

**ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE**

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

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Item 7(b) of the provisional agenda

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**Economic Commission for Europe and partnerships:**

**Centres of Excellence**

(for information)

## Note by the Secretariat

### Overview

1. A number of cooperation and partnership agreements concluded by UNECE govern the collaboration with third parties towards the establishment and maintenance of Centres of Excellence (CoE).<sup>a</sup>
2. UNECE divisions have established several CoE networks to advance implementation of UNECE mandates under subprogrammes 4 (economic cooperation and trade), 8 (housing) and 5 (energy). These include:
  - a. ***Public-Private Partnership (PPP) Specialist Centres of Excellence*** affiliated to the UNECE International PPP Centre of Excellence and overseen by the Working Party on PPPs promote People-first Public-Private Partnership projects in support of the SDGs and assist countries in implementing such projects.
  - b. ***Geneva UN Charter Centres on Sustainable Housing*** are a network of centres operating under the auspices of the UNECE Committee on Urban Development. The Centres support implementation of the Geneva UN Charter on Sustainable Housing through exchange of experiences, knowledge sharing, training and research, advisory services, cooperation and dissemination of its principles.
  - c. ***International Centres of Excellence on High Performance Buildings (ICE-HPB)*** operate under the guidance the Group of Experts on Energy Efficiency and its joint task force with the Committee on Housing. The Centres support dissemination of the UNECE Framework Guidelines for Energy Efficiency Standards in Buildings.
  - d. ***International Centres of Excellence on Coal Mine Methane (ICE-CMM)*** operate under the guidance of the Group of Experts on Coal Mine Methane and work to disseminate UNECE's best practice guidance on Coal Mine Methane. They build capacity with local industry to manage methane accumulations in mines and engage with government authorities on the merits of deploying proper management techniques.
  - e. The ***International Centres of Excellence on Sustainable Resource Management (ICE-SRM)*** will operate under the guidance of the Expert Group on Resource Management and will build national and regional capacities in countries to apply the United Nations Framework Classification for Resources (UNFC) and the United Nations Resource Management System (UNRMS) that is under development to all resources to enhance investment in the resource sector and to accelerate countries' attainment of the 2030 Agenda.

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<sup>a</sup> There is no common definition as to what constitutes a CoE in UNECE. For the purpose of this paper, a generic definition is applied that refers to *a team, a shared facility or an entity that provides leadership, best practices, research, support and/or training for a focus area.*

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## Common Principles

32. While different in their respective approaches and governance arrangements, all UNECE CoE work under a common set of principles:

- a. **Scope of activities:** The activities of a CoE must support the mandates and activities of UNECE and involve deployment and dissemination of products endorsed through UNECE's intergovernmental processes.
- b. **Selection criteria:** Partners wishing to host a CoE affiliated with UNECE must meet qualifying criteria and agree to delivery of outputs as set forth in standard terms of reference established and agreed by the relevant oversight body within UNECE.
- c. **Due diligence:** Prospective non-governmental CoE partner entities are subject to the due diligence mechanisms established by UNECE, including the UNECE Framework for the Engagement with the Business Sector (contained in informal document 2017/40) and the Due Diligence Review of Private Sector entities engaging with UNECE (contained in informal document 2017/41), as appropriate.
- d. **Coordination and performance management:** A UNECE focal point is responsible for the day-to-day management of a CoE partnership to ensure delivery of agreed outputs in line with UNECE's objectives and compliance with agreed standards.
- e. **Accountability and impact reporting:** CoE are subject to periodic reporting to document their achievements against agreed action plans and submit their forward planning for information, review and/or approval by the designated oversight body in UNECE.
- f. **Knowledge sharing:** CoE networks have mechanisms for exchange of best practices, peer-learning and quality assurance among themselves.
- g. **Resources:** Any costs incurred in support of the network of CoE, for example documentation, website maintenance, coordination, staff and expert travel, must be covered fully by the centres' own resources or, as appropriate, XB resources.

