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COOPERATION AND COORDINATION WITH OTHER ORGANIZATIONS

Note by the Executive Secretary

Summary

The present note is intended to provide UNECE member countries with an overview of the cooperation that exists between UNECE and other organizations active in the region. The report is organized by sub-programme and is supplemented by an addendum which provides, in more detailed tabular form, information concerning the division of labour and the mechanisms for cooperation.

INTRODUCTION

1. The Plan of Action, adopted by UNECE member countries at its fifty-second session in April 1997, outlined the principles governing the orientations and changes in the UNECE programme of work. These included the need “to strengthen cooperation with other international organizations active in the region, in particular regional institutions and sub-regional groupings.” As also indicated in the Plan, “this cooperation has to build upon complementarities in terms of membership, mandate, issues and approaches to issues, and also to avoid duplication, taking into account the proven advantages of the organizations concerned.”
2. Coordination and cooperation have also been emphasized by the Economic and Social Council. In its resolution 1998/46, it called upon the regional commissions to intensify their cooperation and exchange of information with relevant regional bodies, institutions and networks. The same resolution addressed cooperation within the United Nations system and called upon the Commissions to hold yearly meetings among the relevant entities of the United Nations system engaged in regional or intercountry activities. The idea behind such meetings

was to improve the coordination among the work programmes of the organizations of the United Nations system active in the region.

3. Most recently, in his report “Strengthening of the United Nations: an agenda for further change” (A/57/387), the Secretary-General reiterates that despite the fact that significant progress has been achieved in improving coordination since his 1997 reforms, more coordination within the Organization is needed. He goes on to say that the regional commissions will work “to strengthen coherence of United Nations action at the regional level” and “will also pursue greater cooperation and coordination with regional organizations outside of the United Nations system.”

4. The reasons for such cooperation and coordination are obvious. It has become even more important with the increase in the number of organizations active in the same fields. Moreover, in general, many organizations have undergone downsizing in recent years. Scarce resources have also been an incentive for organizations to review their activities and focus on their comparative strengths and to avoid duplication.

5. The need for cooperation also arises in the wake of an increasing number of multidimensional global mandates that call for the response of numerous partners in meeting the objectives contained therein. While the involvement of all relevant partners is essential, at the same time, renewed efforts are necessary to build synergies, clearly define the division of labour and avoid duplication. Existing and new partnerships should be based on shared strategic thinking, emerging from a shared assessment of issues.

COOPERATION BY SUBPROGRAMME

Subprogramme 1: Environment

6. The most important forum for coordination and cooperation in the environment sector is the ‘Environment for Europe’ Ministerial process. The preparations for and the implementation of the decisions of these ministerial conferences include all major actors in the environmental field in the region: United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), European Commission (EC), Council of Europe, Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), World Health Organization Regional Office for Europe (WHO/EURO), Regional Environmental Centre (REC) plus financing institutions like the World Bank and European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD). The business community, trade unions, local authorities, civil society organizations and other interested stakeholders are also involved. UNECE functions as the coordinating secretariat for them in close cooperation with the host country.

7. The Committee on Environmental Policy is the permanent intergovernmental body for drafting, adopting and implementing environmental policies, capacity building activities and implementation tools in the region. Most of the above mentioned partners participate actively in the CEP sessions, which provides one more forum for coordination of activities. The Committee on Environmental Policy and the Committee on Inland Transport have also cooperated closely with WHO/EURO for the elaboration of the Transport, Health and Environment Pan European

Programme and the establishment of the Steering Committee to promote and facilitate the implementation of the programme.

