



**UNECE**



# Provisional Programme\*

8<sup>th</sup> UNECE International  
PPP FORUM



Istanbul | 8 – 10 May 2024

**Accelerating the SDGs and Climate Action:**

**The contribution of sustainable PPPs and infrastructure finance  
to recovery, resilience, and reconstruction**

*\*As of 1 March 2024*

## Introduction and objectives of the Forum

Achieving Agenda 2030 is critical as sustainable development represents the only path to address the complex, interlinked, multidimensional challenges facing humanity. With the halfway mark crossed in implementing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), only 12 percent of the global goals are on track. An immediate globally coordinated effort is urgently needed if the SDGs are to be realised by 2030.

2024 is a crucial year to getting back on track and accelerate efforts towards SDG implementation and other existing international commitments. Central to these efforts is placing people and the planet at the heart of global initiatives to realise the development agenda, overcome poverty, and mitigate the risks of conflict and violence arising from inequality, marginalization and exclusion.

Sustainable Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs) and infrastructure finance play a central role in implementing the SDGs. Sustainable PPPs that are ‘fit for purpose’ for the SDGs, encompassing the three pillars of sustainability – social, economic and environmental sustainability – need to be accelerated and boosted in order to get the implementation of Agenda 2030 back on track. A step-change is needed in the quality and quantity of infrastructure and development finance to meet the global goals, and this is expected to be reaffirmed by the international community at the Summit of the Future in September 2024, and enshrined in its outcome document: the Pact of the Future.

In this context, the 8<sup>th</sup> edition of the UNECE International Public-Private Partnerships (PPP) Forum will address current and emerging challenges and opportunities at global, national and city levels, focusing principally on the important nexus of climate resilience, economic recovery, and reconstruction, through sustainable PPPs and infrastructure finance. The Forum will highlight how PPPs for the SDGs can address ongoing global issues, including through stakeholder engagement, gender equality and women empowerment, equitable access to services, green and sustainable PPP procurement, digital transformation, and artificial intelligence.

The 3-day hybrid event – with in-person and online participation – will be held at the Conrad Istanbul Bosphorus Hotel in Istanbul, Türkiye, from 8 to 10 May 2024, and is co-organised with the Government of Türkiye.

As in previous editions of the Forum, case studies from around the world will be showcased and presented to assess their compliance with the five UNECE PPPs for the SDGs desirable outcomes<sup>1</sup>. These projects were evaluated using the [UNECE PIERS methodology](#) – an Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) self-assessment tool available to governments and other stakeholders.

The Forum will also offer a platform to other stakeholders – international organisations, civil society organisations, private sector and academia – to present their PPP work in support of the SDGs.

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<sup>1</sup> The five desirable outcomes are: 1. Increase access to essential services and lessen social inequality and injustice; 2. Improve economic effectiveness (including women’s empowerment) and fiscal sustainability of projects; 3. Enhance resilience in projects and more care with the environment; 4. Promote replicability and the development of further projects; and 5. Fully involve all stakeholders in the projects.

Wednesday, 8 May 2024

## “UNECE PPP approach in support of the SDGs: ongoing and new workstreams”

Location: Conrad Istanbul Bosphorus

08:15 – 09:00 | Registration

09:00 - 09:15 | Opening remarks

📍 Grand Ball Room

09:15 - 09:45 | Keynote speeches

📍 Grand Ball Room

09:45 - 11:00 | High-level policy debate

📍 Grand Ball Room

### Accelerating the SDGs and Climate Action: the contribution of sustainable PPPs and infrastructure finance to recovery, resilience, and reconstruction

**Background:** The world is facing unprecedented challenges posed by the climate crisis and the rise of conflicts and man-made disasters that undermine progress towards the achievement of the SDGs by 2030. These challenges require urgent and coordinated action from all stakeholders, especially governments and the private sector, to mobilise the necessary resources and expertise to achieve the SDGs. The high-level policy debate will set the scene for the topics discussed during the Forum and outlines how PPPs for the SDGs and infrastructure finance can contribute to recovery, resilience, and reconstruction to accelerate the SDGs and climate action.

