



UN SPECIAL PROGRAMME FOR THE ECONOMIES OF CENTRAL ASIA (SPECA)

2010 SPECA ECONOMIC FORUM

“STRENGTHENING REGIONAL COOPERATION IN CENTRAL ASIA: A CONTRIBUTION TO LONG-TERM STABILITY AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT OF AFGHANISTAN”

(Palais des Nations, Geneva, 18-19 October 2010)

REPORT

Introduction

In accordance with Decision 9 (SPECA/GC/Dec/2009/9) of the fourth session of the Governing Council of the United Nations Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia (13 November 2009, Bishkek, Kyrgyz Republic), the fifth session of the SPECA Governing Council was held on 19 October 2010 in Geneva, Switzerland, at the Headquarters of the UNECE. The 2010 SPECA Economic Forum “Strengthening regional cooperation in Central Asia: a contribution to long-term stability and sustainable development of Afghanistan” took place on 18 and 19 October 2010 in conjunction with the fifth session of the SPECA Governing Council.

Participants

The 2010 SPECA Economic Forum was attended by the official delegations of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, Republic of Azerbaijan, Republic of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, Republic of Tajikistan, and Turkmenistan. Representatives of UNECE and ESCAP Member States, United Nations agencies, international and regional organizations, international financial institutions, bilateral donors and non-governmental organizations participated in the Forum.

Opening session

The 2010 SPECA Economic Forum was opened by Mr. Ján Kubiš, Executive Secretary of UNECE. He underlined that the countries of the region share a common interest in preventing the rise of militancy and extremism, the spread of organized crime, in particular drug and weapons trafficking and illegal migration. Since many of the threats are regional, effective regional cooperation is needed to successfully counter them. Ensuring strong and sustainable development of the economies of the region is a sine qua non for achieving long-term stability.

The Executive Secretary of UNECE proposed to focus discussions on those areas of cooperation which can contribute most effectively to the sustainable economic development of SPECA member countries and thus to the stabilization of the whole region. These priorities are set by the Afghan National Development Strategy (ANDS), which is the vision of the Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan and the international development community for the future of the country. All these priorities are also covered by SPECA.

Mr. Kubiš mentioned among key areas of regional cooperation trade, transport, infrastructure and investment. The joint management of shared resources is of great importance, since it would help avoiding tensions that could hinder regional cooperation. Existing regional institutions, in particular the International Fund for Saving the Aral Sea would offer a suitable framework for joint work with Afghanistan.

To achieve sustainable progress in the mentioned areas there is a need to dramatically increase human and institutional capacity for regional cooperation. SPECA offers a neutral platform, in-house expertise of the UN Regional Commissions as well as relevant international legal instruments of which the UNECE is the custodian. It relies on a broad network of policymakers and experts in the region and boasts a history of some solid successes.

The UNECE works closely with a number of important partners in the region. It implements the 2 million dollar programme “Regional dialogue and cooperation on water resources management”, funded through the GTZ by the Government of Germany within the framework of the Berlin Process, which is part of the Water and Environment Pillar of the Central Asia Strategy of the European Union. The Executive Committee of the International Fund for Saving the Aral Sea is a key partner in this programme.

The UNECE has developed close cooperation with the UN Regional Centre for Preventive Diplomacy for Central Asia (UNRCCA). UNRCCA is instrumental in building confidence and political will in the region to search for mutually acceptable solutions to complex, often sensitive issues.

The Executive Secretary of UNECE warned of the large gap between needs and available resources as well as the complexity of political and security challenges. At the same time, he underlined that the spectacular economic development of many countries in the region and the growing realization of indivisibility of regional security are reasons for optimism.

Mr. Eugene Gherman, Deputy Director of the Subregional Office for East and North-East Asia (SRO-ENE) of ESCAP delivered a message from Ms. Noeleen Heyzer, Executive Secretary of ESCAP.

In her message, the Executive Secretary of ESCAP emphasised that the Central Asian countries, including Afghanistan, face unique challenges: all of them are landlocked, they follow different paths of economic development and there is a rapidly growing gap between the income levels of energy exporting and non-energy exporting countries. The global economic crisis significantly affected their growth prospects and widened their development gaps. In particular, these countries, especially Afghanistan, are making slow progress in achieving the MDGs by 2015 as shown by the ESCAP/ADB/UNDP Regional MDG Report 2010/2011. Thus, a comprehensive approach is needed for economic and social stabilization of Afghanistan, and the Central Asian countries can play a significant role in that process based on shared security, and keeping in mind their collective economic, social and environmental interests.

The Executive Secretary of ESCAP proposed to accelerate implementation of the Almaty Programme of Action which calls for improved infrastructural connectivity to link landlocked and transit countries of this region with major trading centres. This is also critical for Afghanistan, a landlocked and transit country. More attention must be given to services that maximize equitable socio-economic benefits, while maximizing environmental impacts and the use of resources. At the recently held Sixth Ministerial Conference on Environment and Development in Asia and the Pacific (MCED-6) in Astana, Kazakhstan, the “Green Growth” approach was adopted and included in the Astana Declaration, committing the countries of the region to investment in eco-efficient and clean technologies, and balanced development for shared prosperity, social progress and environmental

sustainability. At the MCED-6, countries also addressed the mountain eco-system issues, water management practices and the development of green technologies.

To move forward, the Executive Secretary of ESCAP suggested looking to governments for setting up the policy, legal and institutional framework for the priority areas. ESCAP and UNECE, as the intergovernmental bodies with universal membership in Asia and the Pacific and Europe, could provide the platform for sharing good practices and linking Central Asia with the rest of Asia and Europe.

His Excellency Mr. Sultan Akhmatov, Deputy Minister of Economic Regulation of the Kyrgyz Republic and the Chairman of the fifth session of the SPECA Governing Council, emphasized the timeliness and importance of the meeting for regional stability.

His Excellency Mr. Andrey Denissov, First Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation, called SPECA an effective mechanism that satisfies real needs. The Russian Federation supports the Programme and gives priority to the financing of SPECA projects from its annual voluntary contribution. In particular, in 2011-2012 the Russian Federation offers USD 300,000 for projects on strengthening of economic potential of Afghanistan and development of energy dialogue between Afghanistan and the Central Asian States. In particular, it was proposed that UNECE implements projects related to integrated water resources management in the Amudarya basin with the involvement of Afghanistan and ESCAP conducts study/research and two seminars (for example, in Kabul and Mazari-Sharif) on socio-economic recovery of Afghanistan with participation of interested Russian and foreign companies.

The Russian Federation expects active support to the implementation of these projects by the secretariats of the two Regional Commissions – UNECE and ESCAP. Initiative and professionalism – the trade-mark of SPECA – will guarantee the success of these activities.

Her Excellency Ambassador Betty King, Permanent Representative of the United States of America to the UN Office at Geneva, emphasized that regional cooperation can contribute to the socio-economic development and long-term stabilization of Afghanistan. Strengthening trade links and investing in infrastructure – roads, railroads, gas pipelines and electric transmission lines – are necessary to support economic development and improve social conditions of the population. Joint management of shared resources – in particular the so-called water-energy nexus – would provide a stable basis for the economic development of the region, benefiting all countries.

First session: “SETTING THE SCENE: A COMPREHENSIVE APPROACH TO STABILITY BASED ON SHARED SECURITY AND ECONOMIC INTERESTS OF AFGHANISTAN AND CENTRAL ASIA”

The session was chaired by Mr. Ján Kubiš, Executive Secretary of UNECE.

The panelists included: His Excellency Mr. Eklil Ahmad Hakimi, Deputy Foreign Minister for Political Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, His Excellency Ambassador Pierre Morel, Special Representative of the European Union for Central Asia, His Excellency Mr. Omirtay Bitimov, Ambassador-at-Large for Afghanistan of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Kazakhstan, His Excellency Ambassador Miroslav Jenca, Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General for Central Asia and Head of the UN Centre for Preventive Diplomacy, Mr. Philippe Meunier, Deputy Director General for Global Affairs, Development and Partnership of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of France, and His Excellency Mr. Robert Watkins, Deputy Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General for Afghanistan, Resident Coordinator and Humanitarian Coordinator.

His Excellency Mr. Eklil Ahmad Hakimi, Deputy Foreign Minister for Political Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, delivered the keynote address of the session. The Deputy Foreign Minister of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan stated that the Kabul Conference on 20 July 2010 defined regional economic cooperation as one of the five priorities of a regional strategy. It is also an integral part of ANDS. Since challenges are regional in nature, addressing them would require increased regional efforts. Cross-border cooperation creates economic opportunities that are critical for beating insurgency and narcotics. The Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan attaches particular importance to regional cooperation, in particular regional connectivity: thanks to its central location Afghanistan can become a land-bridge for its neighbours. In order to contribute to regional stability and prosperity, the Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan established the Regional Economic Cooperation Council on Afghanistan (RECCA). Regional cooperation projects with the Central Asian countries include the CASA (Central Asia-South-Asia)-1000 electric transmission line, NEPS - the North-East Power System connecting Uzbekistan, Tajikistan and Afghanistan, the TAPI pipeline carrying Turkmen gas to Afghanistan, Pakistan and India as well as railroad lines. These projects would connect customers with suppliers. Development of extractive industries in Afghanistan will offer additional possibilities. SPECA has contributed to regional cooperation through a series of human and institutional capacity-building projects. The countries of the region would benefit from better coordination among SPECA, RECCA and CAREC, including their participation in the High-Level Core Group that brings together key players in the field of regional cooperation.

His Excellency Ambassador Pierre Morel, Special Representative of the European Union for Central Asia, underlined the special importance of the link between security and economic cooperation of Central Asia and Afghanistan. As the SPECA Economic Forum demonstrates, this link is finally better recognized. In 2011, a new phase will start in the stabilization of Afghanistan. A long-term vision is needed but this would require stronger public understanding and support, to which the 2010 SPECA Economic Forum is expected to contribute. There is a need for a comprehensive approach to regional development, which means, among others, opening up the region – both Central Asia and Afghanistan – through developing its transit potential. While the neighbours of the region support regional cooperation and a great number of international actors are involved in its promotion, the countries of the region have in the last 20 years not fully realized its importance. All Central Asian countries have their own vision of developing their cooperation with Afghanistan. The summit meeting of the OSCE in Astana – the first after 11 years – offers an opportunity to highlight the close interlinkage between regional cooperation and security. A key issue requiring closer coordination among the five countries is the fight against terrorism: the EU has been providing significant assistance to border management in Central Asia.