8. Regarding normative work, there is a good complementarity between the work of the UNECE and that of the Council of Europe. The Council of Europe deals with the nature dimension of the environment while UNECE addresses other environmental problems. The Aarhus Convention, negotiated within the UNECE, has been promoted by the Council of Europe. For example, the Council of Europe cooperated with the UNECE in organizing a joint side-event at the World Summit on Sustainable Development whose theme was “Participatory democracy and good governance: fundamental tools for a human rights approach to sustainable development”. In addition, the Head of the Council of Europe delegation also intervened as a keynote speaker for the UNECE region during the formal session of the Summit devoted to regional cooperation which was jointly organized by the five regional commissions.
9. Under the Environmental Performance Review Programme, which reviews progress in environmental performance in countries in transition, UNECE is cooperating closely with the UNDP offices in the reviewed countries and has attracted financial and logistic support from these offices. The European Commission has provided financial support and UNEP support in kind through experts participating in review missions. In addition, the programme cooperates on a continuing basis with OECD on methodological issues in the EPR work.
10. The five UNECE environmental conventions have wide networks of cooperation with relevant partners in their areas of work. In addition to the key partners mentioned, scientific institutions play an important role in under-pinning the work under, in particular, the Air and Water Conventions with crucial scientific findings, which usually guide negotiations and implementation of legal instruments.

Sub-programme 2: Transport

11. The underlying basis of the transport sub-programme is to develop a uniform infrastructure and regulatory framework for the development of efficient, safe and sustainable inland transport in the UNECE region. This framework has been widely recognized as a major, indispensable requirement for the achievement of the objectives of UNECE Governments in this area. In addressing the question of coordination with other international organizations, two have to be singled out which are the only inter-governmental partners of UNECE dealing with all inland transport modes: the European Commission (EC) and the European Conference of Ministers of Transport (ECMT). There are numerous other international bodies which cooperate with UNECE in transport, some of which are referred to in the addendum such as the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the World Health Organization (WHO), the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), the International Maritime Organization (IMO), the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL), the International Institute for the Unification of Private Law (UNIDROIT), the Intergovernmental Organization for International Carriage by Rail (OTIF), the Organization for the Cooperation of Railways (OSZhd), the Danube Commission (DC), the Central Commission for the Navigation on the Rhine (CCNR), the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC),

Institute for Intergovernmental Research (IIR), the International Union of Railways (UIC), and the Transfigoroute International.

12. In view of their outstanding importance for intergovernmental cooperation in transport, both the EC and the ECMT are presented below in more detail as to the division of labour between them on the one hand and UNECE on the other. Moreover, additional information is provided regarding joint activities, the mechanisms for coordination, areas of duplication, etc.

13. The EC has a mandate to undertake regulatory work on a wide range of transport issues, including many dealt with by UNECE. The division of labour between the EC and the UNECE has followed a pragmatic rather than a formal pre-planned approach. At their origin, most of the EC transport related Directives were based on the relevant UNECE transport legal instruments. This is true also today in a number of areas such as Vehicle Regulations and Regulations on the Transport of Dangerous Goods. In a number of areas of strategic, political, technological or financial importance for the EU (e.g., transport infrastructure development, the introduction of the digital tachograph in road transport) the EC provides the basis for the amendment of the relevant UNECE legal instruments, methodologies or other activities with a view to their extension to UNECE non-EU countries.

14. The UNECE/EC cooperation is also realized through joint activities. For example, the UNECE cooperated with the EC and the European Parliament in the organization and substantive preparation of the three Pan-European Transport Conferences held so far in Prague in 1991, in Crete in 1994 and in Helsinki in 1997. An EC-UNECE Workshop on transport legislation aimed at countries with economies in transition was also jointly organized in London in 1999. In 2001, EC and UNECE participated, together with other interested organizations, in the substantive preparation of a Pan-European Conference on Inland Water Transport.

15. There is active participation of EC officials in most UNECE transport meetings. UNECE participates in some EC meetings, particularly those related to the development of Pan-European Transport Corridors and Areas. In other EC meetings, UNECE participation is not possible. There are frequent contacts between the EC and the UNECE.

16. While there are no problems regarding duplication of activities, it sometimes happens that, as the EC is legally increasingly representing its Member States, the adoption of formal EU procedures sometimes delays decision-making in UNECE, e.g. Vehicle Regulations.

