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**UNECE Technical Cooperation Activities 2016
Annual Report**

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The present report is submitted per the UNECE Technical Cooperation Strategy adopted by the Commission at its sixty-second session in which the member States requested the secretariat to submit annual reports on UNECE technical cooperation.

2. The report is structured around three UN programmes implemented by UNECE: “Economic Development in Europe” (Section 20 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2016-2017), “Regular Programme of Technical Cooperation” (Section 23 of the programme budget for the biennium 2016-2017) and “United Nations Development Account” (Section 35 of the programme budget for the biennium 2016-2017). A chapter on funding of the UNECE technical cooperation presents trends in contributions and expenditures. This information is supplemented with data in the Annexes.

II. HIGHLIGHTS OF ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN 2016

3. In 2016, UNECE carried out 179 advisory missions and capacity-building activities, 50 technical cooperation projects funded from extrabudgetary resources, and 10 projects funded by the United Nations Development Account. All activities were delivered as part of the programmes of work of the subprogrammes (planned activities) or upon the request of the beneficiary countries (demand-driven activities). Information about project activities is available on the Project Monitoring Tool (PMT) <http://www.unece.org/info/open-unece/pmt.html>.

4. Countries of Central Asia and Eastern Europe benefitted the most from the UNECE technical cooperation activities. They accounted for 19% and 14% of the UNECE technical cooperation activities respectively, followed by the countries of South-Eastern Europe (7%), and the Caucasus (5%). Most (51%) technical cooperation activities were interregional, involving two or more subregions.¹

5. In countries with a UN presence, technical cooperation activities were delivered in an integrated and coherent manner through the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) in cooperation with United Nations Country Teams. This approach has enabled UNECE to (i) enhance national ownership and better align its technical assistance to countries’ priorities; (ii) strengthen cooperation with all development stakeholders at the country level; (iii) establish necessary cross-sectoral synergies and linkages in the work of UNECE subprogrammes and with the work of other UN entities; (iv) enhance impact and sustainability of UNECE technical cooperation activities; and (v) increase visibility of UNECE work at the country level. In 2016, UNECE signed two UNDAFs (Albania and Montenegro) for a new (2017-2021) programming cycle. Substantive support by UNECE to the UNDAF formulation process was provided through the Regional Peer Support Group of the regional United Nations Development Group.

III. PROGRAMME “ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN EUROPE”

6. Under the programme “Economic Development in Europe”, UNECE technical cooperation aims to assist countries with economies in transition to accede to, and implement international legal instruments, norms and standards, as well as supporting their regional cooperation and integration. These countries were the main beneficiaries of UNECE technical cooperation, through policy advice, capacity-building and field projects.

¹ Based on data from the UN Integrated Monitoring and Documentation Information System (IMDIS) and the RPTC

7. **Subprogramme 1 – Environment.** The objective of this subprogramme is to improve environmental governance and performance throughout the region for safeguarding the environment and health.

8. Technical cooperation activities under the Aarhus Convention and its Protocol on Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers (PRTRs) enhanced the implementation of the convention in the UNECE region. The second subregional workshop on the Protocol on PRTRs for countries in Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia "Get your right to a healthy community" (Minsk, Belarus, 19-21 September 2016) improved capacity of UNECE member States (Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Republic of Moldova, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Ukraine and Uzbekistan) in developing institutional and legal frameworks to implement PRTRs, reporting requirements, and managing and dissemination of data. In addition, the secretariat contributed to a project "Support Establishment and Advancement of Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers (PRTRs) in Western Balkan countries and Moldova" implemented by the Regional Environmental Centre for Central and Eastern Europe. A subregional workshop (Skopje, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, 8-9 November 2016) promoted pollutant release and transfer registers in Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, Serbia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, the Republic of Moldova, and Kosovo². A workshop on ensuring effective public participation in environmental decision-making in Belarus (Minsk, 2–3 November 2016) co-organized with OSCE, in cooperation with the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection of Belarus further promoted the Aarhus Convention and its Protocols. The secretariat continued to manage the Aarhus Clearinghouse for Environmental Democracy and the PRTR.net global portal, which facilitates the collection, dissemination and exchange of information related to PRTRs. The Protocol secretariat maintained and updated PRTR.net in cooperation with UNITAR and OECD, and continued close cooperation with UNITAR in order to ensure the effective use of PRTR.net and PRTR: Learn by national focal points and stakeholders. In addition, the secretariat upgraded the portals to improve their attractiveness and usability by integrating new technologies, web features and search options.

9. Technical cooperation activities to enhance the implementation of the Espoo Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) in a Transboundary Context, and in particular its Protocol on Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA), strengthened the development and practical application of legislation on SEA and EIA in Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Republic of Moldova, the Russian Federation, and Ukraine. The subprogramme improved capacity of national experts on integration of the SEA procedure into the national legal framework of Armenia (Yerevan, Armenia, 9-11 March 2016, 23-24 June 2016), while the outcomes of the pilot SEA in Azerbaijan (Baku, Azerbaijan, 21 October 2016) raised awareness on SEA benefits in renewable energy planning and programming among energy officials and experts at national and international level. A training workshop on the legislative framework for the EIA and SEA (Minsk, Belarus, 19-22 September 2016) developed requirements for the national EIA and SEA schemes in Belarus, and produced the structure and main element of the secondary EIA and SEA legislation. Capacity-building activities resulted in the finalized Environment Assessment Code and increased understanding of the benefits of SEA application in Georgia (Tbilisi, Georgia, 2 March 2016, 19 April 2016, 28 November – 1 December 2016). Kazakhstan benefited from review of national legislative and institutional framework of SEA. Ukraine developed national guidelines on the practical application of SEA with UNECE support. The second pilot SEA in the Republic of Moldova contributed to the development of the National Green Economy Road Map. A conference on the dissemination of the SEA experience (Moscow, Russian Federation, 25 October 2016) improved knowledge of federal and regional authorities on SEA practices.

² S/RES/1244(1999)

10. Capacity-building activities were implemented to strengthen the implementation and to encourage ratification of the Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution and its protocols in Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia. A workshop on best available technics (Berlin, Germany, 20-22 April 2016) strengthened capacities of countries in Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia for the application of the most effective and advanced practices under economically viable conditions in relevant industrial sectors to reduce emissions and the impact on the environment. Kyrgyzstan and Kazakhstan benefitted from the analysis of the national legislation of air quality management (Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan, 13-15 April 2016; Astana, Kazakhstan, 8 September 2016). With UNECE support, national experts from Armenia improved capacities to develop informative inventory reports on air pollutant emissions, in accordance with the requirements of the Convention (Yerevan, Armenia, 10-14 October 2016).

11. Capacity-building efforts to strengthen the industrial safety in the region were also carried out under the Industrial Accidents Convention. A national workshop on industrial accident prevention (Podgorica, Montenegro, 6-9 June 2016) identified the need to harmonize legislation on industrial accidents prevention and launched a dialogue with the operators of relevant hazardous activities. The annual CIS Inter-State Council on Industrial Safety granted observer status to the secretariat of the Convention at the Council meetings (Cholpon-Ata, Kazakhstan, 14-15 September 2016). This contributed to the planning and implementation of joint technical assistance activities as well as improved exchange of information and experience on industrial accidents prevention, preparedness and response.

12. National Policy Dialogues (NPDs) on Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) implemented within the framework of the Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourse and International Lakes were conducted in Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Turkmenistan. In Kazakhstan, the work concentrated on transboundary cooperation with the Russian Federation in Ural and Volga basins that resulted in a draft bilateral agreement. With UNECE support, Turkmenistan developed a new national Water Code which was adopted by Parliament in October 2016. In Georgia, two bylaws for implementation of new water law were prepared. Negotiations were also finalized to relaunch NPD process after a six year break in Ukraine.

13. Several workshops (Amman, Jordan, 13-14 January 2016, Tunis, Tunisia, 21-22 September 2016, Campeche, Mexico, 3-4 October 2016, Nairobi, Kenya, 14-16 December 2016) contributed to awareness raising and globalization of the Convention. As a result, several countries outside the UNECE region have started national processes towards accession to the Convention. Two workshops on assessing the water-food-energy ecosystems nexus and benefit of transboundary cooperation in the Drina River Basin (Podgorica, Montenegro, 21-22 April 2016 and Belgrade, Serbia, 8-10 November 2016) improved understanding of riparians on intersectoral links, such as renewable energy, agriculture, water quality and regulation of solid waste and offered improvements to the current resource management.

14. Within the framework of the Protocol on Water and Health to the UNECE Water Convention, NPDs also supported the process of target setting in Kazakhstan. Two projects have been launched to enhance the capacities of the Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan to implement national targets previously set in the context of the Protocol.

15. The third Environmental Performance Reviews (EPRs) of Bulgaria and Tajikistan were finalized in 2016. For Bulgaria, topics such as the practical implementation of environmental legislation, adaptation to climate change, water-use and energy efficiencies, waste management and responsibilities of producers were identified as priorities. Tajikistan prioritized such areas as environmental monitoring, public participation, education, air protection, waste management, biodiversity, energy, transport and health in the implementation of the EPR recommendation. Out of 48 recommendations contained in the second

review of Tajikistan of 2004, 75% had been fully or partially implemented. Lack of capacity and resources, as well as gaps in legislation, institutional development and administrative organization, and frequent changes in the institutional framework and/or governmental policy have been major obstacles to Tajikistan's efforts to implement the recommendations. Implementation was higher for those recommendations directly addressed to authorities responsible for the environment than those shared with or addressed to other decision-makers. Recommendations comprising large areas of expertise or many actors usually take longer to implement. In 2016, launching events to discuss the results of the third EPRs of Belarus and Georgia took place in both countries.

16. **Subprogramme 2 – Transport.** The objective of the subprogramme is to promote sustainable transport which is safe, clean and competitive, through the development of freight and personal mobility by inland transport modes, by improving traffic safety, environment performance, energy efficiency, inland transport security and efficient service provision in the transport service.

17. Technical cooperation activities in the area of transport are focused on the promotion of the UN transport conventions under the purview of the UNECE Inland Transport Committee, and sustainable mobility and transport, including economic, social, and environmental components.

18. During 2016, three regional transport cooperation projects continued to promote development of transport infrastructure and removal of infrastructure bottlenecks in pan-European and Euro-Asian transport links. A new phase in the Trans-European North-South Motorway (TEM) project has started with the adoption of the TEM Strategic Plan 2017-2021, which supports UNECE member States in achieving SDGs related to road infrastructure management. Workshops on building information modelling (Warsaw, Poland, 6 April 2016) and winter and summer routine motorway maintenance (Prague, Czech Republic, 19 October 2016) strengthened the capacities of more than 40 national experts on the quality and efficiency of transport operations. The further implementation of the Trans-European Railways (TER) project resulted in preparation of the TER high-speed railway master plan that was also supported by the workshop on high-speed rail (Vienna, Austria, 18-19 October 2016). Activities in Phase III of the Euro-Asian Transport Links project were focused on the identification of the main obstacles for the development of the Euro-Asia transport links and finding solutions to improve their operational capacity.