**Key questions:** (i) How can PPPs for the SDGs be scaled up to accelerate recovery and reconstruction and the achievement of the SDGs by 2030? (ii) How can PPPs for the SDGs help to bridge the financing gap for sustainable infrastructure, especially in countries and regions most affected by climate change and conflicts? (iii) What are the principles for the integration of climate and disaster resilience and adaptation into infrastructure projects?

11:00 - 11:30

📍 Grand Ball Room foyer

Coffee

11:30 - 13:00 | Presentation of case studies

📍 Grand Ball Room

**Background:** This session will invite PPP Units and other stakeholders to present projects across all sectors – transport, renewable energy, health, education, municipal and urban services – along the PPP for the SDGs outcomes for discussion, inspiration, and key learnings.

**Key questions:** (i) How are these case studies contributing to sustainable development? (ii) To what extent are these projects implementing the PPP for the SDGs approach? (iii) How were the main challenges to sustainable development addressed in practice?

**Expected outcome:** (i) A better understanding of how countries put the SDGs into practice in their PPP programmes and projects, serving as an inspiration for potential PPP for the SDGs projects. (ii) Increased number of projects self-assessed using the UNECE PIERS methodology.

13:00 - 14:30

📍 Manzara Restaurant

Lunch

14:30 - 16:00

### Parallel session 1

📍 Grand Ball Room

#### PPP procurement:

Green and sustainable PPP procurement for the SDGs

**Challenge:** The challenge in long-term privately financed PPP procurement remains to ensure that green public procurement criteria are integrated throughout PPP project phases (planning, tender /competition, performance) and that monitoring mechanisms are set up to properly follow up on implementation.

To address this challenge, a UNECE drafting team has developed a practical guide on the topic with case studies and policy recommendations. The session will review the draft guide and provide insights for its further development and finalisation.

**Key questions:** (i) Does the guide cover all aspects of green and sustainable PPP procurement? (ii) Are the case studies used in the guide adequate? (iii) Are the draft policy options/recommendations sufficiently clear?

**Documentation:** Draft guide on green and sustainable PPP procurement for the SDGs

**Expected outcome:** (i) A better understanding of how green procurement criteria can be integrated in PPPs (ii) Insights by panellists and the audience will contribute to the finalisation of the guide.

### Parallel session 2

📍 Junior Ball Room A

#### Sustainable finance:

The state of PPP and infrastructure finance midway to 2030

**Challenge:** Closing the funding gap and delivering the SDGs by 2030 will only be possible with the mobilization of billions of dollars, mostly from private finance. Differentiating sustainable infrastructure projects that are fit for purpose for the SDGs from the rest is of utmost importance.

To address this challenge and to provide governments with an overview of the various investment strategies, a UNECE drafting team has developed a practical guide on the state of PPP and infrastructure finance midway to 2030. The session will review the draft guide and provide insights for its further development and finalisation.

**Key questions:** (i) Does the guide cover the main aspects of sustainable PPP finance? (ii) Are the case studies used in the guide adequate? (iii) Are the draft policy options/recommendations sufficiently clear?

**Documentation:** Draft guide on the state of PPP and infrastructure finance midway to 2030

**Expected outcome:** (i) A better understanding of the state of sustainable finance and its role to deliver sustainable PPPs (ii) Insights by panellists and the audience will contribute to the finalisation of the guide

### Parallel session 3

📍 Junior Ball Room B

#### PPPs and digital transformation:

Improving the delivery of PPPs through digital transformation throughout the project lifecycle in support of the SDGs

**Challenge:** PPPs are complex and time consuming for governments. One of the main challenges in PPP project development remains the slow progress at the initial pre-procurement project phase. Digital solutions can improve the speed and integrity of PPP projects.

To address this challenge, a UNECE drafting team has developed a practical guide on improving the PPP project lifecycle in its difference phases with digital technologies and solutions in support of the SDGs. The session will review the draft guide and provide insights for its further development and finalisation.

**Key questions:** (i) Does the guide cover all aspects of digital transformation along the PPP lifecycle? (ii) Are the case studies used in the guide adequate? (iii) Are the draft policy options/recommendations sufficiently clear?

