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**Meeting with the Chair of the Committee on Innovation, Competitiveness
and Public-Private Partnerships (CICPPP)**

Report by the Chair

Report by the Chair of the Committee on Innovation, Competitiveness and Public-Private Partnerships (CICPPP)

I. Achievements since the last session

Innovation and Competitiveness

1. A new set of good practices was developed on accelerating the adoption of innovations (document ECE/CECI/2016/3).
2. The Innovation Performance Review of Tajikistan was completed and published in English (publication ECE/CECI/22). The Russian translation is being printed. The results of the Review were presented at the 2015 Economic Forum of the UN Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia (SPECA) in Dushanbe on 10-11 November 2015.
3. A conference was held in Minsk, Belarus on 20 November 2015, which brought together representatives of Armenia, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Tajikistan and Ukraine to draw lessons learned from their respective Innovation Performance Reviews and to prepare the ground for a second round of reviews, as well as for incorporating a sustainable development perspective into these reviews (cf. paragraph 5 below).
4. The UNECE secretariat joined the secretariats of 30 other UN agencies on the Inter-Agency Task Team on Science, Technology and Innovation for Sustainable Development. The Task Team organized the first Multi-Stakeholder Forum on Science, Technology and Innovation for Sustainable Development on 6-7 June 2016 in New York. The Forum provided inputs to the 2016 High-Level Forum for Sustainable Development.
5. The second national innovation review of Belarus was initiated. It is being carried out on the basis of the results of the above-mentioned conference and serves as a pilot for re-orienting the established programme of Innovation Performance Reviews towards Innovation for Sustainable Development Reviews by adding a dedicated chapter on the role of innovation in promoting sustainable development. Science, technology and innovation are among the means of implementation of the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), so this re-orientation provides an opportunity to assist requesting member States to harness the power of innovation for achieving their national sustainable development priorities. The findings from future Innovation for Sustainable Development Reviews can also make a contribution to the monitoring and review process for the 2030 Agenda.

Public-Private Partnerships (PPP)

6. The work on elaborating international PPP standards and recommendations on integrity and transparency, health policy, roads, airports, water and sanitation, renewable energy, sustainable procurement, for addressing the SDGs continued. It was undertaken with the support of the International Specialist Centres in China, France, Spain, and Japan. These Centres, and others in the process of being established, provide essential contributions to the work on PPP standards through the identification of international best practices and case studies.
7. The UNECE PPP Business Advisory Board continued to assist in the standards-setting process and to help countries with the implementation of the standards, as well as with their project pipelines. Since the last CICPPP session, assistance was rendered to Belarus (September 2015), the Russian Federation (October 2015), the Republic of

Moldova (November 2015), Poland (December 2015), Ukraine (December 2015) and Kazakhstan (March 2016).

8. The first International PPP Forum was held in Geneva from 30 March-1 April 2016, with a focus on People-First PPPs, which showcased PPP projects from around the world that are contributing to achieving the SDGs by providing access to key services such as water and sanitation, healthcare, education, energy and transport.

9. A dialogue was held with some civil society organizations, focusing on their engagement in the UNECE PPP work in order to ensure that all key stakeholders – member States, the private sector and civil society – actively participate in the standards-setting process.

II. Major activities planned for the coming year and beyond

Innovation and Competitiveness

10. The tenth session of the Team of Specialists on Innovation and Competitiveness Policies will be held in Geneva on 3-4 November 2016.

11. A national Innovation for Sustainable Development Review will be undertaken. Expressions of interest have been received from Azerbaijan and Kyrgyzstan. Kazakhstan has expressed interest in a second-round review. The sequencing and timing of these reviews will depend on the availability of extra-budgetary resources. Preparatory missions, fact-finding missions, peer reviews and launch events will be organized accordingly in 2017.

12. Policy advisory workshops to support the implementation of policy recommendations made in previous Innovation Performance Reviews will be organized, in cooperation with national counterparts who participated in the Reviews, in Kazakhstan in September and in Armenia in the fourth quarter of 2016. Similar events will be held in 2017 subject to demand from member States and available resources.