## UNECE Centres of Excellence by subprogramme

33. Below is an overview of the arrangement and good practices related to the different CoE networks currently in place in UNECE.<sup>b</sup>

### Subprogramme 4

#### UNECE International Public-Private Partnership Centre of Excellence

34. The UNECE International PPP Centre of Excellence is organised in the form of a ‘hubs and spokes’ arrangement. The UNECE secretariat in Geneva acts as the coordinating hub for a number of Specialist Centres of Excellence located around the world and hosted by public institutions or entities that are endorsed by the hosting government<sup>c</sup> taking responsibility for identifying and articulating best practice in specific sectors, such as in water and sanitation, health, food security, and roads, providing this information under the auspices of the UNECE and its intergovernmental structure to governments as a public good.

35. The objective of the UNECE International PPP Centre of Excellence is to promote the ‘People-first’ PPP model, a model that is fit for purpose for the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The Specialist Centres of Excellence affiliated to the UNECE and located in different countries promote this model by, *inter alia*:

- Contributing to and disseminating UNECE People-first PPP Standards, Guiding Principles on People-first PPPs, and other international best practice, knowledge, skills and tools in People-first PPP capability development, particularly to countries that are newly embarking upon PPP programmes;
- Offering high-level strategic advisory and planning services and capacity building support to governments of member States in implementing the UNECE People-first approach to PPPs in support of the SDGs; and
- Facilitating ‘learning by doing’, through Best Practice Guides that showcase national adaptation and implementation of the UNECE People-first approach to PPPs in support of the SDGs.

36. As of March 2020, there are 8 PPP Specialist Centres of Excellence affiliated to the UNECE.

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<sup>b</sup> Further, a number of additional centers have been established by UNECE. Due to their different structures, they are not included in the scope of this paper. These include

- a. the UN Center for Trade Facilitation and eBusiness (UN/CEFACT), a subsidiary intergovernmental body of UNECE;
- b. the United Nations Network of Experts for Paperless Trade and Transport in Asia and the Pacific (UNNExT), a community of knowledge and practice for experts from developing countries and transition economies established jointly with ESCAP;
- c. the International Water Assessment Centre (IWAC), established as a collaborative centre of the Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International lakes (Water Convention) and
- d. the Centre on Emission Inventories and Projections (CEIP) established under ECE’s Air Convention.

<sup>c</sup> Non-governmental entities (e.g. foundations and universities) need the express written endorsement by the host government in the form of a letter to UNECE from to be considered as a candidate for a Centre. Private sector entities are not eligible to become Specialist Centres.

Location	Partner	Centre's activities	webpage
France (Paris)	- IFEJI: French Institute of international Legal Experts	Policies, Laws and Institutions	<a href="https://www.uneceppp-icoe.org/ppp-for-legislation/about/">https://www.uneceppp-icoe.org/ppp-for-legislation/about/</a>
Spain (Barcelona)	<a href="#">IESE PPP Research Center</a>	Smart cities	<a href="https://www.uneceppp-icoe.org/ppp-smart-and-sustainable-cities/about/">https://www.uneceppp-icoe.org/ppp-smart-and-sustainable-cities/about/</a>
Japan (Tokyo)	Toyo University	Local Government	<a href="https://www.uneceppp-icoe.org/ppp-local-government/about/">https://www.uneceppp-icoe.org/ppp-local-government/about/</a>
China (Beijing)	<a href="#">Tsinghua University</a> <a href="#">NDRC</a>	Public Transport Logistics	<a href="https://www.uneceppp-icoe.org/ppp-public-transport/standards/">https://www.uneceppp-icoe.org/ppp-public-transport/standards/</a>
China (Hong Kong)	City University of Hong Kong	Belt and Road Initiative	<a href="https://www.uneceppp-icoe.org/ppp-public-transport/">https://www.uneceppp-icoe.org/ppp-public-transport/</a>
United States of America (New Orleans) International Resilience Center		Recovery and Resilience	<a href="https://www.uneceppp-icoe.org/ppp-in-resilience/about-the-centre/">https://www.uneceppp-icoe.org/ppp-in-resilience/about-the-centre/</a>
Portugal (Lisbon)	LNEC Laboratório Nacional de Engenharia Civil, Lisbon LNEC, Portugal	Water and Sanitation	<a href="https://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/MoU_btween_UNECE_the_Ministry_of_Environment_of_Portugal_2017-05-17.pdf">https://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/MoU_btween_UNECE_the_Ministry_of_Environment_of_Portugal_2017-05-17.pdf</a>
Lebanon (Beirut)	High Council for Privatization and PPP	Ports	Exchange of letters on file

