

Status of Implementation of OIOS recommendations on the Audit of Selected Projects in the Sustainable Energy Division (2014)

No.	Recommendation	Action	Responsible Unit	Comments
30 September 2014				
2	ECE should establish a practice of agreeing and documenting the responsibilities, funding arrangements and other coordination issues with co-implementing agencies at the time of the preparation of project documents.	This requirement will be reflected in the revised ECE Directive No. 13 on Trust Fund/XB Related Activities.	Executive Office	<p>This requirement is reflected in part IV of the Directive No.17 on Establishment of Agreements and Management of Extrabudgetary Resources adopted on 15 November 2014. See Annex 1.</p> <p>UNECE considers this recommendation as implemented and requests OIOS to close it.</p>
3	ECE should establish a practice of including the decision-making authority and reporting requirements to Sectoral Committees and the Executive Committee in its project documents.	Detailed information about all projects will be provided “in real time” in the Project Management Tool	PMU Divisions	<p>This requirement is reflected in part VII of the Directive No.17 on Establishment of Agreements and Management of Extrabudgetary Resources adopted on 15 November 2014. See Annex 1</p> <p>In addition, all member states have access to the Project Monitoring Tool which provides ‘real time’ information about the implementation of ECE projects.</p> <p>UNECE considers this recommendation as implemented and requests OIOS to close it.</p>
4	ECE should establish a formal policy and mechanisms to prevent potential conflict of interest situations involving members of its governing bodies.	This requirement will be reflected in the revised ECE Directive No. 13 on Trust Fund/Extra-XB Related Activities.	Executive Office	<p>This policy is reflected in part VIII of the Directive No.17 on Establishment of Agreements and Management of Extrabudgetary Resources adopted on 15 November 2014. See Annex 1</p>

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				UNECE considers this recommendation as implemented and requests OIOS to close it.
7	ECE should establish a policy and develop guidelines and formats for result based budgeting, financial monitoring and reporting on the implementation of projects.	This requirement will be reflected in the revised ECE Directive No. 13 on Trust Fund/Extra-XB Related Activities.	Executive Officer	This policy is reflected in part VI of the Directive No.17 on Establishment of Agreements and Management of Extrabudgetary Resources adopted on 15 November 2014. See Annex 1 UNECE considers this recommendation as implemented and requests OIOS to close it.
8	The ECE Sustainable Energy Division should undertake a review of lessons learned from approaches used and experiences gained in the establishment of networks, capacity building and policy advice, with a view to increasing their relevance, effectiveness, efficiency, impact and sustainability.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Organise a retreat, to discuss among other things, the modalities of the review of lessons learned from projects. • Undertake a review of its capacity building efforts over the last two years. To assess their effectiveness, impact and sustainability. 	Sustainable Energy Division	A review of lessons learned in capacity building was undertaken by the Sustainable Energy Division during its retreat on 10 June 2014. The questionnaire and the conclusions from the retreat are provided in Annex 2. UNECE considers this recommendation as implemented and requests OIOS to close it.
31 December 2014				
5	ECE should ensure that the Gas Centre governance and working arrangements, reporting requirements, work plans, annual budgets and long-term plans or strategies are reviewed and formally approved by the ECE governing body.	The activities of the Gas Centre will be reported quarterly to the CSE Bureau and will be coordinated with those of the Group of Experts on Gas.	Sustainable Energy Division	The activities of the Gas Centre are reported to the Committee for Sustainable Energy Bureau on a quarterly basis. Latest quarter reports to the Committee are included in Annex 3 UNECE considers this recommendation as implemented and requests OIOS to close it.

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6	ECE should regularly review and update the funding agreements it has with its main donors.	All funding agreements were reviewed prior to the deployment of IPSAS on 1 Jan 2014	Executive Office	UNECE considers this recommendation as implemented and requests OIOS to close it.
10	ECE should establish a mandatory requirement for grants above a certain threshold to always include a provision for external audit and for the grantees to submit audited financial statements within six months after the end of the time period covered by the grant.	The Guidelines for the Grants Committee of UNECE will be reviewed, in consultation with the UN Controller's Office.	Executive Office	A mandatory requirement for first-time grantees with a grant of US\$100,000 or more to provide an audited financial statement by an independent and reputable audit firm within six months after the end of the time period covered by the grant is included in the revised Guidelines for the UNECE Grants Committee. See Annex 4. UNECE considers this recommendation as implemented.
30 June 2015				
1	ECE should establish appropriate arrangements for the preparation, review and quality control of project planning documents, including: a) a mechanism for their independent review; (Rejected by ECE) b) a requirement for reviewers to use the ECE Guide to Project Managers as a basis for quality review; and c) a requirement for project managers to undertake project management training.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Guidelines provided by UN Headquarters and donors, as well as the ECE Guide for Project Managers will be used for quality assurance of project documents. A requirement for mandatory project management training will be included in e-Performance plans for all project managers. 	PMU Divisions	These requirements are reflected in part VI of the Directive No.17 on Establishment of Agreements and Management of Extrabudgetary Resources adopted on 15 November 2014. See Annex 1 A requirement for mandatory project management training will be included in e-Performance plans of all project managers starting from 1 April 2015 UNECE considers this recommendation as partially implemented.
9	ECE should ensure that: a) project staff is appropriately trained in requisitioning functions; and b) situations are avoided where donors pre-select vendors.	Mandatory training will be organised for all ECE project staff in early 2015.	Executive Office	Procurement training was organised for all ECE project managers in November and December 2014. In the future, procurement training will be

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				organised every year. UNECE considers this recommendation as implemented and requests OIOS to close it.