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Committee on Innovation, Competitiveness and Public-Private Partnerships

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Item 5 of the provisional agenda

Programme of work, Inter-sessional implementation plan for 2021 - 2022, and Outline of key components of the programme of work for 2023

Programme of work of the Economic Cooperation and Integration subprogramme for 2021

Note by the Secretariat

Introduction

1. The present document sets out the programme of work of the Economic Cooperation and Integration subprogramme (“the subprogramme”) for 2021. The Committee on Innovation, Competitiveness and Public-Private Partnerships (“the Committee”) is invited to adopt it and to recommend it to the Executive Committee (Excom) for approval. Any subsequent additional, discontinued or carried-over outputs will be reflected in the Umoja tool used by the Secretariat for planning, monitoring and reporting on the implementation of the programme.

2. The programme of work applies a results-based management (RBM) approach, a broad management approach which establishes logical relationships between the hierarchical results (deliverables – objectives – impact) known as ‘results chain’, the resources (human and financial) known as ‘inputs’, and the external factors (strategic, governance, operational, financial) which can prevent the objective from being achieved.

3. The objective, the most significant planned result and the deliverables in the programme of work correspond to those contained in the ECE proposed programme budget for 2021. The objective of the subprogramme is aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). In attaining its objective, the subprogramme builds on cross-sectoral collaboration with other subprogrammes in relevant ECE nexus areas where multiple SDGs converge.² This type of collaboration enables the subprogramme to maximize existing synergies, increase the efficiency of its work and have a multiplying effect on the impact of its actions to support countries to implement the SDGs. The deliverables of the subprogramme fall into the following main categories: (a) facilitation of the intergovernmental process and expert groups; (b) generation and transfer of knowledge, including technical cooperation projects,

¹ 1 The fourteenth session had originally been scheduled for 26-28 March 2020. It was postponed due to COVID-19-related restrictions.

2 The ECE nexus areas are as follows: 1) Sustainable use of natural resources; 2) Sustainable and smart cities; 3) Sustainable mobility and smart connectivity; and 4) Measuring and monitoring SDGs implementation.

training events, seminars, workshops, and publications; (c) other substantive deliverables, and (d) communication deliverables.

4. The details of the proposed publications are provided in Annex I. The overall ECE legislative mandates and those specific to the subprogramme are listed in Annex II.

I. Objective

5. The objective of the subprogramme is to strengthen innovation, competitiveness and Public-Private Partnerships policies in the ECE region.

II. Strategy

6. The responsibility for the subprogramme is vested in the Economic Cooperation and Trade Division.

7. The strategy of the subprogramme is based on the implementation of three core interlinked functions, namely: (a) international policy dialogue on innovation, competitiveness and public-private partnerships; (b) normative work on the same subjects; and (c) capacity-building and the sharing of best practices and lessons learned in all areas of the subprogramme's work. This work will contribute to the ECE nexuses on sustainable mobility and smart connectivity and on sustainable and smart cities for all ages. The subprogramme's two areas of work, innovation and competitiveness, and public-private partnerships (PPPs), are complementary. The work on innovation and competitiveness policies promotes sustainable development by supporting member States in creating a business climate that encourages and rewards innovative solutions to sustainable development challenges. The work on public-private partnerships for infrastructure development supports the same objective by promoting innovative ways of financing, building and managing infrastructure critical for sustainable development. In so doing, the subprogramme inter alia contributes to Sustainable Development Goal 9, which is to build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation, and Sustainable Development Goal 17, which is to strengthen the means of implementation, including by ensuring access to science, technology and innovation for all, and by encouraging effective public, public-private and civil society partnerships. The subprogramme also contributes to other Sustainable Development Goals where innovation and infrastructure investments are important, such as SDG 8 (sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth), and SDG 12 (sustainable consumption and production patterns).

