

OIOS Evaluation of SPs 4 & 6



UNECE

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Key Findings of the Evaluation (discussed at CICPPP 2023)



The work of ECTD was considered **aligned with its mandate** and:

- **Largely responded** to specific Member States' (MS) requests.
- Had **found its niche** in a crowded space of trade & economic cooperation, leveraging its comparative advantages towards strengthening MS' economic cooperation & integration.
- **Provides a regional platform** for international policy dialogue & exchange of best practices among countries in the UNECE region.
- **Acts as a convening "power"**, bringing governments together to build consensus on frameworks, norms, standards & agreements on economic cooperation & trade.
- Is seen as a **reliable source of technical assistance** to specific needs of MS.

However:

- Functions & workstreams were still **being clarified** (diversity of UNECE membership).
- There was a **lack of overall strategy & synergetic approach** for the two SPs.

The Way Forward



The OIOS Evaluation made four recommendations:

1. Establish a technical cooperation request tracking mechanism.
2. Develop a division-wide integrated strategic plan.
3. Develop divisional action plans to operationalize UNECE strategies on resource mobilization, partnerships, and technical cooperation.
4. Ensure integration of gender, environment, disability inclusion, and human rights considerations in its various workstreams.

UNECE accepted the four recommendations made by OIOS.

Implementation



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1. Establish a technical cooperation request tracking mechanism

- The Programme Management and Support Services Division (PMSSD) developed **an online tool to track all technical cooperation requests** received by UNECE.
 - The tool is being rolled out across UNECE, including in ECTD.
- ECTD **submitted tabulated summaries of technical assistance** requests to respective normative meetings (CICPPP, SCTCS, 2023 and 2024 sessions).
 - These highlighted type of support requested, the source/documentation of the request, and the budgetary implications.
 - In 2023, Committees reviewed the lists and decided to invite the secretariat, donors, and development partners to step up fundraising and resource mobilization efforts.

3. Develop divisional action plans to operationalize UNECE strategies on resource mobilization, partnerships, and technical cooperation

- Implementation based on the sequencing between recommendations 1 and 3.

Implementation



2. Develop a division-wide integrated strategic plan

Preparatory steps to gain initial insights/experience:

- Offering a possibility for the two Sectoral Committees, the four Working Parties and the numerous Teams of Specialists serviced by the two SPs to **exchange views**, both, within & across SPs (Committees sessions, 2023 and 2024).
- Piloting **division-wide response to cross-cutting priority themes**:
 - Circular Economy: division-wide Conference, Working Papers, TA/CB and Circular STEP Network.
- **Piloting cooperation** across SPs and across Sections/Units:
 - ECI and Trade SP – joint XB proposals for WTO accession.
 - TF and MAS – joint UNDA project.
 - GRSI and UN/CEFACT – code lists.
 - RPBTs and TF Roadmaps.
- **Piloting scheduling of inter-governmental** events to facilitate cross-fertilization (June 2024).

Next steps:

- **Review of experiences gained**, consultations to identify elements of division-wide integrated strategic plan.

Implementation



4. Ensure integration of gender, environment, disability inclusion, and human rights considerations in its various workstreams

Gender

- **Team of Specialists on Gender Responsive Standards (ToS GRS) recently established.**
- **ToS GRS** developed and adopted a "**Code List for sex and gender in digitalized information exchange**," providing guidance on requesting and utilizing this information.
- Gender aspects were included in the **Evaluation Methodology on PPPs and related activities**:
 - In May 2023, UNECE's Annual International PPP Forum in Athens held sessions on gender equality and women's empowerment in PPPs.
 - In November 2023, WP.PPP began work on a practical guide for promoting gender equality and women's empowerment through PPPs.
- Gender considerations were integrated into **Innovation Policy Reviews and Trade Facilitation assessments**.

Implementation



4. Ensure integration of gender, environment, disability inclusion, and human rights considerations in its various workstreams

Environment – Circular Economy, ESG Traceability

- Two standards on PPPs for the Circular Economy (WP PPP): the **"Guidelines on Promoting Circular Economy in PPPs for the SDGs"** and the **"Guidelines on PPPs for the Sustainable Development Goals in Waste-to-Energy Projects for Non-Recyclable Waste: Pathways towards a Circular Economy"**.
- **CICPPP 2024 thematic session on climate resilience.**
- **ETIN work streams and deep dives** (e.g., green steel, circular economy).
- **Code of Good Practice for Reducing Food Loss (WP.7).**
- **RPBT Studies** (Regulatory and Procedural Barriers to Trade) developed a methodology to look at circular economy transition (SCTCS).
- Team of Specialists for Sustainable Value Chains for the Circular Economy (textiles, CRMs, agri-food).
- **Sustainability Pledge**, supporting ESG compliance traceability in circular value chains, expanded to over 100 pledges from 750+ industry actors in the textiles and clothing sector.
 - The **Sustainability Pledge toolbox** was tested in 20 blockchain pilots across 23 countries.

Implementation



4. Ensure integration of gender, environment, disability inclusion, and human rights considerations in its various workstreams

Human rights

- Several consultations with experts to shape the way forward (e.g. **Special Rapporteur on the Right to Development** and with experts on **Business and Human Rights**).
- **Sustainability Pledge** and ESG Traceability (Due Diligence).
- **PIERS** indicators on cross-cutting issues.
- Session at 8th PPP Forum May 2024 focusing on “equal access”.
 - Questions: 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?

Disability inclusion

- **Gender Responsive Standards (GRS)** and PPP work streams (PIERS indicators and new work on stakeholder engagement).
- Plus: **specific indicators on disability responsiveness and targets** in future PPP XB projects.



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THANK YOU

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