37. All prospective new Specialist Centres of Excellence must meet the following initial eligibility criteria before they are considered as potential candidates for UNECE affiliation as a Centres of Excellence (ECE/CECI/WP/PPP/2019/2, para 26):

- Have government support (unless they are a government institution);
- Provide a financial contribution towards the UNECE PPP mandated work; and
- Be operational within 6 months of establishment.

38. At the more operational level, the candidates have to agree to:

- The Code of Conduct developed in consultation with the UNOG Senior Legal Counsel and approved by the Working Party on PPPs;
- Undertake the activities and deliverables listed below;
- Provide regular reporting to the Working Party on PPPs through its Bureau and the secretariat;
- Coordinate their work with other Specialist Centres working under an informal rotating coordinating chairmanship; and
- Submit a written request to the UNECE secretariat on their intention to become an affiliated Centre.

39. Once all these criteria are met, in consultation with the Bureau of the Working Party on PPPs, the secretariat will request the candidate Centre to request affiliation at the next session intergovernmental meeting (the Working Party on PPPs or the Committee on Innovation, Competitiveness and PPPs). If this is granted, the secretariat will finalise the necessary formalities

(e.g. MoU, Contribution Agreement, Exchange of Letters). Any pledges for extrabudgetary funding coming from the Centres will go to the Executive Committee as extrabudgetary projects.

40. A sample MoU template for the Specialist Centres of Excellence is available under [https://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/ceci/images/ICoE/DraftMoU\\_web.pdf](https://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/ceci/images/ICoE/DraftMoU_web.pdf)

41. Specialist Centres of Excellence identify excellence, prepare best practice guides and help governments building their capabilities to develop a successful pipeline of projects. The Specialist Centres of Excellence will:

- Conduct research within the sector;
- Disseminate the People-first approach to PPPs in support of the SDGs;
- Develop and disseminate People-first PPP best practices in the sector;
- Develop sector specific capability development strategies for governments;
- Raise awareness of the People-first approach to PPPs amongst the private sector
- Provide specialised training in People-first PPPs.

42. The Beijing statement of intent agreed among the Specialists Centres of Excellence affiliated to the UNECE in December 2018 provides more details on the cooperation and commitments made going forward, including:

- Continue to develop and promote the concept of People-first PPPs;
- Promote projects that are aligned with the UNECE Guiding Principles on People-first PPPs in support of the SDGs;
- Prepare People-first PPP case studies; and
- Provide training and capacity building activities.

43. PPP Specialist Centres of Excellence have two type of action plans: i) Individual action plans for each of the Specialist Centres of Excellence; and ii) Collective action plans for all 8 Specialist Centres of Excellence. These plans are updated regularly at coordination meetings of the representatives of the Centres.

44. There are regular interaction between the Specialist Centres of Excellence and the secretariat and the Bureau of the Working Party on PPPs. Furthermore, the work of the Specialist Centres of Excellence is discussed at the annual sessions of the Working Party on PPPs.

45. In addition to the regular interaction with the secretariat, regular meetings of the representatives of the Specialist Centres of Excellence are held to ensure regular reviews of the partnerships, collectively and individually. Each Specialist Centre coordinates the work of all the Specialist Centres for a period of 6 months. Recent meetings were held in December 2018 (Beijing, China) and April 2019 (Paris, France) and March 2020 (New Orleans, Louisiana, USA).