13. The Committee and its subsidiary bodies will contribute to a high-level international conference on “Laying the foundation in the ECE region for greater integration, economic development and achievement of the sustainable development goals,” which will be organized by UNECE jointly with the Government of Belarus in Minsk on 26-27 October 2016. The conference will provide input to the seventieth anniversary session of the Economic Commission for Europe in 2017.

14. An international conference on “Start-up Nations - Innovative Entrepreneurship for Sustainable Development” will be organized together with the Government of Israel on 2 November 2016 in Geneva.

15. An official UN publication on *Closing Innovation Adoption Gaps* will be published at the end of 2016 based on the results of the substantive segment of the 2015 session of the Team of Specialists on Innovation and Competitiveness Policies. A similar publication will be developed in 2017 based on the 2016 meeting of the same body.

Public-Private Partnerships

16. Work on developing international PPP standards and best practices in support of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) will continue. International standards on PPPs in health policy, in water and sanitation, in renewable energy, in transport (roads, rail, ports and airports), in sustainable procurement and in integrity and transparency in PPPs will be finalized during 2016 and 2017.

17. Support for implementing these standards and best practices in countries will be provided 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.

18. The next session of the Team of Specialists on PPPs will be held in Geneva on 20-21 October 2016.

19. The *Guidebook on Promoting Good Governance in Public-Private Partnerships* will be revised in order to address the need to accommodate sustainable development priorities with a strong emphasis on the 'people first' principle.

20. A publication with proceedings from the International Conference on PPPs in Water and Sanitation, where a number of case studies were presented from the UNECE region and beyond, will be published in the first quarter of 2017.

III. Any proposed change to the subsidiary structure of the Committee

21. The Chairperson of TOS-PPP informed the Committee at its May 2016 session that the TOS-PPP Bureau and the TOS-PPP members had unanimously recommended transforming the TOS-PPP into a Working Party on PPPs in support of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals in a resource-neutral manner. This recommendation was based on the need for continued development and maintenance of PPP standards and recommendations which, they believe, calls for a body with a longer-term mandate than the two years given to Teams of Specialists. A detailed proposal by the TOS-PPP, including the draft terms of reference for the proposed Working Party on PPPs, is contained in the document: Proposal for a Working Party on Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs) in support of the UN Sustainable Development Goals (ECE/CECI/2016/6). Based on this proposal, the Committee has recommended to the UNECE Executive Committee the establishment of a Working Party on PPPs (see Decision 2016 - 5b.2 paragraph 28 of the CICPPP report, document ECE/CECI/2016/2 and document ECE/EX/2016/L.17).

IV. Inter-sectoral activities: new activities and/or progress in existing inter-sectoral activities

22. Some examples of key cross-sectoral activities on innovation and PPPs are provided below. These planned activities are subject to the availability of sufficient resources.

23. The Team of Specialists on Innovation and Competitiveness Policies (TOS-ICP) is exploring collaboration with the Committee on Housing and Land Management and Committee on Sustainable Energy on the promotion of innovations in energy efficiency in housing and other areas through standards, labelling and certification schemes.

24. The secretariat of the Team of Specialists on Public-Private Partnerships (TOS-PPP) and UN/CEFACT (UN Centre for Trade Facilitation and Electronic Business) are jointly organizing a workshop on People-First PPPs in Bangkok, Thailand on 23 September 2016 to discuss the draft guiding principle on PPP good governance and the draft recommendations on PPPs and Trade Facilitation.

V. Technical cooperation activities

25. In support of the United Nations Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia (SPECA), the secretariat organized the SPECA Economic Forum entitled, “Supporting the Implementation and Monitoring of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in the SPECA Region” in Dushanbe, Tajikistan in November 2015. The Forum concluded that strengthened subregional cooperation is an important precondition for the achievement of SDGs, in particular, given the specific challenges which SPECA member countries face. This input was passed on to the SPECA Governing Council which decided to reinforce its own role and that of its thematic Working Groups in support of the SDGs.

26. During the Economic Forum, the secretariat organized a session on innovation policy to support science, technology and innovation policy development in the SPECA member countries. This session identified shared challenges in innovation performance and policy options to address them.

