Economic Commission for Europe
Committee on Economic Cooperation and Integration

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Item 7 (d) of the provisional agenda
Review of the implementation of the programme of work
since the seventh session: capacity-building activities

Report on capacity-building activities

Note by the secretariat

I. Introduction

1. The terms of reference of the Committee on Economic Cooperation and Integration (CECI) stress the importance of demand-driven capacity-building activities in mandated areas of work. At its seventh session, held from 5 to 7 December 2012, the Committee welcomed the positive results from capacity-building activities and, in particular, from field-based events organized upon the request of member States. It encouraged member Governments to fully use the potential of its teams of specialists and networks of experts in the thematic areas covered by the Committee.

2. This report presents an overview of the capacity-building activities carried out between 22 September 2012 and 30 November 2013 by the secretariat and funded through the regular budget of the Economic Cooperation and Integration Division and the Division’s Local Technical Cooperation Trust Funds. It also includes (a) capacity-building activities that were financed or co-financed from other extrabudgetary sources, or supported through the United Nations Development Account (UNDA), (b) activities undertaken or coordinated by the Regional Advisor on Economic Cooperation and Integration and (c) some envisaged future activities.

3. In the period 2012-2013, the secretariat benefited from voluntary contributions (including in-kind contributions) from the Government of Israel, the Government of the Russian Federation, the Eurasian Development Bank, the European Union, the State corporation “the Bank for development and foreign economic affairs” (Vnesheconombank) of the Russian Federation, Toyo University, Japan, and the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO).
4. The secretariat took the lead in organizing capacity-building activities, taking responsibility for the major part of the substantive, logistical and financial arrangements for events. In some activities, secretariat staff participated as co-organizer and/or contributed to the substantive part of the event. In all of these activities, the secretariat sought to mobilize substantive support from its extensive networks of experts.

II. Field-based capacity-building activities and technical cooperation services

5. The secretariat carried out the following field-based capacity-building activities, supported by the regular budget, as well as extrabudgetary resources, in line with the CECI Programme of Work and at the request of Governments.

Innovation Performance Reviews

6. Since 2010, the secretariat has been conducting this demand-driven policy advisory service project. The Innovation Performance Review is a policy-oriented document that seeks to identify possible policy actions to stimulate innovation activity in a country, enhance innovation capacity and improve the efficiency of the national innovation system. The work on the Review is a participatory policy advisory service jointly undertaken by a group of international and national experts mobilized by the secretariat.

7. A fact-finding mission to prepare the Innovation Performance Review of Ukraine took place on 9-15 September 2012. The main conclusions and recommendations of the Review were discussed at the seventh session of the Committee on Economic Cooperation and Integration on 5 December 2012. The Innovation Performance Review of Ukraine was published in May 2013.

8. The secretariat further organised a workshop jointly with the State Agency on Science, Innovation and Informatization to discuss the recommendations and identify future steps for implementation. The workshop took place in Kiev on 31 September 2013 with the participation of around 50 experts, of which around 20 were female.

9. At the request of the Government of Armenia, with financial support from the Eurasian Development Bank, the secretariat initiated the preparation of an Innovation Performance Review of Armenia. The fact-finding mission took place on 7-16 September 2013. The preliminary conclusions and recommendations will be discussed as part of the eighth session of the Committee on Economic Cooperation and Integration.

Fact-finding mission for undertaking the Public-Private Partnerships (PPP) Readiness Assessment in Dushanbe, Tajikistan, 24-28 September 2012

10. A team of international PPP practitioners and the secretariat held a series of meetings with officials from lead and line ministries, municipal authorities, private sector operators and international organisations with a presence in Tajikistan. These meetings, together with a pre-visit questionnaire disseminated among the stakeholders, served as the basis for a PPP readiness assessment. The consultations, which involved over 50 stakeholders, also served the purpose of raising awareness among public and private officials of the PPP model, assessing the enabling environment for the successful undertaking of PPP projects, and identifying sectors where potential PPP projects could be undertaken.
11. The conference was organized jointly with the United States Patent and Trademark Office and the Academy for Judges and Prosecutors of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. A representative of the World Intellectual Property Organization participated as one of the invited speakers. The conference built capacity on the valuation of intellectual property and on the treatment of intellectual property in anti-trust cases based on good practices developed by CECI. The conference was attended by some fifty experts from Albania, Croatia, Serbia and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, representing civil, administrative and criminal courts, prosecutor’s offices, competition agencies, intellectual property offices, customs authorities, market inspectorates, and law firms. Of these experts, some 20 were female.