46. The Working Party on PPPs is mandated to prepare international PPP standards, recommendations, best practices and facilitate their broad dissemination with the support of international PPP Specialist Centres of Excellence affiliated to the UNECE (Terms of Reference, ECE/CECI/2016/6, Annex).

47. During its 49<sup>th</sup> meeting in February 2012, EXCOM endorsed the extrabudgetary project "Public-Private Partnerships (PPP) Initiative: PPP Toolkit and International PPP Centre of Excellence" (Informal document 2012/2 and 2012/3) and decided to implement the 'hubs' and 'spokes' approach.

48. During its 83<sup>rd</sup> meeting in March 2016, EXCOM endorsed the extrabudgetary project "International Centre of Excellence on Public-Private Partnerships: development and implementation of PPP standards and recommendations" (Informal document 2016/15), and decided to extend the 'hubs' and 'spokes' approach until 2021.

49. The Working Party on PPPs at its first session in November 2017 decided to set up the Specialist Centre on PPP in resilience in New Orleans, United States (ECE/CECI/WP/PPP/2017/2, Conclusion 2017 – 6.6). The Centre in New Orleans is the latest of the 8 Centres to be set up.

50. Additional key documents on governance arrangements related to the CoEs under subprogramme 4 include the following materials:

- **2013: Governance procedures and practices of the UNECE International PPP Centre of Excellence** were presented to the Team of Specialists on PPPs (the precursor of the Working Party on PPPs) at its fifth session in February 2013  
[http://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/ceci/documents/2013/PPP/ECE\\_CECI\\_PPP\\_CRP3.pdf](http://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/ceci/documents/2013/PPP/ECE_CECI_PPP_CRP3.pdf)
- **2019: A review of the work of the UNECE-affiliated International PPP Specialist Centres of Excellence** was presented to the Working Party at its third session in December 2019 (ECE/CECI/WP/PPP/2019/INF.4). It is available under:  
[https://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/ceci/documents/2019/PPP/WP/ECE\\_CECI\\_WP\\_PP\\_2019\\_INF.4.pdf](https://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/ceci/documents/2019/PPP/WP/ECE_CECI_WP_PP_2019_INF.4.pdf)
- **2019: A code of conduct** for the UNECE-affiliated International PPP Specialist Centres of Excellence (ECE/CECI/WP/PPP/2019/4) was endorsed by the Working Party on PPPs at its third session in December in 2019: [Code of Conduct for the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe-affiliated International Public-Private Partnerships Specialist Centres of Excellence](#)

## Subprogramme 8 – housing, land management and population

### Charter Centres of Excellence

51. The Geneva UN Charter on Sustainable Housing, endorsed by UNECE in 2015, supports member States as they seek to ensure access to decent, adequate, affordable and healthy housing for all. The Charter Centres of Excellence support the implementation of the Charter through training, studies, awareness raising and concrete projects on the ground to improve the quality of life in cities

52. The Centres play a crucial role in promoting all four principles of the Charter: environmental protection, economic effectiveness, social inclusion and participation, and cultural adequacy. Depending on their specialization and available expertise at host institutions, the Centres work at national and/or international level and on topics covered by the Charter.

53. Established as a network under the coordination of the UNECE Committee on Housing and Land Management, the Centers support the implementation of the Charter through exchange of experiences, knowledge sharing, training and research, advisory services, cooperation and dissemination of its principles among the UNECE member States and beyond.

54. Guidelines for the implementation of the Charter have been adopted by the Committee on Urban Development, Housing and Land Management (ECE/HBP/2016/2); they contain draft terms of reference and a draft template for Memorandum of Understanding for the Geneva UN Charter. To establish the Centres, UNECE partners with the governments of the participating States where they are to be located, as well as with international, national and non-government organizations and academic institutions. Cooperation with the Centres is guided by a Memorandum of Understanding between the ECE and the partner organization in the respective country. (A draft Memorandum is contained in ECE/HBP/2016/2, Annex 1).