27. In the field of Public-Private Partnerships (PPP), the International PPP Centre of Excellence has carried out six consultative missions of the UNECE PPP Business Advisory Board in Belarus, Kazakhstan, Republic of Moldova, Poland, Russian Federation and Ukraine with respective national authorities on national PPP policies, programmes and projects; and two activities within a capacity-building project for PPPs in Belarus.

28. These PPP-related, capacity-building activities contributed to a better understanding of the enabling environment such as policies and institutions to: improve PPP projects development and delivery; enhance the ability of national officials to identify and implement bankable PPP projects that contribute to achieving the SDGs; identify international PPP best practices and models in different sectors; and to agree, understand and contribute to the UNECE process for the development of international PPP standards and recommendations for the SDGs.

29. The following donors made voluntary contributions to these capacity-building activities (including in-kind contributions): the Government of the Russian Federation, the Government of Tajikistan, the European Union, the Bank for Development and Foreign Economic Affairs (Vnesheconombank) of the Russian Federation, the Confederation of International Contractors’ Associations, the Eurasian Development Bank, the French Institute of International Legal Experts, and Toyo University, Japan.

VI. Cooperation with other organizations

30. The United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) has launched a project to support industrial development in Central Asia with a focus on initiatives that encourage innovation, including by nurturing science parks, business incubators and innovative industrial clusters. UNIDO has expressed an interest in cooperating with UNECE, possibly within the framework of SPECA.

31. UNECE received observer status at the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) Working Group on Technology and Innovation Policy, opening up opportunities for an intensified exchange of expertise and experience, and for potential cooperation on national reviews.

32. Joint PPP conferences were held with UNITAR 29-30 October 2015 in Annemasse, France and with DESA on 20 April 2016 in New York, United States of America.

33. The important and mutually beneficial cooperation with the World Bank Group and other multilateral development banks in the development of PPP standards continued.

34. UNECE cooperated with the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) in jointly organizing a seminar on PPP legal best practices in Almaty, Kazakhstan, on 5 February 2016.

35. The following UN bodies expressed interest in cooperating further with ECE in its work on PPPs: the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA), as well as the G20, and the multilateral development banks. In addition, a joint workshop on PPPs is planned with the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) in September 2016.

36. The United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) and the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) have expressed interest in cooperating with UNECE on innovation for sustainable development. Consultations were held on the possibility of exchanging experiences on national reviews.

VII. The holding of back-to-back meetings with the Steering Committee on Trade Capacity and Standards (SCTCS)

37. In its Decision document ECE/EX/22, the Executive Committee established the Steering Committee on Trade Capacity and Standards and approved its Terms of Reference. Para 5 of the Terms of Reference stipulate that the annual 1.5 day sessions “shall be held back-to-back with the Committee on Innovation, Competitiveness and Public-Private Partnerships”.

38. After two sessions held (the first 3-4 September 2015 and the second on 23-25 May 2016), the Bureaux of the two bodies have carried out an analysis of the participants in their sessions and the feasibility of the back-to-back sessions. This analysis is attached in Annex I for the information of the Executive Committee.

39. As there is no common stakeholder community between the two bodies and as it is increasingly difficult for the UNOG Conference Services to identify meeting rooms for the back-to-back meetings at the Palais des Nations, resulting in significant organizational and logistical problems, the two Bureaux would like to suggest to the Executive Committee to reconsider the need for back-to-back meetings.

Annex I

Analysis of Delegates at the CICPPP and SCTCS Sessions for 2015 and 2016

1. This annex summarizes the findings of an analysis of delegates attending the Steering Committee on Trade Capacity (SCTCS) first and second sessions and the Committee on Innovation, Competitiveness and Public-Private Partnerships (CICPPP) ninth and tenth sessions in 2015 and 2016. The 2 Committees have met back-to-back for two years as a result of Commission Decision A(65) and as reflected in document E/ECE/1468 as “(g) Agreed that the Trade Committee and the Committee on Economic Cooperation and Integration will, from 2013 onwards, organize their two-day annual meetings, back-to-back, in the same week.”

