



# Economic and Social Council

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## Economic Commission for Europe

Committee on Innovation, Competitiveness and Public-Private Partnerships

Team of Specialists on Innovation and Competitiveness Policies

### Fourteenth session

Geneva (hybrid), 14 and 15 November 2022

Item 1 of the provisional agenda

**Adoption of the agenda and election of officers**

## Annotated provisional agenda for the fourteenth session

**To be held as a hybrid meeting with possibility of in-person or remote participation at the Palais des Nations, Geneva, starting on 14 November at 10:00 in room XVIII\***

### I. Provisional agenda

1. Adoption of the agenda and election of officers.
2. Substantive segment: International policy dialogue on “Digital and green transformations: Innovation for a sustainable future”.
3. Review of the work of the Team of Specialists on Innovation and Competitiveness Policies since its thirteenth session.
4. Inter-sessional Implementation Plan for 2022-2023.
5. Other business.

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\* All delegates should [register online](#). Delegates attending the meeting remotely will receive a link to the session in the days prior to the meeting. Delegates attending the meeting in person at the Palais des Nations 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 Pregny Gate, Avenue de la Paix 8-14, Geneva 1211, for the issuance of an identification badge. Additional information for delegates, including a map of the premises, is available on the [ECE website](#).



## II. Annotations to the provisional agenda

<i>Title of document</i>	<i>Document symbol</i>	<i>For information/discussion</i>
Agenda	ECE/CECI/ICP/2022/1	Decision
Inter-sessional Implementation Plan for 2022-2023	ECE/CECI/2022/2, Annex II	Information
Progress report on the Innovation for Sustainable Development Reviews of Armenia and Ukraine	ECE/CECI/ICP/2022/INF.1	Discussion
Progress report on the work of the Task Force on Innovation Policy Principles	ECE/CECI/ICP/2022/INF.2	Discussion
Progress report on the UN-ECE Transformative Innovation Network	ECE/CECI/ICP/2022/INF.3	Discussion
Progress report on the interim Innovation Policy Outlook for Eastern Europe and the Caucasus	ECE/CECI/ICP/2022/INF.4	Discussion
Overview of fundraising needs and opportunities	ECE/CECI/ICP/2022/INF.5	Discussion

### 1. Adoption of the agenda and election of officers

*Documentation:* ECE/CECI/ICP/2022/1

1. The meeting will adopt its agenda.
2. The objectives of the fourteenth session are to:
  - (a) Discuss and address topical, substantive issues related to the innovation and competitiveness elements of the programme of work of the Committee on Innovation, Competitiveness and Public-Private Partnerships (CICPPP);
  - (b) Review the outputs and activities carried out since the thirteenth session in 2021 and agree on the Inter-sessional Implementation Plan for work to be carried out until the fifteenth session in 2023.
3. The Team of Specialists on Innovation and Competitiveness Policies (ToS-ICP) will elect officers to its Bureau in accordance with the “Guidelines on Procedures and Practices for ECE Bodies” (E/ECE/1468, Annex III para.V.8. p. 18).

### 2. Substantive segment: International policy dialogue on “Digital and green transformations: Innovation for a sustainable future”

4. The substantive segment will be an international policy dialogue on “Digital and green transformations: Innovation for a sustainable future”, which will provide a platform for international knowledge-sharing and policy-learning in this area. The member States of the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) have designated “Digital and green transformations for sustainable development in the ECE region” as the theme of the high-level segment of the 70<sup>th</sup> session of the Commission (18 and 19 April 2023) and invited relevant subsidiary bodies of ECE to consider how they may contribute, as appropriate, to

this theme within their respective mandates, ongoing work and existing resources.<sup>1</sup> The substantive segment of the ToS-ICP session responds to this invitation.

5. Innovation is essential for a green and digital transformation, and can enable solutions to many overarching sustainable development challenges. Innovation has driven economic growth, beginning with the first Industrial Revolution, by substantially changing the nature of products, services, and markets. For instance, innovations in crop rotation, breeding and seeding technology made agriculture radically more productive and freed up labour and capital, which then contributed to the first Industrial Revolution. Radio, and later television, brought society together in unprecedented ways and changed the political debate. More recently, mobile telephony has put more computing power in the pockets of the world's population than existed in all the computers of the world 60 years ago. Smart phones have replaced as many as 50 physical products, from alarm clocks to calendars, and opened up completely new markets for exchange and services.

6. To accelerate the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals, we need to harness transformative innovation to build a foundation for prosperity and sustainability, and use digital and other technologies to improve the built-up environment, individual mobility, energy generation, industry and agriculture, among others.

7. In some ways, the ECE region has fallen behind the transformation that has taken place in other parts of the world. More than ever, it is time to understand the nature of such transformations better and find ways to enable and catalyse experimentation, including with potentially transformative innovations, while identifying and mitigating the risks and short-term trade-offs.