Workshop on PPP in Broadband Infrastructure, Riva del Garda, Italy, 4 October 2012

12. This workshop was held back-to-back with the Internet as Innovation Eco-System Summit and Exhibition 2012 on 4-5 October. The workshop was organized by the secretariat and was designed to acquaint ICT experts from across Europe with the potential use of the PPP model in broadband infrastructure. Presentations focused on both the legal and the financial aspects of the PPP model, with selected case studies in broadband infrastructure from around the world. About 40 PPP and ICT experts, of whom 10 were female, from the public and private sectors participated in the workshop.

Follow-up Workshop to the ECE National PPP Readiness Assessment Consultations, Chisinau, Moldova, 9-10 October 2012

13. The secretariat organized this workshop in collaboration with the Ministry of Economy of the Republic of Moldova. It discussed with various stakeholders, the results of the readiness assessment initiated in Moldova in October 2011. The feedback obtained from these stakeholders was included in the final report presented to the Government of the Republic of Moldova in April 2013. The workshop was attended by 90 participants, of which 35 were female. It provided practical PPP training on a number of potential areas where PPP pilot projects could be developed, including transportation, healthcare, water and wastewater.


14. The secretariat co-organized this conference with the Asian Development Bank. During the conference, the International PPP Specialist Centre on Health in Manila, which is affiliated to the ECE International PPP Centre of Excellence, was launched. The Specialist Centre will be the international focal point in the identification, collection, analysis and dissemination of PPP best practices in the area of healthcare. The conference showcased salient case studies and best PPP practices in Asia, Europe, and other parts of the world. It also highlighted key lessons learned in the healthcare sector. The conference was attended by 140 participants, of which 55 were female.
Joint National Seminar and Stakeholder Meeting on Promotion and Financing of Innovative Green Technologies, Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan, 7-9 November 2012

15. These two back-to-back events were the first in a series of activities implemented as part of the United Nations Development Account Project on, “Building the capacity of SPECA countries to adopt and apply innovative green technologies for climate change adaptation”. The events were attended by 83 participants from Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan, of which 40 were female. They represented various stakeholders from lead and line ministries, the private sector, academia and NGOs.

16. The joint national seminar (7-8 November) covered three key aspects: environmental policy, innovation policy, and financing of green technology projects. It reviewed environmental challenges and opportunities in Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan and the contribution of innovation policy to addressing these challenges. It highlighted the importance of building absorptive capacity in order to facilitate the adoption, adaptation and diffusion of green technologies in these countries. Concrete discussions took place on key issues in financing innovative green technology projects through the Public-Private Partnerships (PPP) model, as identified in separate assessments on innovation and PPPs carried out in Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan.

17. The stakeholder meeting (9 November) provided an opportunity for a number of stakeholders to present their experiences in innovation activities and PPPs in Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan, and to discuss these issues among a wide audience, which included government officials, business sector representatives and other civil society participants. The meeting was organised in a way to encourage the audience to put forward their ideas and concerns, and to interact in an informal setting on the topics under discussion.

Workshop on Promoting Innovation as a Source of International Competitiveness, Minsk, Belarus, 15 November 2012

18. The secretariat organized this workshop jointly with the State Committee on Science and Technology of the Republic of Belarus. Around 40 participants attended this event, of which 15 were female. It discussed the use of various innovation indexes as a potential tool to guide policy in the area of innovation and competitiveness. A range of technical issues were covered in this activity, where representatives from those international organisations developing the most widely used indexes were present.