19. The Special Envoy for Road Safety hosted a series of capacity-building events to promote road safety globally. The “Best practices and key partnerships for road safety” workshop (Geneva, Switzerland, 22 February 2016) improved the understanding of representatives from Tunisia, Kenya, Jordan, Uganda, European Union and Greece on the importance of addressing road safety challenge worldwide. A workshop organized in cooperation with UNECA and the World Bank (Nairobi, Kenya, 13-15 December 2016) strengthened capacities of road safety experts from more than 20 African countries on road safety data management, and promoted UN Road Safety Conventions.

20. A number of events within the framework of the Transport, Health and Environment Pan-European Programme (THE PEP) (Vladivostok, Russian Federation, 12-13 Oct 2016, Vienna, 13-15 July 2016, Petrozavodsk, Russian Federation, 30-31 May 2016) enhanced the capacity of more than 300 participants from 12 countries in developing impact analysis of transport in urban settings. The 2016 annual Symposium of THE PEP (Geneva, 7-9 November 2016) enhanced understanding of representatives from UNECE member States for addressing challenges and best practices in greening the economy, better environment and human health, while at the same time generating economic growth. Seminars and training sessions on implementation of the TIR Convention (Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia, 27-28 April 2016, New York, the United States of America, 9 May 2016, Abidjan, Ivory Coast, 27 June - 1 July 2016, Lusaka, Zambia, 31 October - 4 November 2016 and Astana, Kazakhstan, 27-29 September 2016)

strengthened capacities of more than 100 customs officials and experts on border crossing facilitation and harmonization. The pilot project on eTIR with Turkey and the Islamic Republic of Iran increased the involvement of operators and customs offices from both countries, and allowed the inclusion of multiple places of loading and unloading.

21. The Security Discussion Forum on securing the global supply chain, jointly organised with OSCE, (Geneva, Switzerland, 17 June 2016), strengthened the capacities of more than 50 security experts as well as road, railway and inland waterway transport operators and private sector associations from across the UNECE region. A workshop on international rail passenger traffic (Geneva, Switzerland, 22 November 2016), enhanced understanding within UNECE member States on the main challenges that international rail passenger traffic faces on the East-West route. The 2016 Symposium “The future networked car” initiated discussions amongst vehicle manufacturers, Information and Communication Technology (ICT) industries, governments and their regulators on the future of vehicle communications and automated driving including the crucial roles of connectivity and information security. Workshops on inland waterways (Geneva, Switzerland, 17 February 2016, 22 June 2016, 3 November 2016) improved national capacities on safety and security in European inland navigation, River Information Services and recreational navigation and water tourism.

22. **Subprogramme 3 – Statistics.** The objective of the subprogramme is to improve the quality of official statistics at the national and international levels and to ensure the coordination of international statistical activities undertaken in the UNECE region.

23. Technical cooperation under this subprogramme focused on enhancing the capacity of national statistical systems, particularly for countries in Eastern Europe, the Caucasus, Central Asia and the Western Balkans, to produce timely and accurate statistics, according to the international standards and guidelines, and in line with the United Nations Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics.

24. A workshop on migration statistics (Geneva, Switzerland, 17-18 May 2016) strengthened capacities of representatives from 16 countries (Armenia, Australia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Israel, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Mexico, Mongolia, Republic of Moldova, Russian Federation, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Ukraine and Uzbekistan) and supported the implementation of the recommendations of the UNECE Handbook on the Use of Administrative Sources and Sample Surveys to Measure International Migration in the beneficiary countries. A national workshop on the use of administrative data for measuring migration (Tbilisi, Georgia, 5-6 April 2016) examined existing sources of migration data, and provided recommendations on the better use of existing data sources, and on developing new sources to measure migration. A session for Eastern Europe, the Caucasus, Central Asia and Western Balkan countries enhanced capabilities to implement the 2008 System of National Accounts, and identified priorities for future capacity-building activities (Geneva, Switzerland, 17-20 May 2016).

25. A workshop on gender statistics (Vilnius, Lithuania, 30-31 May 2016) enhanced the capacity of national statistical offices in Eastern Europe, the Caucasus, and Central Asia to disseminate and communicate gender statistics, and to understand the role of gender-oriented indicators in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

26. A workshop on poverty measurement (Geneva, Switzerland, 11 July 2016) contributed to the harmonization of statistical concepts, definitions and methods on poverty and application of multidimensional poverty measures in Eastern Europe, the Caucasus, and Central Asian countries. A workshop on population and housing censuses for Eastern Europe, the Caucasus, Central Asia countries (Geneva, Switzerland, 28-29 September 2016) continued supporting national experts to develop national plans for the 2020 censuses and to implement the Conference of European Statisticians Recommendations

for the 2020 Censuses of Population and Housing. A workshop on human resources management and training “Developing capabilities for the future” (Krakow, Poland 7-9 September 2016) improved understanding of representatives from Western Balkans, Eastern Europe, the Caucasus, Central Asian countries on practices to manage human resources in the context of modernization of statistical organizations as well as development of individual and organizational capabilities, risk management and removing barriers to international cooperation.

27. The subprogramme developed the following materials to support capacity-building through technical cooperation activities:

- Measuring population and housing in Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia - Review of practices in the 2010 round of censuses;
- Handbook on the Use of Administrative Sources and Sample Surveys to Measure International Migration in CIS Countries;
- Defining and Measuring Circular Migration;
- Recommendations on Ageing-related Statistics;
- Guide on Measuring Human Capital;
- Generic Law on Official Statistics for Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia countries.

28. **Subprogramme 4 – Economic Cooperation and Integration.** The objective of the subprogramme is to promote a policy, financial and regulatory environment more conducive to economic growth, innovative development and higher competitiveness of economies in the UNECE region.

29. In the area of public-private partnerships (PPPs), the UNECE continued assistance to Belarus to deploy a full-fledged PPP programme (Minsk, Belarus, 28 October 2016). The UNECE PPP Business Advisory Board supported Belarus, China, Kazakhstan, the Russian Federation and Ukraine to develop PPP strategies. A workshop on people-first PPPs (Bangkok, Thailand, 23 September 2016) improved knowledge of UNECE and UNESCAP member States on implementing guiding principles on good governance in people-first PPPs for the SDGs.

30. In the area of innovation, the innovation system and policies of Belarus were reviewed for the second time with a particular focus on sustainable development. The review provided guidance for harnessing innovation for achieving national sustainable development priorities. Key policy recommendations included the further strengthening: of governance of the national innovation system, strengthening the implementation of strategic innovation policy priorities by matching with corresponding policy instruments and particularly with adequate funding, of entrepreneurship and competition, of international cooperation in science, research and innovation and improving access to foreign knowledge, and the demand for innovation, particularly in fields critical for sustainable development. A policy workshop supported the implementation of recommendations from the Innovation Performance Review of Armenia (Yerevan, Armenia, 9 December 2016). A roundtable for key innovation policy stakeholders in Kyrgyzstan (Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan, 13 December 2016) enhanced understanding of the potential role of innovation in achieving sustainable development in preparation for the Innovation for Sustainable Development Review of Kyrgyzstan to be completed in 2017. The eighth session of the SPECA Project Working Group on Knowledge-based Development enhanced the policy dialogue among SPECA member countries on options to advance knowledge-based development (Almaty, Kazakhstan, 22 September 2016).

31. **Subprogramme 5 – Sustainable Energy.** The objective of the subprogramme is to improve access to affordable and clean energy for all and to help reduce greenhouse gas emissions and the carbon footprint of the energy sector in the region.

32. The workshop “Advanced Fossil Fuel Technologies: critical element of the green bridge initiative” (Astana, Kazakhstan, 9–10 March 2016) strengthened capacity of 60 national stakeholders from Kazakhstan in the application of clean coal technologies in the context of climate change mitigation and sustainable development. The Interregional Workshop “Uranium, Coal, Oil and Gas Classification: Towards a Better Understanding of Energetic Basins and Application of UNFC-2009” (Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia, 16–19 August 2016) introduced the application of UNFC-2009 as a coherent system to manage resources, a common language for communications and information sharing, and a precise tool for assessment of social and environmental impacts. The event strengthened professional network comprising of 110 participants from more than 30 countries from the UN member States. For the first time a bridging document between UNFC-2009 and the Oil and Gas Classification of the Russian Federation was finalized resulting in enhancing coherent assessment of global resources of oil and gas.

33. The workshop “Best practice guidance for effective methane drainage and use in coal mines” (Karaganda, Kazakhstan, 4 October 2016) enhanced understanding of the most critical problems faced in deep mines operated in the Karaganda coal basin and presented potential solutions to them drawing from the best international practice in coal mine methane (CMM). The Workshop “Promoting energy efficiency in Azerbaijan and other countries of the region” (Baku, Azerbaijan, 19 October 2016) shared best practices and lessons learned in the UNECE region on improvements in energy efficiency with a focus on public and residential buildings.

34. The workshop “Global energy efficiency accelerator platform and progress in accelerating industrial energy efficiency” (Baku, Azerbaijan, 19 October 2016) improved knowledge within UNECE member States on the energy management systems and available policy tool and technology for increased and sustainable energy efficiency. The Workshop “Pathways to sustainable energy: national approaches to a global challenge” (Baku, Azerbaijan, 21 October 2016) explored the concepts and strategies towards achieving sustainable energy of the future in the UNECE region.

35. The debates organized by UNECE and the Renewable Energy Policy Network for the 21st Century in (Tbilisi, Georgia, 12-13 December 2016; Kiev, Ukraine, 15-16 December 2016) improved understanding of the public and private sector actors on the renewable energy uptake in the UNECE region and facilitated a multi-stakeholder dialogue for unblocking private sector investment in renewable energy projects.

36. Subprogramme 6 – Trade. The objective of this subprogramme is to strengthen trade facilitation and trade-related economic cooperation in the UNECE region and beyond.

37. In 2016, the trade subprogramme continued to promote the development and implementation of national trade facilitation strategies. These activities aimed to reduce the costs of trade transactions through the introduction of targeted measures, such as streamlining documentary flows, simplifying and improving regulations and related procedures and developing and implementing concrete activities to address these issues.

38. Two studies on regulatory and procedural barriers to trade in Albania and Moldova produced action-oriented recommendations for removing regulatory and procedural barriers to trade and supported national efforts to achieve greater integration into regional and global value chains. With UNECE support, Kyrgyzstan continued implementing recommendations from the UNECE study (finalized in 2015). In particular, the Government of Kyrgyzstan was using the study as an input to decisions in the categorization of measures under the WTO Agreement on Trade Facilitation. The national training workshop, jointly organised with UNCTAD within the project “Improved capacity of governmental trade control agencies in Albania to implement Single Window Participating” (Tirana, Albania, 13-17 June

2016), increased knowledge of relevant international recommendations, standards and tools and developed an outline of a National Trade Facilitation Roadmap on establishment of the Single Window. The subprogramme strengthened capacity of five SPECA countries (Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, and Turkmenistan) and the CEFTA 2006 countries (including Moldova, Montenegro, Serbia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, and Kosovo³), to implement trade facilitation and electronic business. The workshop on cross-border paperless trade facilitation (Bangkok, Thailand, 25 March 2016) resulted in preparation for the implementation of UN/CEFACT electronic phytosanitary document by several countries in the Asia-Pacific Region. Trade facilitation implementation workshop (Accra, Ghana, 19-22 September 2016) increased understanding of trade facilitation measures and promoted the use of Trade Facilitation Implementation Guide (TFIG) for the Customs Agency and private sector associations of Ghana.

