



UNECE

United Nations Economic Commission for Europe

SPECA KBD WG, Bishkek, 26-27 June 2019

On SPECA

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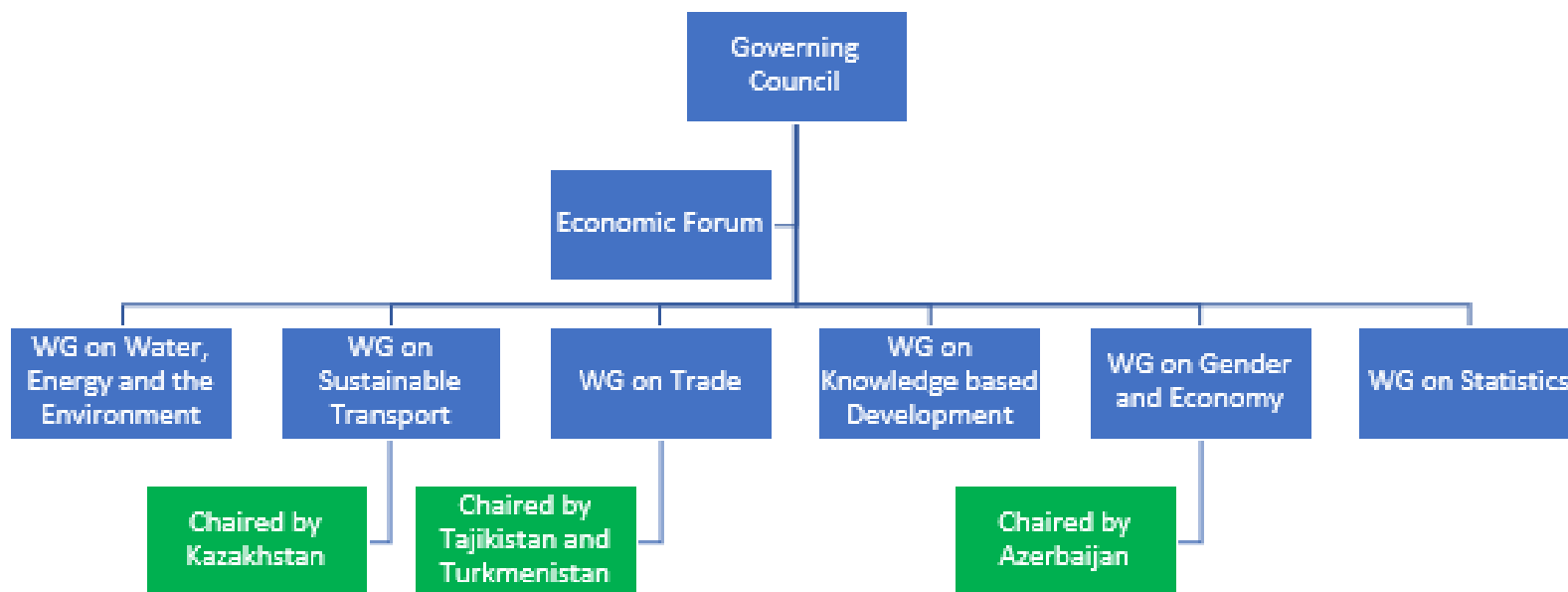


History and Mandate

- SPECA est. in 1998 by Tashkent Declaration signed by 4 Presidents and ECE and ESCAP Executive Secretaries. AF, AZ and TM joined later.
- SPECA's objective in the Declaration: support the CAS in developing cooperation, creating incentives for economic development and integration into the economies of Europe and Asia.
- SPECA bodies set up by the Governing Council with rules, ToR, reporting procedures, etc.