Master Class on “Implementing PPP programmes in CIS countries”, Moscow, Russian Federation, 11-12 December 2012

19. The master class was jointly organized by the secretariat, the State Corporation “Bank for Development and Foreign Economic Affairs (Vneshekonombank)” and the Financial University in Moscow. Around 70 participants from 7 CIS countries, of which 40 were female, shared information on the current state of PPP development as well as challenges in implementing PPP successfully. The presentations focused on the PPP legal and regulatory framework, PPP procurement, PPP in water and waste water utilities, PPP in social infrastructure, and PPP in roads.
National Seminar and Stakeholder Meeting on Promotion and Financing of Innovative Green Technologies, Ashgabat, Turkmenistan, 15-17 May 2013

20. These events were the second in a series of capacity-building activities under the United Nations Development Account Project, “Building the capacity of SPECAs to adopt and apply innovative green technologies for climate change adaptation”. The events were organized in cooperation with the Ministry of Nature Protection of Turkmenistan. A total of 53 policymakers and experts, of which 13 were female, from over 35 ministries and organizations, as well as international experts attended these activities.

21. The seminar (15-17 May 2013) reviewed issues related to: environmental challenges and opportunities in Turkmenistan; policy tools to foster green technologies and green investments; and innovation policy to enhance adoption and application of green technologies. It stressed the importance of building national absorptive capacity to facilitate adoption, adaptation and diffusion of green technologies, and provided policy recommendations. At the session on financing of green technologies, participants learned basic principles of PPP, international legal best practices in PPP and PPP good governance. International experts presented world best practices and case studies in green technology PPP projects, such as energy from waste, wind and solar farms, renewable energy and clean technologies in transport PPP projects.

22. The stakeholder meeting (17 May 2013) provided an opportunity to discuss how to facilitate the introduction and adaptation of innovative green technologies in Turkmenistan. It enhanced dialogue between participating policymakers and experts, and developed further linkages and contacts among themselves in an informal environment.


23. The secretariat co-organized this conference with the Croatian Ministry of Entrepreneurship and Crafts. It provided a multi-stakeholder platform to discuss policy issues related to the promotion of innovative entrepreneurship, the role of collaboration in facilitating entrepreneurship and innovation and the growing attention paid to social entrepreneurship as a way to overcome social and environmental challenges. Around 100 experts (of which around 40 were female) from 30 countries participated in the Conference, including delegates from the European Commission, Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and UNESCO.

Workshop on the Regional Dimension of Innovation, Minsk, Belarus, 30 May 2013

24. This workshop was jointly organized by the secretariat and the State Committee on Science and Technology of the Republic of Belarus. It was a follow-up activity supporting implementation of the recommendations from the Innovation Performance Review of Belarus. The workshop also built on the outcomes of the substantive segment of the fifth session of the UNECE Team of Specialists on Innovation and Competitiveness Policies. Around 130 experts participated in the workshop, of which 60 were female.
Follow-up Workshop to the ECE National PPP Readiness Assessment Consultations, Dushanbe, Tajikistan, 17-18 September 2013

25. The secretariat organized this workshop in collaboration with the Ministry of Economic Development and Trade, the State Committee on Investments and State Property Management, and the National Association of Small and Medium Businesses of the Republic of Tajikistan. It discussed the results of the PPP readiness assessment initiated in Tajikistan in September 2012, with the participation of various stakeholders. The feedback obtained from this workshop was included in the final report presented to the Government of the Tajikistan in November 2013. The workshop, which was attended by 100 participants, of which 50 were female, also provided practical PPP training on a number of potential areas where PPP pilot projects could be developed, including transportation, energy, healthcare, water and wastewater.


26. The secretariat jointly organized this conference with the Ministry of Economy of Belarus, the Delegation of the European Union in Belarus and the UNDP office in Belarus. The conference launched the EU-financed capacity building project, jointly implemented by the UNECE and UNDP, entitled, “Capacity Development to Support the Implementation of PPP in Belarus”. It was attended by over 150 participants, of which 78 were female.