8. Transformative innovation is needed also in policy governance. Innovation is inherently unpredictable and can be held back by the risks involved in trying out new ideas, as well as by the low appropriability of returns. Innovation policy must engage in a process of discovery itself, engaging with entrepreneurs, identifying and removing barriers, and exploring different kinds of support towards innovation that can catalyse transformations with a high social return.

9. The substantive segment of the fourteenth session will attempt to raise stronger awareness about transformative innovation, its history, its future prospects, and what enables and constrains it. Bringing together academia, policy makers, and national agencies from the region, it will explore the nature of transformative innovation, both broadly and through sector-specific examples. The session will outline the role of innovation governance, discuss learnings from practical experience, and lay out a set of policy implications and an agenda for further research, dialogue, digital resources, and physical and online activities that should be explored in the subsequent work programme under the ToS-ICP and the UN-ECE Transformative Innovation Network<sup>2</sup> (ETIN).

10. These discussions will lay the groundwork for developing good practices and policy recommendations related to the topic of the substantive segment. Following the meeting, a policy paper will be developed as a contribution to the sixteenth session of the CICPPP in spring 2023 and the seventieth session of the Economic Commission for Europe.

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<sup>1</sup> [ECE Executive Committee informal document 2021/32](#)

<sup>2</sup> Developed as a joint initiative between ECE and the German Federal Agency for Disruptive Innovation, the UN-ECE Transformative Innovation Network (ETIN) will bring together innovation agencies, policy makers, government officials, think tanks, researchers, practitioners, experts, and entrepreneurs mandated to support or engaged in transformative innovation in the ECE region. The objective of the network is to analyze, discuss, and cooperate on better understanding trends, challenges and opportunities of transformative innovation for sustainable development, and explore how the government can play a productive and catalytic role in these efforts.

### **3. Review of the work of the Team of Specialists on Innovation and Competitiveness Policies since its thirteenth session**

*Documentation:* ECE/CECI/ICP/2022/INF.1; ECE/CECI/ICP/2022/INF.2; ECE/CECI/ICP/2022/INF.3; ECE/CECI/ICP/2022/INF.4

11. ToS-ICP members will be briefed on the main outcomes and highlights of the work since the thirteenth session, including:

- (a) the policy document on “Leveraging Innovation for the Circular Economy”; submitted to the 2022 session of the CICPPP;
- (b) progress of the work of the Task Force on Innovation Policy Principles;
- (c) the publication of the Innovation for Sustainable Development Reviews (I4SDRs) of the Republic of Moldova and Uzbekistan, and progress on the I4SDRs of Armenia and Ukraine;
- (d) progress on the capacity building programmes for Georgia, the Republic of Moldova and Uzbekistan, based on the recommendations of the I4SDRs of these countries;
- (e) regular policy dialogue meetings of the network of Innovation Policy Outlook (IPO) national focal points and launch of work on the follow-up publication documenting progress and analysing selected policy issues;
- (f) support to the implementation of the Innovation Strategy for Sustainable Development of the United Nations Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia (SPECA), including through:
  - a series of webinars and a forthcoming handbook on “Policies to Support Innovative High-growth Enterprises in the SPECA Sub-region”, under the twelfth tranche UN Development Account (UNDA) project “Strengthening innovation policies for SPECA countries in support of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”;
  - a policy paper on “New Approaches to Innovation Policy in the Transition Economies of the SPECA Sub-region”;
  - initiation of a SPECA Network of Business Incubators and Accelerators for Sustainable Development; and
  - organization of the annual session of the SPECA Working Group on Innovation and Technology for Sustainable Development with the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP).
- (g) contributions to the capacity building workstream of the UN Inter-agency Task Team on Science, Technology and Innovation for Sustainable Development;
- (h) in cooperation with the ECE Trade sub-programme, support for member States, upon request, in developing road maps or action plans for the circular economy transition in selected fields, including innovation-enhancing procurement, under the thirteenth tranche UNDA project “Accelerating the transition towards a Circular Economy in the ECE region”;
- (i) contributions to the Regional Forum for Sustainable Development in 2022;
- (j) the podcast series Innovation Matters; and
- (k) the official launch and initial activities of ETIN.

12. ToS-ICP will be invited to take stock of past activities and to discuss effective means for the dissemination of outputs.

### **4. Inter-sessional Implementation Plan for 2022-2023**

*Documentation:* ECE/CECI/2022/2, Annex II; ECE/CECI/ICP/2022/INF.5

13. The secretariat will inform ToS-ICP of the main outcomes of the fifteenth session of the CICPPP, held in a hybrid format from 25 to 27 May 2022.