**Documentation:** Draft guide on improving the delivery of PPP and infrastructure through digital transformation throughout the project lifecycle in support of the SDGs

**Expected outcome:** (i) A better understanding of the digital transformation in PPPs (ii) Insights by panellists and the audience will contribute to the finalisation of the guide

### Parallel session 4

📍 Junior Ball Room C

#### PPPs in digital infrastructure:

Diagnostics in healthcare (telemedicine) and other digital public services

**Challenge:** Access to key public services remain a challenge for millions of citizens, and Information and Communications Technology (ICT) can enable access to key public services and accelerate PPP and infrastructure projects in support of the 2030 Agenda.

To address this challenge, a UNECE drafting team has developed a practical guide to highlight the PPP and infrastructure projects in a number of sectors that exist as a result of digital transformation. The session will review the draft guide and provide insights for its further development and finalisation.

**Key questions:** (i) Does the guide cover the main aspects of digital social services? (ii) Are the case studies used in the guide adequate? (iii) Are the draft policy options/recommendations sufficiently clear?

**Documentation:** Draft guide on PPPs in digital infrastructure: diagnostics in healthcare (telemedicine) and other public services.

**Expected outcome:** (i) A better understanding of the array of digital PPP services (ii) Insights by panellists and the audience will contribute to the finalisation of the guide

16:00 - 16:30

Coffee

Grand Ball  
Room Foyer

16:30 - 18:00

Parallel session 1

Grand Ball Room

**PPPs and women's empowerment:**  
Promoting gender equality and women's empowerment through PPPs for the SDGs

**Challenge:** Women are poorly represented within the infrastructure industry and typically in the delivery of critical projects, many of which were designed and implemented without their meaningful involvement. Despite positive changes in recent years, the absence of women continues to have negative impacts on the efficiency, quality and quantity of PPP projects and on the lack of gender perspective in infrastructure design and delivery.

The UNECE 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 PIERS methodology.

To further address this challenge, a UNECE drafting team has been set up to develop a practical guide on the topic with case studies and policy recommendations. The session will provide insights on the topic, in

Parallel session 2

Junior Ball Room A

**Stakeholder participation in PPPs:**  
Enhancing stakeholder engagement in PPPs for the SDGs

**Challenge:** Stakeholder engagement is one of the five desirable UNECE PPPs for the SDGs' outcomes, and it encompasses a diverse set of processes necessary to foster meaningful participation and inclusivity, ultimately contributing to the sustainable well-being of the broader community over the long term.

In response to the imperative of enhancing stakeholder engagement, a UNECE drafting team has been set up to draft a practical guide on the subject. This comprehensive guide aims to offer valuable insights through the incorporation of case studies and policy recommendations. This session is designed to shed light on various aspects of the topic, with a particular focus on identifying and discussing key elements to be included in the guide. This collaborative effort underscores UNECE's commitment to addressing the challenges associated with stakeholder engagement and fostering a more inclusive and participatory approach towards achieving the SDGs.

Parallel session 3

Junior Ball Room B

**PPPs in renewable energy:**  
Supporting the use of off-grid rural electrification renewable energy and energy efficient PPP solutions for the SDGs

**Challenge:** Lack of access to sustainable energy continues to limit the human socioeconomic development potential of millions of people. This shortcoming needs to be universally addressed so that all communities can participate equally in a world filled with new opportunities.

Off-grid energy generation through PPPs is not new but it could be scaled up to increasingly play a vital role in the economic activities of communities located in remote areas.

To address this challenge, a UNECE drafting team has been set up to develop a PPP standard on PPPs in off-grid renewable energy with case studies and policy recommendations. The session will provide insights on the topic, in particular, on the elements for inclusion in the standard.

**Key questions:** (i) How can off-grid renewable energy PPPs be developed? (ii) What are the international trends in this sector? (iii) What are the main areas that a

Parallel session 4

Junior Ball Room C

**Climate Resilient Infrastructure:**  
Integrating resilience and adaptation into PPP projects in support of the SDGs

**Challenge:** Climate change has accelerated even more rapidly than the direct predictions. The planet is besieged by increasingly intense and frequent natural events such as floods and earthquakes, as well as man-made disturbances, including armed conflict. This crisis has necessitated significant measures to adapt and withstand better, and to recover quicker from these adverse events.

The need for PPPs to help finance both the infrastructure gap but especially integrating climate resilience and adaptation into infrastructure projects is acute.

