

## Committee on Innovation, Competitiveness and Public-Private Partnerships



## Working Party on Public-Private Partnerships<sup>1</sup> Seventh Session

### Provisional Programme<sup>2</sup>

Palais des Nations, conference room XXIV  
Geneva, 30 November and 1 December 2023

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<sup>1</sup> The ECE Working Party on Public-Private Partnerships is an intergovernmental body established in 2016. It convenes over 3000 experts coming from the public and private sector, civil society, and international organizations. The Working Party provides a platform for different opinions on Public-Private Partnerships from all stakeholder groups. The ECE PPP programme is hosted in the Economic Cooperation and Trade Division (ECTD).

<sup>2</sup> As of 28 November 2023.



## Introduction

The Seventh Session of the Working Party on Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs) will take place 30 November and 1 December 2023 at the Palais des Nations, Geneva, Switzerland.

Halfway to 2030, progress on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) has stalled, and in some cases, even gone into reverse. Investment in key infrastructure sectors and digital transformation remains crucial to build stronger and more equal economies, societies and systems that can support their people and contribute to the planet.

Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs) have the potential to unlock private capital into the much-needed infrastructure and the delivery of public services. The PPPs for the SDGs approach promoted by ECE ensures that PPP projects from inception to implementation contribute to the three sustainability pillars and deliver “value for people” and “value for the planet”.

To facilitate the implementation of PPP and infrastructure projects aligned with the SDGs, the ECE PPP programme develops normative guidelines with policy recommendations, and provides demand-driven capacity building and policy advisory services to member States.

### Goals of the session

- To **increase** knowledge on the contribution of digital and green technologies to sustainable recovery and reconstructions PPP programmes;
- To **highlight** the importance of stakeholder engagement and gender equality in PPP and infrastructure projects; and
- To **review the impact** of ECE PPP normative tools, guidelines, and capacity building activities and **chart a path** for the future work of the Working Party.

### Programme organisation

The Working Party will be organised as an in-person meeting with interpretation in English, French and Russian as follows:

- Two 2-hour sessions from 10:00 to 12:00 and from 15:00 to 17:00 CET on 30 November 2023 (with online participation)<sup>3</sup>; and
- Two 3-hour sessions from 10:00 to 13:00 and from 15:00 to 18:00 CET on 1 December 2023 (in person only).

The **policy discussion** on 30 November 2023 will be organised in a series of panel discussions on accelerating digital and green transformations and promoting women’s empowerment and stakeholder engagement in PPP and infrastructure projects in support of the SDGs. The **general segment**, with discussions and decisions on the ECE PPP programme, including future work, will take place on 1 December 2023.

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<sup>3</sup> Panellists joining remotely (via zoom) will be able to make their presentations online, while participants joining remotely will be able to listen to the proceedings.



Thursday, 30 November 2023

10:00 - 10:30 | **Opening by Ms. Tatiana Molcean**, Executive Secretary, UNECE

**Item 1. Adoption of the agenda**

10:30 - 12:00 | **Item 2. Policy Discussion**

**“Accelerating digital and green transformations and promoting women’s empowerment and stakeholder engagement in Public-Private Partnerships and infrastructure projects in support of the Sustainable Development Goals”**

The policy discussion will build on the cross-cutting theme of the 70<sup>th</sup> Session of the Economic Commission for Europe (April 2023), which focused on “Digital and green transformations for sustainable development in the ECE region”.

**Keynote speakers**

**H.E. Ms. Nadiya Bihun**, Deputy Minister of Economy, Ukraine (*joining online*)

**H.E. Mr. Sharaf SHERALIZODA**, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Tajikistan

**Session 1**

**Harnessing digital and green technologies for sustainable recovery and reconstruction projects using the UNECE PPP and Infrastructure Evaluation and Rating System (PIERS)**

Digital technologies can be leveraged to accelerate sustainable recovery and reconstruction projects in post-war and post-disaster contexts. Since the frequency of natural and man-made disasters increases worldwide, it is crucial to harness the opportunities for integrating digital technologies in recovery and reconstruction projects within the UNECE region and beyond. The recovery and reconstruction process requires prompt coordination, communication, and action plans through various means, including digital technology applications.

This session will focus on ways to integrate digital transformation in economic recovery and reconstruction and discuss the use of the ECE PIERS methodology as a tool to attract finance in sustainable PPP and infrastructure projects, taking into account other multilateral platforms for sustainable infrastructure, including SOURCE.<sup>4</sup>

The new PIERS online platform will be launched at this session.

**Key questions**

- (i) What are the key elements/requirements to accelerate the delivery of sustainable PPP and infrastructure reconstruction programmes?
- (ii) How can sustainable PPP and infrastructure reconstruction projects integrate digital and green technologies?
- (iii) How can the ECE PIERS methodology be used as a tool to attract sustainable finance in PPP and infrastructure projects?

<sup>4</sup> SOURCE is the multilateral platform for sustainable infrastructure.



