



# Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General  
22 August 2024

Original: English

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## Economic Commission for Europe

### Committee on Innovation, Competitiveness and Public-Private Partnerships

#### Working Party on Public-Private Partnerships

##### **Eighth session**

Geneva, 25 – 26 November 2024

Item 1 of the provisional agenda

##### **Adoption of the agenda**

### **Annotated provisional agenda for the eighth session**

To be held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva, starting at 10 a.m. on 25 November 2024.\*

#### **I. Provisional agenda**

1. Adoption of the agenda.
2. Election of observers to the Bureau.
3. Policy discussion: Climate action and SDG acceleration through sustainable Public-Private Partnerships and resilient infrastructure.
4. Review of the work since the seventh session of the Working Party on Public-Private Partnerships on 30 November – 1 December 2023.
5. Implementation plan for 2024-2025.
6. Other business.
7. Modalities for the adoption of the report of the eighth session.

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\* Delegates attending meetings at the Palais des Nations should register online and complete an electronic registration form available at <https://www.unece.org/ppp/wpppp8.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 at: <https://www.ungeneva.org/en/about/practical-information>.



## 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/2024/1	Decision

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

### Item 2. Election of observers to the Bureau

2. The Working Party elected its Bureau members at its last session in 2023 for a term of two years until 2025. In addition, at its sixth session in 2022, the Working Party elected observers from three interest groups – private sector, academia, and civil society – for a term of office of two years until 2024. The Working Party will be invited to elect/re-elect observers to the Bureau for a term of office of two years.

### Item 3. Policy discussion: Climate action and SDG acceleration through sustainable Public-Private Partnerships and resilient infrastructure

3. Under this agenda item, member States will have the opportunity to explore how Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs) for the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) can contribute to climate action and SDG implementation. More concretely, the policy discussion will explore best practices and strategies for integrating climate resilience, and fiscal and financial sustainability in PPP and infrastructure projects, while leveraging new technologies to reduce project preparation time and lower transaction costs.

4. The policy discussion will also contribute to the cross-cutting themes of the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE): the theme of the 70<sup>th</sup> session (April 2023) on “Digital and green transformations for sustainable development in the ECE region”, and the theme of the 71<sup>st</sup> session (April 2025), devoted to “Climate action and resilient infrastructure for a sustainable future”.

5. The agenda item will be structured in separate policy sessions as follows:

#### A. Session 1: The contribution of resilient Public-Private Partnerships and infrastructure to climate action for a sustainable future

6. Urgent action is necessary to combat climate change and its far-reaching impacts affecting ecosystems, economies, and societies. The session will explore how PPPs can contribute to climate action and can play a pivotal role in achieving the SDGs by integrating climate adaptation and resilience practices into existing and new infrastructure projects.

#### B. Session 2: Ensuring the financial sustainability of Public-Private Partnerships for the Sustainable Development Goals

7. Ensuring the financial sustainability of PPPs is crucial for advancing the SDGs. By incorporating financial sustainability practices, PPPs for the SDGs can achieve long-term fiscal sustainability while ensuring that tariffs remain affordable throughout the whole lifecycle. The session will underline the importance of ensuring financial sustainability in PPP and infrastructure projects in support of the SDGs.

### C. Session 3: Leveraging new technologies in Public-Private Partnerships and resilient infrastructure for the Sustainable Development Goals

8. New technologies can be leveraged to accelerate and improve the development and implementation of PPPs for the SDGs. The session will explore how new digital and artificial intelligence technologies can streamline and transform the entire PPP project cycle, from planning to procurement and delivery.

9. These sessions might be supplemented by others covering PPP topics within the Working Party's mandate, such as green procurement and small-scale projects, as well as those within the mandate of the Committee on Innovation, Competitiveness and Public-Private Partnerships, such as the potential role of transformative innovation in PPP and infrastructure finance. 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 website.<sup>1</sup>

### Item 4. Review of the work since the seventh session of the Working Party on Public-Private Partnerships on 30 November – 1 December 2023

<i>Title of document</i>	<i>Document symbol</i>	<i>For information/decision</i>
Guidelines on Improving the delivery of PPPs through digital transformation throughout the project lifecycle in support of the SDGs	ECE/CECI/WP/PPP/2024/3	Decision
Guidelines on PPPs in digital infrastructure: diagnostics in healthcare (telemedicine) and other digital public services	ECE/CECI/WP/PPP/2024/4	Decision
Guidelines on green and sustainable PPP procurement for the SDGs	ECE/CECI/WP/PPP/2024/5	Decision
Guidelines on the state of PPP and infrastructure finance midway to 2030	ECE/CECI/WP/PPP/2024/6	Decision
Guidelines on planning, structuring and managing small-scale PPPs in support of the SDGs	ECE/CECI/WP/PPP/2024/7	Decision
Annual summary report of Bureau decisions since the seventh session of the Working Party on Public-Private Partnerships on 30 November – 1 December 2023	ECE/CECI/WP/PPP/2024/IN F.1	Information

<sup>1</sup> The programme will be available at: <https://unece.org/ppp/wpppp8>

10. The Working Party will review the PPP work since its last session on 30 November-1 December 2023 on:

- (a) Policy documents: International PPP standards, guidelines, guiding principles, declarations, training material, and recommendations; and
- (b) Implementation: Capacity-building activities and policy advisory services.