His Excellency Mr. Omirtay Bitimov, Ambassador-at-Large for Afghanistan of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Kazakhstan, thanked the UNECE for choosing an important and timely topic for discussion at the SPECA Economic Forum. Afghanistan is a major source of regional threats, first of all terrorism and drugs production. The most effective way of addressing these challenges is re-starting economic development, so social and economic needs can be better satisfied. The Kazakh Chairmanship of the OSCE paid particular attention to Afghanistan, among others, by organizing conferences on such issues, as the fight against terrorism and drugs trafficking. The Government of the Republic of Kazakhstan has also provided USD 5 M for the building of schools, hospitals and bridges and offered USD 50 M for the training of 1000 Afghan citizens in Kazakhstan. Positive trends can also be noted in Afghanistan, like the reduction in drug production and development of agriculture – which offers an alternative to the former. Central Asia should support economic reconstruction in Afghanistan by providing electricity and gradually integrating the Afghan and Central Asian economies. Kazakh business has participated in several tenders in Afghanistan. The countries of the region agree that they can help the stabilization of Afghanistan most effectively through economic cooperation.

His Excellency Ambassador Miroslav Jenca, Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General for Central Asia and Head of the UN Regional Centre for Preventive Diplomacy in Central Asia (UNRCCA), emphasized that the security and stability of the Central Asian countries are directly affected by threats originating in Afghanistan. Extremism, terrorism, weapons and drug trafficking are among these threats. Central Asia can help stabilize Afghanistan by assisting in its socio-economic recovery. The London and Kabul conferences underlined the importance of regional cooperation for the stability and development of Afghanistan. Geographical and cultural proximity provide a strong comparative advantage to Central Asia in this area. The joint management of shared resources is a key area of regional cooperation: UNRCCA organized high-level forums on water and energy in Central Asia. Strengthening cooperation between Central Asia and Afghanistan is a priority area in the UNRCCA Programme of Action for 2009–2011. Coordination of partners and initiatives is also important. UNRCCA proposes to organize jointly with UNECE and ESCAP a follow-up event of the 2010 SPECA Economic Forum, which would place regional economic cooperation in a broader context.

Mr. Philippe Meunier, Deputy Director General for Global Affairs, Development and Partnership of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of France, underlined the importance of the topic of the Economic Forum: it is necessary to develop a clear vision for the whole region and ensure the coordination and coherence of international efforts. Strengthened regional cooperation – in particular in areas covered by the agenda – is indispensable for achieving stability and sustainable development. The railroads that are being built within the CASA 1000 project are good examples of this. SPECA should play an instrumental role in facilitating this cooperation. Joint management of shared water resources is of particular importance. The UNECE Water Convention is a highly effective instrument to assist in it, therefore France continues to finance the participation of Afghan experts in the activities of the Convention. France will host the World Water Forum in 2012 and hopes to host the Central Asian countries and Afghanistan. Developing win-win solutions in the Amudarya basin should be a key objective. The task of modernization is high on the agenda of the region: this requires social development and human capacity-building.

His Excellency Mr. Robert Watkins, Deputy Special Representative of the United Nations Secretary-General for Afghanistan and Resident Coordinator and Humanitarian Coordinator, emphasized that economic development of Afghanistan and its integration into the regional economies is vital for the stabilization of the country. Afghanistan – because of its central geographical location – has a tremendous transit potential but its use depends on the relationship of the country with its neighbours. Economic priorities defined by the Afghan National Development Strategy include infrastructure development, energy and trade. Regional cooperation is defined as a cross-cutting issue. The London and Kabul conferences and meetings of the Regional Economic Cooperation Conference on Afghanistan (RECCA) have also reconfirmed the importance of regional economic cooperation. While there are some economic successes – e.g. job creation – a lot remains to be done. The Silk Road Process launched last May in Kabul also involves neighbours of Afghanistan. SPECA has an important role to play in strengthening cooperation between Afghanistan and Central Asia in several fields, including trade, investment, transport and joint management of shared resources. Among outstanding issues Mr. Watkins mentioned the need for dialogue and confidence-building among regional partners. The UN has a role to play here. SPECA is expected to put forward and implement concrete, tangible projects.

Second session: “EXPLORING OPPORTUNITIES FOR STRENGTHENING ECONOMIC COOPERATION: TRADE, TRANSPORT AND BORDER CROSSING”

The session was chaired by Mr. Eugene Gherman, Deputy Director of the Subregional Office for East and North-East Asia (SRO-ENEA) of ESCAP.

Mr. Petko Draganov, Deputy Secretary General of UNCTAD, delivered the keynote address. He reminded that the Central Asian countries face great obstacles to trade and their integration into the world economy. Since all of them are land-locked, they depend on their neighbours' transit systems. Their sheer geographical distance to the next seaport - 3300 on average – demonstrates well this problem. Problems are aggravated by long delays at land borders and poor quality of transportation services. Due to distance and poor logistical services, transport costs of exports of SPECA countries are three times higher than that of maritime countries. Total exports of the region reached 125 billion USD last year but it was dominated by natural resources (energy and minerals) and in the case of Kyrgyzstan and Afghanistan by agricultural and light manufacturing products. While the region profited from the commodities price boom of earlier in the decade, it proved extremely vulnerable to external shocks during the recent global economic crisis. Diversification of exports would be badly needed but it is hindered by high transport costs. Intraregional trade, which could facilitate diversification, lags behind its potential. Only 1, 4% of Afghanistan's exports go to the SPECA region and 13% of its imports originate there. Regional economic cooperation could foster intraregional trade, which would be an insurance against external shocks and would facilitate diversification. There is a need to strengthen and harmonize regional trade agreements. Many agreements are dysfunctional and there is a need to harmonize commitments. There is also a need to harmonize regulatory measures – in accordance with the requirements of WTO accession - which would also boost foreign direct investment. There is a need to pay special attention to the services sector, since services exports are very low. Trade and transport infrastructure can be most efficiently strengthened through regional corridors, helping the harmonization of procedures. UNCTAD is providing assistance to the streamlining of customs procedures in Afghanistan within the framework of a project financed by the World Bank. It is ready to extend this assistance to other SPECA countries.

In the panel discussion participated four speakers: His Excellency Mr. Sultan Akhmatov, Deputy Minister for Economic Regulation of the Kyrgyz Republic, Ms. Saadat Assanseitova, Head of Department of the Ministry of Economic Development and Trade of the Republic of Kazakhstan, Mr. Yerkin Mirbekov, Head of Department of the Ministry of Transport and Communication of the Republic of Kazakhstan, and His Excellency Mr. Babamyrat Taganov, Deputy Minister of the Economy and Development of Turkmenistan.

The panellists provided a broad overview of problems and opportunities in the development of trade and transport links between Central Asia and Afghanistan. They called for the improvement in the quality of trade links and transport infrastructure. They emphasized that energy exports from Central Asian countries to Afghanistan have a huge growth potential. Kazakhstan and Turkmenistan both make significant efforts to develop mutually advantageous trade relations with Afghanistan. The panellists believed that SPECA has an important role to play in building human and institutional capacity in the area of trade, transport and border crossing.

Ms. Eva Molnar, Director of the Transport Division of UNECE, described the challenges that the Central Asian countries face due to their land-locked situation. The sheer distance to seaports, the number of borders to be crossed, and transit costs add significantly to transport costs of exports. The development of Eurasian transport corridors and definition of priority projects for investment are an effective way to address these problems. Identification of bottlenecks at border crossings is also important. In addition, reform of the transport sector and better transport statistics were mentioned as preconditions for improved transit-transport in Central Asia.

Ms. Virginia Cram-Martos, Director of the Trade Division of UNECE, spoke about the importance of trade facilitation since trade could serve as a regional engine for growth in Central Asia. It is not only the large distance of the Central Asian countries to the nearest seaport which is hindering the development of trade. The Central Asian countries are at the lower end of the list when it comes to the evaluation of cross-border business activities. The Director informed participants about preparations

for the SPECA Aid-for-Trade Ministerial Conference in Baku on 1-2 December 2010 and encouraged governments to send high-level representatives to this important event.

Third session: “EXPLORING OPPORTUNITIES FOR STRENGTHENING ECONOMIC COOPERATION: INVESTMENT AND INFRASTRUCTURE”

The session was chaired by Mr. Andrey Vasilyev, Deputy Executive Secretary of UNECE.

Mr. Murat Mussatayev, Deputy Secretary-General of EurAsEC, delivered the keynote statement. He described the activities and achievements of EurAsEC, which significantly contribute to economic cooperation and integration among its member countries. EurAsEC inspires top serve – by developing transport networks – to become a bridge between East and West and North and South. It would be ready to participate in international efforts in stabilization of Afghanistan.

In the panel discussion took part five speakers: His Excellency Mr. Esen Aydogdyev, Ambassador of Turkmenistan to the Republic of Austria and Permanent Representative to the United Nations Office at Vienna, Mr. Fadi Farra, Head of the Eurasia Programme, Private Sector Development Division of OECD, His Excellency Mr. Mahmud Mammad-Guliyev, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Azerbaijan, Mr. Sebastien Thiam, Senior Adviser on International Affairs and Private Sector Investment, International Security Assistance Force of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO-ISAF), and Mr. Kunrat Wirasubrata, Country Manager of the Islamic Development Bank.

The panellists highlighted the active efforts of Turkmenistan to contribute to international efforts in stabilization of Afghanistan, in particular the development of the 1700 km TAPI gas pipeline. High-level representatives of the involved countries will sign an agreement on TAPI in December 2010 in Ashgabat. Presentations included the OECD assessment of investment climate and competitiveness of the countries of the region and recommended changes in competitiveness policies to boost private sector investment. Azerbaijan’s role as a bridge between Central Asia and Europe was highlighted, including plans to develop further rail and pipeline links to Turkey and through it to Europe. ISAF efforts to support economic development by generating strategic catalysts for investment as a major precondition of economic development were described in detail. It was also pointed out that weak human and institutional capacity seriously hinder infrastructural investment. Panellists agreed that SPECA could play a useful role in building institutional and human capacity for regional economic cooperation.