17. Bearing in mind the comparative advantages of UNECE, the secretariat believes that there could be a greater role for UNECE in the technical monitoring of the development of Pan-European Transport Corridors and Areas with support from EC, particularly in non-accession countries. In addition, it would be advisable to start joint EC-UNECE-ESCAP work on the development of Euro-Asian Transport links. Joint Workshops on transport legislation for CIS countries could also be organized.

18. In general there has been a traditional broad division of labour, repeatedly advocated by Governments in both fora, according to which ECMT should focus on transport policy discussions while the UNECE ITC should focus on transport policy implementation through the

development of the necessary common technical and legal framework for the sound development of transport at pan-European level.

19. There is active participation in each other's meetings, regular contacts with ECMT staff and exchange of meeting documents between the two secretariats. Since 1997 a report on UNECE transport activities is submitted annually to the ECMT Council of Ministers for information.

20. The secretariat believes that cooperation with the ECMT could be strengthened through the organization of joint workshops on transport issues of interest to countries with economies in transition. Joint or back-to-back organization of UNECE and ECMT meetings could also be planned.

21. The Transport Division also cooperates with the ENHS Division and with WHO in the Transport, Environment and Health process, as well as with the Trade Development and Timber Division on border crossing facilitation issues and in the identification of transport obstacles to trade and development particularly in south-eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia.

Subprogramme 3: Statistics

22. In implementing its programme of work the Statistical Division works in close cooperation with the statistical offices of international and supranational organizations active in the UNECE region, in particular Eurostat, OECD and the Statistical Committee of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS-STAT). Other partners include the UN Statistical Division (UNSD), UNDP, International Monetary Fund (IMF), World Bank, International Labour Office (ILO), Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and others as outlined in the addendum.

23. The cooperation and coordination with other international organizations is the responsibility of the Conference of European Statisticians (CES) and its Bureau. The Conference is composed of the Heads of National Statistical Offices in the UNECE region. It has an active and well functioning Bureau where the three main actors in official statistics in the region (Eurostat, OECD, UNECE) plus a selected number of countries, as well as UNSD and IMF, guide the development of official statistics.

24. During the last decade, the Conference has enhanced its main role as coordinator of statistically related work that the various international and supranational organizations carry out in the UNECE region. In this way, duplication is avoided and the limited resources of all organizations in their statistical work are used more efficiently and effectively. A major tool for this coordination is the Integrated Presentation of International Statistical Work that is compiled for the 25 or so international agencies active in the region. It is prepared by the UNECE secretariat and reviewed by the Bureau and the Conference every year. This comprehensive document provides an overview of the international statistical work that is planned for the next two years by all of the major international organizations. It also brings together all the information necessary to enable the Conference to make well-informed decisions about its future work and to comment and give advice on statistical work planned by other organizations.

25. The Integrated Presentation of International Statistical Work is divided into six major work areas (organization and operation of statistical services, technical infrastructure, economic statistics, social and demographic statistics, environment statistics and dissemination) that comprise the programme of work of the Conference, and they are in turn sub-divided into 48 programme elements. The statistical work of the international organizations is presented according to these programme activities and elements. All joint activities are clearly indicated.

26. At its fiftieth anniversary plenary session, held in June 2002, the Conference discussed how to adjust its future work to the changing conditions in the UNECE region. The discussion was carried out under the maxim "Renewing the Conference of European Statisticians". One of the issues considered was preserving the Conference as the "integrator of integrators" and preserving the role of the Integrated Presentation of International Statistical Work. Other issues included the EU enlargement and the role of the Conference in ensuring that the statistical practices of EU members do not drift away from those of other member countries of the UNECE and OECD.

27. The Conference mandated the Bureau and its secretariat - the UNECE Statistical Division - to implement the recommendations made concerning strengthening the coordination of joint statistical work in the future. The Bureau will review all joint activities undertaken by the international organizations in the UNECE region on the basis of terms of reference to define the joint activity, its final output, the process of achieving the output and the time framework.

28. The Conference and its Bureau are also concerned with the need for better coordination of statistical data collection among various international organizations, improved efficiency of data collection and decreased burden on countries.

