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Economic Commission for Europe

Committee on Innovation, Competitiveness and Public-Private Partnerships

Working Party on Public-Private Partnerships

Sixth session

Geneva, 1-2 December 2022

Item 1 of the provisional agenda

Adoption of the agenda

Annotated provisional agenda¹ for the sixth session

To be held in hybrid mode at the Palais des Nations, Geneva, starting at 10 a.m. on 1 December 2022.²

I. Provisional agenda

1. Adoption of the agenda.
2. Election of observers to the Bureau.
3. Policy discussion: Accelerating achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals in the Economic Commission for Europe's region through Public-Private Partnerships.
4. Review of the work since the fifth session of the Working Party on Public-Private Partnerships on 29-30 November 2021.
5. Implementation plan for 2022-2023.
6. Other business.

¹Delegates attending meetings at the Palais des Nations should register online and complete an electronic registration form available at <https://www.unece.org/ppp/wpppp6.html>. 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 Pregny Gate, Avenue de la Paix 8-14, for the issuance of an identification badge. Additional information for delegates is available on the ECE website at <https://unece.org/practical-information-delegates>.

²Two 2-hour hybrid sessions will be organised from 10:00 to 12:00 and 15:00 to 17:00 on 1 December, and two 3-hour hybrid sessions will be organised from 10:00 to 13:00 and 15:00 to 18:00 on 2 December 2022. Restrictions to in-person participation might apply and delegates have the option to join the sessions online.



7. Adoption of the report of the sixth session.

II. Annotations to the provisional agenda

Item 1. Adoption of the agenda

<i>Title of document</i>	<i>Document symbol</i>	<i>For information/decision</i>
Annotated provisional agenda	ECE/CECI/WP/PPP/2022/1	Decision

1. The Working Party will adopt the agenda of its sixth session.

Item 2. Election of observers to the Bureau

2. The Working Party elected its Bureau at its last session in 2021 for a term of two years. In line with its Rules of Procedure (ECE/CECI/WP/PPP/2021/5/Rev.1), the Working Party may elect observers to the Bureau from three interest groups – private sector, academia, and civil society – for a term of office of two years.

Item 3. Policy discussion: Accelerating achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals in the Economic Commission for Europe’s region through Public-Private Partnerships

3. Under this agenda item, member States will have the opportunity to discuss how the ECE approach to Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs) for the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) can be used to accelerate the achievement of the SDGs in the ECE region. Furthermore, the policy discussion will showcase how PPPs for the SDGs can accelerate the delivery of quality and sustainable infrastructure projects, especially for sustainable economic recovery and reconstruction, and how PPPs for the SDGs can contribute to the circular economy transition, the cross-cutting theme for the 69th Commission session.

4. The policy discussion will also contribute to the cross-cutting theme for the high-level segment of the 70th session of the Economic Commission for Europe in April 2023 devoted to “Digital and green transformations for sustainable development in the ECE region”.

5. The agenda item will be structured in separate policy sessions and a high-level debate as follows:

A. High-level debate: The role of PPPs for the SDGs to accelerate sustainable development

6. At the current pace of progress, the ECE region will only achieve 25 per cent of the SDG targets by 2030³ and as we approach the halfway mark of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, urgent action is needed to accelerate sustainable development. Furthermore, the COVID-19 pandemic and the war in Ukraine have global and systemic impacts and the outlook for the world economy is rapidly worsening. The high-level debate will discuss how the PPP approach for the SDGs can boost SDG investment and accelerate

³ ECE (2022). “Halfway to 2030: How Many Targets Will Be Achieved in the UNECE Region?”. <https://w3.unece.org/sdg2022/index.html>

the development of sustainable infrastructure – green, resilient, circular and of high quality – for economic recovery and reconstruction in the ECE region.

B. Session 1: Sustainable economic recovery and reconstruction: How can PPPs for the SDGs accelerate the delivery of sustainable infrastructure projects?

7. The session will explore opportunities and challenges streamlining and accelerating the delivery of PPPs for the SDGs in the reconstruction phase in post-pandemic, post-disaster and post-war contexts. The session will discuss solutions to seek a fast-track PPP process while implementing the ECE Guiding Principles on PPPs for the SDGs and meeting the PPP for the SDGs outcomes. This includes through the replicability of similar projects, special procedures and legislation, the procurement of projects in batches, and the establishment of special funds with due regard to environmental and other considerations (such as gender and stakeholder engagement).

C. Session 2: Digital transformation: How can the PPP lifecycle be improved to deliver PPP projects in support of the SDGs?