The representative of the United States highlighted the high-level participation and the richness of discussions at the Economic Forum. It is especially important that many participants described not only their ongoing activities but also their plans to contribute further to the economic development and stabilization of Afghanistan. This knowledge should be made available to the UN in Afghanistan. The UN chairs the Joint Coordinating and Monitoring Board, which regularly meets in Kabul. Presenting the outcomes of the SPECA Economic Forum there would help dovetail priorities of the Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, as reflected in ANDS and regional efforts of the international community.

The representatives of the Economic Cooperation and Integration Division of UNECE spoke about the importance of involving the private sector into the development of regional infrastructure through public-private partnerships. UNECE – through the SPECA PWG on Knowledge-based Development, its network of specialists and a series of capacity-building events – is offering significant assistance in this field to SPECA member countries and invited Afghan experts to join the UNECE Team of Specialists on Public-Private Partnerships.

Fourth session: “JOINT MANAGEMENT OF SHARED RESOURCES”

The session was chaired by Mr. Marton Krasznai, SPECA focal point at UNECE.

Mr. Saghit Ibatullin, Chairman of the Executive Committee of the International Fund for Saving the Aral Sea, delivered the keynote address. Mr. Ibatullin described in detail the history and causes of the tragedy of the Aral Sea. Extensive development of irrigated agriculture in the basin has resulted in a dramatic decrease in the quantity of water that now reached the Sea. Economic development, demographic growth and the effects of climate change are likely to aggravate the problem. The serious problems with the quality of water affect not only agriculture. Pollution decreases the availability of clean drinking water, thus impacting negatively on the health of the population. Regional management of shared water resources, with the involvement of all riparian states offers the only viable, sustainable solution. The International Fund for Saving the Aral Sea offers a suitable regional framework for this joint work.

In the panel discussion participated six speakers: Mr. Andrei Barannik, Regional Environmental Adviser for Asia, USAID, Mr. James Michael Trainor, Senior Energy Policy Specialist of USAID, Mr. Walter Klemm, Senior Land and Water Development Engineer of the Investment Centre Division of FAO, His Excellency Ambassador Reinhard Schweppe, Permanent Representative of Germany to the UN Office at Geneva, Mr. Sharif Shobair, Adviser to the Minister of Energy and Water of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, and Mr. Alexey Stukalo, Deputy Coordinator and Economic and Environmental Activities of OSCE.

The panellists described programmes implemented by USAID in Central Asia and Afghanistan, in particular a new project aimed at developing a regional energy market in Central Asia, which would facilitate large-scale energy exports to Afghanistan. The importance of preserving the mountainous area where large part of the water resources of Amudarya is generated was highlighted. The Berlin Process, which supports a large number of national and regional projects on water resources management in Central Asia, was described and the possibility of extending some of its projects to include Afghanistan was also mentioned. The importance of the newly passed Water Law of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan was explained in detail as well as projects in the area of water and environment implemented by OSCE.

Fifth session: “THE ROLE OF SPECA: A FRAMEWORK FOR POLITICAL CONSULTATIONS, CAPACITY-BUILDING, INSTITUTIONAL AND LEGAL STRENGTHENING”

The session was chaired by His Excellency Mr. Sultan Akhmatov, Deputy Minister for Economic Regulation of the Kyrgyz Republic.

Mr. Eugene Gherman, Deputy Director of the Subregional Office for East and North-East Asia (SRO-ENE) of ESCAP and Mr. Andrey Vasilyev, Deputy Executive Secretary of UNECE, described the history, functioning and areas covered by the UN Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia and the involvement of Afghanistan in the SPECA activities.

Representatives of the UNECE Divisions that support the six SPECA Project Working Groups presented ongoing activities of the PWGs that would offer an opportunity for more active involvement of Afghanistan, as well as proposals for additional programmes and projects that would build the human and institutional capacity of SPECA member countries to strengthen regional cooperation, in particular, economic ties between Afghanistan and Central Asia.

A summary of statements by representatives of the UNECE secretariat is attached to the report (Annex II)

Ms. Manila Paktian, Vice-President of the United Nations Women Guild, proposed to establish a training programme on small business and entrepreneurship for Afghan women within the framework of the SPECA PWG on Gender and Economy.

The Chairperson of the session read out the Chairman's Summary of the 2010 SPECA Economic Forum. He thanked UNECE and ESCAP for organizing the 2010 SPECA Economic Forum in Geneva which provided a framework for highly topical and substantive discussions. He thanked the Government of Turkmenistan for the generous offer to organize a follow-up event of the SPECA Economic Forum in Ashgabat in the first half of 2011.

The Chairman's Summary is attached to the report (Annex III).

FIFTH SESSION OF THE SPECA GOVERNING COUNCIL

and

2010 SPECA ECONOMIC FORUM

(Palais des Nations, Geneva, 18-19 October 2010)

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

SPECA NATIONAL DELEGATIONS

AFGHANISTAN

H.E. Mr. Eklil Ahmad HAKIMI

Deputy Foreign Minister for Political Affairs
Ministry of Foreign Affairs
of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan
Malek Asghar Street
Kabul
Tel.: +93 700 104 008
E-mail: eklil.hakimi@gmail.com

Mr. Mahammad Hassan SOROOSH YOUSUFZAI

Deputy Director
of the Economic Affairs Directorate
Ministry of Foreign Affairs
of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan
Malek Asghar Street
Kabul
Tel.: +93 20 21 00 374
E-mail: mhysoroosh@gmail.com

Mr. Said Shafir SHOBAIR

Adviser to the Minister
Ministry of Energy and Water
of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan
Main Duralaman Road
Kabul
Tel.: +93 700 281 800
E-mail: Shobair60@hotmail.com

Mr. Akhshid JAVID

Third Secretary
Permanent Mission of the Islamic Republic
of Afghanistan to the United Nations Office at Geneva
Rue de Lausanne 63
1202 Genève
Switzerland
Tel.: +4122 7311616
Fax: +4122 7314510
E-mail: akhshidjavid@hotmail.com

AZERBAIJAN

H.E. Mr. Mahmud MAMMAD-GULIYEV

Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs
of the Republic of Azerbaijan
Ministry of Foreign Affairs
of the Republic of Azerbaijan
Shikhali Gurbanov, 4
1009 Baku
Tel.: + 99412 59 69 008
Fax: + 99412 49 26 825

H.E. Mr. Murad N. NAJAFBAYLI

Ambassador
Permanent Representative
of the Republic of Azerbaijan
to the United Nations Office at Geneva
67, rue de Lausanne
1202 Geneva
Switzerland
Tel.: +41 22 901 18 15
Fax: +41 22 901 18 44
E-mail: geneva@mission.mfa.gov.az

Mr. Ismayil ALAKBAROV

First Secretary
Permanent Mission
of the Republic of Azerbaijan
to the United Nations Office at Geneva
67, rue de Lausanne
1202 Geneva
Switzerland
Tel.: +41 22 901 18 15
Fax: +41 22 901 18 44
E-mail: i_alakbarov@mfa.gov.az

Ms. Seljan VERDIYEVA

Attaché
Ministry of Foreign Affairs
of the Republic of Azerbaijan
Shikhali Gurbanov, 4
1009 Baku
Tel.: + 99412 59 69 085
Fax: + 99412 49 26 825
E-mail: s_verdiyeva@mfa.gov.az

Mr. Emin TEYMUROV

Attaché
Permanent Mission
of the Republic of Azerbaijan
to the United Nations Office at Geneva
67, rue de Lausanne
1202 Geneva
Switzerland
Tel.: +41 22 901 18 15
Fax: +41 22 901 18 44
E-mail: geneva@mission.mfa.gov.az

KAZAKHSTAN

H.E. Mr. Omirtay BITIMOV

Ambassador at large
Ministry of Foreign Affairs
of the Republic of Kazakhstan
Kunayev Street, 31
Astana
Tel.: +77172 72 02 24
E-mail: o.bitimov@mfa.kz

H.E. Mr. Mukhtar TILEUBERDI

Ambassador
Permanent Representative of
the Republic of Kazakhstan
to the United Nations Office at Geneva
Chemin du Prunier 16
1218 Grand Saconnex - Geneva
Switzerland
Tel.: +4122 788 66 00
Fax: +4122 788 66 02
E-mail: mission.kazakhstan@ties.itu.int

Mr. Askar AKHMETOV

Head of Division
Ministry of Foreign Affairs
of the Republic of Kazakhstan
Dinmuhamed Kunaev Street 31
010000 Astana
Tel.: +77172 72 03 49
Fax: +77172 72 03 86
E-mal: uno@mfa.kz

Ms. Saadat ASSANSEITOVA

Head of Department
Ministry of Economic Development
and Trade
of the Republic of Kazakhstan
Dinmuhamed Kunaev Street 31
010000 Astana
Tel.: +77172 72 03 49
Fax: +77172 72 03 86
E-mal: uno@mfa.kz

Mr. Yerkin MEIRBEKOV

Head of Division
Ministry of Transport and Communications
of the Republic of Kazakhstan
Kabanbai-batyr avenue, 47
Astana
Tel.: +77172 24 24 27
Fax: +77172 24 12 98
E-mail: meirbekov@mtc.gov.kz

Mr. Muratbek MADIMAR

Third Secretary
Permanent Mission of
of the Republic of Kazakhstan
to the United Nations Office at Geneva
Chemin du Prunier 16
1218 Grand Saconnex – Geneva
Switzerland
Tel.: +4122 788 66 00
Fax: +4122 788 66 02
E-mail: m.madimar@kazakhstan_geneva.ch

KYRGYZSTAN

H.E. Mr. Sultan AKHMATOV

Deputy Minister
for Economic Regulation
of the Kyrgyz Republic
Chui Avenue 106
Bishkek
Tel.: +9963 12 62 52 41
Fax: +9963 12 66 18 37
E-mail: ASM2010@gmail.com