Subprogramme 4: Economic Analysis

29. The Division of Economic Analysis has a well-established cooperation with a number of organizations, both within and outside the United Nations system. For example, the Macroeconomic and Development Policies Branch of UNCTAD'S Globalization and Development Strategies Division frequently draws on UNECE material concerning the transition economies. In turn, EAD regularly uses UNCTAD's Trade and Development Report as background material for information on the global context for UNECE economies. The Department for Economic and Social Affairs in New York (DESA) regularly consults EAD on developments in the transition economies for their end-of-year report on the world economy.

30. A major partner outside the United Nations is the OSCE with which UNECE has continued to develop a broad range of cooperation, including in the areas of economic analysis and the application of UNECE conventions on Environment and Transport to enhance conflict prevention in the region. Of a long-standing nature, this cooperation is mutually supporting. OSCE provides a very visible political platform, notably at its annual Economic Forum and through the work done in its network of field offices. For its part, the UNECE contributes to the work of the OSCE by providing analytical studies and speakers to OSCE events. Thus for example, the UNECE provided papers and speakers for the tenth OSCE Economic Forum on the subject of water and security. The UNECE has also been involved in the preparation of the

annual review of commitments of OSCE Participating States in the economic dimension (Bonn document).

31. Currently, in light of recent developments, the OSCE is strengthening the role of the economic dimension. The UNECE has been asked by OSCE to develop closer cooperation in order to assist in this process. In this connection, and at the request of the Secretary General of OSCE, the two secretariats prepared a "Common Catalogue of Cooperation" between UNECE and OSCE which aims at setting down for the first time the links between the UNECE and OSCE and the growing cooperation between the two organizations. Agreement on the modalities of cooperation allows for better planning and hence a more effective contribution to each other's work. It also highlights some areas where cooperation can be developed in the future to mutual benefit.

32. The OSCE is taking steps to undertake work on a new set of commitments to address the new threats in Europe. It is expected that the UNECE will be asked to play an important role in the reflection on, and in the drafting of, such a new Bonn document.

33. Much of the cooperation of the Economic Analysis Division with a number of other European institutions consists of mutual invitations to attend and participate in meetings, conferences, seminars, etc., all of which provide opportunities for staying in touch with developments elsewhere (who is doing what) and for contributing to the ongoing debates over economic developments and policy issues in the region. Accordingly, staff members from the Economic Analysis Division regularly attend the meetings of the Economic and Development Review Committee of the OECD where country reviews of selected transition economies are discussed, as well as the annual meetings of the EBRD and BIS. In addition, EAD staff participates in the meetings of national and international research institutions such as the Association d'Instituts Européens de Conjuncture Economique (where UNECE has observer status), an association of European economic research institutes which organizes twice a year an exchange of views, information and documentation on the short-term economic outlook.

34. Cooperation is also well-established with the Council of Europe. There is now a standing practice of UNECE receiving in Geneva, at least every two years, the Parliamentarians who are members of the Sub-Committee of International Economic Relations, under the Committee on Economic Affairs and Development of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe. On both sides this is seen as very useful: for the Sub-Committee it is an opportunity to be informed of, and to discuss our views on, key economic issues and problems in the region, particularly those related to transition, while for the UNECE it is an efficient way of disseminating our analyses in parliamentary circles.

35. The work done by the Population Activities Unit (PAU) is also covered by this subprogramme. In the course of the preparation of the Ministerial Conference on Ageing (MiCA) the Unit cooperated closely with the European Commission (DG Employment and Social Affairs), Council of Europe, WHO and WHO/EURO, ILO, ILO, International Institute on Ageing (INIA) and International Social Security Association (ISSA). Representatives of these organizations took active part in the meetings of the Open-Ended Working Group (OEWG), which negotiated the two main documents submitted to MiCA for adoption: the Regional Implementation Strategy and the Berlin Ministerial Declaration. Their contributions were

tangible and appreciated by the OEWG. The Council of Europe was also actively involved in the preparations for MiCA, building on a long-standing cooperation between UNECE and the Council of Europe for the preparation for and follow-up to global conferences related to population and development.