High Level consultations between the UNECE PPP Business Advisory Board and countries with economies in transition and developing countries in Europe, Africa and Asia, Moscow, Russian Federation, 22 October 2013

27. The secretariat organized high-level consultations between senior representatives of governments and the UNECE PPP Business Advisory Board in cooperation with the State Corporation “Bank for Development and Foreign Economic Affairs (Vnesheconombank)”. The aim of these consultations were: to identify and prioritize the first set of subject areas for recommendations/standards in PPP; and to discuss the work programme of the UNECE PPP Business Advisory Board with governments with a view to organizing a number of national and regional consultative missions in 2014-2015. Government representatives from ten countries in Europe, Africa and Asia took part in the event and presented their PPP programmes and current challenges in implementing PPP. As a result, government representatives gained a clear understanding of the services provided by the UNECE PPP Business Advisory Board and a number of them expressed their interest in hosting national consultations in 2014-2015. The event was attended by 40 participants, of which 15 were female.


28. These events were the third in a series of capacity-building activities under the United Nations Development Account project, “Building the capacity of SPECA countries to adopt and apply innovative green technologies for climate change adaptation”. The local cooperating organizations were the National Agency for Technological Development of
Kazakhstan, and the Kazakhstan Public Private Partnership Center. A total of 51 policymakers and experts from Azerbaijan and Kazakhstan, of which 29 were female, from over 31 ministries and organizations, as well as international experts, attended these activities.

29. The seminar (23-24 October) reviewed issues related to: the diversification and innovation strategies of Azerbaijan and Kazakhstan, benchmarking, environmental challenges and opportunities which the two countries are facing; stimulation of sustainable development and the linkages between green technologies, innovation and entrepreneurship. Experts also presented the results of national assessments of innovation policies in Azerbaijan and Kazakhstan, with special reference to the adaptation of green technologies. At the session on financing of green technologies, participants learned the basic principles of PPP, international legal best practices in PPP and PPP good governance. International experts presented world best practices and case studies in green technology PPP projects, such as energy from waste, wind and solar farms, renewable energy and clean technologies in transport PPP projects.

30. The Stakeholder Meeting (25 October) provided an opportunity for participants to discuss how to facilitate the introduction and adaptation of innovative green technologies in Azerbaijan and Kazakhstan in an informal setting. During the meeting, participating policymakers and representatives of academia, the private sector and not-for profit organizations shared their views and experiences and strengthened mutual contacts.

Plenary Solution Exchange Forum entitled, “Action for Greener Economies: how UNECE is promoting the development of greener economies in low- and middle-income countries through regional and national action plans and public-private partnerships”, Nairobi, Kenya, 30 October 2013

31. The UNECE-led forum took place within the “Global South-South Development EXPO 2013” organised by the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation and hosted by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). The forum demonstrated how low income countries could benefit from and make use of different tools developed by UNECE to promote greener economies. During the forum presentations were made on: sustainable forest management; energy-efficient housing, and the UNECE work on green PPPs under the auspices of the UNECE International PPP Centre of Excellence. In view of its work on South-South cooperation, the UNECE International PPP Centre of Excellence received the Special Award for South-South Cooperation at the closing ceremony of the Global South-South Development EXPO 2013 on 1 November 2013. The forum was attended by 130 participants, of which 70 were female.

PPP site visit for senior policy makers from Belarus to Berlin and Frankfurt, Germany, 4-7 November 2013

32. The secretariat organized the site visit with Partnerschaften Deutschland (the PPP Unit of Germany) in the context of the capacity building project entitled “Capacity Development to Support the Implementation of PPP in Belarus”. The key beneficiaries of the site visit were 14 senior policy makers from Belarus at the level of deputy ministers (of which 2 were female) from various ministries with responsibilities on infrastructure. These senior policymakers got acquainted with key operational infrastructure projects in Germany in the social and economic fields, including operational PPP projects at the municipal level.
Fact-finding mission for undertaking a PPP Readiness Assessment, Astana, Kazakhstan, 8-11 November 2013

33. The secretariat, together with a team of international PPP practitioners held a series of meetings with officials from lead and line ministries, municipal authorities, private sector operators and international organisations with a presence in Kazakhstan. These meetings, together with a pre-visit questionnaire disseminated among the stakeholders, served as the basis for a PPP readiness assessment. The consultations, which involved over 20 stakeholders, also served the purpose of raising awareness among public and private officials on the PPP model, assessed the enabling environment for the successful undertaking of PPP clean technology projects, and identified sectors where potential PPP clean technology projects could be undertaken.