*Inter-sessional Implementation Plan for 2022-2023*

14. ToS-ICP will discuss proposals for work to be undertaken in the remainder of 2022 and in 2023 in accordance with the Inter-sessional Implementation Plan for 2022-2023 of the CICPPP (ECE/CECI/2022/2, Annex II).

15. The plans and proposals reflect demand expressed by member States as well as the resources available to the secretariat. Proposals include:

***National Innovation for Sustainable Development Reviews***

16. Work on the I4SDRs of Armenia and Ukraine will continue.

***Innovation Policy Outlook***

17. The regular meetings of the network of IPO national focal points, previously mentioned in paragraph 11(e), will continue to be organized to foster exchange of good practices and build capacity to implement recommendations from the IPO. The follow-up publication will be finalised in 2022 under the guidance of the network.

18. Subject to extrabudgetary funding and interest from beneficiary countries, preparations for a sub-regional IPO for the countries of the Balkans will be started.

***Innovation Policy Principles and Strategy***

19. The Task Force on Innovation Policy Principles will continue its work on draft high-level policy principles on selected aspects of innovation for sustainable development, under the auspices of ToS-ICP. The Task Force will hold periodic meetings to advance its work and will initiate a broad multi-stakeholder dialogue on the draft principles.

***Capacity building***

20. In follow-up to the I4SDR of Moldova, a capacity building programme will be implemented according to needs and priorities identified by the Government.

21. ECE will continue contributing to the capacity building workstream of the UN Inter-agency Task Team on Science, Technology and Innovation for Sustainable Development.

22. Building on the existing work of the CICPPP on innovation for circular economy and innovation-enhancing procurement, and in cooperation with ECE's Trade subprogramme, ECE will support member States on request in developing road maps or action plans for the circular economy transition in selected relevant fields.

23. ToS-ICP will be invited to consider and agree on the Inter-sessional Implementation Plan.

24. ECE is actively looking for extrabudgetary funding to support increased engagement, including in SPECA countries, Eastern Europe and the South Caucasus, and the Western Balkans. The secretariat will present possible activities and resource needs for 2023 (ECE/CECI/ICP/2022/INF.5).

***SPECA***

25. The 2023 session of the SPECA Working Group on Innovation and Technology for Sustainable Development will be organized together with ESCAP. A policy conference will take place back-to-back with the session.

26. Capacity building for SPECA countries will be carried out according to the Action Plan of the SPECA Innovation Strategy for Sustainable Development. Additional activities will take place upon request, with support from the UNDA project mentioned in paragraph 11(f), on the basis of recent handbooks on the following topics: business incubators to promote sustainable development, innovative high-growth enterprises, and new approaches to innovation policy in transition economies.

*UN-ECE Transformative Innovation Network (ETIN)*

27. Following its official launch in September 2022, ETIN will develop policy options and build capacity of the ECE member States to strengthen innovation ecosystems that can harness transformative innovation and digital technologies for sustainable development. The secretariat will present activities envisaged during the period of the Inter-sessional Implementation Plan.

*Contributions to other ECE workstreams*

28. In order to raise awareness of its work among a broader audience and to strengthen beneficial synergies with other parts of the organisation, ToS-ICP and its secretariat will contribute, as appropriate, to ECE events such as the 2023 Regional Forum on Sustainable Development for the ECE Region (expected to take place in March 2023), the seventieth session of ECE and the sixteenth session of CICPPP.

**5. Other business**

29. The secretariat will prepare a draft report of the session and distribute it to the Geneva Permanent Missions for subsequent approval by silence procedure in accordance with paragraph 21 of Appendix III of document E/ECE/1464 (Guidelines on procedures and practices for ECE bodies). Once the draft report is adopted, it will be published in English, French and Russian.

30. ToS-ICP will decide on the date for its fifteenth session. The secretariat proposes 8 and 9 November 2023.

## Annex

### Provisional timetable

<i>Time</i>	<i>Agenda Item</i>
<b>Monday, 14 November 2022</b>	
10:00 – 10:20	Item 1. Adoption of the agenda and election of officers
10:20 – 12:00	Item 2. Substantive segment: International policy dialogue on “Digital and green transformations: Innovation for a sustainable future”
15:00 – 17:00	Item 2. Substantive segment (continued): International policy dialogue on “Digital and green transformations: Innovation for a sustainable future”
<b>Tuesday, 15 November 2022</b>	
10:00 – 11:00	Item 2. Substantive segment (continued): International policy dialogue on “Digital and green transformations: Innovation for a sustainable future”
11:00 – 12:00	Item 3. Review of the work of the Team of Specialists on Innovation and Competitiveness Policies since its thirteenth session
15:00 - 16:00	Item 3. Review of the work of the Team of Specialists on Innovation and Competitiveness Policies since the thirteenth session (continued)
16:00 – 16:50	Item 4. Inter-sessional Implementation Plan for 2022-2023
16:50 – 17:00	Item 5. Other business