

**Towards Integrated National Financing Frameworks:
Implementing sustainability focused normative tools in Eastern Europe,
Western Balkans, the Caucasus, and Central Asia**

Thursday, 21 March 2024, 9:00 – 17:30 CET

Languages: English and Russian

Room H-207-209, H Building, Palais des Nations, Geneva

[Zoom link](#)

Preliminary Programme

Background

This regional event is the concluding event of an international initiative undertaken by the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) in the context of the United Nations Development Account project, “Towards integrated national financing frameworks”. The objective of the project is to combine existing capacity and policy support for mobilising additional financing for the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Integrated national financing frameworks (INFFs), country-specific planning and delivery frameworks to help countries finance sustainable development and the SDGs, can be valuable tools in helping to formulate a comprehensive a coherent and transparent policy that mobilizes resources from a wide range of public and private sources and aligns with the SDGs. INFFs are a tool for Governments to (i) align financing policies with national sustainable development priorities, and (ii) strengthen the links between planning processes (such as National Sustainable Development Strategies or National Development Plans) and financing policies. INFFs can also help Governments bring together and better utilize the wide range of support measures on SDG financing provided by the international community. Ultimately, they can help raise resources to implement National Development Plans and finance the SDGs.

UNECE

One of the key instruments for financing infrastructure in support of the SDGs are Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs). The UNECE is the only UN agency which is specialised in the intergovernmental cooperation on PPPs. It promotes PPPs for the SDGs as a tool to diversify the sources of financing for the implementation of the SDGs through effective partnerships between the public and the private sectors.

For this purpose, the UNECE has developed the so called “PPPs for the SDGs” approach. PPPs and infrastructure projects prepared and implemented using this approach not only create “value for money” (as traditional PPPs) but also create “value for people” and “value for the planet”, therefore supporting countries to achieve the SDGs. The UNECE “PPP and Infrastructure Evaluation and Rating System (PIERS)” is a tool that helps PPP practitioners to evaluate the compliance of PPP projects (as well as infrastructure projects in general) with the SDGs. It is a platform for rating and scoring infrastructure projects against the SDGs using the “PPPs for the SDGs” criteria.

In the context of the above United Nations Development Account project, the UNECE provided support to the national authorities and PPP practitioners in several of its programme countries in identifying infrastructure projects that are compliant with the desirable outcomes of the “PPPs for the SDGs” approach in terms of providing access and equity, economic effectiveness and fiscal sustainability, being replicable, resilient and environmentally sustainable with the involvement of all stakeholders.

UNCTAD

Through its [Intergovernmental Working Group of Experts on International Standards of Accounting and Reporting](#) (ISAR), UNCTAD has been the focal point in the United Nations in strengthening accounting and reporting systems. In particular, it has assisted member States in their efforts towards implementation of international standards, codes and best practices to facilitate harmonisation and improvement of quality of enterprise reporting as important means to facilitate financial stability, international and domestic investment, and social and economic progress. Through its Division on Investment and Enterprise, UNCTAD serves as ISAR’s Secretariat, providing substantive and administrative inputs to its activities.

It achieves these objectives by facilitating the exchange of views and best practices, building consensus, developing guidance documents and tools, and providing technical assistance on issues related to both financial and sustainability/SDG reporting. This work is conducted through the annual sessions of ISAR, as well as associated workshops and roundtables, research and capacity building activities during the intersessional period.

With a view to strengthening the private sector’s capacity to become attractive for investors and financing, UNCTAD-ISAR is ready to implement its Accounting Development Tool (ADT). The ADT has been implemented in many countries since its creation in 2011 and it has been revised to fulfil the new requirements of the SDGs and recent changes and demands in sustainability reporting. The ADT allows to assess and strengthen a country’s capacity for high-quality corporate reporting, including the financial and non-financial aspects (environmental, social and institutional). It provides a benchmark for identifying country’s gaps and priorities towards convergence with international standards and good practices and helps to build country action plans. In addition, UNCTAD can support countries in their efforts to assess the contribution of the private sector to the implementation of the SDGs through the development of Sustainability/SDG frameworks for company reporting and capacity building to measure core SDG indicators. For this purpose, it has developed its *Guidance on Core indicators for entity reporting on contribution towards implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals* (GCI) and a related Training Manual. When sustainability information is consistently prepared it can be useful for comparison and progress tracking and has the potential of informing investors on how to allocate their funds in a responsible manner to contribute to sustainable development.

Objectives and expected outcomes of the regional event

A better understanding by public officials in the UNECE programme countries in Eastern Europe, Western Balkans, the Caucasus, and Central Asia of some of the practical tools developed by UNECE and UNCTAD in support of INFF and the SDGs.

Format and venue

The regional event will be conducted in a hybrid format (in person and online). The event will be conducted in English and Russian with simultaneous interpretation.