Mr. Temirber SULTANBAEV

Chargé d'affaires a.i.
Permanent Mission
of the Kyrgyz Republic
to the United Nations Office at Geneva
Rue du Lac 4-61 (1er étage)
1207 Geneva
Switzerland
Tel.: +4122 707 92 20
Fax: +4122 770 92 21
E-mail: kyrgyzmission@bluewin.ch

Mr. Daiyr KENEKEEV

Expert
Economic Development
and Monitoring Division
Administration of the President
of the Kyrgyz Republic
Abdumomunov Street 207
Bishkek
Tel.: +9963 12 96 01 92
Fax: +996312 62 50 12
E-mail: 960191@mail.ru

Ms. Aizada KUDAIBERDIEVA

Senior Specialist
Ministry of Economic Regulation
of the Kyrgyz Republic
Chui Avenue 106
Bishkek
Tel.: +9963 12 66 18 67
Fax: 9963 12 66 18 37
E-mail: Kudaiberdieva-a@mail.ru / dcifo@mail.ru

Mr. Nazariy TERLYGA
Conseiller
Permanent Mission
of the Kyrgyz Republic
to the United Nations Office at Geneva
Rue du Lac 4-61 (1er étage)
1207 Geneva
Switzerland
Tel.: +4122 707 92 20
Fax: +4122 770 92 21
E-mail: nazar.terlyga@gmail.com

TAJIKISTAN

Mr. Jamshed KHAMIDOV
Chargé d'affaires a.i.
Permanent Mission
of the Republic of Tajikistan
to the United Nations Office at Geneva
Rue de la Servette 93 (4th Floor)
1202 Geneva
Switzerland
Tel.: +4122 734 11 40
Fax: +4122 734 11 58
E-mail: tajikistanmission@bluewin.ch

TURKMENISTAN

H.E. Mr. Esen AYDOGDYEV
Ambassador of Turkmenistan
to the Republic of Austria
Permanent Representative
of Turkmenistan to the United Nations Office
at Vienna
Argentinerstrasse 22/2/EG
1040 Vienna
Austria
Tel.: +431 503 64 70
Fax: +431 503 64 73
E-mail: Turkmenistan@live.at

H.E. Mr. Babamyrat TAGANOV
Deputy Minister of the Economy and
Development of Turkmenistan
Ministry of the Economy and
Development of Turkmenistan
Nurberdi Pomma Avenue, 4
Ashgabat
Tel.: +99312 51 11 34
Fax: +99312 51 1134

H.E. Mme Ayna GURBANOVA
Deputy Minister of Trade and Foreign
Economy Relations of Turkmenistan
Ministry of Trade and Foreign
Economy Relations of Turkmenistan
Archabil 52
Ashgabat
Tel.: +99312 44 64 44
Fax: +99312 44 56 565

Mr. Maksat BEKIYEV
First Secretary
Ministry of Foreign Affairs
of Turkmenistan
Magtymguly Avenue, 83
Ashgabat
Tel.: +99312 35 50 12
Fax: +99312 35 42 41

DELEGATIONS OF OTHER UNITED NATIONS COUNTRIES

BELGIUM

Mr. Patrick VAN GHEEL
First Secretary
Permanent Mission of Belgium
to the United Nations office at Geneva
58 Rue de Moillebeau
1211 Geneva 19
Switzerland
Tel.: +4122 730 40 25
Fax: +4122 739 69 23
E-mail: yangheel@diplobel.fed.be

Ms. Rachel GRISENDI
Intern
Permanent Mission of Belgium
to the United Nations office at Geneva
58 Rue de Moillebeau
1211 Geneva 19
Switzerland
Tel.: +4122 730 40 25
Fax: +4122 739 69 23
E-mail: grisendi@diplobel.fed.be

CANADA

Ms. Johanna FOREST

First Secretary
Permanent Mission of Canada
to the United Nations office at Geneva
Avenue de l'Ariana 5
1202 Geneva
Switzerland
Tel.: +4122 919 92 00
Fax: +4122 919 92 27
E-mail: genev@international.gc.ca

CYPRUS

Ms. Mirianthi SPATHI

Second Secretary
Permanent Mission of Cyprus
to the United Nations office at Geneva
Rue du Grand-Pré 66
1202 Geneva
Switzerland
Tel.: +4122 798 21 50
Fax: +791 00 84
E-mail: Cyprus@cyprusmission.ch

FINLAND

Mr. Tony PASO

Counsellor
Permanent Mission of Finland
to the United Nations Office at Geneva
1, Rue du Pré-de-la Bichette
P.O.B. 198
1211 Geneva 20
Switzerland
Tel.: +4122 919 4262
Fax: +4122 740 0287
E-mail: tony.paso@formin.fi

FRANCE

Mr. Philippe MEUNIER

Deputy Director General
for Global Affairs, Development and Partnership
Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs of France
27, Rue de la Convention
75732 Paris Cedex 15
Tel.: +33 1 43 17 46 53
Fax: +33 1 43 17 44 26
E-mail: philippe.meunier@diplomatie.gouv.fr

Mr. Jean-Francois BONNET

Sub-Directorate for Natural Resources Management
Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs of France
27, Rue de la Convention
75732 Paris Cedex 15
Tel.: +33 6 10 19 33 56
Fax : +33 1 43 17 73 94
E-mail: jean-francois.bonnet@diplomatie.gouv.fr

Mr. Yves MANVILLE

Conseiller
Desk Officer - Afghanistan Pakistan
Interministerial Committee in Paris
Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs of France
37, Quai d'Orsay
75007 Paris
Tel.: +33 141 74 611 /+33 675 15 86 33
E-mail: yves.manville@diplomatie.gov

Mr. Sebastien CHATELUS

Conseiller
Permanent Mission of France
to the United Nations Office at Geneva
Villa "Les Ormeaux"
Route de Pregny 36
1292 Chambésy-Geneva
Switzerland
Tel.: +4122 758 91 27
Fax: +4122 758 91 37
E-mail: Sebastien.chatelus@dimpomatie.gouv.fr

GERMANY

H.E. Mr. Reinhard SCHWEPPE

Ambassador
Permanent Representative of Germany
to the United Nations Office at Geneva
Chemin du Petit-Saconnex 28 c
Case postale 171
1211 Geneva 19
Switzerland
Tel.: +4122 730 11 11
Fax: +4122 734 30 43
E-mail: mission.germany@ties.itu.int

Ms. Gabriela BENNEMANN

Conseiller

Permanent Mission of Germany
to the United Nations Office at Geneva

Chemin du Petit-Saconnex 28 c

Case postale 171

1211 Geneva 19

Switzerland

Tel.: +4122 730 11 11

Fax: +4122 734 30 43

E-mail: wi-al-io@genf-diplo.de / mission.germany@ties.itu.int

Mr. Axela BOST

Second Secretary

Permanent Mission of Germany
to the United Nations Office at Geneva

Chemin du Petit-Saconnex 28 c

Case postale 171

1211 Geneva 19

Switzerland

Tel.: +4122 730 12 68

Fax: +4122 730 12 95

E-mail: wi-al-io@genf-diplo.de

GREECE

Mr. Andreas PAPASTAMOU

First Secretary for Economic Affairs

Permanent Mission of Greece

to the United Nations Office at Geneva

Rue du Léman 4

Case postale 56

1211 Geneva 21

Switzerland

Tel.: +4122 909 8799

Fax: +4122 732 2150

E-mail: mission.greece@ties.itu.int

INDIA

Mr. Sanjeev SINGLA

Counsellor

Permanent Mission of India

to the United Nations Office at Geneva

9 Rue du Valais (6th Floor)

1202 Geneva

Switzerland

Tel.: +4122 906 8686

Fax: +4122 906 8696

E-mail: sanjeev.singla@ties.itu.int

MONGOLIA

Mr. Gozon JARGALSAIKHAN
Deputy Permanent Representative
Permanent Mission of Mongolia
to the United Nations Office at Geneva
4 Chemin des Mollies
1293 Gellvue – Geneva
Switzerland
Tel.: +4122 774 1974
Fax: +4122 774 3201
E-mail: mongolie@bluewin.ch

Mr. Gantumur GANJARCAL
Diplomat
Permanent Mission of Mongolia
to the United Nations Office at Geneva
4 Chemin des Mollies
1293 Gellvue – Geneva
Switzerland
Tel.: +4122 774 1974
Fax: +4122 774 3201
E-mail: mongolie@bluewin.ch

PAKISTAN

Mr. Shafqat Ali KHAN
Conseiller
Permanent Mission of Pakistan
to the United Nations Office at Geneva
56, rue de Moillebeau
1211 Geneva 19
Switzerland
Tel.:+4122 749 19 30
E-mail: mission.pakistan@ties.itu.int

Mr. Bilal AHMAD
First Secretary
Permanent Mission of Pakistan
to the United Nations Office at Geneva
56, rue de Moillebeau
1211 Geneva 19
Switzerland
Tel.:+4122 749 19 30
E-mail: drbahmad@gmail.com

POLAND

Ms. Agnieszka HERDEJ-JANUSZEK

First Secretary

Permanent Mission of the Republic of Poland

to the United Nations Office at Geneva

Chemin de l'Ancienne-Route 15

1218 Grand Saconnex – Geneva

Tel.: +4122 710 9797

Fax: +4122 710 9799

ROMANIA

Ms. Alexandra SPANU

Third Secretary

Permanent Mission of Romania

to the United Nations Office at Geneva

Villa "La Perrière"

Chemin de la Perrière 6

1223 Cologny

Tel.: +41 22 752 1090

Fax: +41 22 752 2976

E-mail: mission.romania@romaniaunog.org

RUSSIAN FEDERATION

H.E. Mr. Andrey DENISOV

First Deputy Minister

Ministry of Foreign Affairs

of the Russian Federation

Smolenskaya-Sennaya Square, 32/34

Moscow

Tel.: +7499 244 43 62

Fax: +7499 244 90 80

E-mail: dom@mid.ru

H. E. Mr. Valery LOSCHININ

Ambassador, Permanent Representative

of the Russian Federation

Permanent Mission of the Russian Federation

to the United Nations Office at Geneva

Avenue de la Paix 15

1211 Geneva 20

Tel.: +41 22 733 1870

Fax: +41 22 734 4044

Mr. Gennady GATILOV

Director
Department of International Organizations
Ministry of Foreign Affairs
of the Russian Federation
Smolenskaya-Sennaya Square, 32/34
Moscow
Tel.: +7499 244 42 11
Fax: +7499 244 24 01
E-mail: dom@mid.ru