Symposium on “Financing and other key drivers of innovation – European and American experiences”, Novosibirsk, Russian Federation, 14-15 November 2013

34. By invitation of the Russian Venture Capital Association, the secretariat organized this symposium as part of the 14th Russian Venture Fair. Some 30 participants attended the symposium, of which 10 were female. It discussed the importance of creating an innovation eco-system, which includes: the science base, technology transfer offices, incubators, science parks, accelerators, and a financial sector specialized in identifying and nurturing new innovative companies from the seed phase onwards, as well as a generally business-friendly regulatory and tax environment.


35. The secretariat organized this regional meeting in cooperation with the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) and the Government of the Republic of Kazakhstan. The meeting was the fourth in a series of capacity-building activities under the United Nations Development Account project, “Building the capacity of SPECA countries to adopt and apply innovative green technologies for climate change adaptation”. The meeting also served as the expert segment of the 2013 Economic Forum of the United Nations Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia (SPECA). It was attended by over 100 experts, of which 40 were female, from SPECA countries and other UN member States, UN organizations as well as other international and regional organizations, the business sector and academia. During the meeting, participants adopted a joint statement, emphasizing that environmental challenges require innovative policy responses that reconcile the need for sustained improvements in living standards with the need to reduce the use of resources and to address climate change. The statement also underlined the importance of the contribution of regional cooperation in supporting the efforts of policymakers to promote the introduction and financing of green technologies.

Workshop on Innovation in the Public Sector, Minsk, Belarus, 26 November 2013

36. This workshop was organized jointly by the secretariat and the State Committee on Science and Technology of the Republic of Belarus as part of a cycle of scientific and practical workshops aimed at implementing recommendations from the Innovation
Performance Review of Belarus. Based on the results of the substantive segment of the sixth annual session of the Team of Specialists on Innovation and Competitiveness Policies held in Geneva on 10-11 October 2013, the workshop discussed ways and means of using innovation to make the public sector more efficient and more responsive to the needs of citizens. The workshop attracted some 120 participants from government ministries and agencies, academic institutions and companies, of which around 40 were female.

III. Substantive contribution of the Economic Cooperation and Integration Division to capacity-building activities of partner organizations

37. Staff of the secretariat contributed substantially to the following capacity-building activities organized by partner organizations in coordination with the Committee’s programme of work.

International Conference on Intellectual Property and Innovation, Budapest, 3-4 April 2012

38. This conference was co-organized by the Hungarian Intellectual Property Office and the United States Patent and Trademark Office. It was attended by around 100 representatives of the Hungarian Intellectual Property Office, enterprises, law firms and universities, research institutes and by participants from Poland, Romania and Slovenia. The secretariat contributed two presentations on good practices and policy recommendations for intellectual property management for small and medium-sized enterprises, and for intellectual property management in technology transfer.

Workshop on the implementation of the recommendations of the Innovation Performance Review of Kazakhstan, as part of the Forum Innovative Kazakhstan, Almaty, Kazakhstan, 11 October 2012

39. This event was organized by the Ministry of Industry and New Technologies and the National Agency for Technology Development of the Republic of Kazakhstan. Around 150 experts participated, of which around 100 were female. The workshop provided a platform to present the main conclusions of the Review, discuss the progress achieved so far in implementing the recommendations and introduce future initiatives related to the issues covered in the Review.