To address this challenge, a UNECE drafting team will be set up to develop a PPP guide or standard on the topic with case studies and policy recommendations. The session will provide insights on the topic, in particular, on the elements for inclusion in the guide or standard.

**Key questions:** (i) How can climate resilience be progressively integrated in PPP and infrastructure projects in support of the

particular, on the elements for inclusion in the guide.

**Key questions:** (i) Why is gender equality and women's empowerment beneficial to the delivery of sustainable PPP and infrastructure programmes? (ii) What are the barriers to promoting gender equality and women's empowerment in PPPs and infrastructure, and how can gender equality and women's empowerment be improved in each PPP stage? (iii) What are the main areas that a UNECE guide on the topic needs to cover?

**Expected outcomes:** (i) A better understanding of the importance of mainstreaming gender considerations into sustainable PPP and infrastructure projects. (ii) Emerging elements to consider in the UNECE guide to better understand gender equality and women empowerment in a PPP context.

**Key questions:** (i) What is stakeholder engagement in PPPs in support of the SDGs? (ii) How can stakeholder participation in PPP projects be optimised and become a core part of project preparation? (iii) What are the main areas that a UNECE guide on the topic needs to cover?

**Expected outcomes:** (i) A better understanding of the fundamental importance of stakeholder engagement in PPP projects. (ii) Emerging elements to consider in the UNECE guide.

UNECE standard on the topic needs to cover?

**Expected outcomes:** (i) A better understanding of how PPPs operate in the off-grid renewable energy sector.

(ii) Emerging elements to consider in the UNECE standard.

SDGs, in particular, SDG 13? (ii) How can existing infrastructure be adapted to become climate resilient? (iii) What are the main areas that a UNECE standard on the topic needs to cover?

**Expected outcomes:** (i) A better understanding of climate resilience and adaptation practices (ii) Emerging elements to consider in the UNECE guide or standard.

18:00 - 19:30 **Buffet dinner** (hosted by Türkiye)



Thursday, 9 May 2024

## “Financing the SDGs through PPPs in the UNECE region and beyond”

Location: Conrad İstanbul Bosphorus

09:00 - 10:30

Grand Ball  
Room

### High-level roundtable

#### Charting new routes: Navigating the power of PPPs for the SDGs in Road Safety finance<sup>2</sup>

**Background:** Can we leverage technology and innovation through PPPs to address road safety challenges? This roundtable seeks to discuss the role of private sector innovation in complementing public initiatives and how such collaborations can be structured to yield maximum benefits for all road users.

**Key questions:** (i) What progress has been made so far to utilize PPPs to tackle road safety and what are some of the key lessons learned from these experiences? (ii) What practical steps can be taken to advance the potential use of PPPs for road safety, especially in low and middle-income countries? (iii) Which emerging technologies and innovative approaches hold the most promise for transformative impacts on road safety when synergized with public sector efforts through PPPs?

**Expected outcomes:** (i) Highlighting PPPs in Road Safety. (ii) Foster a rich exchange of ideas and experiences among experts, policymakers, and practitioners. (iii) Identify strategies for overcoming obstacles in PPPs for road safety.

10:15 - 10:45

Coffee available outside the Grand Ball Room

10:30 - 12:00

Grand Ball  
Room

### Policy debate 1

#### Equal access to PPP and public services

**Background:** Integrating a human-rights-based approach in PPPs is vital for inclusivity and equality, which are key to sustainable development and meeting the SDGs. Ensuring that PPPs and public infrastructure provide “equal access” to everyone is crucial, enabling access to transportation, facilities, employment, and technology regardless of physical ability, economic status, or location. The session will discuss how to design and implement PPPs that offer equal access to public services and infrastructure, tackling physical, digital, economic, and social barriers. It will explore the use of PPPs as instruments for social change, focusing on the roles of the public and private parties in ensuring that projects align with equal access standards. The debate will also showcase how the UNECE's PPPs for the SDGs approach and the PIERS methodology are designed to ensure that PPP projects adhere to a human-rights-based approach throughout all stages of the PPP process.

