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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)**

The Chair of the Committee on Innovation, Competitiveness and Public-Private Partnerships (CICPPP), Ms. Sedef Yavuz Noyan (Turkey), is pleased to submit her report to the ninety-eighth meeting of EXCOM on 18 May 2018.

### **1. Introduction**

1. This report describes the main achievements of CICPPP in the period March 2017-May 2018 as well as major activities planned for the remainder of 2018 and 2019. More information is contained in the report of the CICPPP on its twelfth session, which was held from 26 to 28 March 2018 in Geneva (ECE/CECI/2018/2).

2. The Committee's activities in the reporting period are based on the Programme of Work for 2016-2017 and for 2018-2019, as approved by the Executive Committee at its eightieth meeting on 5 October 2015 (ECE/EX/2015/L.17) and its ninety-second meeting on 23 June 2017 (ECE/EX/2017/L.4), respectively, and on the inter-sessional implementation plan for 2017-2018 adopted by the Committee at its eleventh session (ECE/CECI/2017/2, Annex II).

### **II. Achievements since the last session**

#### **Innovation and Competitiveness**

3. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development assigns a critical role to innovation. The expertise and the activities of the Team of Specialists on Innovation and Competitiveness Policies contribute to advancing the 2030 Agenda through good practice-based policy recommendations on fostering innovation in areas critical for sustainable development; national Innovation for Sustainable Development Reviews, which analyse national policies in the light of international best practice and make recommendations for improvement; and follow-up policy advisory and capacity-building that assist Governments, upon their request, with implementing selected policy recommendations.

4. A new set of good practices was developed on the topic "Towards the Circular Economy – Innovation for Sustainable Consumption and Production" based on a policy conference on the same topic held as part of the 2017 session of the Team of Specialists on Innovation and Competitiveness Policies (document ECE/CECI/2018/3).

5. A roundtable on the topic "Towards the Circular Economy – Innovation for Sustainable Value Chains" was organized jointly with the Steering Committee on Trade Capacity and Standards, the United Nations Centre for Trade Facilitation and Electronic Business, the Committee on Housing and Land Management and UNEP at the 2018 UNECE Regional Forum on Sustainable Development.

6. The Innovation Review for Sustainable Development of Belarus was translated into Russian, and the Innovation for Sustainable Development Review of Kyrgyzstan is being edited for publication, following an international peer review held in Bishkek in June 2017 and the discussion of findings and recommendations at the tenth session of the Team of Specialists.

7. UNECE and the State Committee on Science and Technology of Belarus signed on 21 February 2018 a Memorandum of Understanding on the follow-up to the Review of Belarus.
8. The annual session of the Working Group on Knowledge-Based Development under the United Nations Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia was organized jointly with the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) and hosted by the Government of Kyrgyzstan in Bishkek.
9. The 2017 Economic Forum of the Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia was organized on “Innovation for Sustainable Development” jointly with several other UNECE sectoral committees, and hosted by the Government of Tajikistan in Dushanbe. The Forum proposed, and the Governing Council of the Special Programme decided, that a Strategy on Innovation for Sustainable Development should be created.
10. The Governing Council also decided to call “upon ECE and ESCAP, other United Nations agencies and programmes, as well as the international development partners, to provide active support to the efforts by the participating countries in the Special Programme, undertaken at the national and regional levels, in promoting innovation for the achievement of the Sustainable Developments Goals.”
11. A seminar on “Reforming Innovation Infrastructure in Ukraine” was held in Kyiv in December 2017 jointly with the Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine.
12. A methodological workshop “Towards a Sub-regional Innovation Policy Index” in Kyiv in December, 2017, brought together innovation policy makers from Armenia, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova, and Ukraine, hosted by the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine. The participants agreed that such an index would be a useful tool to benchmark, support, and promote regional co-operation on innovation policies. They expressed their interest to participate in a pilot index.