8. The session will discuss how the adoption of digital solutions and technologies can enhance the delivery, performance and sustainability of PPP projects in support of the SDGs. In particular the session will explore opportunities to improve each stage of the PPP lifecycle with the use of data, information technology, and other digital approaches. Furthermore, the session will explore how PPPs for the SDGs can help achieving the digital transformation of countries and cities by promoting the development of digital infrastructure ecosystems.⁴

9. The detailed programme of the policy discussion will be developed in consultation with the Bureau and will be made available to participants on the ECE's website.

Item 4. Review of the work since the fifth session of the Working Party on Public-Private Partnerships on 29-30 November 2021

<i>Title of document</i>	<i>Document symbol</i>	<i>For information/ decision</i>
Guidelines on Public-Private Partnerships for the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals in Waste-to-Energy projects for Non-Recyclable Waste: Pathways towards the Circular Economy	ECE/CECI/WP/PPP/2022/3	Decision
Guidelines on promoting Circular Economy in Public-Private Partnerships for the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals	ECE/CECI/WP/PPP/2022/4	Decision
Standard on Private-Public Partnerships/Concession Model Law	ECE/CECI/WP/PPP/2022/5	Decision
Introduction to Public-Private Partnerships for the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals	ECE/CECI/WP/PPP/2022/6	Information
Guiding Principles on Public-Private Partnerships for the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals	ECE/CECI/WP/PPP/2022/7	Information

⁴ The work on digital transformation will benefit from cooperation with multilateral platforms for sustainable infrastructure (including SOURCE) in line with the Programme of Work of the Economic Cooperation and Integration subprogramme for 2023 (ECE/CECI/2022/5).

<i>Title of document</i>	<i>Document symbol</i>	<i>For information/ decision</i>
Annual summary report of Bureau decisions since the fifth session of the Working Party on Public-Private Partnerships on 29-30 November 2021	ECE/CECI/WP/PPP/2022/INF.1	Information

10. The Working Party will review the PPP work since its last session in November 2021 on:

- (a) Policy documents: International PPP Standards, Guidelines, Guiding Principles, Declarations, and Recommendations; and
- (b) Implementation: capacity-building activities and policy advisory services.

A. Policy documents: International PPP Standards, Guidelines, Guiding Principles, Declarations, and Recommendations

11. The following documents are being presented for consideration and endorsement of the Working Party:

- (a) Guidelines on Public-Private Partnerships for the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals in Waste-to-Energy Projects for Non-Recyclable Waste: Pathways towards a Circular Economy (ECE/CECI/WP/PPP/2022/3);
- (b) Guidelines on promoting Circular Economy in Public-Private Partnerships for the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (ECE/CECI/WP/PPP/2022/4); and
- (c) Standard on Private-Public Partnerships/Concession Model Law (ECE/CECI/WP/PPP/2022/5).⁵

12. The following documents are submitted for information to the Working Party in line with the decision (Decision2022 – 4b.2)⁶ of the Committee on Innovation, Competitiveness and Public-Private Partnerships (the Committee) at its fifteenth session in May 2022 to change the name to “PPPs for the SDGs” and to progressively reissue a number of documents to reflect this change:

⁵ The Committee on Innovation, Competitiveness and Public-Private Partnerships (the Committee), in its Decision 2022 – 4b.4, requested the Working Party to “discuss and decide by December 2022 on proposals for a possible change of the name of the “model law” should this better clarify the purpose of this document”.

⁶ The Committee Decision 2022 – 4b.2 - Regarding the continued use of the name “People-first PPPs for the SDGs”, the Committee took note of the results of the informal consultations conducted with interested delegations on this matter since the fifth session of the Working Party in November 2021, and decided to (a) change the name to “PPPs for the SDGs” and (b) progressively reissue the documents endorsed and adopted by the Committee and the Working Party on PPPs to reflect (a) above within the document quota allocated to the ECI subprogramme and without incurring additional costs. The Committee requested the secretariat to reissue three core documents within twelve months, and the rest of the documents within three years. The Committee requested the Bureau of the Working Party on PPPs to decide on which non-core documents should be prioritised during this period.

Note: the three core documents referred above are: the Guiding Principles on People-first PPPs for the SDGs (ECE/CECI/2019/5); an Introduction to People-first PPPs in support of the UN SDGs (ECE/CECI/2019/6); and the People-first PPP Evaluation Methodology for the SDGs (ECE/CECI/WP/PPP/2021/3). While the first two were reissued for the present session, the latter will be reissued in 2023 to reflect the decision by the Working Party on the name of the evaluation methodology.

(a) An Introduction to Public-Private Partnerships for the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (ECE/CECI/WP/PPP/2022/6); and

(b) The Guiding Principles on Public-Private Partnerships for the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (ECE/CECI/WP/PPP/2022/7).

