



Economic and Social Council

Distr.: Limited
31 May 2017

English

Original: English, French
Russian

Economic Commission for Europe

Executive Committee

Ninety-second meeting

Geneva, 23 June 2017]

Item 3 (b) of the provisional agenda

Decisions on matters relating to the

Committee on Innovation, Competitiveness and Public-Private Partnerships

Decision approving the renewal of the mandate and the revised terms of reference of the Team of Specialists on Innovation and Competitiveness Policies

Background

1. At its eleventh session (Geneva, 20-21 March 2017), the Committee on Innovation, Competitiveness and Public-Private Partnerships recommended the renewal of the mandate of the Team of Specialists on Innovation and Competitiveness Policies for an additional two years. Its mandate was originally adopted on 6 November 2006.
2. The Committee on Innovation, Competitiveness and Public-Private Partnerships also recommended that the Terms of Reference of the Team of Specialists on Innovation and Competitiveness Policies be revised to reflect the implications for its work of the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Committee's earlier decision at its tenth session to contribute to achieving the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.
3. The Executive Committee is invited to approve the renewal of the mandate of the Team of Specialists on Innovation and Competitiveness Policies for the period 1 January 2018 to 31 December 2019 and its revised terms of reference as contained in Annex III of ECE/CECI/2017/2.

Draft Decision

4. The Executive Committee hereby approves the renewal of the mandate of the Team of Specialists on Innovation and Competitiveness Policies for the period 1 January 2018 to 31 December 2019 and its revised Terms of Reference as contained in Annex III of ECE/CECI/2017/2.
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ANNEX III

Revised Mandate and Terms of Reference of the Team of Specialists on Innovation and Competitiveness Policies

I. Mandate

1. The Team of Specialists on Innovation and Competitiveness Policies (TOS-ICP) supports the implementation of the Programme of Work of the Committee on Innovation, Competitiveness and Public-Private Partnerships. The TOS-ICP addresses issues related to the creation of a supportive environment for innovative development and knowledge-based competitiveness in UNECE member States in support of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Its activities aim at facilitating the exchange of experience and lessons learned, as well as of good practices in these areas, among UNECE member States. In its work, the TOS-ICP responds to the needs of Governments, and takes into account the needs of consumers, and the academic and business communities.

II. Areas of work

2. To support the Committee on Innovation, Competitiveness and Public-Private Partnerships in achieving its objectives, the TOS-ICP engages in the following activities:

(a) Organizing international policy dialogue on knowledge-based economic development in the UNECE region with the aim of identifying international good practices and policy recommendations on the role of innovation and competitiveness policies to foster sustainable development as well as on selected key issues within the mandate of the TOS-ICP. As part of this policy dialogue, the Team will hold applied policy seminars as part of its annual sessions;

(b) Preparing synopses of good practices and policy recommendations on the roles of innovation policies to foster sustainable development and selected key issues within the Team's mandate for discussion and endorsement by the Committee on Innovation, Competitiveness and Public-Private Partnerships;

(c) Broadly disseminating the above good practices and policy recommendations;

(d) Subject to the availability of extrabudgetary resources, and on request from Governments, carrying out assessments of national innovation systems and policies ("Innovation for Sustainable Development Reviews") with the aim of providing peer-reviewed policy recommendations to improve national innovation performance and the achievement of sustainable development outcomes;

(e) Subject to the availability of extrabudgetary resources, and on request from Governments, providing advice on the implementation of policy reforms in areas within the mandate of the TOS-ICP;

(f) Subject to the availability of extrabudgetary resources, and in cooperation with Governments of countries in the ECE region, organizing technical assistance and capacity-building activities on issues within the mandate of the TOS-ICP.

(g) Subject to the availability of extrabudgetary resources, support the CICPPP in providing inputs from a regional perspective to the work of the Multi-stakeholder Forum on Science, Technology and Innovation for the SDGs;

(h) Support the CICPPP in contributing to the regional follow-up on and review of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda in the areas covered by its mandate.

III. Membership

3. The TOS-ICP comprises government experts, as well as experts from relevant research and academic institutions, the business community and NGOs. National experts are nominated by the respective government authorities responsible for cooperation with the Committee on Innovation, Competitiveness and Public-Private Partnerships. In accordance with United Nations procedures, the TOS-ICP is also open for other experts from intergovernmental organizations, national and international business and research institutions and associations who wish to contribute to the implementation of its work plan.

IV. Modalities of operation

4. The TOS-ICP operates in accordance with the Guidelines for the Establishment and Functioning of Teams of Specialists within the UNECE (ECE/EX/2/Rev.1) and the Guidelines on Procedures and Practices for ECE Bodies (E/2013/37 E/ECE/1464, Annex III, Appendix III).

5. The TOS-ICP is established for a period of two years with a possibility of extension, if so decided by the Committee on Innovation, Competitiveness and Public-Private Partnerships, and approved by the Executive Committee of the UNECE. The Committee on Innovation, Competitiveness and Public-Private Partnerships may modify the Terms of Reference of the TOS-ICP as required, subject to approval by the Executive Committee of UNECE.

6. Secretariat support to the TOS-ICP is provided by the UNECE secretariat.

7. The TOS-ICP develops its plan of work and reports to the annual session of the Committee on its implementation.

8. Expenses associated with the implementation of the TOS-ICP plan of work are supported through extrabudgetary contributions of member States and other stakeholders, and are to be provided, managed and used in accordance with United Nations rules and regulations.