**Key questions:** (i) How can PPPs be effectively designed and implemented to ensure “equal access” for all individuals, particularly in relation to public services? (ii) Which collaborative strategies and actions should stakeholders undertake to align their PPP initiatives with the SDGs and other frameworks aimed at fostering “equal access” and securing sustainable, inclusive growth? (iii) In what ways do the UNECE's PPPs for the SDGs approach and the PIERS platform support the incorporation of a human-rights-based approach in PPPs, and how does this contribute to the overarching goals of creating value for communities and the environment?

**Expected outcomes:** (i) Insight into effective design principles and implementation strategies for PPPs that ensure equal access for all, particularly in public services. (ii) Enhanced knowledge on a human-rights-based approach, including human rights due diligence in infrastructure projects, to ensure that PPP initiatives meet equal access expectations and support the broader objectives of social equity and inclusion.

12:00 - 13:30

Manzara  
Restaurant

Lunch

<sup>2</sup> This session is co-organised with the UN Road Safety Fund secretariat.

13:30 - 15:00

Grand Ball  
Room

### The experience of Türkiye in delivering PPPs aligned with the SDGs

**Background:** Türkiye ranks as one of the top countries in the world using PPPs and is considered by many as a model to follow. Türkiye has been pursuing PPPs since 1986 and has signed contracts for 270 PPP projects with an investment value of 98.6 billion USD. 250 of these projects are already successfully in operation and 20 others are in the construction phase. Among these PPP projects are:

- 13 international airports with 281 million passenger capacity, 10 motorways for a total of 1998 kilometres and other transportation facilities with an investment value of 60 billion USD,
- energy projects with 21.73 billion USD and
- health campuses with a total of 2,438 beds and an investment value of USD 13.08 billion.

These PPP projects aim to increase the welfare of Turkish citizens, increase their access to basic services in the most sustainable way in line with the SDGs, as well contributing to make Türkiye a hub for services in the region.

**Key questions:** (i) What are the main challenges and opportunities in delivering sustainable PPPs in Türkiye? (ii) How is the involvement of Türkiye's public authorities instrumental in ensuring that PPPs are aligned with the SDGs? (iii) How does the involvement of IFIs catalyse sustainable PPP practices in Türkiye?

**Expected outcome:** A better understanding of the challenges and opportunities of sustainable PPP practices in Türkiye.

15:00 - 18:30

### Site visit to an operational PPP project in Istanbul:

Option for 100 participants

15:00 - 15:30

Coffee

Grand Ball  
Room Foyer

15:30 – 18:00

Closed sessions for experts in the Working Groups on ongoing workstreams (by invitation only)



Friday, 10 May 2024

## “Looking ahead: Building a sustainable future through PPPs for the SDGs”

Location: Conrad Istanbul Bosphorus

09:00 - 10:30

Grand Ball  
Room

### Policy debate 3

#### Planning, structuring and managing small-scale PPPs in support of the SDGs<sup>3</sup>

**Background:** Governments have over the years used the PPP model both for large-scale projects at the national level in sectors such as transportation, education, healthcare and energy, and for small-scale projects at the municipal level in sectors such as water and sanitation, waste management, street lighting, municipal parking, and electric car charging stations.

Delivering successful small-scale PPPs pose unique challenges and opportunities to governments. The purpose of this session is to debate some of the core issues related to the planning, structuring, and managing of PPPs that are specific to small-scale projects.

The outcome of the session will contribute to the development of a joint UNECE-WAPPP practical guide for public officials with policy recommendations, including case studies and practical examples, for the effective implementation of small-scale PPPs in support of the SDGs to advance sustainable infrastructure development.

**Key questions:** (i) What are the tools employed to lower transaction costs in small-scale projects? (ii) What strategies can be put in place for PPP units and procuring authorities to streamline their processes and make them more efficient while optimising their resources? (iii) Trade-offs: how to ensure their bankability and compliance with the SDGs?

**Expected outcomes:** (i) A better understanding of how small-scale PPPs are planned, structured and managed (ii) Emerging elements to consider in the UNECE-WAPPP practical guide on the topic.

10:30 - 11:00

Grand Ball  
Room Foyer

### Coffee

<sup>3</sup> This session is co-organised with WAPPP.

