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# **Progress Report on the UNECE International PPP Centre of Excellence**

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## Outline

### I. Vision

### II. Progress : International PPP Standards, Project Teams, Centres of Excellence, Business Advisory Board

### III. Our future together



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## Vision

### Timeline for the creation of the ICoE

- 2008, Recognition by UNECE that capacity building for PPP was not being effectively tackled Several UN Regional Commissions agreed to set up an International Centre of Excellence in PPP, February 2009 , UNESCAP, Bangkok
- First international PPP specialist centre established in Manilla, October 2012
- ‘PPP Days 2012 ‘Geneva, held in cooperation with the World Bank, ADB etc.
- 2013, Agreement that the main thrust of the ICoE ‘s work would be standards ( TOS PPP )
- 2014, First meeting of the PPP centres of excellence
- 2015, Meeting of the centres, 18 November , Barcelona



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## **Vision: PPP as a critical development tool for the future of the planet**

- **PPP is critically important for all infrastructure, creates jobs, improves livelihoods and revitalises the global economy**
- **Not just another procurement model**
- **Focus is to create 'easy to use' standards that can encourage replicability and a scaling up of the transformation impact need to make the 2030 agenda within reach.**
- **Adoption of the SDGs have created a strong rationale for the ICoE and the need for standards**
- **To eradicate poverty, mitigate the effects of climate change and move to a low carbon economy**



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## **ICoE Accountabilities to UN senior management and member States**

- General acceptance that ICoE is a 'good' idea but concerns at:
  - Lack of output : where are the standards?
  - Unclear understanding of the role of Centres
  - Identification of 2-3 extra staff in Geneva required
  - Potential duplication with other UNECE divisions e.g. Transport and Energy



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## **ICoE Accountabilities to UN senior management and member States (cont'd)**

- Operation and setting up of the ICoE must be done according to UNECE rules ( MoUs etc. )
- The World Bank, EBRD etc. should 'join' as strategic partners along with the UNITAR, UNDP and Global Compact, etc.
- **We need some good deliverables/ standards ASAP and bring more senior experts into secretariat in Geneva.**



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## **Progress: Developing Standards through Project Teams - our Experiences to date**

- **PPP healthcare policy**
- **Zero Tolerance to Corruption in PPP procurement**
- **Certification**
- **Others in the pipelines ( Water, Roads, Renewable energy )**
- **Team Leaders undertaking huge efforts ....**
- **Gathering best practices, compiling comprehensive questionnaires**



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## **Progress: Developing Standards through Project Teams - our Experiences to date (cont'd)**

- **But...**
  - **Timelines are slipping and still no 'outputs'**
  - **Uncertainty about what a 'standard' should look like**
  - **Clarity over scope of the teams with regard to legal issues which are the core of everything**
  - **Limitations with the 'virtual approach' of international Project Teams**
  - **Poor understanding of the UN SDGs**





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## Progress: Developing Standards through Project Teams - our Experiences to date (cont'd)

- The Centre ( Geneva etc. ) needs to give more leadership and assistance
- 'Do it entirely by yourself 'standards do not work
- Too much to expect Team Leaders to do this work (gather case studies, best practices, send out questionnaires, etc. ) all pro bono ?



## Centres

Strong interest in becoming a centre but:

- Difficulties in becoming operational
- Little linkage yet with teams and limited creation of networks
- Difficulties with developing standards urgently require the centres to 'back stop' the standards making process
- Each centre should take charge of a few standards



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## The Role of the Specialist Centre of Excellence (cont'd)

Accordingly, a better vision of the roles of Centres is emerging, namely:

- **Identify** international best practices to serve as the empirical basis for the standards;
- **Be 'responsible'** for a number of standards in their field. Entails working closely with the Project Team Leaders and actively support the standard setting work;
- **Create** a network of government contacts in countries across the world who can call them for advice or guidance on the implementation of their PPP programme in their specialist field;
- **Establish** a network of private sector specialists in their specialist field, willing to offer advice free of charge (within reason) to governments who seek it;



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## The Role of the Specialist Centre of Excellence

- **Maintain** a website containing good examples of documentation, case studies, evidence and other published information that might be helpful to governments developing a PPP programme in their specialist field;
- **Act as a learned body**, clearly explaining to stakeholders in PPP programmes ranging from politicians and public bodies to members of the public what PPP is, how PPPs can help achieve the SDGs, why projects are structured and governed as they are and what the benefits and expected outcomes of PPP programmes will be; and
- **Promote the standards**, in cooperation with the UNECE PPP Business Advisory Board, to use of PPP in their specialist field through articles, seminars, conferences etc.



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<b>Specialist Centre</b>	<b>Country</b>
LAW, POLICY & INSTITUTIONS	<b>FRANCE</b>
HEALTH	<b>THE PHILIPPINES</b>
SUSTAINABLE/SMART CITIES	<b>SPAIN</b>
SPECIALIST CENTRE FOR CIS COUNTRIES	<b>MOSCOW, RUSSIAN FEDERATION</b>
PUBLIC TRANSPORT LOGISTICS	<b>CHINA</b>



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<b>Specialist Centre</b>	<b>Country</b>
ROADS	<b>INDIA</b>
RENEWABLE ENERGY	<b>MOROCCO</b>
tbc	<b>BRAZIL</b>
LOCAL GOVERNMENTS	<b>JAPAN</b>
SMALL ISLAND STATES	<b>ARUBA</b>
PORTS	<b>LEBANON</b>



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## UNECE PPP Business Advisory Board (BAB)

- High profile added value work
- Highly productive meetings (Belarus , Ukraine Poland etc. ) in Belarus a centre was established and a new law created ; several pilots begun
- BAB Task force is developing a programme to raise awareness of the SDGs amongst the business community and establish a digital platform to showcase projects
- BAB has become a model for other UNECE initiatives with business community
- Board has around 30 members (chaired by James Stewart (U.K.) and a waiting list.



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## Our Future Together

**In summary, our experiences to date point to the need:**

- to accelerate the delivery of standards
- to give the Centres a stronger role in standards and implementation
- to closely link the standard making process with the UN SDGs





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## Recommendations

### Accelerate the elaboration of standards

- Need to better target outputs and make realistic timelines for delivery
- Hold regular, high level PPP forums (twice a year) to convene Project Teams to review their outputs
- Establish a small technical team to advise on standards and ensure consistency and linkage with the UN Goals under the auspices of the PPP Centre on Law Policy and Institutions



## Recommendations (cont'd)

### Give the Centres a greater role

- Each Centres would have responsibility at the Forums for organising their 'domain' e.g. law
- Centres to help BAB task force in disseminating information on the creation of the UN platform to showcase projects complying with the SDGs
- Provide the UNECE secretariat with a report of its activities that will be consolidated with other Centres' reports into an Annual UNECE report on PPPs and the SDGs that will be widely disseminated.



## Recommendations (cont'd)

### Improve Communication about the ICoE

- Work with ADEC to maintain the new ICoE website
- Set up for the next meeting of the ICoE a small steering group consisting of key stakeholders from which eventually a President might be elected.



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# Thank you!

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