Mr. Dmitry BIRICHEVSKIY

Head of Division
Ministry of Foreign Affairs
of the Russian Federation
Smolenskaya-Sennaya Square, 32/34
Moscow
Tel.: +7499 244 10 45
Fax: +7499 244 24 01
E-mail: DBirichevsky@mid.ru

Mr. Konstantin KUZMICHEV

Head of Division
Ministry of Economic Development
of the Russian Federation
Ovchinnikovskaia nab. 18/1
115324 Moscow
Tel.: +7495 651 74 05
Fax: +7495 651 76 31
E-mail: Kuzmichev@economy.gov.ru

Mr. Pavel MESHKOV

Head of Project Management and Analysis Division
Department of Asian and African Countries
Ministry of Economic Development
of the Russian Federation
Ovchinnikovskaia nab. 18/1
115324 Moscow
Tel.: +7495 651 75 66
Fax: +7495 651 77 09
E-mail: meshkovPP@economy.gov.ru

Mr. Vassily NEBENZIA

Deputy Permanent Representative
of the Russian Federation
Permanent Mission of the Russian Federation
to the United Nations Office at Geneva
Avenue de la Paix 15
1211 Geneva 20
Tel.: +41 22 733 1870
Fax: +41 22 734 4044
E-mail: nebenzia@hotmail.com

Mr. Vladimir ZIMYAININ

First Counsellor
Permanent Mission of the Russian Federation
to the United Nations Office at Geneva
15 Avenue de la Paix
1202 Geneva 20
Tel.: +41 22 733 1870
Fax: +41 22 734 4044

Mr. Vitaly ARISTOV

Counsellor
Permanent Mission of the Russian Federation
to the United Nations Office at Geneva
15 Avenue de la Paix
1202 Geneva 20
Tel.: +41 22 733 1870
Fax: +41 22 734 4044
E-mail: aristov@mail.ru

Mr. Marat BERDYEV

Conseiller
Permanent Mission of the Russian Federation
to the United Nations Office at Geneva
15 Avenue de la Paix
1202 Geneva 20
Tel.: +41 22 733 1870
Fax: +41 22 734 4044
E-mail: berdyev@mail.ru

Ms. Ekaterina SAITGARIEVA

Attaché
Permanent Mission of the Russian Federation
to the United Nations Office at Geneva
15 Avenue de la Paix
1202 Geneva 20
Tel.: +41 22 733 1870
Fax: +41 22 734 4044
E-mail: saitgarieva@mail.ru

SLOVAKIA

Ms. Sona BUDAYOVA

First Secretary
Permanent Mission of the Slovak Republic
to the United Nations Office at Geneva
9 Ancienne Route
1218 Grand Saconnex – Geneva
Tel.: +4122 747 7400
Fax: +4122 747 7434
E-mail: sona.budayova@mzv.sk

THAILAND

Ms. Delphine JULEN
Permanent Mission of Thailand
to the United Nations Office at Geneva
Rue Gustav Moyner 5
1202 Geneva
Tel.: +4122 715 1010
Fax: +4122 715 1000

THE FORMER YUGOSLAV REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA

Mr. Burim BILALI
Permanent Mission
of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia
to the United Nations Office at Geneva
Rue de Lausanne 143
1202 Geneva
Switzerland
Tel.: +4122 731 29 30
Fax: +4122 731 29 30
E-mail: burim.bilali@mfa.gov.mk

UKRAINE

Mr. Yuriy PANASIYK
Deputy Head[^]
of Trade and Economics
Permanent Mission of Ukraine
to the United Nations Office at Geneva
Rue de l'Orangerie 14
1202 Geneva
Switzerland
Tel.: +41 22 919 8734
Fax: +41 22 734 3801
E-mail: y_pantem@yahoo.com

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

H.E. Mme Betty KING
Ambassador
Permanent Representative
of the United States of America
to the United Nations Office at Geneva
Route de Pregny 11
1292 Chambésy/Geneva
Tel.: +4122 749 41 11
Fax: +4122 749 48 80
E-mail: mission.usa@ties.itu.int

Ms. Elizabeth HOGAN
Senior Development Coordinator
Permanent Mission
of the United States of America
to the United Nations Office at Geneva
Route de Pregny 11
1292 Chambésy/Geneva
Tel.: +4122 749 41 11
Fax: +4122 749 48 80
E-mail: mission.usa@ties.itu.imt

Mr. Otto Van MAERSSSEN
Economic Counsellor
Permanent Mission
of the United States of America
to the United Nations Office at Geneva
Route de Pregny 11
1292 Chambésy/Geneva
Tel.: +4122 749 41 11
Fax: +4122 749 48 80
E-mail: mission.usa@ties.itu.imt

Ms. Lisa BRODEY
Environment, Science and
Technology Officer
Permanent Mission
of the United States of America
to the United Nations Office at Geneva
Route de Pregny 11
1292 Chambésy/Geneva
Tel.: +4122 749 41 11
Fax: +4122 749 48 80
E-mail: mission.usa@ties.itu.imt

Mr. Andrei BARANNIK
Regional Environmental Adviser for Asia
United States Agency for International Development
USAID (CAR)
Mission for Central Asian Republics
Park Palace Building
41 Karibek Bi Street
Almaty 005010
Kazakhstan
Tel.: + 7777 780 4362
E-mail: abaranniki@usaid.gov

Mr. James Michael TRAINOR

Senior Energy Policy Specialist
Office of Economic Growth
USAID/Central Asia
United States Consulate General
41, Kazybek Bi street
050010 Almaty
Kazakhstan
Tel.: +7777 221 86 71
E-mail: mtrainor@usaid.gov

Mr. Matthew STEPHENSON

Economic Team Leader
U.S. Department of State
2201 C Street
Washington DC
20520 NW
United States of America
Tel.: +1202 341 57 06
Fax: +1202 647 55 05
E-mail: Stephensonm@state.gov

Mr. Mark CUNNINGHAM

Second Secretary
Permanent Mission
of the United States of America
to the United Nations Office at Geneva
11 Route de Pregny
1292 Chambésy/Geneva
Switzerland
Tel.: +4122 749 4834
Fax: +4122 749 4883
E-mail: CunninghamMA@state.gov

DELEGATION OF THE EUROPEAN UNION (EU)

H.E. Ambassador Pierre MOREL

Special Representative of the European Union
for Central Asia
Rue de la Loi, 175
B-1048 Brussels
Belgium
Tel.: +3222 813 430
Fax: +3222 815 146
E-mail: Pierre.MOREL@consilium.europa.eu

Mr. Pierre André BORGOLTZ
Administrateur Principal
European Commission
Rue de la Loi
B-1049 Brussels
Belgium
Tel.: + 332 298 45 35
E-mail: Pierre.borgoltz@ec.europa.eu

Ms. Martina BOGDEVA
Statistical Assistant
European Commission
Bech Building
5, rue Alphonse Weicker
L-2721 Luxembourg
Tel.: +352 4301 36 858
Fax: +352 4301 32 69
E-mail: Martina.bogdeva@ec.europa.eu

UNITED NATIONS ORGANIZATION

UNITED NATIONS ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE (UNECE)

Mr. Ján KUBIŠ
Executive Secretary
UNECE
Palais des Nations
CH-1211 Geneva 10
Switzerland
Tel.: +4122 917 2694 / 917 1232
Fax: +4122 917 0036
E-mail: Jan.kubis@unece.org

Mr. Andrey VASILYEV
Deputy Executive Secretary
UNECE
Palais des Nations
CH-1211 Geneva 10
Switzerland
Tel.: +4122 917 4221
Fax: +4122 917 0565
E-mail: Andrey.vasilyev@unece.org

Ms. Parisudhi KALAMPASUT
Chef de Cabinet and Secretary of the Commission
UNECE
Palais des Nations
CH-1211 Geneva 10
Switzerland
Tel.: +4122 917 1045
Fax: +4122 917 0036
E-mail: Parisudhi.kalampasut@unece.org

Mr. Rumen DOBRINSKY

Director
Economic Cooperation and Integration Division
UNECE
Palais des Nations
CH-1211 Geneva 10
Switzerland
Tel.: +4122 917 2487
Fax: +4122 917 0178
E-mail: Rumen.dobrinsky@unece.org

Mr. Marton KRASZNAI

Regional Adviser
Economic Cooperation and Integration Division
UNECE
Palais des Nations
CH-1211 Geneva 10
Switzerland
Tel.: +4122 917 2760
Fax: +4122 917 0178
E-mail: Marton.krasznoi@unece.org

Ms. Lidia BRATANOVA

Director
Statistical Division
UNECE
Palais des Nations
CH-1211 Geneva 10
Switzerland
Tel.: +4122 917 1772
Fax: +4122 917 0040
E-mail: Lidia.bratanova@unece.org

Ms. Virginia CRAM-MARTOS

Director
Trade and Timber Division
UNECE
Palais des Nations
CH-1211 Geneva 10
Switzerland
Tel.: +4122 917 2745
Fax: +4122 917 0037
E-mail: Virginia.cram-martos@unece.org

Ms. Eva MOLNAR

Director
Transport Division
UNECE
Palais des Nations
CH-1211 Geneva 10
Switzerland
Tel.: +4122 917 2400
Fax: +4122 917 0039
E-mail: eva.molnar@unece.org

Mr. Michalis ADAMATIADIS

Chief, Transport Facilitation and Economic Section
Transport Division
UNECE
Palais des Nations
CH-1211 Geneva 10
Switzerland
Tel.: +4122 917 1128
Fax: +4122 917 0039
E-mail: Michalis.adamantiadis@unece.org