55. There are currently four Charter centres, with a fifth one under development. These include

Location	Partner	Focus area	MoU
Glasgow, United Kingdom	Mackintosh School of Architecture/ The Glasgow School of Art	Integrated urban planning and design	<a href="https://www.unece.org/urban-development-housing-and-land-management/housingcharter/geneva-un-charter-centres.html">https://www.unece.org/urban-development-housing-and-land-management/housingcharter/geneva-un-charter-centres.html</a>
Tirana, Albania	Ministry of Urban Development of Albania	Housing policies	<a href="https://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/76_MoU_between_UNECE_FLH_and_Albania_14-12-2016__unSigned_.pdf">https://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/76_MoU_between_UNECE_FLH_and_Albania_14-12-2016__unSigned_.pdf</a>
Vienna, Austria	Organization for International Economic Relations	Key Performance Indicators (U4SSC KPIs).	<a href="https://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/13_11_2017_MoU_between_UNECE_and_OiER.pdf">https://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/13_11_2017_MoU_between_UNECE_and_OiER.pdf</a> <a href="https://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/98_MoU_between_UNECE_and_Organization_for_International_Economic_Relations.pdf">https://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/98_MoU_between_UNECE_and_Organization_for_International_Economic_Relations.pdf</a>
Tallinn, Estonia	Estonian Union of Cooperative Housing Associations	Programmes for social and affordable housing. Training programmes	<a href="https://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/cefact/mou/82_MoU_between_UNECE_and_Estonia_Union_Cooperative_Housings_Association_12_May_2017.pdf">https://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/cefact/mou/82_MoU_between_UNECE_and_Estonia_Union_Cooperative_Housings_Association_12_May_2017.pdf</a>



		on housing management	
Trondheim, Norway (under development)	Trondheim Kommune	City performance evaluation using UNECE/ITU KPIs for smart sustainable cities; programmes for smart sustainable cities, SDG local budgets	<a href="https://www.unece.org/urban-development-housing-and-land-management/housingcharter/geneva-un-charter-centres.html">https://www.unece.org/urban-development-housing-and-land-management/housingcharter/geneva-un-charter-centres.html</a>

56. The Geneva UN Charter Centre of Excellence on Smart and Sustainable Cities in Vienna supports UNECE to implement activities related to capacity building and cooperation, especially using the framework of the United Smart Cities (USC) and the recently-established SDG Cities Leadership Platform. In particular, the Centre will:

- Support cities to assess their economic, environmental and socio-cultural performances and set priorities for action;
- Promote exchange of best practices among countries and cities engaged in the implementation of smart sustainable city activities;
- Encourage cooperation among international, national and local stakeholders;
- Ensure knowledge transfer and strengthen the capacity of national and local authorities to develop and implement policies and actions to improve the quality of life of people and efficiency of urban operations;
- Identify financing tools and mechanisms to accelerate progress of smart city projects;
- Support the achievement of the SDGs at the city level.

57. The secretariat regularly communicates with the Centres on delivery of activities and products. Workplans of the centres are collected at the beginning of each year, reports are presented to the annual Committee sessions. Recent reports on activities of CoE and the planning of new activities include:

- Activities of the Committee on Housing and Land Management since the seventy-ninth session and its future activities for 2020  
[https://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/hlm/documents/2019/ECE\\_HBP\\_2019\\_1-ENG.pdf](https://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/hlm/documents/2019/ECE_HBP_2019_1-ENG.pdf), paras 5-9
- Activities of the Committee on Housing and Land Management since the seventy-eighth session and its future activities for 2019-2020  
[https://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/hlm/documents/2018/ECE\\_HBP\\_2018\\_1.eng.pdf](https://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/hlm/documents/2018/ECE_HBP_2018_1.eng.pdf), paras 5 and 28
- Activities of the Committee on Housing and Land Management since the seventy-seventh session and its future activities for 2018-2019  
[https://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/hlm/documents/2017/ECE\\_HBP\\_2017-2e.pdf](https://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/hlm/documents/2017/ECE_HBP_2017-2e.pdf) para 5

58. A review was conducted by an external management expert of the University of Geneva in summer 2019; recommendations were formulated and will be presented to the Committee to its consideration. An official document is under preparation. After review by the Bureau, it will Committee on Urban Development, Housing and Land Management at its 81<sup>st</sup> session in October 2020.