### Moderator

**Mr. Jean-Patrick Marquet**, World Economic Forum

### Panellists (in alphabetical order)

**Ms. Doris Chevalier**, CEO, Infraboost, France

**Mr. Niko Gachechiladze**, Ukraine

**Ms. Stacy Sinclair**, Partner, Fenwick Elliott LLP, UK

**Mr. Richard Threlfall**, Global Head of Infrastructure, Government and Healthcare, KPMG

**Mr. Eyüp Vural Aydın**, Chairman, Istanbul PPP Center of Excellence, Türkiye

**Mr. Syed Zaidi**, Senior Director, Government of Alberta, Canada

### Discussion

#### Launching of the ECE PIERS methodology online platform by the secretariat

- Introduction by **Mr. George Katapodis**, Chairperson of the Working Party
- Practical demonstration by the secretariat – **Mr. Antonin Menegaux**

#### Expected outcomes from the session:

- Better understanding of the challenges and opportunities to accelerate the delivery of PPP programmes for sustainable recovery and reconstruction.
- Examples of how digital and green technologies can be integrated into PPPs for sustainable recovery and reconstruction projects.
- Recognition and practical demonstration of how the ECE PIERS methodology can help attract finance in sustainable PPP and infrastructure projects.

12:00 - 15:00 | **Lunch break**

15:00 - 16:00 | **Session 2**

#### **The contribution of the ECE PPPs for the SDGs approach to empower women and improve gender equality**

Women are poorly represented within the infrastructure industry and typically in the delivery of critical projects. Their absence has negative impacts on the quality and quantity of projects and on the lack of gender perspective on infrastructure design and delivery.

The ECE PPPs for the SDGs approach strongly advocates for gender equality and women's empowerment in PPP and infrastructure projects through its five desirable outcomes, the ten guiding principles and the ECE PIERS methodology. These tools provide a solid basis to mainstream a gender approach in PPP projects that contribute to the SDGs.

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### Key questions

- (i) What are the challenges and barriers to promoting gender equality and women's empowerment in PPP lifecycles?
- (ii) How can the ECE PPP for the SDGs approach address and overcome some of the challenges and barriers?
- (iii) What concrete actions are being taken in countries/PPP community to promote gender perspective in the design and operational stages of projects to reverse gender inequalities?

### Moderator

**Ms. Sedef Yavuz-Noyan**, Head, PPP Department, Presidency of Turkish Republic, Strategy and Budget Office, Türkiye

### Panellists (in alphabetical order)

**Ms. Mehita Fanny**, Manager PPP Europe, IFC

**Mr. Pedro Neves**, CEO, Global Solutions, Portugal

**Ms. Ebru Özdemir**, Chairperson, Limak Group of Companies, Türkiye (*joining online*)

**Ms. Helga Van Peer**, Lawyer, Mediator and Independent Board Member, Belgium

**Mr. Nikitas Kastis**, Senior Consultant and Managing Director, Mind2Innovate, Greece

### Discussion

#### Expected outcomes from the session:

- Better understanding of the importance of mainstreaming gender considerations into sustainable PPP and infrastructure projects in support of the SDGs.
- Examples of policy actions to overcome some of the existing challenges and barriers to promoting gender equality and women's empowerment in PPP lifecycles.
- Some emerging elements to be included in a proposed ECE practical guide on gender equality and women's empowerment in PPPs for the SDGs.

16:00 - 17:00

### Session 3

#### Optimising stakeholder engagement in projects through the UNECE PPP for the SDGs approach to catalyse sustainable development

Stakeholder engagement is one of the five desirable outcomes of the ECE PPPs for the SDGs approach. The importance of stakeholder engagement in PPPs for the SDGs is further elaborated in the PIERS methodology, where a number of criteria and indicators ensure that stakeholder engagement is present throughout the PPP lifecycle.

This session aims to foster dialogue on optimising stakeholder participation in PPP projects to ensure wider social participation, leaving no one behind and addressing social impacts from project identification through to implementation. The discussion will also contribute towards a proposed ECE practical guide on enhancing stakeholder engagement in PPPs for the SDGs.



### Key questions

- (i) What are the key elements for effective stakeholder engagement throughout PPP projects' lifecycles in support of the SDGs?
- (ii) How can governments optimise stakeholder participation in PPP projects and ensure that it becomes a core part of project preparation?
- (iii) What challenges and best practices should the ECE guide address to foster meaningful stakeholder engagement in PPPs for the SDGs?

### Moderator

**Ms. Melissa Peneycad**, Advisor, Beyond21Academy, Canada

### Panellists (in alphabetical order)

**Mr. Frederic Bobay**, Member of the Bureau (France)

**Mr. Sanzhar Bolotov**, Director, PPP Center, Kyrgyzstan

**Mr. David Dodd**, President, International Sustainable Resilience Center, New Orleans

**Ms. Petra Ferk**, Institute for PPP, Slovenia (*joining online*)

**Ms. Amanda Loeffen**, CEO, Human Right 2 Water, United Kingdom

### Discussion

#### Expected outcomes from the session:

- Increased understanding of effective stakeholder engagement in the PPP projects' lifecycles.
- Some emerging elements to be included in a proposed ECE practical guide on enhancing stakeholder engagement in PPPs for the SDGs.