**A. Policy documents: International Public-Private Partnerships’ standards, guidelines, guiding principles, declarations, training material, and recommendations**

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

- (a) Guidelines on Improving the delivery of PPPs through digital transformation throughout the project lifecycle in support of the SDGs (ECE/CECI/WP/PPP/2024/3);
- (b) Guidelines on PPPs in digital infrastructure: diagnostics in healthcare (telemedicine) and other digital public services (ECE/CECI/WP/PPP/2024/4);
- (c) Guidelines on green and sustainable PPP procurement for the SDGs (ECE/CECI/WP/PPP/2024/5);
- (d) Guidelines on the state of PPP and infrastructure finance midway to 2030 (ECE/CECI/WP/PPP/2024/6); and
- (e) Guidelines on planning, structuring and managing small-scale PPPs in support of the SDGs (ECE/CECI/WP/PPP/2024/7).

12. In response to the Working Party’s decision 2023 – 3.6, drafting teams developing the above-mentioned documents paid particular attention to the rights of vulnerable people by adopting, where possible, a human-rights based approach to PPPs and infrastructure.

13. The Working Party will receive a progress report on the draft PPP standards and best practice guides at various stages of preparation and on the use of existing PPP standards, tools and best practice guides.

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/2024/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 impact of capacity-building activities and the policy advisory services undertaken since the last session, also in view of the UN global liquidity crisis.

16. The Working Party will also have the opportunity to take stock of past PPP activities, discuss effective means for the promotion and dissemination of this work, and review the evaluations related to the ECE PPP work undertaken by the UN Office of Internal Oversight Services (OIOS) in 2022 and an independent evaluator in 2023.

## Item 5. Implementation plan for 2024-2025

<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 seventh session	ECE/CECI/WP/PPP/2023/2	Information
Intersessional Implementation Plan for 2024-2025	ECE/CECI/2024/2	Information
Proposals for future work on PPP policy documents	ECE/CECI/WP/PPP/2024/INF.2	Decision

17. The Working Party will discuss proposals for work to be undertaken in the remainder of 2024 and in 2025 in accordance with the Intersessional Implementation Plan for 2024-2025 approved by the Committee on Innovation, Competitiveness and Public-Private Partnerships (ECE/CECI/2024/2).<sup>2</sup>

18. The Working Party will decide on the venue of the 9<sup>th</sup> edition of the UNECE International PPP Forum to be held in May 2025.<sup>3</sup>

19. Building on the document on future work prepared and presented by the Bureau at the last session (ECE/CECI/WP/PPP/2023/INF.2), the Working Party will have the opportunity to hear proposals to launch work in 2025 on new standards, guidelines and policy recommendations to be developed where the Working Party has a mandate.<sup>4</sup> New proposals are subject to interest by experts participating in drafting teams and the availability of resources.

20. The Working Party will also discuss and decide, as appropriate, on proposals from delegations.

21. 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.

22. 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). The secretariat will brief

<sup>2</sup> In particular, paragraph 14: "The focus of the work on Public-Private Partnerships (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".

<sup>3</sup> The Committee on Innovation Competitiveness and Public-Private Partnerships recognised the growing importance of the UNECE International PPP Forum, decided to hold the 9<sup>th</sup> edition of the Forum in May 2025 and requested the Working Party to decide on its venue in consultation with the Bureaux and with the facilitation of the secretariat (Decision 2024 – 4.3, ECE/CECI/2024/2).

<sup>4</sup> The list of approved topics for PPP standards and practical guides is contained in document ECE/CECI/WP/PPP/2023/2, Annex II.

the Working Party on requests received for capacity building and policy advisory services, and the efforts underway to raise additional extrabudgetary resources to meet these requests.

## **Item 6. Other business**

### **Dates of the next session**

23. The secretariat proposes that the ninth session of the Working Party takes place in Geneva in the last quarter of 2025, subject to conference room availability at the Palais des Nations. The Working Party will decide on the dates of the next session.

## **Item 7. Modalities for the adoption of the report of the eighth session**

24. After the conclusion of the session, the secretariat will prepare a draft report and distribute it to the Permanent Representatives in Geneva and the Bureau for subsequent approval by silence procedure in accordance with Rule 21 of the Rules of Procedure (ECE/CECI/WP/PPP/2021/5/Rev.1).

## **III. Tentative timetable**

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<i>Time</i>	<i>Agenda Item</i>
<b>Monday, 25 November 2024</b>	
10:00-13:00	Item 1. Adoption of the agenda Item 2. Election of observers to the Bureau Item 3. Policy discussion: Climate action and SDG acceleration through sustainable Public-Private Partnerships and resilient infrastructure
13:00-15:00	Lunch break
15:00-18:00	Item 3. Policy discussion (cont'd)
<b>Tuesday, 26 November 2024</b>	
13:00-15:00	Lunch break
15:00-18:00	Item 5. Implementation plan for 2024-2025 Item 6. Other business Item 7. Modalities for the adoption of the report of the eighth session

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