39. **Subprogramme 7 – Timber and Forestry.** The objective of the subprogramme is to strengthen sustainable management of forests in the UNECE region.

40. The pilot application of the experimental system for the Evaluation of the Management of Forests (SEMAFOR) was finalized. A workshop on measuring the value of forests in a green economy (Geneva, Switzerland, 21 October 2016) improved understanding of UNECE member States on the comprehensive valuation of economic, environmental and social services provided by forests. The workshop “Bioenergy from the forest sector - capacity building for information” strengthened national capacities of 25 countries in data collection, analysis and reporting in the forest sector (Budapest, Hungary, 6-8 December 2016).

41. **Subprogramme 8 – Housing, Land Management and Population.** The objective of the subprogramme is to improve the housing, urban and land governance, and to promote the evidence-based formulation and implementation of sustainable population and social cohesion policies in the region.

42. The subprogramme supported the development of evidence-based policies in housing and land management through the preparation of country profiles. Kazakhstan benefited from the detailed analysis of their policies and strategies on housing, urban development and land management, as well as the institutional and financial frameworks for these sectors. Side events were organised at the European Habitat Conference (Prague, Czech Republic, 16-17 March 2016), including “Implementation of 2030 development agenda and achieving the SDGs towards the new urban agenda”, “Shaping smart sustainable cities for the new urban agenda”, “Addressing housing affordability issues in the UNECE region on the context of economic, financial and migration crises: challenges and good practices”, “Emerging trends and challenges to sustainable urban development and CIS subregion”, and “Energy efficient and affordable housing for low-income population”. The workshop on safety and land-use planning (Geneva, Switzerland, 13 April 2016) improved understanding within UNECE member States on good practices and existing challenges related to industrial hazardous activities. The workshop “Promoting urban safety in smart sustainable cities” (Geneva, Switzerland, 8 July 2016) contributed to better understanding on the use of ICT in building safe and sustainable cities. The seminar “Long term sustainable value: approaches for valuation of properties for lending purposes” (Bonn, Germany, 13 October 2016) improved knowledge on determining long-term sustainable value of property. Side events were organized during the Habitat III Conference (Quito, Ecuador, 17-20 October 2016), including “Smart sustainable cities in the new urban agenda: where we are at and where we could be”, “Regional implementation of the new urban agenda”, “Rapid urbanization and material usage: resource efficiency through sustainable construction and urban planning.”

³ S/RES/1244(1999)

43. The Population component of the subprogramme organized a workshop “Addressing data gaps for active ageing indicators” (Minsk, Belarus, 23-24 June 2016), that evaluated the progress made by the countries of Eastern Europe, the Caucasus, Central Asia, and the Western Balkans in filling in the statistical annex to national reports on the implementation of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing (MIPAA). This workshop also strengthened capacities of the national experts in methodology of calculation, identification of possible alternative data sources and variables for specific indicators of active ageing. The Regional meeting “Enhancing capacity for the integration of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) Agenda into SDG adaptation and review processes in Eastern Europe and Central Asia”, jointly organised with UNFPA (Geneva, Switzerland, 2-4 November 2016) provided technical guidelines on collection, standardizing, and harmonizing the indicators in question and disaggregate data for their calculation. An assessment on the implementation of recommendation of the Road map for Mainstreaming Ageing in Armenia (2011) improved the knowledge within the Government of Armenia of the results achieved during 2012-2015 period.

IV. REGULAR PROGRAMME OF TECHNICAL COOPERATION (RPTC)

44. **Subprogramme 1 – Environment.** The objective of this subprogramme is to strengthen the national capacities as well as mechanisms for transboundary water and environment management through the effective implementation of the UNECE environmental conventions.

45. The subprogramme continued improving transboundary environmental management in countries of Eastern and South-Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia through the development of transboundary water and environment cooperation in a number of river basins. A Memorandum of Understanding for environmental cooperation between Afghanistan and Tajikistan was developed and negotiated and is expected to be signed during spring 2017. A hydrology training course for the riparian countries of the Pyanj river basin in the upper Amu Darya contributed to the improved hydrology monitoring. In the framework of a Global Environmental Facility (GEF) project to support further development of bilateral cooperation in the Chu and Talas basins shared by Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan, a bilateral expert group on environment was established that enhanced capacities of both countries for environmental management including water quality monitoring. A transboundary diagnostic analysis for transboundary water cooperation in the Chu and Talas basins was approved by Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan, and the development of a joint Strategic Action Programme was initiated. Further advancement was made to finalize a transboundary water cooperation agreement between Azerbaijan and Georgia on the Kura river. In 2016, development of national legal and institutional frameworks for dam safety continued in Tajikistan and Kazakhstan, and was launched in Kyrgyzstan. A new safety monitoring system on the Ortotokoi dam in Kyrgyzstan was established and successfully went through operational tests. At the subregional level, a model national regulation for the establishment of a cadastre for hydrotechnical installations, and a report on recent global developments in the area of dam safety were developed. In follow-up to the Memorandum of Understanding on a strategic shared vision for the sustainable management of the Drin River basin with the involvement of all five riparians, work on a transboundary diagnostic analysis was initiated through another GEF project. A number of interventions within the framework of the project “Supporting Kazakhstan’s transition to a green model”, such as the report “Review and recommendations on the policy of Kazakhstan for transboundary water cooperation” and training courses on dam safety and transboundary water cooperation contributed to the implementation of Kazakhstan green economy strategy in the water sector. A new regional working group on water quality was established under the regional project on water quality in cooperation with the Regional Environmental Centre for Central Asia.

46. **Subprogramme 2 – Transport.** The objective of the subprogramme is to strengthen the national capacity of countries of Eastern Europe and South-Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia to effectively implement legal instruments, norms, standards related to transport.

47. Efforts by the subprogramme focussed on assistance to UNECE member States for strengthening capacity in road safety. The road safety model “Safe Future Inland Transport Systems (SafeFITS)” project, launched in 2015, aimed to facilitate knowledge based transport policy decision-making related to road casualty reduction. In 2016, a draft SafeFITS model with three modules (intervention analysis, forecasting and benchmarking) and the related application interface was developed. UNECE organized a number of capacity-building workshops related to road transport statistics, road safety and transport infrastructure development. The 21st SPECA Thematic Working Group on Sustainable Transport, Transit and Connectivity (Ashgabat, Turkmenistan, 7-8 September 2016) improved understanding within SPECA countries for removing major bottlenecks along transport corridors and border crossing facilitation issues, and highlighted the importance of regional transport cooperation to achieve SDGs. The SPECA workshop of Road Transport and Road Safety Statistics (Ashgabat, Turkmenistan, 8-9 September 2016) strengthened the capacities of 35 national experts from SPECA and Eastern European countries for collecting and disseminating reliable and comprehensive road transport and road safety statistics. A report on road safety audit and inspection on the TEM network and two capacity building workshops (Warsaw, Poland, 6 April 2016 and Prague, Czech Republic, 20 October 2016) strengthened the capacities of representatives of nine TEM participating countries in road maintenance, safety and construction management. The advisory missions supported regional cooperation in transport (Meeting of the Ministers of Transport of the BSEC Member States, Belgrade, Serbia, 1 October 2016; Transport and research in the Danube region, Novo Mesto, Slovenia, 9 November 2016) and better integration of landlocked developing countries into the global economy.

48. **Sub-programme 3 – Statistics.** The objective of the subprogramme is to strengthen the national capacities of countries with economies in transition of the UNECE region, with a special focus on Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia countries, to effectively implement international standards and good practices in the production of economic, social, demographic and environmental statistics; in particular on indicators for monitoring the sustainable development strategies and internationally agreed development goals.

49. In 2016, the subprogramme completed a global assessment review of the national statistical system of Ukraine, and started reviews in Azerbaijan and Kazakhstan. These assessments covered all producers of official statistics and provided in-depth and comprehensive analyses of the institutional, organisational and technical capacity of countries to produce statistical information and indicators that comply with international guidelines and standards, including the UN Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics. A workshop on strengthening statistical and institutional capacities of Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia in the context of SDGs (Paris, France, 26 April 2016) identified specific country needs to enhance the implementation of the System of Environmental-Economic Accounting in support of national policy needs and international policy frameworks (including SDGs) and finalized the Generic Law on Official Statistics, which was subsequently endorsed by the Conference of European Statisticians (Paris, France, 27-29 April 2016).

50. A national workshop on SDGs localization (Tashkent, Uzbekistan, 9-13 November 2016) enhanced Uzbek government capacity to develop a strategic vision for national SDGs, targets and indicators, in line with the Conference of Europeans Statisticians Roadmap on Statistics for SDGs. The annual meeting of the SPECA Working Group on Statistics (Astana, Kazakhstan, 19-21 October 2016) enhanced capabilities of SPECA member countries to implement the UNECE Guidelines on Statistical Business Registers. This meeting also identified key priorities for future technical cooperation activities related to

the measurement of progress towards the SDGs.

51. Subprogramme 4 – Economic Cooperation and Integration. The objective of the subprogramme is to strengthen subregional economic cooperation and integration among countries with economies in transition, with special emphasis on those participating in the United Nations Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia (SPECA).

52. UNECE completed preparatory work for and provided capacity building support to Turkmenistan for the rotation of the Chairmanship of the Fund for Saving the Aral Sea (IFAS). Major progress is expected in the area of institutional and legal strengthening of IFAS, including the resumption of negotiations on an institutional agreement. The 11th Session of the Governing Council and 2016 SPECA Economic Forum (Ganja, Azerbaijan, 22-23 November 2016) brought together SPECA countries to adopt a declaration which strengthened the commitment of the participating countries to using the SPECA framework to support the implementation of the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda, through subregional cooperation, and monitor progress towards the SDGs. The Declaration invited partners to actively cooperate with UNESCAP and United Nations Country Teams (UNCTs) in bringing the relevant lessons learned and experiences gained to the SPECA Thematic Working Groups with a view to deepening subregional cooperation towards the achievement of the SDGs. The technical cooperation project “Strengthening capacities of SPECA countries for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the achievement of the SDGs” supported the contribution of the thematic Working Groups to a selected list of SDGs and targets through subregional cooperation on transboundary issues. The project is expected to develop and implement the subregional framework for monitoring the progress of relevant SDGs within the SPECA framework.

53. Subprogramme 5 – Sustainable Energy. The objective of the subprogramme is to strengthen the countries in the region in improving access to affordable, clean and economically sustainable energy for all, and reducing greenhouse gas emissions and the carbon footprint of the energy sector in the region.