### **Public-Private Partnerships (PPP)**

13. The emphasis of the UNECE’s PPP work continues to be on adopting a new approach to PPPs to make them fit for purpose for the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). “People-first PPPs” is the phrase used in remodelling the PPP concept from a purely “value for money” tool to one based upon effective and replicable projects that also support social and environmental benefits such as increased access to essential services, equity, resilience, a green sustainable economy, and poverty alleviation.
14. The UNECE PPP intergovernmental structure has transitioned from a Team of Specialists to a Working Party, with the new Working Party holding its first session on 21-22 November 2017. The Bureau members of the former Team of Specialists were elected to the Bureau of the Working Party, thus ensuring continuity.
15. A standard on a Zero Tolerance Approach to Corruption in PPP procurement (ECE/CECI/WP/2017/4) was endorsed by the Working Party at its first session, and work on other standards in transport (airports, roads, rail and urban rail), water and sanitation, healthcare policy, model law and policy for PPP concessions, and renewable energy are at various stages of development (ECE/CECI/2018/INF.7).
16. The revised version of the guiding principles on people-first PPPs for the SDGs were shared with the other Regional Commissions, with the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA), the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), the World Bank and other United Nations agencies in the Inter-agency Task Force on Financing for Development.

17. The secretariat continues expanding the compendium of case studies as part of a campaign to collect 500 case studies that demonstrate the UNECE people-first PPP criteria and how these projects are meeting the SDGs.
18. The third UNECE International people-first PPP Forum was organized in Geneva on 7-9 May 2018.
19. A voluntary declaration was endorsed by the national PPP units present at the Working Party session in November 2017 in support of the SDGs.
20. The International Specialist Centres continued to play a crucial role in backstopping the work on PPP standards. Since the eleventh session of the Committee, a new International Specialist Centre of Excellence on PPPs in Resilience was set up in New Orleans, United States of America.
21. A capacity building programme for UNECE member States participating in the Belt and Road initiative is being developed as a result of a Memorandum of Understanding signed between the UNECE and China on 14 May 2017. The secretariat has submitted a proposal for funding under the United Nations Peace and Development Fund. Belarus, Kyrgyzstan, the Russian Federation, Tajikistan, Ukraine and Uzbekistan have signalled their interest to participate in this programme. This cooperation builds, in particular, on the following three pillars:
  - (a) A policy dialogue to improve cooperation among the participating countries;
  - (b) A comprehensive national PPP capacity building programme; and
  - (c) The identification of transformative projects that can be scaled up and replicated in other countries.
22. The following policy advisory missions and capacity-building activities were organized by the UNECE International PPP Centre of Excellence:
  - (a) International PPP Forum “Implementing the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development through effective, people-first PPPs”, organized in collaboration with City University of Hong Kong (9-11 May 2017); and
  - (b) Regional PPP Workshops organised with the Government of Belarus, and the cities of Mogilev and Gomel (1-2 March 2018).

### **III. Major activities planned for 2018 and beyond**

#### **Innovation and Competitiveness**

23. The eleventh session of the Team of Specialists on Innovation and Competitiveness Policies will be held in Geneva on 1-2 November 2018. As part of the session, an international policy conference will provide an opportunity for experts from across the UNECE region to exchange experiences on innovation policy. The bureau of the Team will decide on the specific topic in consultation with the Team members.
24. The Innovation for Sustainable Development Review of Kyrgyzstan will be published. A launch event will be held in Bishkek. In response to requests from member States, a new Innovation for Sustainable Development Review will be carried out in 2018-2019 subject to the availability of extrabudgetary funding. A methodological guide on Innovation for Sustainable Development Reviews will be prepared based on expert consultations within the Team of Specialists on Innovation and Competitiveness Policies.
25. Follow-up policy advisory workshops to support the implementation of policy recommendations from earlier innovation reviews will be organized in the second half

of 2018 and in 2019, including in Armenia, Belarus and Kyrgyzstan. Additional policy advisory and capacity building events will be organised in other countries subject to extrabudgetary funding.

26. The 2018 session of the Working Group on Knowledge-Based Development of the United Nations Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia (SPECA) will be organized together with ESCAP in Baku, Azerbaijan, in July 2018. A policy conference will be organised back-to-back with the session. A SPECA Innovation Strategy for Sustainable Development will be developed for adoption by the SPECA Governing Council. The scope and possible contents of the strategy will be discussed at the above policy conference.