Ms. Tatiana APATENKO

Administrative Assistant
Economic Cooperation and Integration Division
UNECE
Palais des Nations
CH-1211 Geneva 10
Switzerland
Tel.: +4122 917 3666
Fax: +4122 917 0178
E-mail: Tatiana.apatenko@unece.org

Mr. Christopher ATHEY

Associate Economic Affairs Officer
Economic Cooperation and Integration Division
UNECE
Palais des Nations
CH-1211 Geneva 10
Switzerland
Tel.: +4122 917 1879
Fax: +4122 917 0178
E-mail: christopher.athey@unece.org

Mr. Mario APOSTOLOV

Regional Adviser
Trade and Timber Division
UNECE
Palais des Nations
CH-1211 Geneva 10
Switzerland
Tel.: +4122 917 1134
Fax: +4122 917 0037
E-mail: Mario.apostolov@unece.org

Mr. Viktor BADAHER

Economic Affairs Officer
Global Energy Efficiency 21 Project Manager
Sustainable Energy Division
UNECE
Palais des Nations
CH-1211 Geneva 10
Switzerland
Tel.: +4122 917 2443
Fax: +4122 917 0038
E-mail: Viktor.badaker@unece.org

Ms. Francesca BERNARDINI

Secretary
Convention on the Protection and
Use of Transboundary Water Resources
and International Lakes
Environment, Housing and
Land Management Division
UNECE
Palais des Nations
CH-1211 Geneva 10
Switzerland
Tel.: +4122 917 2463
Fax: +4122 9917 0621
E-mail: Francesca.bernardini@unece.org

Mr. Tony BONNICI

Expert
Economic Cooperation and Integration Division
UNECE
Palais des Nations
CH-1211 Geneva 10
Switzerland
Tel.: +4122 917 2246
Fax: +4122 917 0178
E-mail: tony.bonnicci@unece.org

Mr. Tom BUTTERLY
Chief, Global Trade Solutions Section
Trade and Timber Division
UNECE
Palais des Nations
CH-1211 Geneva 10
Switzerland
Tel.: +4122 917 1178
Fax: +4122 917 0629
E-mail: Tom.butterly@unece.org

Ms. Michiko ENOMOTO
Economic Affairs Officer
Economic Cooperation and Integration Division
UNECE
Palais des Nations
CH-1211 Geneva 10
Switzerland
Tel.: +4122 917 59 89
Fax: +4122 917 0178
E-mail: michiko.enomoto@unece.org

Ms. Martine-Sophie FOUVEZ
Regional Adviser
Transport Division
UNECE
Palais des Nations
CH-1211 Geneva 10
Switzerland
Tel.: +4122 917 1837
Fax: +4122 917 0039
E-mail: Martine-sophie.fouvez@unece.org

Mr. Giovanni GABASSI
Assistant to the Deputy Executive Secretary
Office of the Executive Secretary
UNECE
Palais des Nations
CH-1211 Geneva 10
Switzerland
Tel.: +4122 917 4144
Fax: +4122 917 0565
E-mail: Giovanni.gabassi@unece.org

Mr. Gabriel GAMEZ

Regional Adviser
Statistical Division
UNECE
Palais des Nations
CH-1211 Geneva 10
Switzerland
Tel.: +4122 917 3311
Fax: +4122 917 0040
E-mail: Gabirel.gamez@unece.org

Mr. Ralph HEINRICH

Economic Affairs Officer
Economic Cooperation and Integration Division
UNECE
Palais des Nations
CH-1211 Geneva 10
Switzerland
Tel.: +4122 917 1269
Fax: +4122 917 0178
E-mail: ralph.heinrich@unece.org

Ms. Chun-Lu HSIEH

Assistant to the Deputy Executive Secretary
Office of the Executive Secretary
UNECE
Palais des Nations
CH-1211 Geneva 10
Switzerland
Tel.: +4122 917 4325
Fax: +4122 917 0565
E-mail: Chunlu.hsieh@unece.org

Ms. Malinka KOPARANOVA

Senior Social Affairs Officer
and Gender Focal Point
Office of the Executive Secretary
UNECE
Palais des Nations
CH-1211 Geneva 10
Switzerland
Tel.: +4122 917 1698
Fax: +4122 917 0036
E-mail: Malinka.koparanova@unece.org

Mr. Sergiusz LUDWICZAK
Chief, Pollution Prevention Section
Environment, Housing and Land Management Division
UNECE
Palais des Nations
CH-1211 Geneva 10
Switzerland
Tel: +41 22 917 3174
E-mail: Sergiusz.Ludwiczak@unece.org

Ms. Tiana LUIGE
Head of National Accounts Section
Statistical Division
UNECE
Palais des Nations
CH-1211 Geneva 10
Switzerland
Tel.: +4122 917 1097
Fax: +4122 917 0040
E-mail: Tiana.luige@unece.org

Mr. Robert NOWAK
Economic Affairs Officer
Transport Division
UNECE
Palais des Nations
CH-1211 Geneva 10
Switzerland
Tel.: +4122 917 1267
Fax: +4122 917 0039
E-mail: robert.nowak@unece.org

Mr. José PALACIN
Senior Economic Affairs Officer
Economic Cooperation and Integration Division
UNECE
Palais des Nations
CH-1211 Geneva 10
Switzerland
Tel.: +4122 917 2663
Fax: +4122 917 0178
E-mail: jose.palacin@unece.org

Mr. Miodrag PESUT
Economic Affairs Officer
Transport Division
UNECE
Palais des Nations
CH-1211 Geneva 10
Switzerland
Tel.: +4122 917 4136
Fax: +4122 917 0039
E-mail: miodrag.pesut@unece.org

Mr. Markus PIKART
Economic Affairs Officer
Trade and Timber Division
UNECE
Palais des Nations
CH-1211 Geneva 10
Switzerland
Tel.: +4122 917 2016
Fax: +4122 917 0037
E-mail: markus.pikart@unece.org

Ms. Maria Teresa PISANI
Economic Affairs Officer
Trade and Timber Division
UNECE
Palais des Nations
CH-1211 Geneva 10
Switzerland
Tel.: +4122 917 4153
Fax: +4122 917 0037
E-mail: maria-teresa.pisani@unece.org

Mr. Jean RODRIGUEZ
Senior Public Information Officer
Office of the Executive Secretary
UNECE
Palais des Nations
CH-1211 Geneva 10
Switzerland
Tel.: +4122 917 2727
Fax: +4122 917 0505
E-mail: Jean.rodriguez@unece.org

Ms. Gulnara ROLL

Coordinator
EU Water Initiative National Policy Dialogues'
Environment, Housing and
Land Management Division
UNECE
Palais des Nations
CH-1211 Geneva 10
Switzerland
Tel.: +4122 917 2257
Fax: +4122 917 0621
E-mail: Gulnara.roll@unece.org

Ms. Natalia RYAZANOVA

Programme Assistant
Economic Cooperation and Integration Division
UNECE
Palais des Nations
CH-1211 Geneva 10
Switzerland
Tel.: +4122 917 2663
Fax: +4122 917 0178
E-mail: natalia.ryazanova@unece.org

Mr. Adem SEK

Regional Adviser on Energy
Sustainable Energy Division
UNECE
Palais des Nations
CH-1211 Geneva 10
Switzerland
Tel.: +4122 917 2687
Fax: +4122 917 0038
E-mail: Adam.sek@unece.org

Ms. Iulia TROMBITCAIA

Expert on Water Management
Environment, Housing and
Land Management Division
UNECE
Palais des Nations
CH-1211 Geneva 10
Tel.: +41 22 917 33 32
Fax: +41 22 917 06 21
E-mail: iulia.trombitcaia@unece.org

Ms. Lisa WARTH
Associate Expert
Office of the Executive Secretary
UNECE
Palais des Nations
CH-1211 Geneva 10
Switzerland
Tel.: +4122 917 2790
Fax: +4122 917 0036
E-mail: Lisa.warth@unece.org

**UNITED NATIONS ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMISSION FOR ASIA AND
THE PACIFIC (ESCAP)**

Mr. Eugene GHERMAN
Deputy Director
SROENEA/ESCAP
Meet-you-all Tower, 17 floor
Techno Park
7-50 Songdo-dong
Yeonsu-gu
Incheon 405 220
Republic of Korea
Tel.: +82 32 458 66 19
Fax: +82 32 458 66 99
E-mail: gherman.unescap@un.org

Ms. Elvira MYNBAYEVA
Programme Officer
ESCAP Subregional Office for North
and Central Asia
(ESCAP/UNECE SPECA Office)
Almaty
Kazakhstan
Tel.: + 7 727 2503933
Fax: +7 727 2501662
E-mail: mynbayeva@un.org

UNITED NATIONS ASSISTANCE MISSION IN AFGHANISTAN (UNAMA)

H.E. Mr. Robert WATKINS
Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary-General
for Afghanistan and
Resident Coordinator, Humanitarian Coordinator
United Nations Assistance Mission
in Afghanistan (UNAMA)
Tel.: +93 797 256 626
E-mail: watkins@un.org

UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT (UNCTAD)

Mr. Petko DRAGANOV

Deputy Secretary-General

UNCTAD

Palais des Nations

Av. de la Paix 8-14

1211 Geneva 10

Switzerland

Tel.: +41 22 917 5806

Fax: +41 22 917 0042

E-mail: sgo@unctad.org

Ms. Maria MISOVICOVA

Economic Affairs Officer

Trade Facilitation Section

Trade Logistics Branch

UNCTAD

Palais des Nations

Av. de la Paix 8-14

1211 Geneva 10

Switzerland

Tel.: +41 22 917 5198

Fax: +41 22 917 0050

E-mail: maria.misovicova@unctad.org

UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME (UNEP)

Ms. Nara LUVSAN

Senior Programme Officer

UNEP/ Regional Office for Europe

International Environment House I

1219 Châtelaine

Tel: +41 22 917 8153

E-mail: Nara.luvsan@unep.ch

FOOD AND AGRITULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS (FAO)

Mr. Walter KLEMM

Senior Land and Water Development Engineer

Investment Centre Division

FAO

Via delle Terme di Caracalla

00100 Rome

Italy

Tel.: +39 3481 552 752

E-mail: Walter.klemm@fao.org

Mr. Fintan SCANLAN
Food Security Officer
Policy and Programme Development support Division
FAO
Via delle Terme di Caracalla
00100 Rome
Italy
Tel.: +39 06 570 51
Fax: +39 06 570 55 555

