



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

FOURTEENTH SESSION OF THE SPECA GOVERNING COUNCIL

(Ashgabat, Turkmenistan, 21 November 2019)

DECISIONS

Decision 1 (SPECA/GC/Dec/2019/1)

The Governing Council notes with satisfaction the outcomes of the 2019 SPECA Economic Forum “Connectivity: Sustainable Transport and Trade Facilitation in the SPECA Subregion” held in Ashgabat on 20-21 November 2019. The Governing Council calls upon UNECE and ESCAP, other United Nations agencies and programmes, as well as the international development partners, to provide active support to the efforts undertaken by the SPECA participating countries, on the national and regional levels, in promoting sustainable transport and trade facilitation for the achievement of the Sustainable Developments Goals.

Decision 2 (SPECA/GC/Dec/2019/2)

The Governing Council adopts the “Ashgabat Initiative” on reducing barriers to trade and transport using United Nations norms, standards and recommendations while bolstering connectivity in the SPECA region. The Council requests the participating countries and development partners to support the implementation of this Initiative.

Decision 3 (SPECA/GC/Dec/2019/3)

In light of Decision 9 (SPECA/GC/Dec/2018/9) of its thirteenth session in 2018, the Governing Council considered the updated Terms of Reference of the United Nations Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia at its fourteenth session. The Council adopts the Terms of Reference of SPECA.

Decision 4 (SPECA/GC/Dec/2019/4)

The Governing Council:

1. Considered the updated Terms of Reference of the SPECA Thematic Working Groups. The Council decides to adopt the Terms of Reference of the SPECA Working Groups on Water, Energy and Environment; Sustainable Transport, Transit and Connectivity; Trade; and Gender and SDGs.
2. Approves the recommendation of the SPECA Working Group on Knowledge-based Development made at its 2019 session to change the name of the SPECA Working Group on Knowledge-based Development to the “SPECA Working Group on Innovation and Technology for

Sustainable Development (WG on ITSD)”. The Council considered and adopts the updated Terms of Reference of the Group.

3. Considered the recommendations of the 14th session of the SPECA Working Group on Statistics and requests the SPECA Working Group on Statistics to draft updated Terms of Reference of the SPECA Working Group on Statistics for consideration at the next session of the SPECA Governing Council in 2020.

Decision 5 (SPECA/GC/Dec/2019/5)

The Governing Council welcomes the proposal by the Government of Turkmenistan to establish a SPECA Trust Fund in the region. The Governing Council requests the United Nations secretariat to develop a first draft of Terms of Reference and other documents establishing the Trust Fund for activities within the framework of SPECA.

Decision 6 (SPECA/GC/Dec/2019/6)

In Decision 5 (SPECA/GC/Dec/2018/5) of its 2018 session the Governing Council noted 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 decides to consider this issue further at its next session in 2020.

Decision 7 (SPECA/GC/Dec/2019/7)

The Governing Council requests those SPECA participating countries which have not yet appointed SPECA Focal Points, to nominate their Focal Points for SPECA in writing to the UNECE and ESCAP secretariats no later than 31 March 2020.

Decision 8 (SPECA/GC/Dec/2019/8)

The Governing Council requests those SPECA participating countries which have not yet appointed Focal Points for each Working Group, to nominate them and inform the UNECE and ESCAP secretariats no later than 31 March 2020.

Decision 9 (SPECA/GC/Dec/2019/9)

The Council notes with appreciation the Progress Reports on the activities of the SPECA Thematic Working Groups since its last session and expresses satisfaction with the implementation of the activities covered in the reports.

The Governing Council also expresses its appreciation to the SPECA participating countries for supporting and hosting the Thematic Working Groups sessions and meetings. The Council is especially grateful to the Russian Federation for their support to all SPECA activities, as well as to Kazakhstan, the European Union and the Islamic Development Bank for their support of specific activities of the SPECA Thematic Working Groups.

Decision 10 (SPECA/GC/Dec/2019/10)

In compliance with Decision 3 (SPECA/GC/Dec/2018/3) of the 2018 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 discussed the document.

It adopts the SPECA Innovation Strategy for Sustainable Development, bearing in mind that Uzbekistan will have enough time to consider the submitted document and provide its opinions, proposals and comments to the UNECE secretariat.

The Council expresses its gratitude to the UNECE secretariat and the SPECA participating countries for the development of the SPECA Innovation Strategy for Sustainable Development.

Decision 11 (SPECA/GC/Dec/2019/11)

The Governing Council considered the following documents submitted by the SPECA Working Group on Trade: SPECA Trade Facilitation Strategy, Principles of Sustainable Trade in the SPECA Subregion, and Concept Note for a Study on Regulatory and Procedural Barriers to Trade in the SPECA Subregion.

The Council adopts the documents prepared by the SPECA Working Group on Trade, bearing in mind that Uzbekistan will have enough time to consider the submitted documents and provide its opinions, proposals and comments to the UNECE secretariat.

The Council appreciates the work done and requests the UNECE secretariat, in cooperation with the SPECA Working Group on Trade, to mobilize financial resources and work on a SPECA Study on Regulatory and Procedural Barriers to Trade in the SPECA Subregion.

Decision 12 (SPECA/GC/Dec/2019/12)

The Governing Council adopts the SPECA Work Plan for 2020-2021 as presented to the session. It encourages SPECA participating countries, Thematic Working Groups, donors and partner organizations to support the implementation of activities contained in the work plan.

Decision 13 (SPECA/GC/Dec/2019/13)

The Governing Council expresses its sincere gratitude to Turkmenistan for its active work as the Chair country of SPECA in 2019.

Decision 14 (SPECA/GC/Dec/2019/14)

The Government of Kyrgyzstan confirmed its proposal to assume the Chairmanship of SPECA in 2020 and host the Economic Forum and session of the Governing Council in 2020. The Council elects Kyrgyzstan as the Chair country of SPECA for 2020.

The Council decides that the fifteenth session of the SPECA Governing Council and the 2020 SPECA Economic Forum will be held in Kyrgyzstan in 2020. The dates and venue of these events will be agreed upon and communicated through the diplomatic channels. The theme of the 2020 SPECA Economic Forum will be determined later.

Decision 15 (SPECA/GC/Dec/2019/15)

The Council expresses its sincere gratitude to Turkmenistan for chairing the 2019 SPECA events and for the excellent organization of the fourteenth session of the SPECA Governing Council, the 2019 SPECA Economic Forum, and their side events as well as the warm hospitality offered to the participants of the 2019 SPECA DAYS in Ashgabat.

Decision 16 (SPECA/GC/Dec/2019/16)

The Governing Council expresses its deep appreciation to the UNECE and ESCAP secretariats for their efforts to organize these important events and for their active work aimed at strengthening SPECA and their continued support to the implementation of the Programme.