54. In 2016, UNECE assistance to the member States focussed on strengthening capacity for promoting renewable energy investments for climate change mitigation. The joint UNESCWA-UNECE training workshop “Renewable Energy Projects Development, Finance and Business Planning” (Rabat, Morocco, 3-4 May 2016), organized under the project “Promoting renewable energy investments for climate change mitigation and sustainable development”, enhanced capacities of government officials and developers from 11 UNECE countries on the renewable energy project development, finance and business planning including assistance to project developers in preparing prefeasibility studies and support in the submission process to domestic and international investors, banks, investment funds, and other financial institutions. The capacity-building seminar “Enabling Policies to Promote Financing Renewable energy Investments” (Baku, Azerbaijan, 19-20 October 2016) further strengthened the capacity of national and local policymakers to develop renewable energy projects in UNECE and UNESCWA regions. Case studies from Azerbaijan, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Serbia, and Ukraine were completed, and improved understanding of the normative and institutional framework requirements to promote renewable energy market. The 20th Session of the Thematic Working Group on Water, Energy and Environment (Baku, Azerbaijan, 20-21 October 2016) improved awareness within SPECA countries of the interlinkages of the water-, energy- and environment- related SDGs. In the area of the United Nations Framework Classification for Fossil Energy and Mineral Reserves and Resources 2009 (UNFC-2009), a training workshop (Geneva, Switzerland, 26 April 2016) further enhanced capacities of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan to apply UNFC and its generic specifications.

55. **Subprogramme 6 – Trade.** The objective of the subprogramme is to strengthen countries in the UNECE region in developing and implementing national policies and establishing mechanisms in support of trade facilitation as a means of achieving sustained economic growth and sustainable development.

56. In 2016, the subprogramme delivered two readiness assessment reports on the readiness Ukraine and Kazakhstan to implement the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA), which contributed to planning for the implementation of the TFA in Ukraine and Kazakhstan including support for the functioning of the national interagency working group on trade facilitation in Ukraine and establishing a National Trade Facilitation Committee in Kazakhstan. The Port Community System in Odessa was further developed with support from UNECE and the Interagency Working Group on Trade Facilitation and Logistics. A network of trade negotiators of the SPECA countries was established and brought together for a Trade Policy Forum (Ashgabat, Turkmenistan, 11-13 May 2016). The capacity of policy makers and experts for trade facilitation implementation was strengthened in 11 countries in two subregions (SPECA and the Western Balkans), as well as Ukraine and Belarus. UNECE introduced a training module on trade facilitation to newly established partnerships with international development partners (USAID and the World Bank). A regional strategy for trade facilitation for the BSEC countries was finalized and presented to the BSEC member States for review and adoption. Single Window implementation advanced in five member States of the Eurasian Economic Union and Ukraine (maritime Single Window, and a first step towards a national, customs-based Single Window).

57. **Subprogramme 7 – Forests, Land and Housing.** The objective of the subprogramme is to strengthen national capacity for sustainable management of forests, land and housing in support of the implementation of the post-2015 development agenda in the UNECE region.

58. In 2016, the subprogramme organized workshops and undertook advisory missions focused on building capacity of countries in Eastern Europe, the Caucasus, and Central Asia in the areas of forest monitoring and management, land management and housing. As a result of UNECE support, over 30 representatives of municipalities from Belarus and representatives of planning institutions were trained on the use of International Guidelines on Urban and Territorial Planning (Minsk, Belarus, 18-19 April 2016). In addition, bilateral meetings with government officials of the Ministry of Architecture of Belarus facilitated agreement on the next steps in cooperation on urban development, including the preparation of a Country Profile on Housing and Land Management and implementation of the Geneva UN Charter on Sustainable Housing. A fact-finding mission was undertaken by the team of international experts within the framework of the preparation of the Country Profile on Housing and Land Management on Kazakhstan (Astana, Kazakhstan, 24-29 September 2016). The Joint UNECE/FAO Forestry and Timber Section provided support and assistance to countries of the Caucasus, Central Asia, Eastern and South Eastern Europe in national reporting to global and regional processes. In particular, the meeting of the UNECE/FAO Team of Specialists on Sustainable Forest Management (Zagreb, Croatia, 14-16 September 2016) reviewed the results of the 2015 cycle of global and regional forest reporting and improved understanding of the countries on requirements for 2020 reporting cycle.

V. UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT ACCOUNT

59. During the reporting period, UNECE implemented nine UNDA projects funded from the 8th, 9th and 10th tranches.

60. The project “*Strengthening the capacities of developing countries and countries with economies in transition to facilitate legitimate border crossing, regional cooperation and integration*” was led by UNECE and implemented in close collaboration with other Regional Commissions (beneficiary

countries: Costa-Rica, Georgia, Kyrgyzstan, Morocco, Tunisia). In the UNECE region, a central exchange platform (CEP), a versatile ICT system configured to allow customs administration to exchange all kind of electronic messages, was developed and deployed to allow customs administration to electronically exchange transit related data by means of secure web services. The CEP was configured for the exchange of data related to the UNECE pilot project between Georgia and Turkey. Technical assistance was provided to Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan to develop a roadmap for the establishment of electronic data exchange between the Customs authorities of the two countries. Based on the findings of the study on the existing technical and legal conditions for customs-to-customs (C2C) electronic data exchange, the roadmap for establishment of C2C electronic data exchange between Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan was developed. The participants of the concluding seminar to promote the electronic exchange of customs information and the adoption of standard electronic messages from Armenia, Belarus, Brazil, Cameroon, Chile, Costa Rica, Finland, Georgia, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Lebanon, Lithuania, Morocco, Paraguay, Republic of Moldova, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Spain, Sudan, Tajikistan, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, Uruguay and Uzbekistan welcomed the achievements of the project and recommended the further dissemination of the results in other regions through capacity-building and other follow-up activities. The project was concluded in June 2016.

61. The project “*Strengthening the national road safety management capacities of selected developing countries and countries with economies in transition*” was implemented in cooperation with other Regional Commissions (beneficiary countries: Albania, Georgia, the Dominican Republic and Vietnam). The project aimed to enhance national capacity in selected developing countries and countries with economies in transition to identify the most critical aspects and priority needs in their road safety situation and address and improve it as identified in the Road Safety Performance Reviews (RSPR). In 2016, project partners established partnerships with national focal institutions in all beneficiary countries. The project concluded a round of preparatory missions, which resulted in comprehensive information on road safety situation in the beneficiary countries and identification of the most relevant topics for Road Safety Performance Reviews. Fact-finding missions supported the preparation of national road safety plans (Georgia, the Dominican Republic) and road safety legal frameworks (Georgia, Vietnam). All beneficiary countries prepared draft Road Safety Performance Reviews. In order to increase the quality of the reviews, UNECE established a peer review mechanism for specific topics (safe vehicle, drink driving and road infrastructure safety).

62. The project “*Strengthening national capacity in most vulnerable UNECE countries for sustainable development of statistics*” was implemented in cooperation with UNESCAP, Eurostat and European Free Trade Association (EFTA) (beneficiary countries: Armenia, Georgia, Moldova, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Ukraine and Uzbekistan). The project aimed to strengthen capacities for sustainable statistical production processes and increase the capacity of the national statistical offices to produce and disseminate internationally comparable statistics. In 2016, all beneficiary countries made progress in the modernization of statistical production processes and have increased the volume of internationally comparable statistics, while three countries (Kyrgyzstan, Georgia, Armenia) improved skills to disseminate and communicate statistics through their web-based tools. The Strategic Management Seminar on the Generic Law on Official Statistics (Ohrid, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, 7-8 July 2016) supported the implementation of the Generic Law on Official Statistics in the beneficiary countries.

63. The project “*Strengthening national capacities for sustainable housing in selected countries with economies in transition*” was implemented in cooperation with UN-Habitat (in beneficiary countries: Armenia, Tajikistan, the Republic of Moldova, and Serbia). In 2016, Armenia, the Republic of Moldova, Serbia and Tajikistan progressed with the development of National Action Plans for Sustainable Housing and Urban Development (NAPs). Guidelines were prepared to assist drafting NAPs for the

implementation of recommendations of UNECE Country Profiles on Housing and Land Management in transition economies on the basis of the Geneva UN Charter on Sustainable Housing. The guidelines are aimed to assist the governments to develop and implement the NAPs and to improve interaction between all key stakeholders, including government, businesses, local self-governing authorities, international organizations and foreign donors. A national validation workshop (Dushanbe, Tajikistan, 26 April 2016) reviewed the NAP of Tajikistan and made a number of proposals to expand the NAP including measures on modernization of the housing stock and infrastructure, monitoring energy efficiency in the buildings, development of architectural design standards and preparation of the Urban Development Strategy.

64. The project *“Strengthening the capacity of transition and developing economies to participate in cross-border agricultural food supply chain”* was implemented in UNECE and UNESCAP regions. The project aimed to enhance understanding and increase capacity among public and private sector stakeholders to apply standards and best practices for efficient regulation, information exchange and agricultural food quality in the development of the national and sectoral strategies to improve access to sustainable international agricultural food supply chains and increase export opportunities. National experts from public and private sectors from Central Asia (Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan, and Kazakhstan) were further trained in the cross-border trade of nuts and dried fruit (Tashkent, Uzbekistan, 11-13 July 2016). The workshop increased national capacities in the use and implementation of UNECE standards, export and import inspection methods, food safety, quality assurance and marketing issues to improve the integration into international supply chains of target countries. In addition, Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan agreed to adopt the UNECE standard for dried apricots, and to develop related training materials with UNECE support, to be used by farmers, producer associations, and traders. A seminar on new trends in international meat trade organized as part of the Specialized Section Session (Geneva, Switzerland, 29-31 August 2016) enhanced knowledge of national experts from Balkan countries on international electronic sanitary and phytosanitary certificates for meat and available standards. The capacity of developing countries to implement paperless trade systems to facilitate cross-border agricultural trade, particularly through electronic certification was further developed in a regional training (Bangkok, Thailand, 1-3 November 2016). The workshop on cross-border agricultural trade for sustainable development (Bangkok, Thailand 1-3 November 2016), organised within the framework of regional training, strengthened capacity of private and public sector stakeholders in implementing agricultural quality standards, food safety and related export control systems for horticultural produce, effective post-harvest technologies, and business process analysis for supply chain optimization. In addition, UNECE developed a case study with the analyses of the export of dried grapes (a priority agricultural export produce) from Uzbekistan.