11:00 - 12:30

### Parallel session 1

📍 Grand Ball Room

#### The contribution of PPPs to economic recovery and reconstruction

**Challenge:** PPPs are complex and take considerable time to develop and structure. However, rebuilding programmes in communities ravaged by war and natural disaster need to be implemented swiftly and at pace.

The flow of public money into infrastructure will not be enough to cover the ever-growing reconstruction needs, and there is, therefore, a need to incentivise private money to invest in recovery and reconstruction programmes.

To address this challenge, the UNECE has prepared a guide for public officials to provide an overview of the strategies, tools, and nuances to support the acceleration of the delivery of PPP projects in the aftermath of conflicts and disasters.

**Key questions:** (i) What are the key elements/requirements to accelerate the delivery of sustainable PPP and infrastructure reconstruction programmes? (ii) Which are the key challenges and how can they be mitigated? (iii) What are the key policy recommendations to governments that can support accelerated and sustainable PPPs in support of the SDGs?

**Documentation:** [UNECE Guidelines on delivering PPP projects for sustainable economic recovery and reconstruction in support of the SDGs](#).

### Parallel session 2

📍 Junior Ball Room A

#### Artificial Intelligence and PPPs: Potential and limitations

**Challenge:** Implementing Artificial Intelligence (AI) in the context of PPPs is not without its challenges. Addressing these challenges demands a thoughtful and multidimensional approach to ensure that the integration of AI in PPPs maximises the benefits while minimising the risks.

Lower transaction costs for governments and an expedited PPP process would represent a transformational leap in the efficiency and effectiveness of PPPs in support of the SDGs. But such efficiencies need to be compared to the legal, ethical and technical risks associated with the implementation of AI in PPPs.

The session will consider the pros and cons in implementing AI in PPPs, including how AI is already utilised in projects and its potential to predict infrastructure needs and generate documentation.

**Key questions:** (i) How are existing PPP projects benefiting from AI? (ii) What is the potential of AI to reduce the PPP transaction costs for governments and expedite the PPP process? (iii) What are the challenges and limitations for AI in PPPs and how they can be mitigated?

**Expected outcome:** A better understanding of the potential and limitations of using AI to deliver PPPs in support of the SDGs.

### Parallel session 3

📍 Junior Ball Room B

#### Cross-border PPPs in support of the SDGs<sup>4</sup>

**Challenge:** As interstate and regional economic ties grow, the development of cross-border infrastructure becomes crucial. The goal is to drive the expansion of cross-border infrastructure in Eurasia, accelerate the launch of projects, and minimise implementation risks. By focusing on the principles governing cross-border PPPs, this session aims to increase the awareness of governments and private investors regarding the opportunities offered by cross-border PPPs, outline strategies for successful cross-border PPPs, which will drive expansion of cross-border infrastructure, facilitate and accelerate the launch of cross-border PPP projects, and minimise risks in their implementation - ultimately fostering economic development, environmental sustainability, and social progress across borders.

**Key questions:** (i) What are the benefits and risks of cross-border PPPs, and how can they be optimized for sustainable development? (ii) How can legal and regulatory challenges in cross-border PPPs be effectively addressed to establish a robust framework? (iii) What international best practices from cross-border PPP projects can be applied to other countries and regions?

### Parallel session 4

📍 Junior Ball Room C

#### Roundtable discussion on selected PPP case studies

**Challenge:** This session will invite PPP Units and other stakeholders to present projects across all sectors – transport, renewable energy, health, education, municipal and urban services – along the PPP for the SDGs outcomes for discussion, inspiration, and key learnings.

**Key questions:** (i) How are these case studies contributing to sustainable development? (ii) To what extent are these projects implementing the PPP for the SDGs approach? (iii) How were the main challenges to sustainable development addressed in practice?

**Expected outcome:** (i) A better understanding of how countries put the SDGs into practice in their PPP programmes and projects, serving as an inspiration for potential PPP for the SDGs projects. (ii) Increased number of projects self-assessed using PIERS.

<sup>4</sup> This session is co-organised with the Eurasian Development Bank

**Expected outcome:** A better understanding on how PPP projects can be streamlined without compromising the broader goal of rebuilding economies and societies in alignment of the SDGs.