59. More information is available at <https://www.unece.org/urban-development-housing-and-land-management/housingcharter/geneva-un-charter-centres.html>

### **Subprogramme 5 – sustainable energy**

#### **a) International Centres of Excellence on High Performance Buildings**

60. The International Centres of Excellence on High Performance Buildings (ICE-HPB) comprise a collaborative network of organisations focused on supporting their local industry in the rapid development of next generation of buildings consistent with the United Nations Framework Guidelines for Energy Efficiency Standards in Buildings. The guidelines called for their own dissemination and deployment, and the centres are a vehicle for achieving that outcome. Centres provide education, training, and other critical resources to regional building industry practitioners, while sharing these resources globally through collaboration with other network participants.

61. CoE developed the following criteria for designating ICE-HPB network partners:

- a. Committed to the objectives of the Framework Guidelines, including dissemination, training, and education
- b. Committed to the objectives of and active engagement across the network of International Centres of Excellence and the Global Building Network
- c. Established as a going concern/legal entity with strong relationships in the local buildings communities
- d. Must have (local) political support and visibility
- e. In compliance with norms and requirements regarding potential conflicts of interest
- f. Demonstrated competency and capacity in the areas of high-performance buildings and training
- g. Self-funded
- h. Must have physical infrastructure (or access to it), including organizational infrastructure and a regional ecosystem that primes the centre for success, and demonstrated delivery mechanism
- i. Committed to an agenda relevant to the local region based on an agreed menu of activities and projects

62. The mission of an ICE-HPB is to advance the principles of the UNECE Framework Guidelines for Energy Efficiency Standards in Buildings through education, training, technical assistance, demonstrations, resources, and research.

64. The activities and projects of the Centre include:

- Convening dialogue amongst local and international industry leaders to identify challenges, share best practices and build a growing and diverse community of practice;
- Gather and disseminate knowledge directly, and through partner organisations, including education and training, exhibits, case studies, research, demonstration projects, and the production of industry focused print and on-line resources;
- Catalyze design and construction industry tools and training development, and identify potential barriers to adoption and implementation; and
- Foster public demand and support for best practices through recognition and awards, open houses and tours, communication and marketing campaigns, public events, and demonstration projects.

65. As of March 2020, there are two ICE-HPBs in operation, including

Location	Partner	MoU
New York City, NY (USA)	Building Energy Exchange of New York City	<a href="https://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/10_July_2018_MoU_UNECE-ICE-HPB_BEEEx_final_002_.pdf">https://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/10_July_2018_MoU_UNECE-ICE-HPB_BEEEx_final_002_.pdf</a>
Pittsburgh, PA (USA) International Centre of Excellence on High Performance Buildings	Pittsburgh's Green Building Alliance (GBA)	<a href="https://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/MOU/12_Sept_2019__MOU_GBA_and_UNECE_v4.pdf">https://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/MOU/12_Sept_2019__MOU_GBA_and_UNECE_v4.pdf</a>
Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada	In planning	
Wexford, Ireland	In planning	
Sofia, Bulgaria	In planning	

66. An ICE-HPB reports to the Group of Experts on Energy Efficiency on prior year achievements and plans for the coming period. More information on the work of the centres and their impact is contained in the 2019 report of the ICE-HPB initiative, available under: [https://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/energy/se/pdfs/geee/geee6\\_Oct2019/2019\\_Report\\_on\\_IC E-HPB\\_update.pdf](https://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/energy/se/pdfs/geee/geee6_Oct2019/2019_Report_on_IC E-HPB_update.pdf)

b) International Centres of Excellence on Sustainable Resource Management

67. International Centres of Excellence for Sustainable Resource Management (ICE-SRM) are a collaborative network of organisations focused on supporting sustainable investment in resources. The Centres are conceived to provide policy support, technical advice and consultation, education, training, dissemination, and other critical activities for managers and stakeholders involved in sustainable development of national resource endowments.