36. Within the United Nations, the PAU cooperates with the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) on activities of mutual interest, such as the UNFPA-supported Generations and Gender Programme and the follow-up to global and regional population and development conferences. The PAU also collaborates with DESA, taking part in meetings of the DESA Population Division, including annual sessions of the Commission on Population and Development serviced by the Division.

Subprogramme 5: Sustainable energy

37. The Sustainable Energy sub-programme is implemented by the Industrial Restructuring, Energy and Enterprise Development Division. In implementing the sub-programme, the Division cooperates with many organizations/institutions, including NGOs and those organizations representing the corporate sector. Scarce staff resources have meant that all international institutions have avoided overlapping and duplication of effort.

38. Given the comparatively small resources available to UNECE in the field of energy, the Committee on Sustainable Energy has had to be very selective. Activities have been developed on the basis of how much value added they contribute, their impact, the level of participation and contribution by others, including the availability of extra-budgetary resources. The Division has also closely monitored the activities of other agencies and has undertaken joint activities and projects, on a case-by-case basis, where warranted (because of synergies, complementarities, comparative advantage, etc.). With additional staff resources, the Division could develop further cooperative initiatives with the agencies mentioned below as well as others in the field of petroleum, new and renewable energy, and electricity.

39. In the energy field, the Division cooperates with a wide range of companies, institutions and organizations through the Committee on Sustainable Energy, its experts groups and projects including the Global Environment Facility (GEF), UNDP and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) on energy efficiency project development for climate change mitigation; DESA, on indicators for sustainable energy development; the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) on the rational use of energy and water resources; the Executive Committee of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) on energy efficiency and energy security; the World Bank (IBRD), the International Finance Corporation (IFC) and EBRD on financing energy efficiency investment projects; the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) on the classification of energy reserves and resources; the International Energy Agency (IEA/OECD) on the reform of energy prices and removal of subsidies. The Division also cooperates with the European Commission on indicators for sustainable development, energy security, energy efficiency and the internalisation of externalities in energy prices.

40. The cooperation takes many forms, as summarized in the addendum to the report. In some instances, UNECE works to implement work developed at the global level (e.g. IAEA) or

provides the bridge between the global and the regional dimensions (e.g. with DESA.) In other instances, UNECE-developed projects receive funding (GEF, World Bank and IFC, EBRD and the EU). With other organizations, the mandates are sufficiently different to ensure that no duplication occurs (e.g. UNFCCC). Moreover, even when similar issues are discussed and studied, this is done from a different perspective and different constituency (e.g. EU, GEF, IEA). As indicated in the addendum, the membership of some of the organizations with which UNECE cooperates represents the corporate sector (e.g. the gas industry).

Subprogramme 6: Trade Development

41. The Trade Development subprogramme supports the elaboration of inter-governmental recommendations, norms, standards and legal instruments in the facilitation and promotion of trade, and the reduction of technical barriers to trade, both in the region and internationally. The European Commission is an important partner and contributor to all aspects of the sub-programme.

42. In implementing the Trade Development subprogramme, the Trade Development and Timber Division enjoys well-structured cooperation and coordination with the other trade-related organizations in the United Nations system, especially with UNCTAD, International Trade Centre (ITC), FAO, UNCITRAL, World Bank and International Telecommunication Union (ITU). The Division also benefits from a dynamic and diverse network of cooperation with the other regional commissions of the United Nations (ECA, ECLAC, ESCAP, ESCWA). Other intergovernmental organizations that the UNECE works closely with in trade-related matters include the OECD, World Trade Organization (WTO) and World Customs Organization (WCO). Non-governmental partners include the International Organization for Standardization (ISO), International Electro-technical Commission (IEC) and International Chamber of Commerce. The UNECE works closely with the European Union in promoting the integration of countries with economies in transition into the wider European economy. There are also a range of subregional groupings, such as the Central European Initiative (CEI), Southeast European Cooperative Initiative (SECI) and the CIS secretariat, with whom the Trade Development subprogramme cooperates for the benefit of mutual Member States.

