

## **UNECE Conference Launches Capacity-Building Programme for PPPs**

### **International Conference on 'Knowledge Sharing and Capacity Building on Promoting Successful PPPs in the UNECE Region' (Tel Aviv, Israel, 5-8 June 2007)**

The conference approved the text of the following **concluding document**:

*"The first regional meeting of representatives of governments, private sector and academia was held in Tel Aviv, Israel to identify the challenges in implementing PPPs for infrastructure and economic development and the solutions in practical capacity building programmes. It attracted over 300 participants representing public and private sectors from around 30 countries in the UNECE region, representatives from UNESCAP and UNECA, as well as the EBRD. Ms. Tzipi Livni, the Vice Prime Minister and the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Israel and Mr. Paolo Garonna, Deputy Executive Secretary of the UNECE, opened the Conference. The participants discussed national experiences in PPPs, their financing and the ways and means of building capacity within governments to achieve successful PPP programmes.*

*The Conference:*

#### **Acknowledged,**

- *The role of Israel as one of the leading countries in PPPs;*
- *The importance of PPPs in promoting efficient and inclusive economic and social infrastructure as demonstrated by the presentations and site visits conducted during this conference;*
- *The benefits and challenges of implementing successful PPPs;*
- *The need to improve PPP policies and strategies for successful programme implementation;*
- *In particular the need to acquire skills and the need for PPP Units to manage the process;*
- *The importance of having easy access to information on PPP case studies and best practices, as well as sharing knowledge within and between countries.*

#### **Recognized,**

- *The importance of international cooperation in capacity building;*
- *The usefulness of the UNECE work on the guidelines on good governance in PPPs and of the forthcoming comparative review on the performance of PPPs in the UNECE region;*
- *The important work of other international organisations in the areas of developing guidelines and capacity building, and the good coordination and cooperation being established between these organisations and UNECE;*
- *The valuable new initiative in PPP capacity building of the European PPP Expertise Centre (EPEC) a joint project of the European Commission and the European Investment Bank to help develop PPP policies for the benefit of EU Member States;*
- *The important work of EBRD in financing infrastructure PPPs, in improving the legal environment for concessions, and in building trust between the public sector and private investors by promoting and adopting best practice PPP methods and products.*

**Agreed to the following in order to ensure effective follow up to the Conference:**

**To launch** a PPP capacity building programme which within the next two years will aim to train at least 200 officials from public and private sectors from countries with economies in transition of the UNECE region and to develop better understanding of and foundation skills on PPPs;

**To sustain** this with the preparation of training modules for use in the region, and accrediting personnel to provide PPP training, and creating complementary synergies among UNECE, EBRD and EPEC. In this connection to finalize the UNECE guidelines as a "setting the scene" document that will facilitate development of such training modules.

**To Invite Governments:**

- To select specific areas for training;
- To mobilize their PPP Units to share experience amongst themselves and to cooperate in PPP foundation training in various sectors;
- To host high level consultations between their Ministers in PPP areas and top level private sector representatives with a focus on PPP policy making and implementation;
- To host further PPP site visits for government officials and other interested parties that represent good practice in PPPs.

**To invite investors**

- To share their experiences and expectations in the area of PPPs.

**To invite International and National Training bodies**

- To support the development of the training programme;

**To invite the UNECE Committee on Economic Cooperation and Integration**

- To strengthen its network of experts on PPPs and to consider establishing a team of specialists on PPPs at its second session in December 2007,
- To organize regular regional capacity-building meetings, in cooperation with interested governments.

**To invite the UNECE secretariat**

- To continue and strengthen its cooperation with other UN Regional Economic Commissions, in particular ESCAP and ECA within the framework of the UN Development Account Project "Public-Private Partnership Alliance Programme for Capacity Building in Infrastructure Development and Provision of Basic Services";
- To continue its work on PPPs within the framework of the programme of work of the UNECE Committee on Economic Cooperation and Integration with a focus on capacity-building;
- To continue developing the Virtual Platform for exchange of information on PPPs as a cost effective tool to exchange best practices in PPP policies and experiences and an opportunity for governments to find potential partners;
- To report on the Conclusions of the Conference to the PPP Forums of the other UN Regional Economic Commissions.

**To encourage participants of the conference**

- To participate in the Ministerial Conference on PPPs to be held in the Republic of Korea, in close collaboration with UNESCAP, 2-5 October 2007.

***To thank the Government of Israel for hosting the Conference and to invite it***

- *To report to the second session of the UNECE Committee on Economic Cooperation and Integration (December 2007) on the results of the conference.”*