UNITED NATIONS INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATION (UNIDO)

Mr. Jean-Marc DEROY
Director
UNIDO Office in Geneva
Villa Le Bocage
10, route de Pregny
1211 Genève 10
Switzerland
Tel.: +4122 79 797 1434
E-mail: j.deroy@unido.org

INTERNATIONAL LABOUR OFFICE (ILO)

Ms. Alena NESPOROVA
Deputy Regional Director
Field Programmes in Europe
and Central Asia
ILO
4, route des Morillons
CH-1211 Geneva 22
Tel.: + 41 22 799 6781
E-mail: nesporova@ilo.org

Mr. Pierre DE LAME
Senior Administrator
ILO
4, route des Morillons
CH-1211 Genève 22
Switzerland
Tel.: +4122 799 85 69
Fax: +4122 799 60 61
E-mail: delame@ilo.org

INTERNATIONAL TRADE CENTRE (ITC)

Mr. Armen ZARGARYAN
Trade Promotion Adviser
Office for Eastern Europe
and Central Asia
ITC
54-56 rue Montbrillant
1202 Geneva
Switzerland
Tel.: +4122 730 04 31
E-mail: zargaryan@intracen.org

**UNITED NATIONS REGIONAL CENTRE FOR PREVENTIVE DIPLOMACY FOR
CENTRAL ASIA (UNRCCA)**

H.E. Mr. Miroslav JENCA
Special Representative
of the United Nations Secretary-General
and Head
of the United Nations
Regional Centre for Preventive Diplomacy
for Central Asia (UNRCCA)
43 Archabil Shayoly
744000 Ashgabat
Turkmenistan
Tel.: +99312 48 16 12
Fax: +99312 48 16 07

Mr. Armands PUPOLS
Political Affairs Officer
United Nations
Regional Centre for Preventive Diplomacy
for Central Asia (UNRCCA)
43 Archabil Shayoly
744000 Ashgabat
Turkmenistan
Tel.: +99312 48 16 12
Fax: +99312 48 16 07

UNITED NATIONS WOMEN'S GUILD (UNWG – Geneva)

Ms. Manila PAKTIAN
Vice President Activities
UNWG - Geneva
Villa les Feuillantines
13, Avenue de la Paix
1211 Geneva 10
Tel.: + 41 22 917 33 86
Fax: + 41 22 917 02 26
E-mail: manilafaiz@hotmail.com

Ms. Najia KHIRAD
UNWG - Geneva
Villa les Feuillantines
13, Avenue de la Paix
1211 Geneva 10
Tel.: + 41 22 917 33 86
Fax: + 41 22 917 02 26
E-mail: manilafaiz@hotmail.com

Ms. Aziza KHAIBARI
UNWG - Geneva
Villa les Feuillantines
13, Avenue de la Paix
1211 Geneva 10
Tel.: + 41 22 917 33 86
Fax: + 41 22 917 02 26
E-mail: manilafaiz@hotmail.com

Ms. Faiqa MUKHTARZADA
UNWG - Geneva
Villa les Feuillantines
13, Avenue de la Paix
1211 Geneva 10
Tel.: + 41 22 917 33 86
Fax: + 41 22 917 02 26
E-mail: manilafaiz@hotmail.com

INTERNATIONAL AND REGIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

EURASIAN ECONOMIC COMMUNITY (EurAsEC)

Mr. Murat MUSSATAYEV
Deputy Secretary-General
EurAsEC
1st Basmanny pereulok, 6/4
Moscow
Russian Federation
Tel.: +7495 223 90 40
Fax: +7495 223 90 40
E-mail: dtpri@evrazes.ru

Mr. Yuri VOLCHOK
Adviser, Transport Policy and
Market Infrastructure Department
Secretariat of the Integration Committee
EurAsEC
Basmanny per. 6, building 4
105566 Moscow
Russian Federation
Tel.: +7495 223 90 40
Fax: +7495 223 90 40
E-mail: dtpri@evrazes.ru

INTERNATIONAL FUND FOR SAVING THE ARAL SEA (IFAS)

Mr. Saghit IBATULLIN
Chairman
of the Executive Committee
of the International Fund for Saving
the Aral Sea (EC IFAS)
Dostyk Avenue, 280
050020 Almaty
Kazakhstan
280, Dostyk Avenue
Almaty
Kazakhstan
Tel.: +7727 387 34 31
Fax: +7727 387 34 33
E-mail: mail@ec-ifas.org

**INTERNATIONAL SECURITY ASSISTANCE FORCE OF THE NORTH ATLANTIC
TREATY ORGANIZATION (NATO-ISAF)**

Mr. Sébastien THIAM
Senior Advisor
NATO-ISAF
Office of the NATO
Senior Civilian Representative
ISAF Headquarters
Great Massoud Road
Kabul
Afghanistan
Tel.: +93 799 181 034
E-mail: Sebastien.thiam@hq.isaf.nato.int

ORGANIZATION FOR ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION AND DEVELOPMENT (OECD)

Mr. Fadi FARRA
Head of the OECD Eurasia Programme
Private Sector Development Division
OECD
2, rue Andre-Pascal
75775 PARIS CEDEX 16
France
Tel.: +33 1 45 24 78 20
Fax: + 33 1 45 24 91 77
E-mail: fadi.farra@oecd.org

ORGANIZATION FOR SECURITY AND CO-OPERATION IN EUROPE (OSCE)

Mr. Alexey STUKALO

Deputy Coordinator
Head of Economic Activities
OSCE
Wallnerstrasse 6
1010 Vienna
Austria
Tel.: +431 514 36 67 30
Fax: +431 514 36 69 96
E-mail: alexey.stukalo@osce.org

Mr. Andrey RUDENKO

Senior Policy and Planning Adviser
Office of the Secretary General
OSCE
Wallnerstrasse 6
1010 Vienna
Austria
Tel.: +431 514 36 61 12
Fax: +431 514 36 69 96
E-mail: Andrey.rudenko@osce.org

BUSINESS AND ACADEMIA

Ms. Diane HEATH

Independent Trainer
124 E. 2nd Street
New Castle
DE 19720
United States of America
Tel.: +1077 447 99 88
E-mail: dianeinde@yahoo.com

EASTWEST INSTITUTE

Ms. Guljamal JUMAMURATOVA

Project Assistant
EastWest Institute
Oudlaan 40
6708 RC Wageningen
Netherlands
Tel.: +31 684 53 56 31
E-mail: gjumamuratova@ewi.info

Mr. Benjamin STURTEWAGEN

EastWest Institute
Trierstraat 59-61
1040 Brussels
Belgium
Tel.: +322 743 46 18
Fax: +322 743 46 39
E-mail: bsturtewagen@ewi.info

GERMAN TECHNICAL COOPERATION (GTZ)

Mr. Volker FROBARTH

Programme Director
Transboundary Water Management
Programme in Central Asia
German Technical Cooperation - GTZ
Dag-Hammarskjöld-Weg 1-5
65760 Eschborn
Germany
E-mail: volker.frobarth@gtz.de

ISLAMIC DEVELOPMENT BANK (IDB)

Mr. Kunrat WIRASUBRATA

Country Manager
Country Department
IDB
P.O. Box 5925
21432 Jeddah
Saudi Arabia
Tel.: +9662 646 66 10
E-mail: kwirasub@isdb.orh

WORLD ECONOMIC FORUM (WEF)

Mr. Danil KARIMI

WEF
91-93 route de la Capite
1223 Cologny- Geneva
Tel.: +4179 57 18 218
E-mail: danil.karimi@weforum.org

ANNEX II

**CHAIRMAN'S SUMMARY
OF THE 2010 SPECA ECONOMIC FORUM**

1. Participants in the 2010 SPECA Economic Forum agreed that the Forum was an important milestone in the efforts by the international community to promote peace and economic development in Afghanistan in the context of subregional economic cooperation. They noted with satisfaction that the high level and quality of the deliberations at the Forum, which addressed comprehensively various aspects of regional economic cooperation in Central Asia as well as ways and means of closer involvement of Afghanistan in such cooperation, made an important contribution to the ongoing international efforts to secure long-term stability and sustainable development of Afghanistan and Central Asia at large.

2. At the same time, delegates shared their concern with existing regional challenges, including instability, security threats and drug trafficking. They stressed the need to come up with new and enhanced initiatives offering peaceful and economically viable approaches for reconstruction and modernization of Afghanistan, based on strengthened regional economic cooperation, noting that SPECA provides an important platform for discussing such alternatives.

3. Participants in the Forum emphasized the important role of the United Nations and its family of organizations in facilitating the efforts of the international community in promoting peace, stability and economic cooperation of Afghanistan and Central Asia at large. They highlighted the fact that the UNECE, ESCAP as well as other UN organizations and bodies have accumulated considerable expertise in various areas of regional economic cooperation. In particular, a number of internationally agreed legal instruments and norms in areas such as transport, energy, environment and others (such as, for example, the UNECE Water Convention) provide an excellent basis for enhanced regional cooperation in Central Asia with the participation of Afghanistan.

4. Participants welcomed an in-depth substantive discussion and exchange of views on a wide range of further practical steps for strengthening regional economic cooperation envisaging a closer involvement of Afghanistan, including such in the areas of trade, transport, investment, infrastructure development, joint management of shared resources, among others. It was emphasized that stronger economic ties, more intensive trade and good economic relations among countries in the region are among the main factors of stability in the region.

5. Delegates at the Forum reviewed the experiences of different national and international initiatives in support of economic reconstruction efforts in Afghanistan and expressed gratitude to the governments of countries and international bodies that undertake such programmes. They also stressed the contribution of UNECE and ESCAP in facilitating economic cooperation among Central Asian countries, in particular within the framework of SPECA.

6. Participants welcomed the outcomes of the Kabul International Conference held on 20 July 2010 where the international community endorsed the Afghan Government Action Plan for improved security, economic development and good governance and the follow-up activities initiated by the Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan.