**12:30 - 13:30 Lunch**

Manzara  
Restaurant

**13:30- 15:00 Parallel session 1**

Grand Ball Room

**Workshop on the UNECE PIERS sustainability methodology and programme: measuring the impact of PPP projects<sup>5</sup>**

**Challenge:** It is no longer enough for projects to be bankable, but they have to adhere to the SDG/ESG criteria of providing ‘value for people’ and ‘value for the planet’. To address this challenge, the UNECE secretariat has launched a programme to deploy the PIERS methodology. As part of its demand-driven support, the secretariat assists governments to self-assess their PPP and infrastructure projects against the SDGs using a set of specially designed criteria and indicators. The PIERS programme follows five key principles: 1. Participation is voluntary; 2. Balances consistency and completeness with flexibility; 3. Robustness; 4. Adds values to governments; and 5. Provides assurances to investors.

**Parallel session 2**

Junior Ball Room A

**Workshop on PPP legal and regulatory framework in support of the SDGs**

**Challenge:** A balanced legal and regulatory framework to attract private sector participation and finance into infrastructure and public services, while at the same time safeguard the public interest, is a long-term challenge in many countries that consider PPPs as a viable option to close the ever-increasing infrastructure gap. This challenge is further exacerbated by an acute lack of public sector capacity to develop bankable and sustainable projects. To address this challenge, the UNECE has published a Standard on this topic with its accompanying guide. The workshop will consider how the UNECE Standard on PPP/Concession legal framework in support of the SDGs contribute to address this challenge.

**Parallel session 3**

Junior Ball Room B

**Taking PPPs out of the classroom: contribution by academic institutions to capacity building<sup>6</sup>**

**Challenge:** PPPs are not an end but the means to an end. PPPs are part of public policy involving private sector participation. In the context of the 2030 Agenda, the role of PPP is to contribute to achieve the SDGs, and therefore to enhance people’s lives, to protect the planet while promoting economic growth through sustainable finance. Considering the logic, the need, and the added value that PPPs can bring to all national and subnational governments, this panel will discuss perspectives from academia on why this is happening, what is being done and what could be improved to bridge the ever increasing infrastructure gap.

**Parallel session 3**

Junior Ball Room C

**Revisiting the winning projects of the UNECE “PPP and Infrastructure Awards” in 2021 and in 2023**

**Challenge:** For far too long, PPP efforts have focused on projects rather than on transformative infrastructure policies that put the SDGs in a comprehensive programme of activity. This is because in most countries, PPPs are about individual projects, tackling individual problems. Rarely have PPPs been used as part of a comprehensive, holistic, national infrastructure plan. Only when PPPs become part of a transformative infrastructure plan, they can contribute to the challenges facing the planet, such as poverty eradication and the fight against climate change. The aim of the UNECE “PPP and Infrastructure Awards” is to showcase PPPs that transform communities and have positive impacts on society, the economy,

<sup>5</sup> This session is co-organised with ECA and ECLAC.

<sup>6</sup> This session is organised by academia.

The workshop will provide an opportunity to learn more about the PIERS programme and how it is being deployed in countries.

**Key questions:** (i) What are the main features of the PIERS programme? (ii) What are the benefits for countries? (iii) How can the UN Regional Commissions work together to further deploy the PIERS programme?

**Documentation:** [UNECE PPP and Infrastructure Evaluation and Rating System \(PIERS\)](#)

**Expected outcome:** A better understanding of how countries can benefit from the PIERS programme to identify and develop PPP and infrastructure projects in support of the SDGs.

**Key questions:** (i) What are the main characteristics that difference the Standard on PPP/Concession legal framework from other PPP legal documents? (ii) What is the most effective way to implement the Standard in countries? (iii) How can the Standard inspire the work of other organisations to develop/update PPP legal manuals in support of the SDGs?

**Documentation:** Standard on PPP/Concession legal framework in support of the SDGs and an accompanying guide

**Expected outcome:** A better understanding on the UNECE work on PPP/Concession legal framework in support of the SDGs, and how it could be implemented in practice.

**Key questions:** (i) What are the main challenges to PPPs? (ii) What is being done by academia to mitigate the challenges and enhance the use of PPPs in terms of research, lectures, and incubators? (iii) How can this knowledge be taken “out of the classroom”?