43. Activities under the Trade Development sub-programme may be categorized under three main themes: Trade facilitation and electronic business; standards and technical harmonization; and trade promotion and policy.

44. The secretariat participates in a Trade Facilitation Task Force (with UNCTAD, ITC and WTO) and in the management of the Memorandum of Understanding on international standardization regarding e-business with ISO, IEC, ITU, and several user communities. In addition, UNECE is running a number of projects jointly with other United Nations regional commissions, including one with ESCWA and ECA to promote the implementation of trade facilitation in the Mediterranean region.

45. Transition countries are increasingly active in the UNECE work on standards and technical harmonization, partly because they see it as helping them to adopt the regulations that are required for joining the WTO and the EU. Indeed, much of the technical harmonization work focuses on integrating the transition economies into international frameworks, and particular

efforts on cooperation and coordination have taken place with the CIS Secretariat. The secretariat undertakes wide-ranging analyses and liaison with the other international standardization organizations, particularly ISO and FAO, in close cooperation with the European Union.

46. In its work on agricultural quality standards UNECE cooperates with five groups of international experts who define quality standards for (a) fresh fruits and vegetables; (b) dry and dried produce; (c) meat; (d) seed potatoes; and (e) early potatoes. UNECE works in partnership with FAO (responsible for phyto-sanitary standards) and with OECD regarding the dissemination and implementation of the standards. Most of the UNECE agricultural quality standards are incorporated in EU regulations under the Common Agricultural Policy.

47. As an initial contribution to the WTO's Doha Development agenda, and to focus special attention on the integration of transition countries into the wider global economy, in 2002 the secretariat organized a briefing on the WTO, Doha and Transition Countries. Another aim of UNECE trade promotion activities is to help countries develop local capacities and networks for supporting trade. To underpin this work, the secretariat has established "partnerships" with a network of national organizations for the promotion of UNECE standards, norms, recommendations and best practices in the trade. It also has worked with Permanent Missions to establish lists of trade contact points inside each member State.

Subprogramme 7: Timber

48. The entire Timber subprogramme was designed and focused in cooperation with partners to ensure a rational distribution of labour among organizations and no duplication, either by joint activities or by specialization. The mechanism for this was the strategic review carried out in 2001 (to be repeated at four year intervals), which involved all governments, stakeholders and partners.

49. The main partnership is with FAO, where UNECE and FAO forest/timber activities in the region are entirely integrated: the Timber Committee's programme is completely coordinated with that of the FAO European Forestry Commission: there are joint subsidiary bodies and publications and FAO staff work alongside UNECE staff to implement the programme.

50. A different type of partnership has been constructed in recent years with the Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe, the highest policy level forum on forests and timber in the region. UNECE (with its partners) provides input to many MCPFE activities, and in fact implements a third of the projects in the MCPFE work programme. There is constant communication and coordination between the ministerial body, focused on regular ministerial conferences and the ongoing, more technical work in the permanent intergovernmental bodies.

51. A good example of very close cooperation between several organizations is the Joint Forest Sector Questionnaire, whereby four organizations (FAO, UNECE, Eurostat and the International Tropical Timber Organization) have developed a joint questionnaire which is circulated to all countries in the world. Data for each country are collected and validated by one organization only and shared between all four thus ensuring no duplication and a uniform data set, as well as rational use of national and international staff resources.

52. Cooperation with the International Labour Organization is through a joint subsidiary body, the Joint FAO/ECE/ILO Committee on Forest Technology, Management and Training. Each of the three organizations is responsible for the substantive backstopping of the work area falling within its competence.