7. The deliberations at the Forum also provided a fertile ground for putting forward a number of important new initiatives, in addition to already existing ones, aiming at strengthening regional economic cooperation and facilitating closer involvement of Afghanistan in such cooperation.

Participants welcomed the active participation of representatives of a large number of international and regional organizations in the discussions.

8. The delegates welcomed a number of new initiatives in support of Afghanistan announced at the Forum by high-level representatives of the governments of several UNECE Member States. In particular, the Forum welcomed with appreciation the intention of the Government of the Russian Federation to increase its financial support to SPECA initiatives to support activities that involve Afghanistan and its enhanced participation in regional cooperation in Central Asia. Participants also welcomed the initiative by the Government of France to extend its support to work on related to the UNECE Water Convention involving Afghanistan.

9. The Forum welcomed the initiative by the Government of Turkmenistan to host in the first half of 2011 a follow-up international meeting in Ashgabat on economic cooperation with Afghanistan to be organized in cooperation with UNECE and the UN Regional Centre for Preventive Diplomacy for Central Asia.

10. Participants also took note of other initiatives for follow-up activities to the 2010 SPECA Economic Forum announced during the deliberations and invited interested parties to hold consultations on implementing such initiatives aiming at wider and deeper regional economic cooperation involving Afghanistan.

11. It was pointed out that better coordination among programmes and initiatives could help achieve synergies between national initiatives with positive spillover for Afghanistan and special programmes initiated by different countries and regional bodies that target support to Afghanistan, including through the recently established High Level Core Group of Regional Bodies. It was pointed out that SPECA and its activities could play an important role in facilitating the coordination among different programmes and initiatives.

12. Delegates also highlighted the specific role of SPECA in providing a framework for an ongoing policy dialogue among Central Asian countries as well as facilitating capacity-building and institutional strengthening of countries in the region.

13. Participants noted with satisfaction the high quality of the Forum documents (in particular, the Background note prepared by the UNECE secretariat) and expressed gratitude to the UNECE and ESCAP secretariats for the excellent organization of the event.

ANNEX III

**STATEMENTS BY REPRESENTATIVES OF THE UNECE SECRETARIAT
ON PROPOSED ACTIVITIES WITHIN THE SPECA FRAMEWORK****a) Transport Division**

The UNECE Transport Division welcomes *the regular participation* of Afghan delegates in meetings of the SPECA Project Working Group on Transport and Border Crossing, which are held once a year, in general in March or in April.

This SPECA Economic Forum is indeed an opportunity for all member countries to share their experiences, discuss and solve practical issues, and also be informed on the latest developments of the work carried out in the field of transport, both by the UNECE and ESCAP secretariats.

Some cooperation areas may also be outlined. In the sphere of *transport infrastructures*, Afghanistan is actively taking part in the Euro-Asian Transport Linkages (EATL) Project, in its second phase, where all major stakeholders, including financial institutions, are involved.

UNECE could suggest a more active participation in the Working Groups, which would allow better implementation of the Conventions for which Afghanistan is already a part. This is not so easy to achieve. Therefore, the UNECE secretariat could readily, at the demand of the authorities of Afghanistan, organize specific capacity-building workshops on the legal instruments at their disposal.

For instance, in the field of *border crossing facilitation*, it would seem opportune to share best practices on the Customs Convention on international transport of goods by TIR carnets, where Afghanistan is part but it would even be more appropriate that Afghanistan become a Member of the Convention on the harmonization of frontier control of goods (the so-called “Harmonization Convention” of 1982), where all other Central Asian countries are already Members.

Referring to the various types of goods identified as suitable for international trade in the region, it would seem appropriate that Afghanistan – as most of the other Central Asian countries, which are not Members, becomes a Member of the Convention on *international transport of dangerous goods*.

The Convention on *transport of perishable foodstuff (ATP - 1970)* has also become quite appropriate for the whole region, since the EU already equipped last year five Central Asian countries with control centers fit to the standards specified in the Convention, whereas only Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan are signatories of the Convention.

Another field of cooperation where Afghanistan involvement would be welcome is *road safety*, all the more so that the UN General Assembly early this year called for a decade of action in this field. The UNECE Transport Division would indeed welcome a greater involvement of the whole region in this plea, that Afghanistan is involved in crash investigation and think about becoming a Member of the two worldwide Conventions on *road traffic* and on *road signs and signals*.

b) Environment, Housing and Land Management Division

1. UNECE is host to several multilateral environmental agreements. Work within these conventions currently focuses on their implementation and on providing needs driven assistance to countries facing challenges. These activities are directed at building human and institutional capacities and at

developing or strengthening legal frameworks as well as also on enhancing the understanding and political acceptance of the legal instruments. The UNECE countries of Central Asia and their neighbours are our current focus.

2. Management of water resources was frequently named as one of the priorities for Central Asia and for Afghanistan as well. The following are some concrete examples of ongoing and planned activities:

(a) The Water Convention secretariat is already working together with Afghan counterparts on capacity-building on international water law and experiences from transboundary water cooperation and this cooperation is expanding;

(b) Representatives of the Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan took part in the 5th Meeting of the Parties to the Water Convention in November 2009;

(c) Thanks to support of the Government of France, Afghan experts participated in a workshop on the Second Assessment of Transboundary Waters in Central Asia in Almaty on 13 – 15 October 2010;

(d) Within the programme entitled “Regional Dialogue and Cooperation on Water Resources Management” financed by the Government of Germany through GTZ (within the framework of the Berlin Water Process), UNECE is working with the Executive Committee of the International Fund for Saving the Aral Sea (IFAS) on strengthening regional cooperation institutions on water and modernizing legal frameworks for water resources management in Central Asia. Closer involvement of Afghan specialists and observers in the regional water cooperation in Central Asia is being discussed; and

(e) UNECE is ready to facilitate cooperation between Afghanistan and Tajikistan in the upper Amudarya River basin where there is a need to develop the understanding of the hydrological situation, to support capacity-building and to develop a long-term transboundary water cooperation programme. The Russian Federation is prepared to support such a project.

c) Sustainable Energy Division

Afghanistan is a country rich in unexploited minerals and petroleum. Development of extractive industries offers the possibility to decrease poverty and increase economic growth and welfare, but only if the activities are carried out in best possible way for the country. Afghanistan could develop its resource sector alone, but this is very costly and requires a willingness to take huge exploration risks. The preferred option might therefore be for Afghanistan to look internationally.

The wealth that can be built for the extraction and sale of minerals and petroleum will to a large extent depend on the manner in which the partnership between Government and industries in extractive activities is managed over time.

The United Nations Framework Classification for Fossil Energy and Mineral Reserves and Resources 2009 (UNFC-2009) is built to facilitate this challenge in a setting of an ever more globalized economy, taking as a basis the various classifications that have been developed and tested, each in its own environment, since the beginning of industrialization in the early 1990s. UNFC-2009 is a universally acceptable and internationally applicable scheme for the classification and reporting of fossil energy and mineral reserves and resources and is currently the only classification in the world to do so. As with extractive activities, UNFC reflects conditions in the economic and social domain, including markets and government framework conditions; technological and industrial maturity and

the ever present uncertainties. It provides a single framework on which to build energy and mineral studies, analyze government resource management policies, plan industrial processes and allocate capital efficiently. Through its language-independent numerical codification system, UNFC paves the way for improved global communications, which in turn will aid stability and security of supplies, governed by fewer and more widely understood rules and guidelines. The efficiencies to be gained through the use of UNFC-2009 are substantial.

While UNFC is well suited to design partnerships for extractive activities in Afghanistan, it is a recognized international classification that at the same time will facilitate dialogues between the Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan and other governments, as well as organizations outside Afghanistan. It will also facilitate the accretion of the benefits of globalization to Afghanistan through the involvement of international companies and finance in Afghanistan and Afghan entities outside the country.

Officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan participated in the two-day Capacity-building Workshop on UNFC-2009 held in Astana, December 2009. The officials expressed significant interest in the UNFC and the potential benefits of applying it in Afghanistan.

In order to facilitate Afghanistan to develop capacity on the UNFC to either apply it directly or map to it, extrabudgetary funding would be needed to organize a series of dedicated workshops, including “train the trainer” type events, with participation of the appropriate government and private sector experts representing both the minerals and petroleum industries.

d) Statistical Division

The aim of the technical cooperation activities of the UNECE Statistical Division is to strengthen the capacity of SPECA member countries in monitoring demographic, social and economic progress and improving the quality and comparability of national official statistics. The priority areas are measurement of progress towards the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), Population and Housing Censuses, and development of environmental indicators. The work includes organization of workshops and preparation of training materials and guidelines on implementation of international statistical standards. The topics of the workshops include measuring the achievement of MDGs, improving quality and dissemination of Population Census data, gender statistics, measurement of violence against women, environmental indicators, national accounts and short-term economic statistics. The documents from the above mentioned workshops are available on the UNECE website: <http://www.unece.org/stats/>. The website includes a library of training materials prepared by the Statistical Division that can be used for training workshops on different statistical topics.

e) Economic Cooperation and Integration Division

Given the need to improve infrastructure and the lack of resources within the public sector to do this task, the Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan is trying to attract the private sector as a partner in its infrastructure development. Such ‘Public-Private Partnerships` (PPPs) improve infrastructure around the world. In particular, they increase efficiency and assure on time delivery of projects. The challenge, however, faced by Afghanistan - and many other countries in the region which are getting started in PPP - is the lack of capacity within the public administration to bring these projects into the marketplace. The UNECE has a Team of Specialists on Public-Private Partnerships dedicated to increasing the capacity of governments to do successful PPPs. It advocates a pragmatic, twin tracked approach to capacity-building: (i) improve the enabling environment for PPP especially the setting up of a PPP unit or agency; and (ii) use a “learning by doing” or “on the job” approach to training as opposed to lecturing and other forms of more abstract learning. Afghanistan may as a first

step join the UNECE Team of Specialists on PPPs and also become a member of a newly created Subgroup of PPP experts composed of representatives from all the Central Asian countries that has been established to put this capacity-building approach into practice. The next meeting of the Central Asian PPP Group of Experts will take place in Istanbul on 15-17 December 2010.
