



**UNITED NATIONS SPECIAL PROGRAMME FOR THE ECONOMIES OF CENTRAL ASIA
(SPECA)**

Fourteenth session of the SPECA Governing Council

(Ashgabat, Turkmenistan, 21 November 2019)

ANNOTATED PROVISIONAL AGENDA

1. Opening of the session

Opening of the session by a high-level representative of the Government of Turkmenistan, followed by opening statements by high-level representatives of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) and the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), and the Heads of Delegation of the SPECA participating countries.

Honouring the memory of Andrey Vasilyev, former UNECE Coordinator of SPECA and Deputy Executive Secretary of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe. Minute of Silence.

2. Adoption of the Agenda

The Governing Council will consider the adoption of the agenda of its fourteenth session.

3. Outcomes of the 2019 SPECA Economic Forum “Connectivity: Sustainable Transport and Trade Facilitation in the SPECA Subregion”

Report by the UNECE and ESCAP secretariats followed by a discussion. The Governing Council will consider the adoption of the Concluding document and recommendations of the 2019 SPECA Economic Forum.

4. Terms of Reference of the United Nations Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia and its Thematic Working Groups, SPECA Trust Fund, SPECA Secretariat and other organizational issues ¹

The Governing Council will consider the adoption of the updated Terms of Reference of SPECA and its Thematic Working Groups, establishment of the SPECA Trust Fund and the SPECA secretariat, and other organizational issues.

5. SPECA activities since the last session of the Governing Council (Almaty, Kazakhstan, 21 September 2018)

Progress reports of the SPECA Thematic Working Groups will be circulated in advance of the session. Progress reports of the SPECA Thematic Working Groups followed by a discussion:

- Working Group on Water, Energy and Environment
- Working Group on Sustainable Transport, Transit and Connectivity
- Working Group on Trade
- Working Group on Statistics
- Working Group on Knowledge-based Development
- Working Group on Gender and SDGs

The Governing Council will take note of the progress made in the implementation of the activities of the SPECA Thematic Working Groups since the thirteenth session of the Governing Council and provide guidance for the effective implementation of its remaining activities in 2019.

In compliance with the Decision 3 (SPECA/GC/Dec/2018/3) of the thirteenth session of the Governing Council, the UNECE secretariat in cooperation with the SPECA countries finalized the SPECA Innovation Strategy for Sustainable Development. The Governing Council will consider the adoption of the SPECA Innovation Strategy for Sustainable Development.

The Governing Council will consider and adopt the following documents submitted by the SPECA Working Group on Trade:

- SPECA Trade Facilitation Strategy
- Principles of Sustainable Trade in the SPECA Subregion
- Concept Note for a Study on Regulatory and Procedural Barriers to Trade in the SPECA Subregion

The Governing Council will receive for information a draft SPECA Strategy Concept on Water, Energy and Environment.

6. Adoption of the SPECA Work Plan for 2020-2021

The draft SPECA Work Plan for 2020-2021 will be circulated in advance of the session. Report by the representatives of the UNECE and ESCAP secretariats followed by a discussion. The Governing Council will consider the adoption of the SPECA Work Plan for 2020-2021.

7. Election of the next Chair country of SPECA

8. Date and venue of the 2020 SPECA Economic Forum and fifteenth session of the SPECA Governing Council

9. Other business

10. Adoption of decisions

11. Closing of the session

Closing statements by the Heads of Delegation of the SPECA participating countries, the high-level representatives of the UNECE and ESCAP secretariats.

¹ The 13th session of the Governing Council (Almaty, Kazakhstan, 21 September 2018) in its Decision 4 noted the proposal of the Expert Group Meeting (Almaty, Kazakhstan, 11 and 12 June 2018) to change the name of SPECA and focus SPECA on policy dialogue (away from project management) and decided to consider these issues at its next session.

The SPECA Governing Council also requested the SPECA participating countries to nominate SPECA Focal Points and Focal Points for each Working Group in writing to the ESCAP and UNECE secretariats.

The SPECA Governing Council noted in Decision 5 of its 13th session the offer by the Government of Kazakhstan to host the secretariat of SPECA in the new United Nations common premises in Almaty, Kazakhstan. The Council requested the Government of Kazakhstan to send an official letter proposing the function and financing of the secretariat of SPECA for further consideration by the SPECA participating countries. The Council also decided to consider this issue further at its next session in 2019.