Subprogramme 8: Human Settlements

53. The human settlements subprogramme is implemented under the Committee on Human Settlements which is the only pan-UNECE forum in its area. The UN HABITAT is a key partner and contributes in linking global and regional perspectives in promoting initiatives to support capacity building. The Committee carries out housing country profiles studies, and cooperates closely with the UNDP and USAID offices in the reviewed countries, and with the Council of Europe on specific social aspects of housing policies. Indeed, there is a regular exchange of information between the Council of Europe which focuses on social aspects and matters of local concern and the UNEC. The Committee on Human Settlements also cooperates with professional and civil society organizations in Housing and Planning which regularly participate at meetings. The Housing and Urban Management Advisory Network consisting of experts from the private sector with an active interest in the work on human settlements, works closely with and advises the Committee and member States on the implementation of specific activities.

Subprogramme 9: Industrial Restructuring, Energy and Enterprise Development

54. As of 1 November 2002, the Industrial Restructuring, Energy and Enterprise Development Division took responsibility for the implementation of the sub-programme on Industrial Restructuring and Enterprise Development. Previously, issues under this subprogramme were addressed by the Coordinating Unit for Operational Activities. The subprogramme was previously part of a sub-programme entitled Trade, Industry and Enterprise Development that was, in the context of the revision to the Medium Term Plan 2002-2005, divided into two subprogrammes: Trade development, and industrial restructuring and enterprise development.

55. The Coordinating Unit (and henceforth the Industrial Restructuring, Energy and Enterprise Development Division), has had extensive cooperation with the CEI and BSEC on SMEs and Entrepreneurship, as well as with a number of other United Nations agencies and organizations active in promoting entrepreneurship and SME development, including ILO, United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), UNIFEM, UNDP, UNCTAD, ESCAP, EC, World Bank, EBRD, ICC and ISO. Some of this cooperation related to the holding of various meetings such as the Round Table on Industrial Restructuring, the Second Regional Forum on Women's Entrepreneurship, as well as the First Regional Forum on Youth (which addressed, inter alia, youth unemployment) organized in collaboration with ILO, United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), DESA, UNAIDs and United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR).

56. On matters relating to the Internet, e-economy and ICT, the Unit cooperated with ITC, the European Commission, DESA and UNDP; and with OECD, World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), EBRD, World Bank and UNIDO on issues related to Public-Private Partnerships, intellectual and real property evaluation, financing and mitigating risks. The

secretariat also worked closely with the OSCE as its work on legal and institutional reform and in strengthening the rule of law is of direct relevance to the OSCE. In this connection, it contributed substantively in terms of its analytical support to the preparation of documents for the economic dimension of OSCE and in the participation by its experts in OSCE activities, also mentioned above under economic analysis.

Conclusion

57. The cooperation between UNECE and other organizations/institutions/initiatives is extensive and multi-faceted in nature. The review by the secretariat has not revealed any cause for major concern in terms of duplication and overlap. That said, the secretariat recognizes that cooperation is a “moving target”, which requires periodic assessment. And, as has often been pointed out, the human element is important – at all levels of the cooperation.

58. The secretariat also recognizes that while the existing cooperation with other bodies is, in general, good, the potential for better cooperation exists. This was, in fact, one of the conclusions from the inter-agency coordination meeting hosted by UNECE in December 2002. During that meeting, information on the programme of work and strategic directions for 2004-2005 was provided by each of the participating United Nations organizations. Participants considered the exchange of information on the programmes of work very useful as a first step. It demonstrated that there was potential for greater cooperation among the organizations and the view was expressed that this could best be achieved by taking up, at future meetings, concrete programmes of relevance to more than one organization and examining them together so as to improve the division of labour and engage in joint activities. The view was also expressed that whereas the ECOSOC resolution calls for yearly inter-agency meetings, more frequent and less formal meetings at the working level will be necessary to ensure a working cooperation and coordination.

59. In considering the challenges of cooperation and coordination, the secretariat believes that better results could be achieved by replicating the model used by the Conference of European Statisticians, i.e. the integrated presentation of statistical work to other areas of work. It therefore intends to explore the possibility of developing such a presentation in the areas of timber and trade facilitation, with a view to reporting back to the Commission at its fifty-ninth session.