65. The *“Strengthening Governments’ and water operators’ capacity to ensure equity of access to water and sanitation in countries with economies in transition in the Economic Commission for Europe region, with a particular focused on small-scale water supplies and sanitation in rural areas”*, implemented in cooperation with WHO/Europe in selected UNECE countries (beneficiary countries are Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Serbia, Tajikistan, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Ukraine and Uzbekistan). The project aimed to strengthen the capacity of national governments and other stakeholder to develop policies on equitable access to water and sanitation, and to address specific challenges on small-scale water supply and sanitation systems in national and local development policies by supporting capacity development activities. Armenia and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia benefited from assessments on equitable access to water and sanitation, which identified equality gaps and possible solutions. Both countries started developing action plans to address identified gaps in access to water and sanitation. The Republic of Moldova completed the national project on setting and implementing targets, supported by UNECE in partnership with the national authorities, which resulted in the complex and comprehensive action plan to implement the targets approved by the Government and published as a National Programme 2016-2025. In addition, an Action Plan to support the Roma population in the Republic of Moldova was adopted, with the objective

of connecting 100% of households of the Roma population to water supply system by 2020. A regional workshop (Geneva, Switzerland, 21-22 March 2016) facilitated exchange of experiences in the region and enabled twinning between advanced and emerging countries with regards to availability of equity access to water and sanitation policies. A regional workshop on reporting (Geneva, Switzerland, 8-9 March 2016) contributed to the quality of national summary reports, prepared by countries within the framework of the third reporting exercise under the Protocol on Water and Health. This reporting exercise showed concrete advancements in improving the access of population to drinking water and sanitation services in rural areas in several countries, therewith decreasing the gap between rural and urban population. For example, in the Republic of Moldova, population with access to improved drinking water supply increased from 62% in 2012 to 86%, with a larger increase in rural areas (31% to 81%). Further advancements through rapid assessment methodology and capacity-building workshops were made in improving small-scale water supplies and sanitation in Serbia and Albania. In addition, two guidance documents on small-scale water supply “Taking policy action to improve small-scale water supply and sanitation systems. Tools and good practices from the pan-European Region” and “Status of small-scale water supplies in the WHO European Region” improved the evidence base on small-scale water supplies in the UNECE region.

66. Four 10th tranche projects have been launched in 2016 and will be reported in 2017:

- “*Evidence-based policies for sustainable housing and urban development in selected countries with economies in transition*” (beneficiary countries: Albania, Georgia, Kyrgyzstan, Ukraine);
- “*Accountability systems for sustainable forest management in the Caucasus and Central Asia*” (beneficiary countries: Armenia, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan);
- “*Sustainable Energy for All (SE4All) in Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and the Central Asia*” (beneficiary countries: Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan);
- “*Strengthening national capacities of the UNECE countries for evidence-based regulatory and procedural trade policies to achieve the SDGs*” (beneficiary countries: Armenia, Georgia, Serbia).

VI. FUNDING OF UNECE TECHNICAL COOPERATION ACTIVITIES

67. Total voluntary contributions to the UNECE technical cooperation activities decreased by 7.7% totaling US\$ 13,780,499 in 2016. Member States remained the largest contributors to the UNECE technical cooperation activities, providing 60.5% of the total extrabudgetary resources. The top ten bilateral donors (the Russian Federation, Switzerland, Germany, Finland, Italy, Norway, France, Netherlands, the United Kingdom, and Austria) accounted for 79.9% of all voluntary contributions from member States. The Russian Federation was the largest donor country, providing US\$ 1,346,655 in 2016. Intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations contributed 28.6% of all extrabudgetary resources, and the European Commission provided 10.9% (Graph 2).

68. Compared to 2015, contributions from member States decreased by 14.6% (from US\$ 9,765,508 in 2015 to US\$ 8,342,404 in 2016), followed by a 16.7% decrease from intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations (from US\$ 4,752,771 in 2015 to US\$ 3,935,197 in 2016). Meanwhile voluntary contributions from the European Commission increased by 313.5% (from US\$ 363,478 in 2015 to US\$ 1,502,898 in 2016) (Graph 3 and 4).

69. In 2016, the total expenditures for UNECE technical cooperation were US\$ 16,295,958. Extrabudgetary expenditures amounted to US\$ 14,017,874, being 86% of total expenditures in 2016 (Graph 5). The remaining part of total expenditures for technical cooperation included regular budget expenditures from RPTC (9%) and UNDA (5%).

70. The environment subprogramme accounted for the largest share (71.2%) of the UNECE extrabudgetary expenditures. The share of other subprogrammes was as follows: transport (16.3%), economic cooperation and integration (4.3%), statistics (2.8%), housing, land management and population (2.1%), forestry and timber (1.7%), trade (1%), sustainable energy (0.3%), and office of the Executive Secretary (0.3%). However, excluding the expenditures under the trust funds for the Multilateral Environmental Agreement (MEAs), the share of extrabudgetary expenditures of the environment subprogramme was lower (37.6%) and the share of the other subprogrammes was higher: transport (35.3%), economic cooperation and integration (9.3%), statistics (6.1%), housing, land management and population (4.6%), forestry and timber (3.6%), trade (2.1%), sustainable energy (0.7%), and office of the Executive Secretary (0.7%) (Graph 6 and 7).

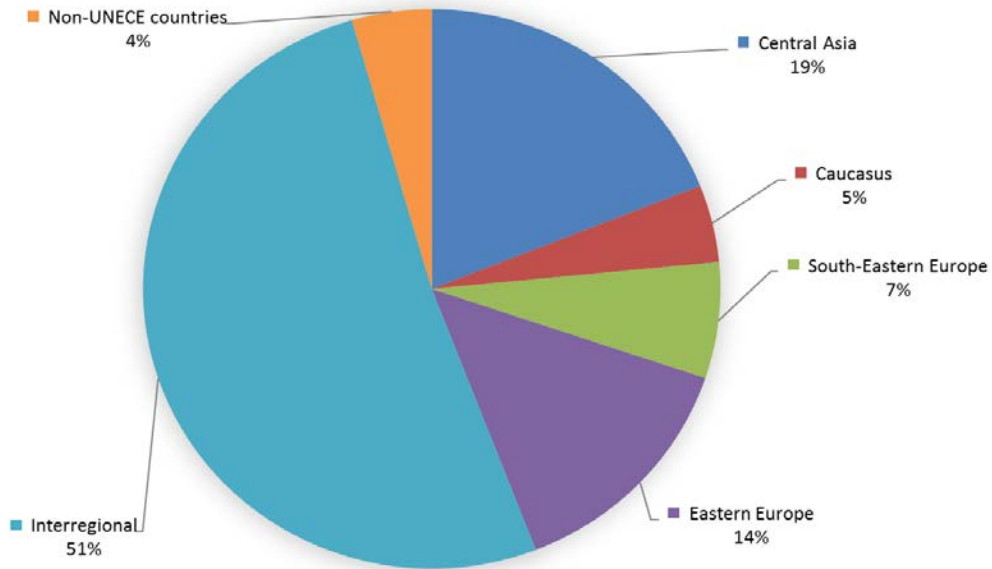
71. Expenditures from RPTC resources decreased by 18% from US\$ 1,759,731 in 2015 to US\$ 1,438,566 in 2016. These resources were used for providing regional advisory services in the following areas: economic cooperation and integration (24%), environment (18%), trade (16%), transport (15%), statistics (15%), sustainable energy (10%), forests, land and housing (1%), management of TC (1%) (Graph 8).

72. Expenditures from the United Nations Development Account (8th, 9th and 10th Tranches) amounted to US\$ 839,519. The share of expenditures from UNDA by subprogramme was as follows: transport (36%), environment (24%), housing and land management (16%), statistics (9%), trade (7%), forestry and timber (6%), sustainable energy (2%) (Graph 9).

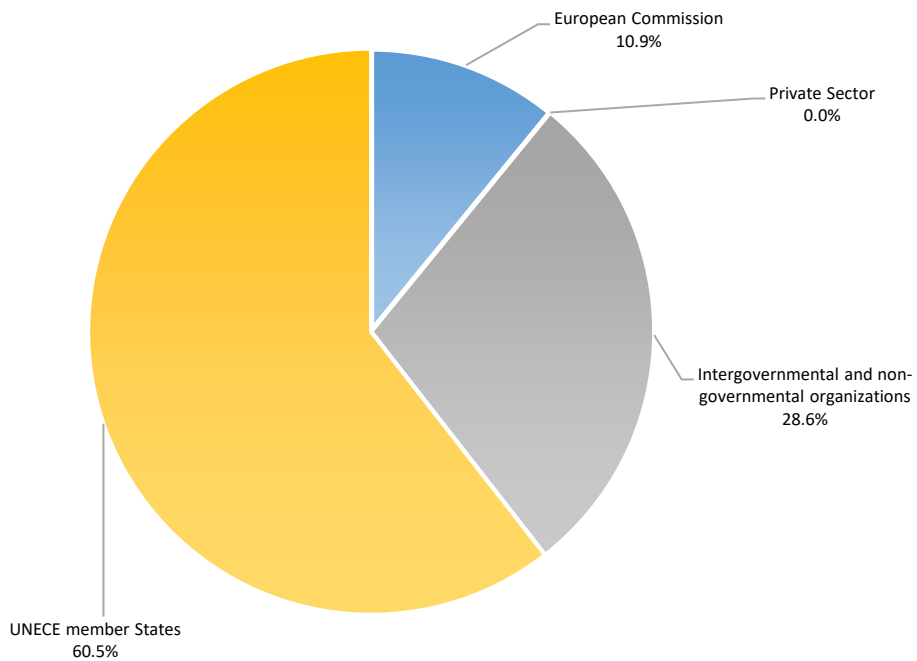
VII. ANNEXES.

Annex 1.

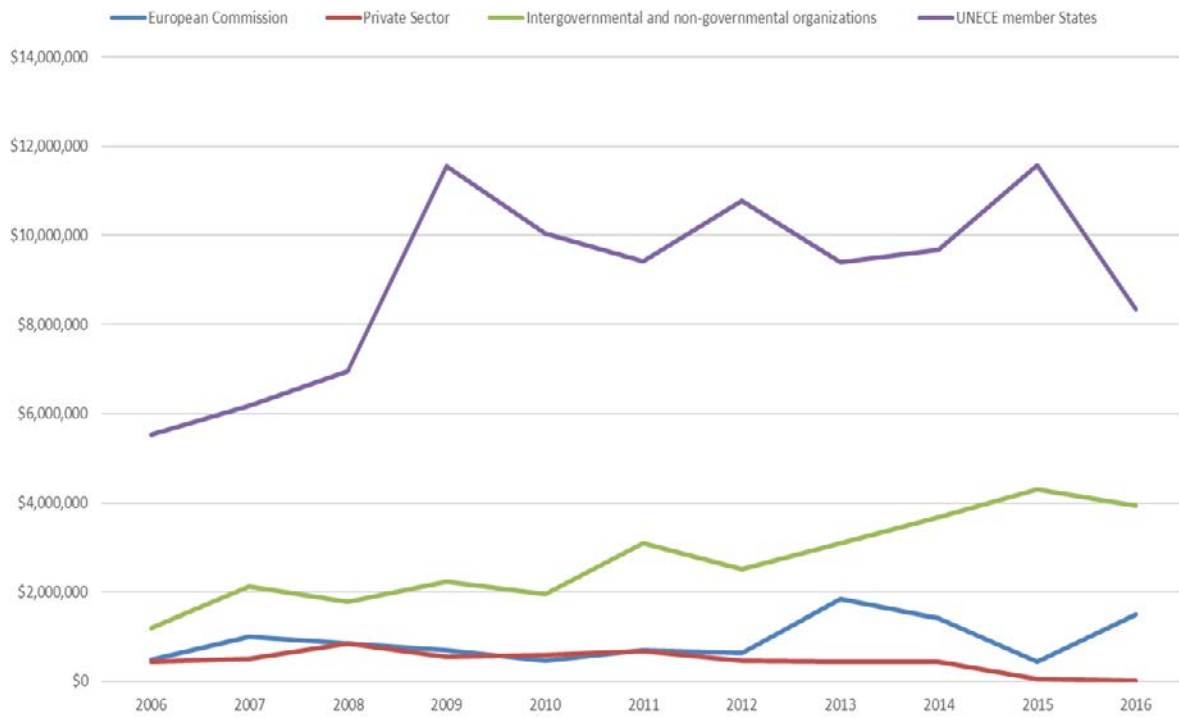
Graph 1. UNECE technical cooperation activities by subregion, 2016



