

**ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE**

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

Remote informal  
meeting of members  
of the Executive Committee  
Geneva, 20 May 2020

Item 12

Informal Document No. **2020/34**

**Extrabudgetary project**  
**Enhancing the implementation**  
**of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development**  
**through strategic cooperation among the SPECA countries**

**UNITED NATIONS ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE  
TECHNICAL COOPERATION PROJECT FORM**

<b>Project title:</b> Enhancing the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development through strategic cooperation among the SPECA countries		
<b>Expected timing/ duration:</b> June 2020 – June 2022		
<b>Objective and brief summary of the project:</b> The project intends to enhance the capacity of the SPECA countries to engage in subregional cooperation for the achievement of SDGs. This objective supports the SPECA countries in their capacity-building efforts towards the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The project will build on the achievements of the E262 project “Strengthening the capacity of SPECA countries for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)” (June 2016 – December 2019) in improving the functioning of the SPECA process as a unique framework for cross-border cooperation in the subregion for the achievement of SDGs selected by the SPECA countries and corresponding to the mandate and expertise of UNECE and its partner in supporting SPECA - UNESCAP. This is a demand-driven project, based on the decisions of the SPECA Governing Council the 2018 Evaluation of SPECA, and the Ashgabat Initiative of 2019 (see the section on the Justification of the Project below). The Governing Council has invited the countries to cooperate with UNECE, UNESCAP, the UN Resident Coordinators, and UN Country Teams, through the SPECA Thematic Working Groups (TWGs), while the funds should be used as seed money – support for the functioning of the SPECA process to be combined with other resources for the concrete meetings, seminars and activities of the Working Groups. The objective of the project will be achieved by implementing the following activities: A1.1. Organization of up to 12 meetings of the SPECA thematic working groups in the areas of: water, energy and environment; sustainable transport; trade; statistics; innovation and technology; and gender and SDGs; A1.2. Organization of 2 annual SPECA Economic Forums and 2 sessions of the SPECA Governing Council; A2.1. Support the implementation of the SPECA Trade Facilitation Strategy; A2.2. Drafting at least two sets of recommendations (e.g. on the nexus between water management, energy, trade and food security; on connectivity, road safety in the SPECA subregion) by SPECA Working Groups.		
<b>Expected results of the project:</b> EA1. Strengthened capacity of SPECA countries to support the institutional basis of subregional cooperation for the achievement of the priority SDGs; EA2. Improved understanding of SPECA countries of the strategic significance of the cross-border policy cooperation framework in support of the achievement of SDGs.		
<b>Target group and beneficiaries of the project:</b> This project targets government institutions and policymakers dealing with water, energy, environment, transport, customs, trade, statistics, innovation, knowledge-based development, public-private partnerships, gender and economy. The beneficiary countries are Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan.		
<b>Justification of project and its relationship to the programme of work:</b> The project is directly linked to the UNECE Proposed programme budget for 2020, “20.15 ...the United Nations Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia, implemented jointly by ECE and the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), will continue to serve as the major framework for ECE cooperation with other relevant stakeholders in Central Asia and the provision of support to the member countries of the Special Programme in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.”		
<b>Estimated UN regular budget resources (work months of RB staff/level of Staff):</b> 2 months/ P4 (Regional Advisor/ Subprogrammes 4 and 6); 2 months/ G7; 1 month of P4/P5 in Subprogrammes 1, 2, 3, and 5.		
<b>Estimated extra budgetary resources:</b>		
<b>Donor</b> Russian Federation	<b>Amount (US\$)</b> 250,000	
<b>Project Manager:</b> Mario Apostolov 04.05.2020	<b>Section/Division:</b> Economic Cooperation and Trade Division	
<b>Cleared by Programme Management Unit:</b> <b>Officer-in-charge</b> Nicolas Dath-Baron 04.05.2020	<b>Approved by EXCOM<sup>1</sup></b>	21.05.2020

<sup>1</sup> See paragraph 31 (a) of Commission decision A(65).

**Annex**  
**Results-based budget for the extra-budgetary project**

Expected Accomplishments	Planned activities	Estimated costs (US\$)
EA1. Strengthened capacity of SPECA countries to support the institutional basis of subregional cooperation for the achievement of the priority SDGs	A1.1. Support the organization of 12 meetings of the SPECA Thematic Working Groups in the areas of water, energy and environment, transport, trade, statistics, innovation and technology, and gender (6 meetings per year), at which the sets of practical recommendations and studies will be reviewed; Travel of 80 participants x 1,000\$ Travel of staff x 12 missions x 2,000\$ Contractual services to support organisation of 12 meetings (venue, interpretation etc) x 2,000\$	128,000  80,000 24,000 24,000
	A1.2. Organization of 2 annual SPECA Economic Forums, which will produce analytical material and practical recommendations in two focus areas selected by the host country (Kyrgyzstan in 2020) in consultation with the others and 2 sessions of the SPECA Governing Council (one per year), which will produce two sets of decisions on the next steps of subregional cooperation under SPECA. Travel of 15 participants x 2,000\$ Travel of 4 staff x 2,000\$ Contractual services to support organisation of 2 meetings (venue, interpretations etc) x 4,500\$ individual contractor to provide organization support for organization of events x 6 months x 5,000\$	77,000  30,000 8,000 9,000 30,000
EA2. Improved understanding of SPECA countries of the strategic significance of the cross-border policy cooperation framework in support of the achievement of SDGs	A2.1. Support the implementation of the SPECA Trade Facilitation Strategy 1 international consultant x 2 months x 2,500\$	5,000
	A2.2. Drafting sets of recommendations (e.g. on the nexus between water management, energy, trade and food security; and on connectivity and road safety in the SPECA subregion) by SPECA Working Groups 1 international consultant x 5,000\$	5,000
Budget summary		215,000
Project evaluation		5,000
13% of Programme Support Costs		27,950
1% coordination levy		2,479
<b>Total</b>		<b>250,000</b>