**Expected outcome:** A clearer understanding of the contribution of academia sustainable PPPs in support of the SDGs.


and the environment. The session will revisit the winning projects of the UNECE “PPP and Infrastructure Awards” in 2021 and in 2023 and demonstrate how these projects are transforming communities.

**Key questions:** (i) In what ways have the projects transformed communities beyond the asset’s value, by also creating value for people and the planet? (ii) How can sustainability benefits of projects be measured? (iii) What are the success factors to replicate these projects in other regions/countries?

**Expected outcome:** A better understanding of how projects are transforming communities and how sustainability in PPP projects can be measured.


15:00- 16:30

### Parallel session 1

 Grand Ball Room


**National PPP programmes and policies in UNECE member States: capacity building to scale-up SDG-oriented PPPs**

### Parallel session 2

 Junior Ball Room A

**National PPP programmes and policies in Africa: capacity building to scale-up SDG-oriented PPPs<sup>7</sup>**

### Parallel session 3

 Junior Ball Room B

**National PPP programmes and policies in Latin America and the Caribbean: capacity building to scale-up SDG-oriented PPPs<sup>8</sup>**

<sup>7</sup> This session is organised by ECA.

<sup>8</sup> This session is organised by ECLAC.

**Challenge:** Limited knowledge and public sector PPP capacity remain the number one barrier for governments to deliver sustainable PPPs.

To address this challenge, the UNECE, ECA and ECLAC have joined forces to strengthen the capacity of public officials to deliver green, circular, resilient, and high-quality PPPs in support of the SDGs and transformational change.

The session will provide an opportunity for UNECE programme countries to present their PPP programmes, policies and projects, as well as their capacity building requirements in order to deliver PPP and infrastructure projects in support of the SDGs.

**Key questions:** (i) What are the main challenges facing countries to deliver sustainable PPPs? (ii) How are countries ensuring that their PPP projects can attract sustainable finance? (iii) What are the capacity building needs (e.g. project preparation support, legal and regulatory framework, etc.)?

**Expected outcome:** A better understanding of national PPP programmes and capacity building requirements to deliver sustainable PPPs.

**Challenge:** Limited knowledge and public sector PPP capacity remain the number one barrier for governments to deliver sustainable PPPs.

To address this challenge, the UNECE, ECA and ECLAC have joined forces to strengthen the capacity of public officials to deliver green, circular, resilient, and high-quality PPPs in support of the SDGs and transformational change.

The session will provide an opportunity for ECA member States to present their PPP programmes, policies and projects, as well as their capacity building requirements in order to deliver PPP and infrastructure projects in support of the SDGs.

**Key questions:** (i) What are the main challenges facing countries to deliver sustainable PPPs? (ii) How are countries ensuring that their PPP projects can attract sustainable finance? (iii) What are the capacity building needs (e.g. project preparation support, legal and regulatory framework, etc.)?

**Expected outcome:** A better understanding of national PPP programmes and capacity building requirements to deliver sustainable PPPs.

**Challenge:** Limited knowledge and public sector PPP capacity remain the number one barrier for governments to deliver sustainable PPPs.

To address this challenge, the UNECE, ECA and ECLAC have joined forces to strengthen the capacity of public officials to deliver green, circular, resilient, and high-quality PPPs in support of the SDGs and transformational change.

The session will provide an opportunity for ECLAC member States to present their PPP programmes, policies and projects, as well as their capacity building requirements in order to deliver PPP and infrastructure projects in support of the SDGs.

**Key questions:** (i) What are the main challenges facing countries to deliver sustainable PPPs? (ii) How are countries ensuring that their PPP projects can attract sustainable finance? (iii) What are the capacity building needs (e.g. project preparation support, legal and regulatory framework, etc.)?

**Expected outcome:** A better understanding of national PPP programmes and capacity building requirements to deliver sustainable PPPs.

16:30 - 17:00

Grand Ball  
Room Foyer

Coffee

17:00 - 18:00

📍 Grand Ball  
Room

Concluding Policy debate  
UNECE cross-cutting theme 2025

## Useful information

### Venue

**Conrad İstanbul Bosphorus**  
Cihannüma, Saray Cd No:5, 34353 Beşiktaş,  
İstanbul, Türkiye  
[Website](#)

### Contacts

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