13. At its fifteenth session in May 2022, the Committee approved the PPP Evaluation Methodology for the SDGs (ECE/CECI/WP/PPP/2021/3) and recommended its voluntary implementation by member States in its self-assessment form. It also requested that the Evaluation Methodology be reissued within twelve months to reflect the change of name to “PPPs for the SDGs” within the document quota allocated to the Economic Cooperation and Integration subprogramme and without incurring additional costs (see Decision 2022 – 4b.2 in footnote number 6 above). The document will be reissued for the next Committee session in 2023. In the meantime, in line with the Action Plan agreed by the Working Party at its fourth session in 2020 (ECE/CECI/WP/PPP/2020/2, Annex II), in particular the need to make the title of the methodology more attractive to facilitate its marketing, and the Working Party Decision 2021 – 3.1, the Bureau proposes the following name for consideration by the Working Party:

“UNECE PPP and Infrastructure Evaluation and Rating System (PIERS):
An Evaluation Methodology for the SDGs”.

14. In line with Rule 16 of the Rules of Procedure (ECE/CECI/WP/PPP/2021/5/Rev.1), an annual summary report of the Bureau decisions (ECE/CECI/WP/PPP/2022/INF.1) will be submitted to and presented at the Working Party for information.

B. Implementation: capacity-building activities and policy advisory services

15. The Working Party will review the capacity-building activities and the policy advisory services undertaken since the last session.

16. The members of the Working Party will have the opportunity to take stock of past PPP activities and discuss effective means for the promotion and dissemination of this work.

Item 5. Implementation plan for 2022-2023

<i>Title of document</i>	<i>Document symbol</i>	<i>For information/decision</i>
Report of the Working Party on Public-Private Partnerships on its fifth session	ECE/CECI/WP/PPP/2021/2	Information
Intersessional Implementation Plan for 2022-2023	ECE/CECI/2022/2, Annex II	Information
Focus of future work of the Working Party in support of Public-Private Partnerships for the Sustainable Development Goals	ECE/CECI/WP/PPP/2022/INF.2	Decision

17. The Working Party will discuss proposals for work to be undertaken in the remainder of 2022 and in 2023 in accordance with the Intersessional Implementation Plan for 2022-2023 approved by the Committee (ECE/CECI/2022/2, Annex II) in May 2022. A document with proposals for new standards, guidelines and policy recommendations aligned with the

Committee's Intersessional Implementation Plan for 2022-2023⁷ will be presented for consideration (ECE/CECI/WP/PPP/2022/INF.2). Proposals for standards and guidelines are subject to interest by experts participating in drafting and peer review teams and the availability of resources.

18. The Working Party will also discuss and decide, as appropriate, on proposals from member States.

19. Participants are encouraged to communicate to the meeting any expressions of interest by member States or other stakeholders for receiving, delivering, or hosting capacity-building activities in the priority areas of the Working Party's work. Requests from member States for capacity-building activities and policy advisory services will be considered based on available capacity and resources.

20. Participants are also encouraged to bring to the attention of the session any expression of interest by member States and other stakeholders to provide extrabudgetary support towards the ECE PPP work in support of the SDGs (such as funding or in-kind contributions, including the organization of seminars and networking initiatives).

Item 6. Other business

Dates of the next session

21. The secretariat proposes that the seventh session of the Working Party takes place in Geneva in the last quarter of 2023, subject to conference room availability at the Palais des Nations. The Working Party will decide on the dates of the next session.

Item 7. Adoption of the report of the sixth session

22. The Working Party will adopt the report of its sixth session.

III. Tentative timetable

<i>Time</i>	<i>Agenda Item</i>
Thursday, 1 December 2022	
10:00-12:00	Item 1. Adoption of the agenda Item 2: Election of observers to the Bureau Item 3. Policy discussion: Accelerating achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals in the ECE region through Public-Private Partnerships
12:00-15:00	Lunch break

⁷ In particular, paragraph 15: "The focus of the work on PPPs is supporting ECE member States' use of PPPs to address a range of issues in the context of relevant cross-cutting Commission themes, sustainable economic recovery and reconstruction, corruption in PPPs, pandemic preparedness and response, food security, women's empowerment, and accelerating achievement of the SDGs in the ECE region. The ECE Guiding Principles on PPPs for the SDGs provide the normative basis for the work on PPPs."

<i>Time</i>	<i>Agenda Item</i>
15:00-17:00	Item 3. Policy discussion: Accelerating achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals in the ECE region through Public-Private Partnerships (cont'd)
 Friday, 2 December 2022	
10:00-13:00	Item 4. Review of the work since the fifth session of the Working Party on Public-Private Partnerships on 29-30 November 2021
	Item 5: Implementation plan for 2022-2023
13:00-15:00	Lunch break
15:00-18:00	Item 6. Other business
	Item 7. Adoption of the report of the sixth session