8. To contribute to strengthening policies on innovation and competitiveness, the subprogramme will: (a) hold regional multi-stakeholder dialogues to identify good practices on how innovation can advance sustainable development and how Governments can support this; (b) carry out and publish analyses of national innovation policies upon request and make recommendations for policy reforms; and (c) build capacity at national and sub-regional level to implement innovation policy reforms. The work of the subprogramme will help develop a shared and improved understanding among member States on policy options available to harness the power of innovation for sustainable development, and will support national innovation policy reforms in line with international good practice and ECE recommendations. Past results in this area include: (a) the completion of an Innovation for Sustainable Development Review of Kyrgyzstan with tailored recommendations resulting in enhanced understanding of policy makers on how they can promote innovative solutions to national sustainable development priorities; (b) better innovation policies in support of national sustainable development priorities in Belarus and Kazakhstan as a result of ECE capacity building, and (c) an expanded evidence-base for innovation policy for sustainable development as a result of several new international good practices developed through ECE's international policy dialogue.

9. To contribute to strengthening Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs), the subprogramme will: (a) develop international guiding principles and standards on how to design regulatory frameworks for PPPs in various sectors and how to design PPP projects; (b) develop a methodology to assess PPP projects on whether they contribute to sustainable development

(“People-first” PPPs) and certify qualifying projects on request; and (c) provide policy advice and capacity building to support member States in creating regulatory frameworks and PPP project pipelines to help close the SDG infrastructure financing gap. The work of the subprogramme will help develop a shared and improved understanding among member States and investors on how to design and operate PPPs that contribute to sustainable development, and will lead to more such projects being implemented. Past results in this area include: (a) incorporation of ECE’s Guiding Principles on People-First PPPs for the SDGs into the national laws and regulations of Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan; (b) enhanced capacity of Belarus to identify and select PPPs projects that promote sustainable development in line with ECE’s People-First approach; and (c) an expanded evidence base on the implementation of SDG-compliant PPP projects in roads, railways and renewable energy as a result of international standards developed through the ECE Working Party on PPPs.

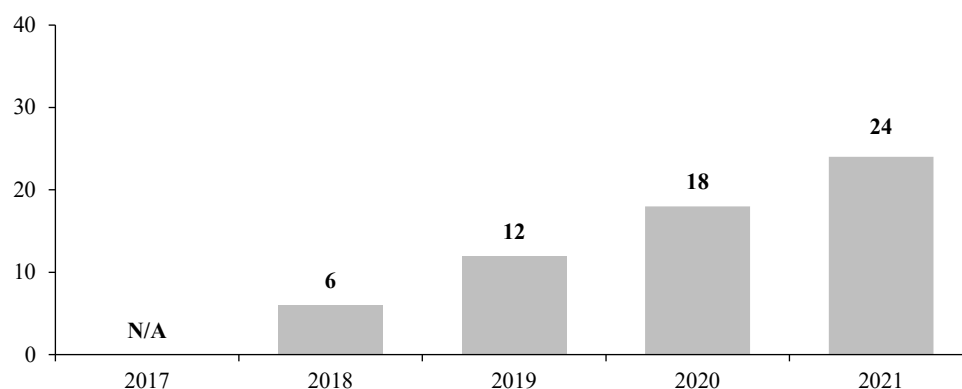
III. Programme plan for 2021

10. Result 1: Innovation policy outlook for the effective analysis of innovation policies and institutions (result carried over from 2020)

The subprogramme will continue the work related to the innovation policy outlook, in line with its mandate, and will assist countries in developing new policies that foster innovation projects for accelerated sustainable development, which is expected to be demonstrated by the performance measure for 2021 below. For 2020, a proxy performance measure is indicated, to reflect that the General Assembly, in its resolution [74/251](#), approved a programme narrative at the subprogramme level that is composed solely of the objectives.

Figure

Performance measure: number of national innovation policy measures taken by pilot project member States (cumulative)



11. Result 2: People-first public-private partnerships to finance sustainable development (new result)

The subprogramme has been supporting member States in creating and improving legal frameworks and implementing regulations for PPPs as a mode to design, finance, build and operate critical infrastructure. Initially, the focus of this work had been on delivering optimal value for money. With the adoption of the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development, the focus was broadened to support mobilizing the enormous investments needed to achieve sustainable development. Standards, guidelines and policy recommendations were developed for so-called People-first PPPs, i.e. PPP projects that deliver not only value for money but are also ecologically sustainable and socially inclusive, for example by requiring that the projects comply with advanced noise reduction standards, or that projects provide a certain number of jobs for the local community or for socially disadvantaged groups.