17:30 - 19:00

**Reception<sup>5</sup> hosted by Mr. George Katapodis, Chairperson (Greece),  
Working Party on PPPs:**

**Launch of the ECE publication "Standard on PPP/Concession Legal Framework in support  
of the Sustainable Development Goals and its Accompanying Guide"**

<sup>5</sup> The reception will be held at the *Palais des Nations, bar Serpent* (just across conference room XXIV in E building).



Friday, 1 December 2023

10:00 - 13:00

## General Segment

### Item 3. Review of the work since the sixth session of the Working Party on Public-Private Partnerships on 1-2 December 2022

Presentation of the main outcomes of the 7<sup>th</sup> UNECE International PPP Forum (Athens, Greece, 3-5 May 2023)

- **Ms. Eleni Bakoula**, Legal Counsel, Athens Urban Transport Organization, Greece

#### Status reports on the work on new practical PPP guides launched in 2023<sup>6</sup> on:

- (i) Improving the delivery of PPPs through digital transformation throughout the project lifecycle in support of the SDGs (**Ms. Stacy Sinclair**, drafting team leader)
- (ii) PPPs in digital infrastructure: diagnostics in healthcare (telemedicine) and other digital public services (**Mr. Gabriele Pasquini**, drafting team leader)
- (iii) Green and Sustainable PPP Procurement for the SDGs (**Mr. Steven Van Garse**, drafting team leader)
- (iv) The state of PPP and infrastructure finance midway to 2030 (**Ms. Agnes Mazurek**, drafting team leader)
- (v) The pros and cons of simplifying and accelerating the delivery of PPP projects for the SDGs for sustainable economic recovery and reconstruction (**Mr. Syed Zaidi**, drafting team leader, and **Mr. Christopher Clement-Davies**, team member)

#### Brief interventions by core contributors to the Standard on PPP/Concession Legal Framework in support of the SDGs and its Accompanying Guide

Speakers (in alphabetical order):

- **Mr. Christopher Clement-Davies** (Leader of Phase I)
- **Mr. Marc Frilet** (Leader of Phase II)
- **Mr. Ziad Hayek**, President, WAPPP

<sup>6</sup> See [ECE/CECI/WP/PPP/2022/INF.2](https://www.unece.org/cepii/wp/ppp/2022/inf.2) for further details.



#### Item 4. Implementation plan for 2023-2024

##### Short interventions on future work to start in 2024<sup>7</sup>

- (i) Practical Guide on Enhancing Stakeholder Engagement in PPPs for the SDGs (**Ms. Melissa Peneycad**)
- (ii) Practical Guide on Promoting Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment through PPPs for the SDGs (**Ms. Sedef Yavuz-Noyan**)
- (iii) Standard on Off-grid Renewable Energy PPP projects in support of the SDGs (**Mr. David Baxter**)
- (iv) Promoting climate resilient PPP and infrastructure projects in support of the SDGs (**Mr. David Dodd**)

##### Presentations on future capacity building work in cooperation with ECA and ECLAC

- **Mr. Diogo Aita**, Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean
- **Mr. Anthony Monganelli Mehlwana**, Economic Commission for Africa

13:00 - 15:00 | **Lunch break**

15:00 - 18:00 | **Item 4. Implementation plan for 2023-2024 (continued)**

#### Item 5. Evaluation of the Economic Commission for Europe Subprogramme 4, and Subprogramme 6 by the United Nations Office of Internal Oversight Services

In 2022, the United Nations Office of Internal Oversight Services (OIOS) evaluated the relevance, effectiveness, coherence, sustainability and integration of cross-cutting issues in Subprogramme 4: Economic Cooperation and Integration, and Subprogramme 6: Trade of the ECTD for the period 2018- 2021. The evaluation was part of the United Nations Secretariat's regular programme, which periodically evaluates selected aspects of its operations. The Working Party will be briefed on the key findings and recommendations of the evaluation as they pertain to Subprogramme 4, the associated management response, and plans on how to implement the relevant recommendations.

##### Presentation of the key recommendations, the management response and plans on how to implement the relevant recommendations

- **Ms. Elisabeth Türk**, Director, ECTD, UNECE

#### Item 6. Election of officers

#### Item 7. Other business

#### Item 8. Adoption of the report of the Seventh session

<sup>7</sup> See [ECE/CECI/WP/PPP/2023/INF.2](https://www.ece.org/ceci/wp/ppp/2023/inf.2) for further details.





## Useful information

### Maps | Palais des Nations, Geneva, Switzerland

#### Building E, Room XXIV

Please register ahead of the event at <https://indico.un.org/event/1002282/>

When attending the meeting in person, any attendee has to follow the following instructions:

Prior to the Session, delegates (with the exception of delegates from the Geneva-based Missions) are requested to present themselves with a valid identification card/passport at the Pass and Identification Unit of the UNOG Security and Safety Section, located at the Peace Gate, Place des Nations, for the issuance of an identification badge.

See map and additional information for delegates available on the UNOG website and at <https://www.ungeneva.org/en/about/practical-information>.



### Contact

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