Organization of a session on “International experiences on support to innovative companies” within the framework of the annual meeting of the Russian Venture Capital Association, Moscow, Russian Federation, 29 October 2012

40. This session was attended by around 50 experts, of which 20 were female and was organized as part of a special event celebrating the 15th anniversary of the Russian Venture Capital Association. Leading experts participated from the area of innovation financing, covering different national experiences in the collaboration between the public and the private sectors for promoting innovative entrepreneurship.
International Scientific and Practical Workshop on Intellectual Property and Innovation, Odessa, Ukraine, 28 March 2013

41. This workshop was jointly organized by the Commercial Law Development Programme of the government of the United States and the State Intellectual Property Service of Ukraine. The secretariat presented good practices on the valuation of intellectual property. The workshop was attended by some 30 representatives of Ukrainian research institutes, academies and universities, entrepreneurs, individual inventors, the Dnjeprpetrovsk chamber of commerce, law firms and a commercial court. Around 10 participants were female. Two representatives of the United States Patent and Trademark Office were also present.

Contribution to a Seminar on a Methodology for the Development of Regional Innovation Systems in Kazakhstan, Astana, 19 April 2013, organized by the National Agency for Technological Development of Kazakhstan

42. At the request of the National Agency for Technological Development of Kazakhstan, the secretariat mobilised experts to contribute to the elaboration of a methodology to promote innovation in the regions. This is an issue which was addressed in the recommendations made in the Innovation Performance Review of Kazakhstan. The seminar was attended by around 60 policymakers and other experts, of which 10 were female.

IV. Other capacity-building and technical-cooperation activities

A. Contributions to the United Nations Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia

43. The secretariat organized a number of activities and provided advisory services in support of the United Nations Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia (SPECA) at the request of the SPECA member countries.

The high-level segment of the 2013 SPECA Economic Forum, entitled “Inclusive and sustainable development through regional cooperation in Central Asia”, Almaty, Kazakhstan, 21 November 2013

44. The High-level segment of the Economic Forum entitled “Inclusive and sustainable development through regional cooperation in Central Asia” discussed regional aspects of Rio+20 and the post-2015 development agenda. Discussing the economic, social and environmental aspects of sustainable development allowed participants to highlight the close interconnection between these three aspects. Participants from SPECA member countries fully supported the recommendations in the Rio+20 outcome document, “The future we want,” and acknowledged the need to place sustainable development at the core of the post 2015 development agenda.
Eighth session of the SPECA Governing Council, Almaty, Kazakhstan, 22 November 2013

45. The 8th session of the SPECA Governing Council took a decision to further strengthening the Programme, including the adoption of the Terms of Reference of SPECA, approval of the Progress Report on work accomplished in 2013 and adoption of the bi-annual 2014-2015 SPECA Work Plan.

National Assessment Reports and Training Materials on Innovation Policy and PPP, with special reference to Green Technologies

46. The secretariat prepared five national assessment reports on innovation policy and PPPs with special reference to green technologies for Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Turkmenistan. The findings of these assessments were presented at the meetings on Promotion and Financing of Innovative Green Technologies, financed by the UN Development Account Project, “Building the capacity of SPECA countries to adopt and apply innovative green technologies for climate change adaptation”, held in Bishkek (2012), Ashgabat (2013) and Astana (2013).

47. Incorporating feedbacks received at the field-based activities, the secretariat is preparing training materials on innovation policy and PPP with special reference to green technologies for SPECA countries. The completed training materials will be published in early 2014.

B. Other related activities

48. The secretariat organized a number of Geneva based meetings and activities with capacity-building components.

Special Capacity-building/Policy Dialogue Segment at the occasion of the fifth session of the ECE Team of Specialists on Public-Private Partnerships, Geneva, 5-6 February 2013

49. The focus of the substantive segment was twofold: (1) a practical discussion on the PPP options for the renovation of the Palais des Nations in Geneva; and (2) raising awareness about the UNECE International PPP Centre of Excellence. The special segment was attended by some 230 participants, of which 100 were female.

50. At the request of the United Nations Office at Geneva, the secretariat presented PPP options for the renovation of the UN Palais des Nations buildings of Geneva. The session explored a number of topics related to the use of PPP in the renovation of buildings, including financing models, procurement issues, legal and institutional challenges, and labour/staffing issues in PPP.