Internal challenge and response

12. The focus of the subprogramme's work has been on developing guidelines and standards for People-first PPPs. These guidelines and standards need to be implemented in country-level projects so that they have a tangible effect in generating more PPP investments in infrastructure that support the achievement of the SDGs. The challenge is to create a framework that allows for PPP projects to be assessed against ECE's guidelines and standards in a verifiable objective way. In response, an online Project Impact Assessment Tool will be created which will allow Governments and investors to assess whether PPP projects and project proposals meet ECE's People-first criteria. ECE will further train independent evaluators, drawing on its existing network of national PPP centres of excellence, who will provide independent project assessments against the People-first criteria on request by Governments. By using a set of objective and measurable criteria developed by ECE, this initiative will help Governments design infrastructure projects that advance the SDGs. By certifying that PPP projects meet sustainability criteria, the initiative will also attract additional financial resources from developers aiming to achieve not only financial but also broader social impact.

Expected progress towards attainment of objective and performance measures

13. This work will contribute to strengthened policies on PPPs and their implementation as demonstrated by at least 100 PPP projects certified as complying with the ECE People-first criteria in 2021. Besides aiming to differentiate high-quality PPP projects that are fit for purpose for the SDGs from the rest, the Project Impact Assessment Tool is expected to provide member States with real evidence on impact and performance of their infrastructure projects, which is hitherto a major lacuna. Such evidence will assist member States to prioritize investments in infrastructure projects that support progress towards achieving the SDGs; and help mobilize private finance and innovation capabilities in SDG-compatible projects.

Table

Time line of creating a PPP project impact assessment tool

2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Member States first discussed and approved the idea to develop a Project Impact Assessment Tool	Member States agreed to set up a Project Team to develop a Project Impact Assessment Tool	The Project Team was set up and work on the Project Impact Assessment Tool has commenced	Member States are expected to approve the Project Impact Assessment Tool	At least 100 PPP projects certified according to ECE People-first criteria

IV. External factors

14. The subprogramme is expected to achieve its objective on the assumption that: (a) there is active participation and contribution by experts from Governments, academia and the private sector to expert group meetings and networks; (b) Governments are willing to engage in policy dialogue and take measures to implement policy recommendations and standards; and (c) extrabudgetary resources for capacity-building, advisory services and field projects are adequate.

V. Deliverables to be implemented in 2021

15. The table below lists all deliverables, by category and subcategory, that would contribute to the attainment of the objective stated above.

<i>Deliverables</i>	<i>2021 plan</i>
A. Facilitation of the intergovernmental process and expert bodies:	
Parliamentary documentation (Number of documents)	18
1. Parliamentary documentation for the Committee on Innovation, Competitiveness and PPPs and its subsidiary bodies	18
Substantive services for meetings (Number of 3-hour meetings)	19
2. Meetings of the Committee on Innovation, Competitiveness and PPPs and its subsidiary bodies	18
3. Meetings of the SPECA Working Group on Knowledge-Based Development	1
B. Generation and transfer of knowledge:	
Field and technical cooperation projects (Number of projects)	2
(a) Project on Capacity building for civil servants from CIS countries on innovation and competitiveness	1
(b) Project on Capacity building for civil servants from CIS countries on Public-Private Partnerships	1
Seminars, workshops and training events (Number of days)	16
4. Capacity-building and policy advisory workshops, seminars and trainings on innovation and competitiveness policies for sustainable development	8
5. Capacity-building and policy advisory workshops, seminars and trainings on People-First Public-Private Partnerships	8
Publications (Number of publications)	3
6. Publication on Innovation for Sustainable Development Reviews	1
7. Publication on Comparative Reviews on Innovation Policy and/or PPP readiness	2
C. Substantive deliverables:	
Fact-finding, monitoring and investigation missions: preparatory and fact-finding missions for Innovation for Sustainable Development Reviews and PPP readiness assessments (4)	
Consultation, advice and advocacy: Advisory services by the PPP Business Advisory Board and the Team of Specialists on Innovation and Competitiveness Policies for Government officials and other stakeholders (4)	
Databases and substantive digital materials: Digital collection of case studies on People-First PPPs	
D. Communication deliverables:	
Outreach programmes and information materials: newsletter on People First PPPs	
External and media relations: press releases, launch events for the above publications (6)	
Digital platforms and multimedia content: update and maintenance of the subprogramme's website	