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Time (CET)	Item and speakers
09:00 - 09:30	<p>Opening remarks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ms. Elisabeth Türk, Director, Economic Cooperation and Trade Division, UNECE• Mr. Richard Bolwijn, Head of Investment Research, UNCTAD <p>Keynote speeches</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• H.E. Mr. Pavle Tripković, State Secretary, Ministry of Transport and Maritime Affairs of Montenegro• H.E. Mr. Sharaf Sheralizoda, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Tajikistan
09:30 - 10:00	<p>Session 1: Progress in Integrated National Financing Frameworks in the region (in alphabetical order by country)</p> <p>Moderator:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mr. Rumen Dobrinsky, UNECE senior consultant <p>Speakers (in alphabetical order by country):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mr. Azamat Usubaliev, Head of Sustainable Economic Growth Cluster, UNDP, Kyrgyzstan• Mr. Maksat Keshiyev, Development Coordination Officer, UN Resident Coordinator Office, Turkmenistan• Mr. Fayzulla Salakhuddinov, Project Manager, UNDP, Uzbekistan
10:00 - 11:00	<p><i>Sessions 2 and 3 are led by UNECE</i></p> <p>Session 2: Sharing of experience and lessons learned: How the UNECE PIERS Methodology can help countries identify and develop infrastructure projects in support of the SDGs</p> <p>Moderator:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mr. Rumen Dobrinsky, UNECE senior consultant <p>Presentation of the UNECE PIERS methodology:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mr. Antonin Menegaux, UNECE

¹ The regional event convenes UNECE 17 programme countries in Central Asia, Southern Caucasus, Western Balkan and Eastern Europe.

	<p>Speakers (in alphabetical order by country):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Dzmitry Berezovski, First Deputy Director, National Agency for Investment and Privatization, Belarus • Mr. Ulan Danilbekov, Deputy Director, PPP Center, Kyrgyzstan • Mr. Dragutin Nenezic, Independent PPP expert • Ms. Maria Usik, Independent PPP expert <p>Q&A</p>
11:00 - 11:30	Coffee break
11:30 - 13:00	<p>Session 3: PPP and infrastructure development in the region: Country needs</p> <p>Moderator:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Rumen Dobrinsky, UNECE senior consultant <p>Speakers (in alphabetical order by country):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Gular Abbasova, PPP Unit, Ministry of Economy, Azerbaijan • Mr. Ulan Danilbekov, Deputy Director, PPP Center, Kyrgyzstan • Mr. Roman Cojuhari, Director General, Public Property Agency of the Republic of Moldova • Mr. Andrej Lakic, Assistant Director for Investment Promotion and International Cooperation, Investment Agency, Montenegro • Ms. Jelena Tadic, Executive Director, PPP Investment, Belgrade, Serbia • Mr. Karomatullo Mahmudov, PPP Center, Tajikistan • Mr. Niko Gachechyladze, Director, PPP Agency, Ukraine • Mr. Abduqodir Yoqubov, Director, PPP Department, Ministry of Economy and Finance, Uzbekistan
13:00 - 14:00	Lunch break
	<i>Sessions 4 and 5 are led by UNCTAD</i>
14:00 - 15:15	<p>Session 4: Sharing of experience and lessons learned: Providing a reporting methodology that facilitates monitoring of contributions of private finance to sustainable development</p> <p>Moderator:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Elena Botvina, Economic Affairs Officer, Division on Investment and Enterprise, UNCTAD <p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Tatiana Rybak, Head of Accounting, Reporting and Audit Regulation Directorate, Ministry of Finance, Belarus • Mr. Marat Pirnazarov, Chair, Service for Regulation and Supervision of the Financial Market, Ministry of Economy and Commerce, Kyrgyzstan • Ms. Olga Bernatskaia, Chair, International Committee on Sustainable Development of the professional organizations of accountants and auditors of the Eurasian region (Accountancy EURASIA / Association EICPA)

15:15 - 15:45	Coffee break
15:45 - 17:15	<p>Session 5: Establishing the Eurasian Partnership on Sustainability and SDG Reporting</p> <p>Moderator:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Marat Pirnazarov, Chair, Service for Regulation and Supervision of the Financial Market, Ministry of Economy and Commerce, Kyrgyzstan <p>Panelists:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Elena Botvina, Economic Affairs Officer, Division on Investment and Enterprise, UNCTAD • Mr. Marat Pirnazarov, Chair, Service for Regulation and Supervision of the Financial Market, Ministry of Economy and Commerce, Kyrgyzstan • Ms. Tatiana Rybak, Head of Accounting, Reporting and Audit Regulation Directorate, Ministry of Finance, Belarus / Ms. Valentina Neizvestnaya, Chair, Public association "Belarusian Society of Professional Accountants" • Mr. Igor Kruchinn, First Secretary, Permanent Mission of the Russian Federation to the UN Office and other international organizations in Geneva • Mr. Vladimir Zharinov, Chair of Eurasian Institutes of Certified Public Accountants Association (EICPA) <p>Discussants:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Artem Mitsuk, Chairman, Professional auditing organization "Union of Auditors of Kazakhstan" • Mr. Medet Nazaraliev, President, Kyrgyz Stock Exchange, Kyrgyzstan • Mr. Yuriy Aronskiy, Chairman, National Public Organization "Union of Economists of Turkmenistan" • Mr. Nematulla Karimov, Chairman of the Council, Chamber of Auditors of Uzbekistan • Mr. Askar Japparkulov, Director of the Macroeconomic Policy Department, Eurasian Economic Commission
17:15 - 17:30	Concluding remarks and follow-up