51. The session on the UNECE International PPP Centre of Excellence touched upon the vision and objectives of the initiative, as well as the various planned PPP affiliated Specialist Centres that will focus on specific infrastructure sectors. These affiliated Specialist Centres will identify international PPP best practices and suggest how the governments from countries with economies in transition and developing countries could use best practices to advance their PPP development in different sectors.
V. Forthcoming capacity-building activities

52. The following are capacity-building activities being prepared by the secretariat.

Fifth Session of the SPECA Project Working Group on Knowledge-based Development, Baku, Azerbaijan, 4 December 2013.

53. The session will be jointly organized by the UNECE and ESCAP secretariats and hosted by the Government of the Republic of Azerbaijan. It will discuss the outcomes of the 2013 SPECA Economic Forum “Inclusive and Sustainable Development through Regional Cooperation” and the eighth session of the SPECA Governing Council. The session will review the programme implementation in 2012-2013 and will discuss the Programme of Work of the Group for 2014-2015.

Capacity building project entitled “Capacity Development to Support the Implementation of PPP in Belarus”.

54. In the coming months, the secretariat will conduct a number of national workshops in Belarus as part of the capacity building project entitled, “Capacity Development to Support the Implementation of PPP in Belarus”. The aim of this project is to assist the Government of Belarus in creating the necessary enabling environment for the development of PPP, including the creation of a national PPP unit. This unit will be at the centre of policy formulation for PPP in Belarus. Based on international PPP best practice and standards developed at the UNECE, it will develop a project pipeline and coordinate future projects at the national and municipal level.

55. A specific workshop on the establishment of the PPP unit in Belarus will take place in Minsk on 10 December 2013 with the participation of representatives from leading PPP units in Europe. The workshop is organized by the secretariat together with UNDP, the European Union and the Ministry of Economy of Belarus.

High-level Policy Seminar on Promoting the Introduction of Green Technologies, Haifa, Israel, 17-19 December 2013

56. The secretariat will organize this seminar jointly with Israel’s Agency for International Development Cooperation, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and the Golda Meir Mount Carmel International Training Center. It will provide a platform for learning and knowledge sharing on good practices and increase the exposure of participants to international experiences on how policy can support the introduction of green technologies in order to reduce environmental pressures. Policymakers from Central Asia and other transition economies in Europe will participate in the seminar.

Policy advisory and capacity-building activities to support the implementation of the recommendations from the Innovation Performance Reviews

57. At the request of the respective Governments, the secretariat will organise policy advisory missions, workshops, seminars and other capacity-building activities in countries where Innovation Performance Reviews have been conducted in order to support the implementation of their recommendations.
National and regional consultations of the UNECE PPP Business Advisory Board in countries with economies in transition and developing countries

58. In 2014, the secretariat will organize a number of PPP national and regional consultations of the UNECE PPP Business Advisory Board in countries with economies in transition and developing countries in order to advise governments in implementing their PPP policies.

International Conference on PPP in ICT/broadband infrastructure, Baku, Azerbaijan, April 2014

59. This conference will provide an opportunity to discuss PPP projects in the ICT sector with a specific reference to those ICT infrastructure projects that improve public services in a variety of sectors, such as urban transportation, diagnostics in healthcare and internet accessibility. The conference will be organized by the secretariat together with the newly-established Specialist Centre on PPP in ICT/broadband in Baku.

VI. The way forward

60. During the past two years there has been a growing demand from countries with economies in transition for the Committee’s capacity-building activities and other technical cooperation services, in particular for activities that have a national focus. It will continue to respond to this growing demand within available resources, and in line with the decision adopted by the sixty-fifth session of the Economic Commission for Europe on the outcome of the review of the 2005 reform of ECE.

61. As was suggested by the Committee at its seventh session, held from 5 to 7 December 2012, the secretariat will disseminate broadly the conclusions of its applied policy-oriented documents and publications in the capacity-building activities and in its policy advisory work.

62. Taking into account the valuable experiences gained, the secretariat will continue to carry out its capacity-building activities in close cooperation with other international organizations in areas of common interest with a view to assuring complementarities and synergies.

63. The secretariat will continue to invite member countries, and members of the teams of specialists to actively contribute to capacity-building activities and other technical-cooperation activities.