Annex I

Details of proposed publications and promotional material for 2021

A. Recurrent publications - none

B. Non-recurrent publications

<i>Item no.</i>	<i>Title</i>	<i>Mandate</i>	<i>Print and/or electronic</i>	<i>Trim size</i>	<i>No. of pages</i>	<i>Original language(s)</i>	<i>Translated language(s) and Source of funding (RB or XB)</i>	<i>No. of copies and language(s)</i>
1	Innovation for Sustainable Development Review of Armenia	E/2011/37 E/ECE/146, p.10, para.16; specific mandate to be provided by the 14th session of CICPPP	Print and electronic	A4	150	E	R (RB)	200E, 200R
2	People First PPP Models	GA 71/1 para.9.1 and 17.17; specific mandate to be provided by the 14th session of CICPPP	Print and electronic	A4	150	E	R (RB)	200E, 200R
3	Comparative Review of selected innovation policies	GA 71/1 paras.17.6 and 80; specific mandate to be provided by the 14th session of CICPPP	Print and electronic	A4	150	E	R (RB)	200E, 200R

C. Promotional material - none

Annex II

Legislative mandates

A. Overall ECE legislative mandates

1. Resolutions of the General Assembly

66/288	The future we want
67/10	Cooperation between the United Nations and the Eurasian Economic Community
67/290	Format and organizational aspects of the high-level political forum on sustainable development
69/277	Political declaration on strengthening cooperation between the United Nations and regional and subregional organizations
69/313	Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development (Addis Ababa Action Agenda)
70/1	Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development
70/133	Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and full implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly
70/221	Operational activities for development of the United Nations system
71/14	Cooperation between the United Nations and the Shanghai Cooperation Organization
71/16	Cooperation between the United Nations and the Economic Cooperation Organization
71/162	Implementation of the outcome of the World Summit for Social Development and of the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly
71/243	Quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system
72/230	Development cooperation with middle-income countries
72/234	Women in development
72/279	Repositioning of the United Nations development system in the context of the quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system
73/10	Cooperation between the United Nations and the Central European Initiative
73/13	Cooperation between the United Nations and the Black Sea Economic Cooperation Organization

73/14	Cooperation between the United Nations and the Organization for Democracy and Economic Development - GUAM
73/16	Cooperation between the United Nations and the Commonwealth of Independent States
73/195	Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration
73/231	Disaster Risk Reduction
73/236	Ensuring access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all
73/249	South-South Cooperation

2. Resolutions of the Economic and Social Council

1998/46	Further measures for the restructuring and revitalization of the United Nations in the economic, social and related fields
2006/38	Workplan on reform of the Economic Commission for Europe and revised terms of reference of the Commission
2013/1	Outcome of the review of the 2005 Reform of the Economic Commission for Europe

3. Economic Commission for Europe decisions

A (64)	The Work of the Economic Commission for Europe
A (65)	Outcome of the review of the 2005 reform of ECE
A (66)	Endorsement of the High-level statement on the post-2015 development agenda and expected sustainable development goals in the ECE region
A (68)	High-level statement
B (68)	Extension of the Regional Forum on Sustainable Development

B. Legislative mandates specific to the subprogramme

1. Resolutions of the General Assembly

72/228	Science, technology and innovation for development
74/197	Information and communication technologies for sustainable development

2. Economic Commission for Europe decisions

E/ECE/1448	Economic Commission for Europe annual report (24 February 2006 – 27 April 2007)
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