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Working Party on Public-Private Partnerships

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Item 5 of the provisional agenda

**Review of the PPP work since
the eighth and final session of
the Team of Specialists on PPPs
on 20-21 October 2016**

Revised Terms of Reference of the UNECE PPP Business Advisory Board

Background

The UNECE PPP Business Advisory Board (BAB) was established by the ECE Executive Committee on 30 April 2014 and its current mandate expires on 31 December 2017. At its tenth session in March 2017, the Committee on Innovation, Competitiveness and Public-Private Partnerships (CICPPP) recommended that its mandate be extended by a further three years until December 2020. At its ninety-second meeting on 23 June 2017, the ECE Executive Committee renewed the mandate of the BAB for the period 1 January 2018 to 31 December 2020.

The present document updates the terms of reference of the BAB to reflect the renewed mandate, the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and changes in the names of the reporting bodies, namely, the Working Party on Public-Private Partnerships and the CICPPP.

The Working Party is invited to approve the revised terms of reference of the BAB.

I. Introduction

1. In 2015, the United Nations adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (A/RES/70/1) and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda on Financing for Development (AAAA), placing considerable emphasis on infrastructure and private sector involvement, while identifying Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs) as a preferred means of implementation. In particular, Sustainable Development Goal 9 calls for countries to “build resilient infrastructure”, while Sustainable Development Goal 17 encourages and promotes the effective use of PPPs¹ to achieve the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Furthermore, paragraph 48 of the AAAA highlights the need to build capacity of member States to enter into PPPs.

2. The BAB has been at the forefront in providing practical policy advice and project-focused PPP capacity building to member States since 2014. Its work in countries has been widely recognised, including by the independent evaluator of a capacity building project in Belarus, commenting that “thanks to the involvement of the UNECE PPP BAB, which generated quality, high-level expert support, the general view of the beneficiaries is that the project achieved results beyond expectations.”² In view of its contribution to capacity building in countries, the ECE Executive Committee extended its mandate by a further three years until the end 2020 under the chairmanship of Mr. James Stewart.

II. Objectives

3. The BAB will contribute to the UNECE PPP work, including its focus on people-first PPPs for the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development, by providing:

- (a) Advice to the UNECE on the elaboration of international best practices and standards on people-first PPPs for the UN SDGs; and
- (b) Assistance to member States with the implementation of international PPP best practices and standards through high-level consultative meetings.

4. The expected duration of the BAB is until 31 December 2020, with the possibility of extension.

III. Areas of work

5. The activities of the BAB include:

- (a) Direct face-to-face consultations and dialogue with key policy makers in member countries on project delivery, development and implementation, and the legal and regulatory framework;
- (b) Peer reviews of selected draft PPP recommendations and standards; and
- (c) Assistance to PPP Specialist Centres hosted in countries, and affiliated to the UNECE International PPP Centre of Excellence, to become operational and to identify international PPP best practices and people-first case studies in their respective sector.

¹ Target 17 of Sustainable Development Goal 17: encourage and promote effective public, public-private, and civil society partnerships, building on experience and resourcing strategies of partnerships.

² Document ECE/CECI/2017/5, paragraph 65.

IV. Membership

6. Participation in the BAB is open to senior representatives from the business sector with a proven track record of international PPP experience.
7. The BAB consists of between 20 and 30 distinguished high-level business persons who are recognized for their outstanding contributions to the development and use of public-private partnerships either in their respective countries or worldwide. Members are selected in such a way as to provide a comprehensive coverage of key issues and sectors.
8. Nominations for the BAB can be made by the CICPPP and the Working Party on PPPs delegates and by member States. The nominations will be reviewed by the secretariat, which in consultation with the Bureau of the Working Party on PPPs, will make recommendations to the Executive Secretary. The Executive Secretary will appoint the Chairman and the Members of the BAB for a period of two years, with the possibility of further two-year extensions, subject to review by the Bureau of the Working Party on PPPs.
9. The Bureau of the Working Party on PPPs and representatives from relevant international organizations working in the area of public-private partnership (including the Asian Development Bank, the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, the European Investment Bank, and the World Bank Group) will be invited to participate in the BAB meetings and contribute their expertise as observers.

V. Modalities of operation

10. The BAB will report to the Working Party on PPPs. It derives its legitimacy and mandate from this body. It will carry out its work on the basis of an annual work plan.
 11. The BAB will meet physically at least once a year, usually in conjunction with the annual session of the CICPPP or the Working Party on PPPs. BAB Members will participate in a number of high-level consultation missions in member States. Consultation missions will be based on requests from member States received by the secretariat and will be considered on the basis of available capacity and extrabudgetary resources.
 12. The secretariat will:
 - (a) Provide secretariat support to the BAB;
 - (b) Organize and participate in its consultation missions and meetings; and
 - (c) Assist in preparing the BAB's annual work plan.
 13. The BAB Members participating in consultation missions in member States do so on a pro bono basis and may have their local expenses and airfare covered through extrabudgetary funding, when such funding is needed and available.
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