2. In the view of logistical and organizational issues related to holding the sessions back-to-back in the same week, both the SCTCS and CICPPP requested (CICPPP Decision 2016 – 9.2 and SCTCS Decision 2016 – 7.2) that their bureaux undertake an analysis of the delegates who have attended both Committees and identify possible impact of the scheduling arrangements. Both bodies also requested that the results of the analysis be reported to the UNECE Executive Committee for discussion.

3. The combined total number of delegates for SCTCS and CICPPP sessions in 2015 and 2016 was 320^a. Of these, 17 delegates attended both sessions in 2015. There was no delegate who attended both sessions in 2016. Of the 17 delegates from 2015, eight travelled from outside Geneva. Of these, six were from the private sector, academia and NGOs; and two represented government agencies from Romania and Ukraine. Among the nine other common delegates, eight represented the Permanent Missions to the United Nations in Geneva and one a Geneva-based international organization (the International Trade Centre).

Number of delegates that attended only one Committee session	Number of delegates that attended both Committee Sessions				
	17				Number of common delegates that travelled from outside Switzerland
303	Number of delegates from the Permanent Missions	Number of govt. delegates from the capitals	Number of delegates from the private sector/ NGOs/ Academia	Number of delegates from int'l organizations	
	8	2	6	1	8

Source: Final list of participants of CICPPP and SCTCS sessions

^a None of the UNECE secretariat staff were included in the analysis.

4. In 2015 and 2016, the theme of the SCTCS sessions was ‘Removing regulatory and procedural barriers to trade in the UNECE region’, with a focus on Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan in 2015 and on Albania and Moldova in 2016. At the CICPPP sessions in 2015 and 2016, delegates discussed the role of Public-Private Partnerships and Innovation in Sustainable Development. Topics included PPP projects in France and Lebanon and national strategies for sustainable development in Kazakhstan, Switzerland and Ukraine. A ‘High level international conference on unlocking the economic potential for sustainable development’ was organized jointly by the two Committees in 2015.
5. There were no speakers who spoke at both Committees either in 2015 or in 2016. No speaker came from the same country or same organization in a particular year.
6. Logistical and organizational problems related to organizing back-to-back sessions include:
- Difficulties in reserving a full week of meeting rooms (CICPPP 2-3 days and SCTCS 1.5 days). The UNECE’s quota is a maximum of three simultaneous meetings with interpretation per day for eight subprogrammes; therefore, it is very difficult to find a week when a sufficient number of days are available for back-to-back sessions. Consequently, the first two back-to-back sessions have been organized at times when there was no heavy meeting schedule, i.e. periods when many delegates do not wish to travel to Geneva (the first week of school and during the annual WHO meetings). In 2016, the lack of available meeting rooms resulted in the SCTCS having been held at the Swiss Centre International de Conférences de Genève, with the additional expenditures for the venue being covered by a contribution from the Swiss Government.
 - More limited resources for meeting preparations and additional pressure placed on secretariat staff required due to simultaneous planning, consultations and document preparation for identical deadlines for two major meetings.
 - Significant difficulties, at times inability, in transmitting results in a timely and effective manner among expert and inter-governmental bodies^b (i.e. from project teams up to Teams of Specialists and Specialized Sections to Working Parties and then to the CICPPP and the SCTCS) due to the scheduling requirements and the large number of bodies involved. Examples of problems this has caused are: having an SCTCS meeting 2-3 months before the meetings of its subsidiary bodies (as in 2015) so that it is reviewing reports and requests that are almost a year old; or having to move the planned meeting of one of CICPPP’s ToS so that their meetings are not in the same month (as in 2016).
 - An additional burden on many smaller missions where one delegate covers all UNECE programmes and other portfolios simultaneously.

^b The CICPPP has two subsidiary Teams of Specialists, one of which has two meetings of project teams per year which “feed results” into the Teams of Specialists. The SCTCS has two subsidiary Working Parties, one of which has 4 subsidiary bodies that present results to it (WP.7 on Agricultural Quality Standards) and one of which has 3 Teams of Specialists which present results to it (WP.6 on Regulatory and Procedural Barriers to Trade).

Annex II

The organizational structure of the Committee on Innovation, Competitiveness and Public-Private Partnerships