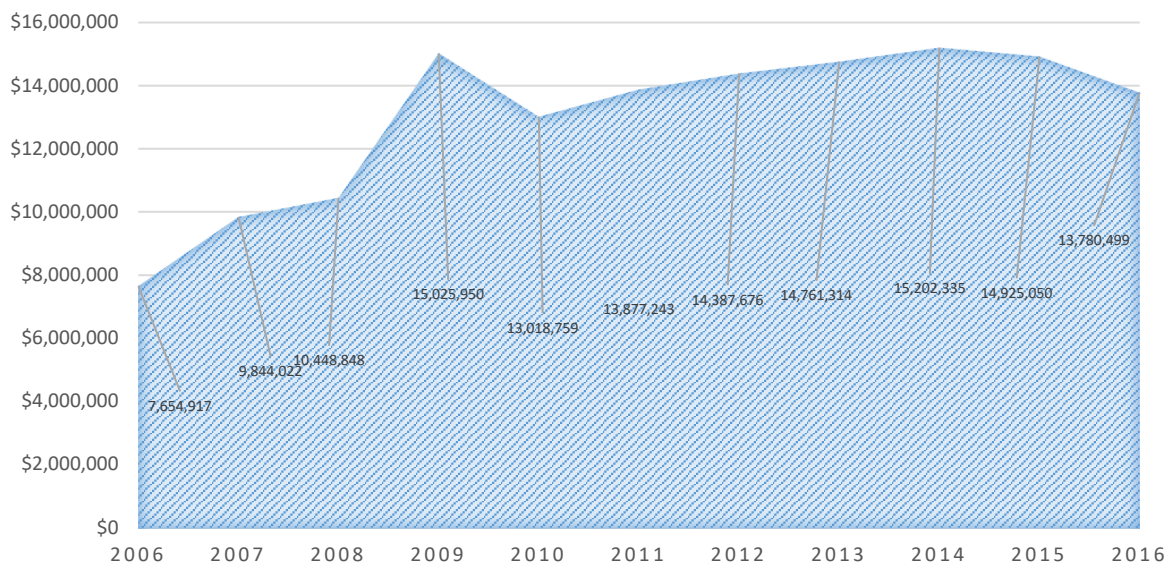
Graph 2. Extrabudgetary contribution by source, 2016



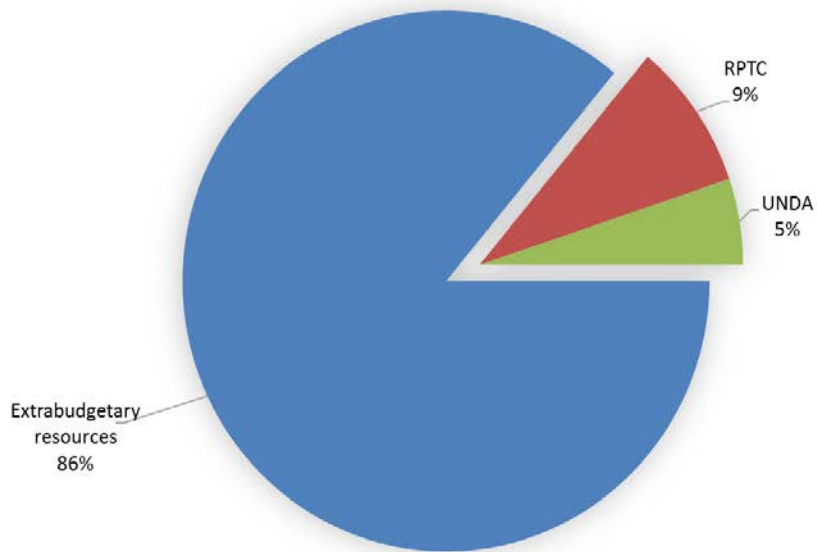
Graph 3. Trends in extrabudgetary contribution by source, from 2006 to 2016



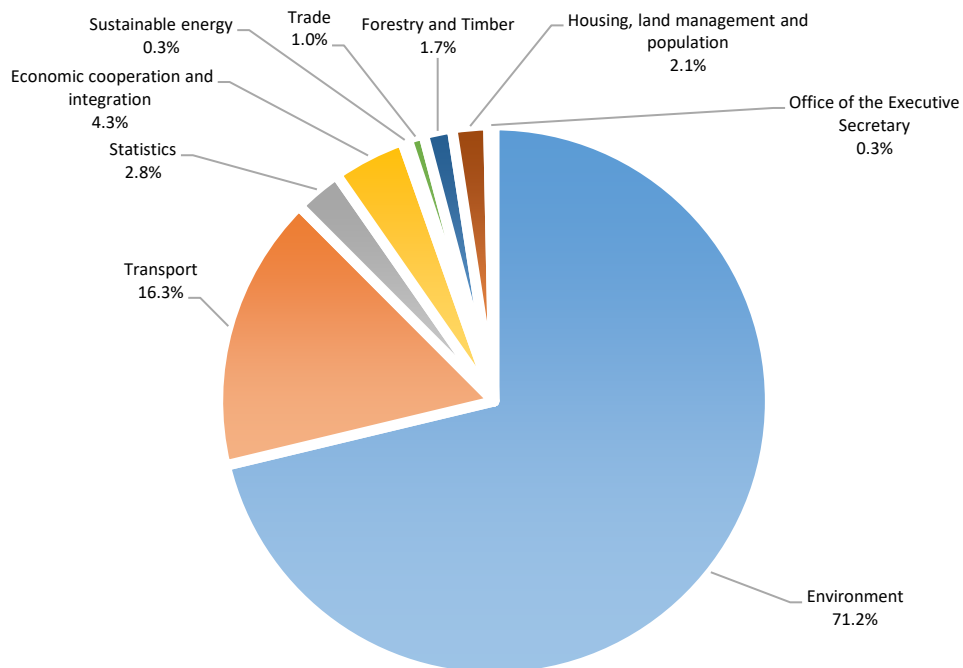
Graph 4. General trend in extra budgetary contributions, from 2006 to 2016



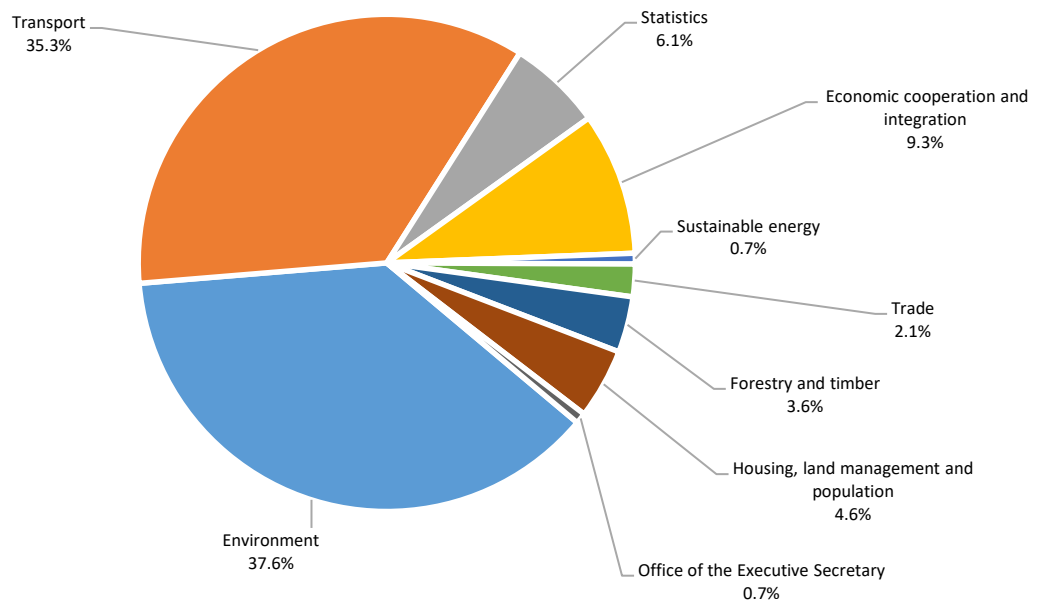
Graph 5. Expenditures for technical cooperation activities by source, 2016



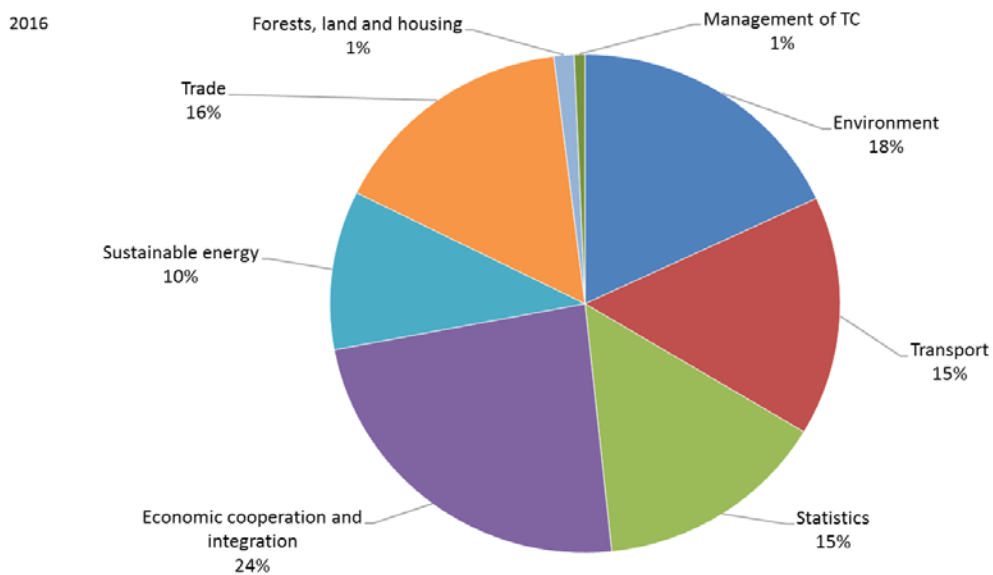
Graph 6. Expenditures under extrabudgetary resources (including MEAs), 2016