27. Further work on the methodology for a sub-regional Innovation Policy Index and on a pilot version of the index will be undertaken subject to expressions of interest from member States and the availability of extrabudgetary funding. The Team of Specialists on Innovation and Competitiveness Policies will explore the scope for developing high-level policy principles on selected aspects of innovation for sustainable development.

### **Public-Private Partnerships**

28. The second session of the Working Party on PPPs will be held in Geneva on 20-21 November 2018. The session will further advance the work on developing international PPP standards in support of the SDGs, health policy, including in water and sanitation, in renewable energy, and in transport (roads, rail, urban rail and airports).

29. The guiding principles on people-first PPPs for the SDGs will be finalised in 2018. An evaluation methodology as an implementation tool to score infrastructure projects against the people-first PPP criteria will be set up during 2018 subject to extrabudgetary resources.

30. Meetings of the Business Advisory Board with senior policy makers are planned in Georgia in September 2018 and in Brazil in October 2018. Additional Business Advisory Board meetings will be organized, both in 2018 and 2019, subject to demand from member States and the availability of extrabudgetary resources. A PPP Readiness Assessment study in Tatarstan, Russian Federation, will be prepared in the second half of 2018 subject to extrabudgetary resources.

31. National and sub-regional policy advisory and capacity building activities will be held in 2018 and 2019 in Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, the Russian Federation, Ukraine and Uzbekistan on formulating and implementing national PPP policy frameworks to promote PPPs as tools to achieve the SDGs. These activities are part of the extrabudgetary project “Strengthening the capacity of CIS countries to advance their use of PPPs to achieve the SDGs” financed by the Russian Federation. A capacity building initiative for countries within the Belt and Road initiative, based on three pillars of cooperation (policy dialogue, national capacity-building and transformational projects) will be implemented in 2018 and 2019 subject to extrabudgetary resources.

32. An initiative to empower women through PPPs with the engagement of the private sector will be launched in 2018 subject to extrabudgetary resources.

## **IV. Any proposed change to the subsidiary structure of the Committee**

33. There are no changes proposed to the subsidiary structure of the Committee. The organizational structure of the CICPPP is shown in the annex to this report.

## **V. Inter-sectoral activities: new activities and/or progress in existing inter-sectoral activities**

34. CICPPP participated in a discussion among the chairpersons of several UNECE sectoral committees at the 2017 session of the Committee on Environmental Policy on possible areas of mutual interest. As a result, the Committee on Housing and Land Management and the United Nations Centre for Trade Facilitation and Electronic Business contributed to the 2018 session of CICPPP.

35. A roundtable on the topic “Towards a Circular Economy: Innovation for Sustainable Value Chains” was organized at the 2018 Regional Forum on Sustainable Development at the Geneva International Conference Centre on 1-2 March 2018 in cooperation with the Steering Committee on Trade Capacity and Standards, the United Nations Centre for Trade Facilitation and Electronic Business, the Committee on Housing and Land Management and UNEP.

36. The 2017 Economic Forum of the United Nations Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia on the topic of “Innovation for Sustainable Development” was organized in cooperation with the Committee on Environmental Policy, the Steering Committee on Trade Capacity and Standards, the United Nations Centre for Trade Facilitation and Electronic Business, the Inland Transport Committee and the Committee on Sustainable Energy.

37. The Ideas4Change Startup Competition at the 2017 session of the Economic Commission for Europe was organized in cooperation with other sectoral committees and the MassChallenge Incubator and with support from the Government of Israel.

## **VI. Technical cooperation activities**

38. Capacity-building and policy advisory activities were carried out and are planned as described in sections II and III above.

## **VII. Cooperation with other organizations**

39. The participation in the Inter-agency Taskforce on Financing for Development and the Inter-agency Task Team on Science, Technology and Innovation for Sustainable Development initiated in the Addis Ababa Action Agenda on Financing for Development will continue.

40. ESCAP will contribute to a sub-regional capacity building seminar in Kazakhstan at the end of May 2018 on foreign technology transfer.

41. The established cooperation on innovation and competitiveness policies with ESCAP in the framework of the Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia will continue, including on the Strategy on Innovation for Sustainable Development of the Special Programme.

**Annex**

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