68. The activities of the Centres are linked to the expected accomplishment (a) “Improved policy dialogue and cooperation among all stakeholders on sustainable energy issues, in particular energy efficiency, cleaner electricity production from fossil fuels, renewable energy, coal mine methane, mineral resources classification, natural gas and energy security” of Subprogramme 5 “Sustainable Energy” of the UNECE Programme budget for 2018-2019.

69. They also contribute to the attainment of the objective of the Subprogramme 5 “Sustainable Energy”: “to ensure access to affordable and clean energy for all and reduce greenhouse gas emissions and the carbon footprint of the energy sector in the region”, as defined in the UNECE Proposed programme budget for 2020.

70. The Expert Group on Resource Management is mandated by the Committee on Sustainable Energy to carry out concrete, result-oriented activities related to development and deployment of a United Nations Resource Management System (UNRMS) grounded in the United Nations Framework Classification for Resources (UNFC) comprising principles, specifications, guidelines, application protocols (procedures and checklists) and best practices to aid sustainable management of energy, raw materials and other resources. (EXCOM/CONCLU/102). Item N of the approved Work Plan of the Expert Group for 2020-2021 (EXCOM/CONCLU/108) calls for Support for Implementation of UNFC and UNRMS and Partnerships in Sustainable Resource Management through a Global Network of International Centres of Excellence

71. CoE developed the following criteria to guide designation of future network partners:

- a. Committed to deploying and disseminating UNFC and UNRMS, including research, testing, technical advice, training, education, advocacy and certification.
- b. Committed to the objectives of and active engagement across the network of International Centres of Excellence.
- c. Established as a going concern and a legal entity with strong relationships in the regional, national and local resource development community.
- d. Must have regional, national and local political support and visibility.
- e. Committed to an agenda relevant to regional, national and local needs based on an agreed menu of activities and projects.
- f. Committed to innovation, continuous development and excellence in all areas including the social, environmental, economic and technological aspects of resource management and providing efficient, resource-based services to populations.
- g. In compliance with norms and requirements regarding potential conflicts of interest.
- h. Demonstrated competence and capacity in the area of sustainable resource management.
- i. Self-funded and able to support a central UNECE resource management hub in kind and financially
- j. Must have physical infrastructure (or access to it), including organizational infrastructure and a regional ecosystem that primes the centre for success, and a demonstrated delivery mechanism.

73. The activities and projects of an ICE-SRM will include:

- a. Capacity-building
- b. Contribution to further development and maintenance of UNFC and UNRMS
- c. Advocacy, and
- d. Outreach

74. The Centres will report to the Expert Group on Resource Management annually on prior year achievements and plans for the coming period.

75. As of March 2020, discussions are underway to establish a number of ICE-SRMs:

- Russian Federation, MGIMO State University, Moscow for application of UNFC and UNRMS in the CIS region.
- European Commission, DG GROW, for application of UNFC and UNRMS in Europe.
- African Union, African Mineral Development Centre (AMDC) for application of UNFC and UNRMS in Africa.
- Coordinating Committee for Geoscience Programmes in East and Southeast Asia (CCOP) Technical Secretariat, Bangkok, Thailand for application of UNFC and UNRMS in CCOP member countries.
- Mexico, National Hydrocarbons Commission (and other partners yet to be determined) for application of UNFC and UNRMS in Mexico and neighbouring countries.
- China, Ministry of Natural Resources for application of UNFC and UNRMS in China and neighbouring countries.