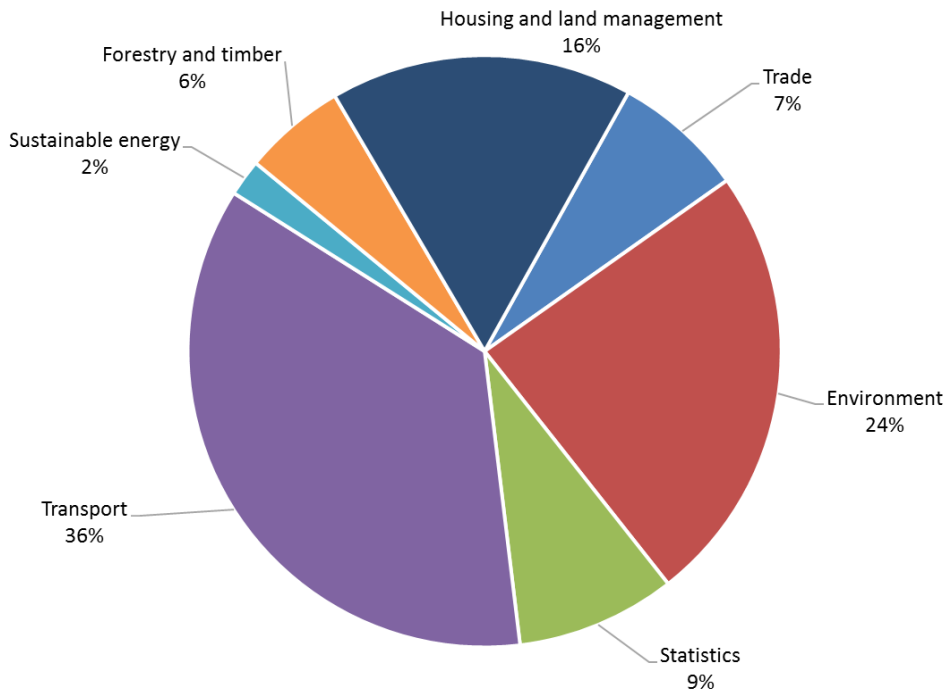
Graph 7. Expenditures under extrabudgetary resources (excluding MEAs), 2016



Graph 8. Expenditures under the RPTC by use, 2016



Graph 9. Expenditures under the UNDA by use, 2016



Annex 2. Extrabudgetary contributions (by donor & by year) (in US Dollars)

Donor Name	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Albania	1,400	1,800	780	429	4,429	6,433	19,583	14,871	11,055
Armenia	20,898	20,298	18,798	20,721	21,491	20,491	11,844	30,844	18,344
Australia	0	0	0	0	485,900	0	29,900	75,000	35,997
Austria	158,315	192,162	115,653	180,819	205,249	227,700	218,447	238,318	172,070
Azerbaijan	1,864	244	244	572	572	572	6,024	4,024	2,024
Belarus	2,345	2,345	2,345	3,702	3,940	3,702	6,262	6,462	6,462
Belgium	201,100	165,955	164,964	182,820	121,467	137,578	147,436	122,570	92,165
Bosnia and Herzegovina	33,113	10,613	10,613	21,300	620	42,039	11,811	24,691	24,011
Bulgaria	28,645	19,770	52,003	33,040	56,540	36,946	43,546	28,813	37,284
Canada	36,000	60,237	38,899	78,047	8,792	29,567	40,418	192,639	51,503
Croatia	27,254	26,333	63,832	94,876	41,464	39,423	48,114	47,455	45,061
Cyprus	4,260	25,357	12,668	12,910	5,551	5,205	4,620	2,620	2,620
Czech Republic	141,182	87,105	150,778	108,164	122,140	96,320	116,930	117,814	115,351
Denmark	70,920	90,127	88,239	175,092	116,862	124,784	110,331	174,444	82,880
Estonia	12,522	3,861	7,051	7,368	41,570	28,605	11,307	17,717	9,344
Finland	106,532	280,816	1,263,169	1,026,351	765,936	336,895	573,739	667,963	744,203
France	417,384	1,278,115	1,225,261	735,322	1,258,254	737,754	737,805	701,444	606,126
Georgia	14,704	22,103	659	524	988	489	1,734	2,234	2,434
Germany	696,893	2,420,760	1,109,360	1,040,175	987,760	1,259,862	1,024,156	1,021,790	748,818
Greece	39,732	56,982	20,000	0	0	115,580	0	1,096	1,062
Hungary	91,712	55,632	55,632	24,000	60,019	72,811	48,268	138,996	43,439
Iceland	1,804	1,804	1,804	0	2,051	2,361	4,316	1,480	2,836
Ireland	94,956	78,387	65,759	77,513	60,675	65,118	54,509	53,192	53,116
Israel	0	2,500	15,000	15,000	20,000	0	0	0	0
Italy	420,224	1,358,817	500,636	488,393	574,648	389,748	492,895	620,853	650,634
Kazakhstan	4,375	593	119,276	23,957	39,944	59,945	20,960	20,985	15,000
Kyrgyzstan	600	677	0	500	648	0	2,044	0	1,478
Latvia	20,551	8,704	5,816	6,059	7,647	7,874	8,360	4,258	7,618
Liechtenstein	1,058	1,028	1,551	500	899	470	1,351	970	500
Lithuania	27,271	23,171	23,171	26,511	34,303	29,211	35,707	36,296	29,378
Luxembourg	15,291	8,833	22,565	4,909	0	11,554	17,989	14,300	19,446
Malta	1,750	4,664	1,000	892	0	1,890	0	0	0
Monaco	305	306	306	294	303	303	839	670	1,273
Montenegro	49	49	224	0	0	426	2,184	512	1,992
Netherlands	582,057	463,445	502,642	647,297	468,830	467,561	448,258	592,273	566,110
New Zealand	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	35,000	35,000
Norway	432,848	538,389	788,396	1,086,833	947,150	1,055,268	822,414	744,079	613,115
Poland	92,305	76,571	73,337	122,925	115,189	154,267	152,787	143,155	141,846
Portugal	52,570	28,380	31,096	63,521	25,483	26,990	107,370	1,467	993
Republic of Korea	0	0	0	0	0	0	30,209	30,000	27,000
Republic of Moldova	1,000	1,049	4,861	596	310	3,135	1,000	2,209	2,000
Romania	37,846	184,864	17,500	27,500	17,500	26,383	24,507	55,476	78,071
Russian Federation	1,264,208	1,274,208	1,274,242	1,268,192	1,488,130	1,278,120	1,545,780	1,645,780	1,346,655
Serbia	1,024	5,252	6,090	17,041	11,000	18,142	16,124	14,624	21,664
Slovak Republic	56,795	35,703	24,137	24,196	14,234	26,810	21,089	49,591	32,024
Slovenia	29,821	39,480	36,575	50,409	25,407	37,347	30,475	57,566	102,245
Spain	386,371	451,927	184,757	168,607	168,130	168,090	165,570	168,818	168,804
Sweden	108,390	320,067	270,737	198,406	650,400	188,446	159,659	343,156	101,760
Switzerland	718,241	1,228,694	1,148,693	813,605	1,315,726	1,544,313	824,547	1,005,467	994,878
The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	544	244	0	0	0	310	0	0	0
Tajikistan	200	200	200	200	200	200	0	0	175
Turkey	50,380	45,375	40,375	52,735	52,760	52,750	93,960	161,114	158,614
Turkmenistan	356	0	400	0	0	1,050	0	0	0
Ukraine	12,690	13,237	14,458	12,196	15,898	6,002	0	42,032	27,546
United Kingdom	355,580	408,058	438,467	456,326	397,004	441,219	334,942	288,380	288,380
United States of America	80,000	125,000	17,000	15,000	15,000	0	0	0	0
Ax Son Johnson Foundation	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	10,000	0
City University of Hong Kong	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
European Commission	854,279	698,775	458,275	692,592	639,278	1,832,407	1,416,794	363,478	1,502,898
Eurasian Development Bank	0	0	0	135,200	50,000	166,900	6,000	0	0
European Environment Agency	0	0	0	157,500	181,769	0	151,101	100,000	0
European Real Estate Institute (EREI)	0	0	0	0	0	0	4,013	0	0

FIA Foundation	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	843,645	849,377
Global Water Partnership-Mediterranean	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	174,251
IBRD/World Bank	150,000	0	321,000	213,000	71,000	0	45,000	0	0
IBGE Institut Bruxelois pour la Gestion de l'Enviornment	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2,308	0
Instituto Nacional Estadistica Geografia	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	10,000
International Ground Water Resources Assessment Centre (IGRAC) Netherlands	0	0	0	0	0	0	1,651	0	0
International Road Transport Union	1,274,000	715,067	959,000	1,473,937	1,029,762	1,042,946	1,488,984	1,646,462	999,356
Islamic Development Bank - IDB	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD)	0	280,899	269,906	591,327	549,631	1,026,445	1,468,114	670,808	420,288
Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE)	0	0	0	0	0	283,368	41,603	69,743	123,945
Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (DEZA)	0	0	0	0	0	0	961,621	775,977	428,105
Tsinghua University	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	177,580
AFRIQUIA GAZ	0	0	0	0	0	13,613	14,227	0	0
Bank of International Settlements	7,021	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Botas A.S. (Turkey)	16,199	14,505	14,035	0	25,839	14,111	14,227	0	0
CEPI	7,396	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Construction Industry Development Council	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
EDF FRANCE	0	0	32,059	35,714	32,298	35,278	35,763	0	0
EFTA European Free Trade Association	29,968	0	0	0	0	0	5,777	0	0
EGAS - EGYPTIAN NATURAL GAS	0	0	12,698	14,648	12,745	0	0	0	0
Essent N.V. (Netherlands)	63,025	27,404	28,070	29,296	0	0	0	0	0
Europaforum Wien	0	0	0	26,667	0	0	0	0	0
European Business Congress (EBC)	115,464	104,987	126,050	0	0	0	0	0	0
GAIL (India) Limited	0	0	0	0	0	0	35,808	0	0
GasTerra B.V. (Netherlands)	41,009	34,256	36,415	17,711	0	0	0	0	0
GAS NATURAL FENOSA SDG, Barcelona, Spain	0	0	16,030	35,422	34,853	35,278	35,278	0	0
GAZ DE FRANCE	40,881	0	69,577	111,588	34,076	34,031	35,568	0	0
GAZPROM	40,881	34,256	34,993	35,422	34,076	35,278	35,568	0	0
Geoplín	16,404	14,150	14,566	14,169	0	0	0	0	0
HELVETAS	0	0	0	0	30,654	0	61,247	0	0
INA - Industrija Nafta (Croatia)	16,174	13,299	0	29,121	13,941	0	0	0	0
JSC KazMunaiGas Exploration Production-KazMunaiGas	0	0	0	0	0	33,206	0	0	0
MOL Hungary	0	0	14,035	14,286	13,941	0	0	0	0
Moldovagaz	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
NAFTOGAZ OF UKRAINE	16,174	13,702	14,035	14,169	13,775	13,559	14,305	0	0
National Grid Company Plc (UK)	37,901	36,262	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
OMV Gas GmbH (Austria)	32,808	26,598	26,364	28,338	27,261	56,483	0	0	0
Plinacro Ltd, Croatia	0	0	0	0	13,630	13,282	14,207	0	0
Plinovodi D.O.O. Slovenia	0	0	0	0	13,630	13,613	14,227	0	0
Polish Oil & Gas Company	16,404	13,299	14,035	14,286	0	0	0	0	0
Public Donation (Gas Centre)	130,709	54,439	42,622	164,379	52,120	52,120	0	0	0
Shell Energy Europe (Netherlands)	40,498	34,483	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
S.N.G.N. ROMGAZ SA	16,404	13,702	14,035	14,169	13,941	13,282	14,227	0	0
SOCAR- STATE OIL COMPANY OF AZERBAIJAN REPUBLIC	0	0	0	18,598	34,853	33,202	35,760	0	0
SONATRACH	24,260	0	20,951	0	0	0	0	0	0
Srbijagas (Serbia)	16,174	15,385	14,035	14,648	13,049	0	0	0	0
Statoil (Norway)	40,498	34,256	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
STEG (Tunisia)	16,199	13,702	13,999	14,835	13,901	13,282	14,150	0	0
SWISSGAS	32,808	26,598	29,132	28,338	27,882	28,223	28,454	0	0
Toyo University	0	0	0	0	0	0	27,000	0	0
The Institute of French International Legal Experts	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	43,293	0
Wintershall Holding AG (Germany)	32,808	26,598	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
UNDP	0	0	0	112,000	90,000	219,567	451,644	493,698	639,945
UNEP	0	750,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
UN Foundation	364,265	479,037	323,823	0	0	0	0	0	0
UNFPA	0	0	67,000	96,000	187,195	346,065	20,844	140,130	112,350
UNOPS	0	0	0	313,538	353,564	17,717	0	0	0
Grand Total contributions	10,448,848	15,025,950	13,018,759	13,877,243	14,387,676	14,761,314	15,125,284	14,925,050	13,780,499

