand the important role given to Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs) to achieve the SDGs as elaborated in SDG No. 17: PPP can contribute to economic growth, environmental sustainability by cutting CO2 emissions, increase efficiency, and a more socially just society by improving access of essential services especially to the socially and economically disadvantaged.

2. We also recognise that, not all PPP models are in tune with the SDGs. Many of our countries are fragile, lacking financial resources and an institutional framework and policy for PPPs, a track record of effective PPP projects, with some indeed having been affected by conflict. Our local communities struggle to afford the fees required by PPPs for services and we have to adjust and adapt PPP models to these challenging circumstances.

3. Our response – based on the solidarity that exists by our common values, appreciation of the work of PPP units, infrastructure agencies and similar public bodies, it is our collaborative wish to support each other in reaching the highest standards of excellence, to give far greater participation to women within our profession and achieving gender equality.

4. Are minded on the following course of action in support of PPPs for the SDGs: ensuring transparency, inclusiveness, access, equity and a people-first approach:

- To work together to develop people first PPPs that contribute directly to the SDGs;
- To share information, expertise and perspectives;
- To contribute to a common pool of people first PPPs that can inspire others, supporting in this process other PPP units and embrace these new models that take PPP onto a higher plane and into a new generation;
- To support the achievement of 500 people first PPPs showcased for a common platform with private sector partners, the multilateral development banks and civil society organisations;
- To help each other to build the required capabilities to deliver such projects, by developing common professional standards, rules and procedures, aware too of the risks that can arise from PPPs, especially when they are poorly prepared and delivered;
- To fully support a zero tolerance approach to corruption in PPP procurement as enshrined in the UNECE standard on the same;
- To cooperate in an international network of public sector PPP units and infrastructure agencies that will seek to mobilise and create 'one voice' behind projects that both do 'good' and do well and help achieve the goals stated above; and
- To work with other partners, Regional Commissions, the multilateral development banks, and other supporting bodies from public and private sectors as well as civil society.

Geneva, 22 November 2017