c) International Centres of Excellence on Coal Mine Methane

76. The activities of the Centres are linked to the expected accomplishment (a) “Improved policy dialogue and cooperation among all stakeholders on sustainable energy issues, in particular energy efficiency, cleaner electricity production from fossil fuels, renewable energy, coal mine methane, mineral resources classification, natural gas and energy security” of Subprogramme 5 “Sustainable Energy” of the UNECE Programme budget for 2018-2019. They also contribute to the attainment of the objective of the Subprogramme 5 “Sustainable Energy”: “to ensure access to affordable and clean energy for all and reduce greenhouse gas emissions and the carbon footprint of the energy sector in the region”, as defined in the UNECE Proposed programme budget for 2020.

77. The Group of Experts on Coal Mine Methane is mandated by the Committee on Sustainable Energy to carry out concrete, result-oriented activities that promote the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions from coal mines through recovery and use of methane, in order to reduce the risks of explosions in coal mines (ECE/EX/7). The principal area of work of the Group of Experts is best practice guidance for effective drainage, recovery and usage of CMM, which is achieved including through collaboration with key stakeholders such as the existing Centres of Excellence.

78. ICE-CMM are tasked with carrying out the following concrete activities and projects:

- Solicit and collect relevant case studies and best practices in sustainable CMM management, provide as needed technical guidance for their development, and serve as a depository of such cases and practices;
- Organise on-site training and visits to ICE-CMM (on a non-profit basis, using as needed cost-sharing mechanisms) by CMM practitioners from interested UN Member States. Such training would help disseminate best practices through concrete hands-on experience;

- In collaboration with the UNECE secretariat and members of the Group of Experts on CMM, organise off-site training activities on the application of best practices in various coal mining regions;
- Conduct research in its domain of work, as requested by UNECE member States, under auspices of the Group of Experts on CMM, and in collaboration with relevant intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, industry and other stakeholders in the CMM field;
- Engage with a wider coal mining community, including the civil society, mining associations, and decision-makers through the use of electronic and social media in order to raise awareness of the challenges and opportunities in the CMM sector.

The Centres report on their achievements and planned activities at the meetings of the Group of Experts on CMM.

79. As of March 2020, there are two ICE-CMM in operation:

Location and Host organization	Partner	MoUs
Katowice (Poland) International Centre of Excellence on Coal Mine Methane (ICE-CMM)	Central Mining Institute of Katowice, Poland	<a href="https://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/MoU_UNECE_GIG_30_10_2015.pdf">https://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/MoU_UNECE_GIG_30_10_2015.pdf</a>  <a href="https://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/69A_MoU_between_ICE-CMM_Poland_Addendum_14-12-2016__signed_.pdf">https://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/69A_MoU_between_ICE-CMM_Poland_Addendum_14-12-2016__signed_.pdf</a>
Taiyuan City, Shanxi Province, China International Centre of Excellence on Coal Mine Methane (ICE-CMM)	Shanxi Coking Coal Group Co Ltd of Taiyuan, China	<a href="https://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/MoU_between_UNECE_and_ICE_Shanxi_China_2017-05-18.pdf">https://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/MoU_between_UNECE_and_ICE_Shanxi_China_2017-05-18.pdf</a>
Proposal to establish an ICE-CMM with RF International Centre of Excellence on Coal Mine Methane	In planning	

### Next steps: RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1. A CoE knowledge sharing mechanism across subprogrammes should be established to exchange experiences and good practices among UNECE CoE Focal Points with a view to**
  - i) harmonize procedures and governance arrangements, as appropriate,**
  - ii) strengthen results-based management, and**
  - iii) achieve maximum impact of the respective CoE networks.**
- 2. Periodic reviews of the performance of CoE and their relevance for the advancement of UNECE mandates should be undertaken by the secretariat for consideration by the respective governing bodies.**

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**The Executive Committee may wish to take note on the information provided.**