UNECE technical cooperation trust funds, projects and activities, 2016

Title and date of establishment	Project ID	Expenditures (US\$)
ENVIRONMENT		
Aarhus Convention Project, May 2001	E104	1,111,876
Industrial Accidents Convention Project, July 2001	E106	388,315
Promotion and implementation of the Convention on Long-Range Transboundary Air Pollution, January 2002	E112	211,512
ESPOO Convention, July 2002	E115	427,772
Environmental Monitoring, July 2002	E118	63,852
Transport, Health and Environment Pan-European Programme, January 2003	E126	69,237
Water Convention Project, April 2003	E133	1,927,646
Protocol on Water and Health, December 2007	E150	639,776
National Policy Dialogue on integrated water resources management in EECCA countries under the EU Water Initiative, January 2009	E174	260,539
Water and Security (ENVSEC), July 2011	E183	112,636
Capacity-building for water cooperation projects, August 2011	E190	9,966
Strengthening the implementation the UNECE Convention on Long-Range Transboundary Air Pollution, December 2012	E196	139,993
Reducing environmental risks through implementing Aarhus Convention and its PRTR Protocol in countries with economies in transition (ENVSEC), December 2012	E197	1,058
Greening Economies in the Eastern Neighbourhood (EaP - Green), January 2013	E200	361,154
UN-Water Inter-Agency Trust Fund project, August 2013	E204	0
Environmental Performance Review Programme, December 2000	E205	223,555
Strengthening cooperation on transboundary watershed management between Afghanistan and Tajikistan in the upper Amu Darya River basin (Phase 2), July 2014	E220	49,720
Support to the Network of Russian-speaking Water Management Organizations, July 2014	E221	47,176
Phase III of Project E168 - Support to Working Group on Environmental Monitoring and Assessment, August 2014	E227	24,243
Strengthening the implementation of the UNECE Convention on Long-Range Transboundary Air Pollution in Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia, December 2014	E239	58,995
Capacity-Building for cooperation on dam safety in Central Asia (Phase 3), November 2014	E240	25,693
Supporting Kazakhstan's Transition to a Green Economy Model, April 2015	E244	583,928
Third Phase of the Programme "Regional dialogue and cooperation on water resources management in Central Asia", May 2015	E245	64,674
Enabling Transboundary Cooperation and Integrated Water Resources Management in the Chu and Talas River Basins, October 2015	E252	46,406
Strengthening the implementation of and accession to the UNECE Convention on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents in Central Asia, April 2016	E263	0
TRANSPORT		
Development of Euro-Asian Transport Links – Phase II (EATL), August 2008	E161	0
SPECA Transport and Border Crossing Project Working Group, December 2010	E181	19,401
Trans-European North-South Motorway (TEM), February 1992	E206	45,464
Trans-European Railway (TER), April 1993	E208	84,735
Transport International Routier (TIR), November 1998	E211	1,368,663
Euro-Asian Transport links (PHASE III) - EATLIII, October 2014	E218	33,900
Development of a Safety Module for the For Future Inland Transport Systems (ForFITS), August 2014	E229	47,550
Computerization of the TIR procedure, April 2015	E243	128,325
Road Safety Project - Phase I, August 2015	E247	112,532
Logistics and transport competitiveness review of Tajikistan, January 2016	E257	14,677
Road Safety Project - Phase II, May 2016	E259	424,781
STATISTICS		
Generations and Gender Programme, January 2007	E147	56,299
Ageing, April 2009	E171	33,040
20 year Assessment of Status of Implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) in the UNECE Region, April 2012	E194	3
Strengthening national capacities in statistics on population, gender, vulnerable groups and poverty in Eastern Europe and Central Asia, July 2014	E224	731
Modernizing Statistical Production, December 2014	E238	110,880

Strengthening statistical capacity for producing comparable and reliable poverty indicators for monitoring of the sustainable development in the CIS region, January 2016	E255	99,715
Strengthening statistical capacity for producing and disseminating statistics on population, gender and ageing in the UNECE region, April 2016	E258	92,909
ECONOMIC COOPERATION AND INTEGRATION		
Innovation performance review of the Republic of Belarus, June 2010	E180	15,516
Public-Private Partnerships, February 2012	E182	4,007
Capacity Development to support the implementation of Public-Private Partnerships in Belarus, May 2013	E202	20,564
Phase III of Project E158- Competitiveness, innovative policies and public-private partnerships: capacity building for civil servants and business associations in the CIS countries, September 2014	E226	243,447
Development and implementation of PPP international standards in support of the Sustainable Development Goals, July 2015	E249	232,968
Development of PPP Best Practices Guides, July 2015	E250	0
Strengthening capacity of SPECA countries for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), June 2016	E262	82,783
SUSTAINABLE ENERGY		
Energy Security Forum, July 2004	E124	1,280
Promotion and Development of a Market-Based Gas Industry in Economies in Transition , July 1994	E210	20,615
Promoting the implementation of the Regional Action Plan and Recommendations on Development and implementation of energy efficiency policies in the CIS Countries, September 2014	E233	305
Dissemination of best practices in the abatement, recovery, and use of methane, January 2016	E251	21,893
TRADE		
Support to the Implementation of the National Trade Facilitation Strategy of Greece, January 2013	E199	1,171
Strengthening national capacities of the CIS countries to implement ECE agricultural quality standards (Phase II of project E160), October 2014	E236	13,064
Maintenance and update of the UN Trade Facilitation Implementation Guide (Phase III), May 2016	E242	45,055
Removing Regulatory and Procedural Barriers to Trade in the Republic of Moldova, August 2015	E246	46,289
Removing regulatory and procedural barriers to trade in Belarus, Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan	E268	0
Strengthening the national capacity of trade-support institutions of Kyrgyzstan	E269	0
Maintenance and update of the UN Trade Facilitation Implementation Guide (Phase III), July 2015	E248	16,371
FORESTRY AND TIMBER		
Support to activities aimed at the implementation of the outcomes of the 72nd session of the Committee on Forests and the Forest Industry in Kazan (RF) related to the Rovaniemi Action Plan, March 2015	E241	26,647
Strengthening capacity of the UNECE member states to collect, disseminate and evaluate data on sustainable forest management, December 2015	E254	40,402
Strengthening national capacities of the UNECE member States for the implementation of the Rovaniemi Action Plan for the Forest Sector in a Green Economy, April 2016	E260	29,752
Increased awareness of stakeholders on the relevance of sustainable wood energy	E265	0
Less wood for more heat in households	E237	39
Strengthening capacity of the UNECE region for monitoring sustainable forest management and forest products markets, June 2016	E261	53,429
HOUSING, LAND MANAGEMENT AND POPULATION		
Strengthening national capacity for monitoring and assessing the progress in the implementation of MIPAA/RIS and 2013 Vienna Ministerial Declaration Goals: Active Ageing Index, January 2016	E253	140,710
Strengthen capacity of the UNECE member States to conform with the principles of the Geneva UN Charter on Sustainable Housing	E270	0
UNECE Country Profiles on Housing and Land Management for CIS countries: Kazakhstan, January 2016	E256	46,047
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY		
Support for ECE meetings, workshops and seminars within the ECE programme of work, April 2013	E201	45,326

List of acronyms

BSEC	Organisation of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation
CIS	Commonwealth of Independent States
EATL	Euro-Asian Transport Links
EC	European Commission
EEC	Eurasian Economic Commission
EFTA	European Free Trade Association
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
ENVSEC	Environment and Security Initiative
EPR	Environmental Performance Review
FAO	United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization
ForFITS	For Inland Transport Systems
GEF	Global Environmental Facility
GIZ	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit
HRMT	Human Resources management and training
ICPD	International Conference on Population and Development
ICSD	Inter-State Commission on Sustainable Development
IFAS	International Fund for Saving the Aral Sea
IRU	International Road Transport Union
ISO	International Organization for Standardization
ISSD	Inter-State Commission on Sustainable Development
ITC	International Trade Centre
ITS	Intelligent Transport Systems and Services
ITU	International Telecommunication Union
IWRM	Integrated Water Resources Management
MIPAA	Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing
MoU	Memorandum of Understanding
NPD	National Policy Dialogues
OECD	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
OSCE	Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe
PMT	Project Monitoring Tool
POPs	Persistent Organic Pollutants
PPP	Public-private partnerships
PRTR	Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers
RPTC	Regular Programme of Technical Cooperation
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
SE4ALL	Sustainable Energy for All
SEA	Strategic Environmental Assessment
SPECA	Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia
SW	Single Window
TEM	Trans-European Motorway
TER	Trans-European Railway
TFIG	Trade Facilitation Guide
THE PEP	Pan-European Programme on Transport, Health and Environment
TIR	Transports Internationaux Routiers (International Road Transport)
UN DESA	United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs
UN/CEFACT	United Nations Centre for Trade Facilitation and Electronic Business
UNCTAD	United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
UNDA	United Nations Development Account
UNDAF	United Nations Development Assistance Framework
UNDG	United Nations Development Group

UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNECA	United Nations Economic Commission for Africa
UNECE	United Nations Economic Commission for Europe
UNECLAC	United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNESCAP	United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation
UNFC	United Nations Framework Classification for Fossil Energy and Mineral Reserves and Resources
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
UNIDO	United Nations Industrial Development Organization
UNITAR	United Nations Institute for Training and Research
UNNEt	United Nations Network of Experts for Paperless Trade
UNOPS	United Nations Office for Project Services
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
WHO	World Health Organization
WTO	World Trade Organization

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