



External evaluation of the project “Development and implementation of PPP international standards in support of the Sustainable Development Goals” (May 2019)

Final Progress report as at 31 December 2019

#	Recommendation	Management response	Responsibility	Date of implementation/comments
1	UNECE should continue to contribute on refining universal standards in People-first PPPs.	UNECE accepts this recommendation. The UNECE has a mandate to develop international standards on People-first PPPs. The next batch of standards on urban rail, water and sanitation, a model PPP/concession law, and the impact assessment tool are expected to be presented to the Working Party on PPPs at its next session in December 2019.	Cooperation and Partnerships Section	This recommendation was implemented in December 2019. The standards and the model PPP law were presented to the Working Party on PPPs at its third session on 3-4 December 2019.
2	Team leaders and consultants coming from the private sector should be remunerated, so UNECE could leverage on quality and timing.	UNECE partially agrees with this recommendation. This course of action needs to be discussed and agreed by the UNECE intergovernmental process and extra budgetary funding needs to be raised for this purpose. The recommendation will be submitted to the Bureau of the Working Party on PPPs for its consideration at its next meeting in the Autumn on 2019.	Cooperation and Partnerships Section	Closed in September 2019. The Bureau of the Working Party on PPPs did not agree to the principle that Team Leaders developing the standards should be remunerated by UNECE.

3	<p>UNECE should perform an internal assessment of the projects implemented within the Economic Cooperation and Trade Division, in order to establish the suitable number and size of projects managed in parallel by the staff.</p>	<p>UNECE partially agrees with this recommendation. The number and size of projects depend on extra budgetary resources raised by the secretariat and approved by the member States. On his part, the Chief of the Cooperation and Partnerships Section will ensure that the work load pertaining to the implementation of projects within the Section is adequately distributed among staff on the basis of seniority and experience.</p>	<p>Cooperation and Partnerships Section</p>	<p>This recommendation was implemented in June 2019. The work load pertaining to the implementation of projects within the Cooperation and Partnerships Section is adequately distributed among staff on the basis of seniority and experience. This is reflected in the staff performance work plans for 2019-2020.</p>
4a	<p>Gender relevant considerations should be systematically considered by UNECE in designing, implementing and reporting of similar projects.</p>	<p>UNECE accepts this recommendation. A gender component is mandatory for every project presented to the Executive Committee since 2018.</p>	<p>Cooperation and Partnerships Section</p>	<p>Closed in December 2019.</p> <p>The Cooperation and Partnerships Section will include a gender component in all future projects.</p>
4b	<p>Future similar projects (related especially to People-first PPPs) should take into consideration (both in the design stage, as well as during implementation) new findings related to the impact of development programmes related to extreme poverty and human rights.</p>	<p>UNECE accepts this recommendation. The People-first approach advocated by UNECE is envisaged to help eradicating poverty through better sustainable infrastructure projects and improved public services in full respect of fundamental human rights. To implement this recommendation is ongoing work starting from projects prepared in 2019.</p>	<p>Cooperation and Partnerships Section</p>	<p>Closed in December 2019.</p> <p>All future projects will include the People-first PPP elements on improved public services in full respect of fundamental human rights. The Working Party on PPPs at its third session on 3-4 December 2019, has given a strong signal that the focus of the UNECE PPP work should be on the implementation of the People-first PPP approach.</p>
5	<p>Similar projects should consider, in the design stage, an analysis of the effects at outcome (and impact level, if justified).</p>	<p>UNECE accepts this recommendation. To implement this recommendation is ongoing work starting from projects prepared in 2019.</p>	<p>Cooperation and Partnerships Section</p>	<p>Closed in December 2019.</p> <p>The secretariat would ensure that similar future projects would consider, in the design stage, an analysis of the effects and outcome.</p>