Organigramme



Supporting officers:

Supporting organizations	UNECE	Coordinator (DES) Deputy coordinator Secretaries of the SPECA Working Groups
	UNESCAP	Coordinator (DES) Deputy coordinator Secretaries of the SPECA Working Groups
Each SPECA country		National Coordinator (ministerial level) Focal point Focal points for each WG



SPECA 2018 Evaluation and Expert Group Recommendations

- Increase the relevance of SPECA
- Re-engage the countries as owners (esp. UZ) and reinvigorate the platform in the interest of the countries
- Become the focus for “coordination with other UN agencies”
- Enhance the efficiency of the TWGs by focusing on themes “based on consideration of regional issues, challenges and opportunities”
- Revise the modality of functioning of SPECA institutions
- The SPECA Work Plan 2018-2019 addresses these issues and is expected to be further revised at the end of 2019



Challenges

- Funding and impact of SPECA are limited.
- Need to outline the value-added and substance (e.g. for achieving SDGs in the subregion)
- Lack of ownership of the countries (call in the Evaluation Report to the countries to improve)
- Re-engage UZ
- Streamline cooperation between ECE and ESCAP.



Opportunities

1. Use SPECA as a sub-regional platform for cross-border cooperation for the achievement of the SDGs in relevant areas.
2. Strengthen the traditional role of SPECA as a regional platform helping the countries' development, using the UN instruments, yet focusing on transforming extensive growth into sustainable growth;
3. Enhance the role of SPECA as a catalyst for partnerships with other stakeholders to achieve common goals. Engage the Resident Coordinators and CTs (2RCs + 7RCs)
4. Exploit the potential political support for SPECA related work among UNECE member States.
5. Strengthen the relationship with ESCAP.
6. Explore new organizational and programmatic arrangements.



Platform for cooperation

- Focus on the countries and intra-regional collaboration
- No pretense to coordinate others / high-level platform of cooperation + implementation of our tools:
- Base activities on existing experience and capacity:
 - Environmental conventions and other tools
 - Transport conventions and other tools
 - Trade facilitation standards and tools
 - Innovation / PPPs / forestry, sustainable cities / gender
 - Statistics initiative in support of SDG monitoring



Evaluation recommendations for meetings

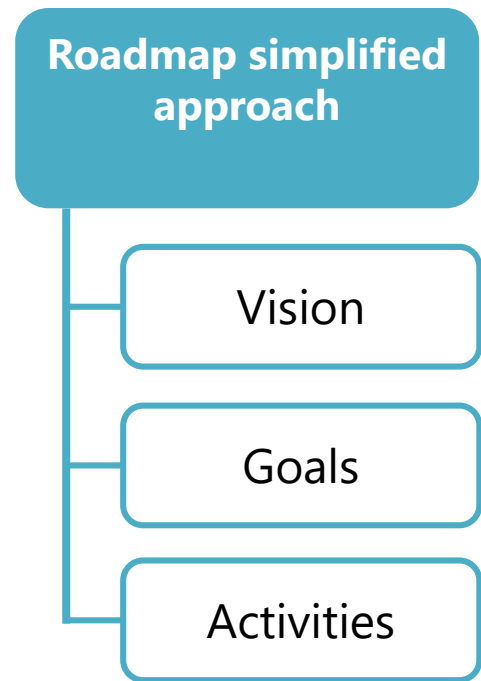
- Meetings should find a creative way to enhance discussions and mere conferences with a series of papers.
- Consider innovative ways of organizing them, e.g. through panel discussions, task orientation, simulations etc.
- Introduce follow-up mechanisms to ensure the implementation of the policy decisions of TWG meetings.
- This would require outcome documents that are shorter, focused documents with specific policy recommendations, defining, to the extent possible, the feasibility of the reforms needed, who should carry them out, how and by when etc.



Regional strategy

Structure of the Strategy Document

Structure of the logical framework



The Strategy:
What do we want to do and how we will do it?

Implementation of the RoadMap:
Who will do what? When? And how much will it cost?

Conditions:
What are the risks and assumptions that need to be considered?



SPECA DAYS IN ASHGABAT, 18 -21 November 2019

	Monday, 18 November	Tuesday, 19 November	Wednesday, 20 November	Thursday, 21 November
morning		parallel meetings	<p align="center">2019 SPECA ECONOMIC FORUM <i>“Connectivity: Sustainable Transport and Trade Facilitation in the SPECA Subregion”</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Opening session Keynote presentations <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sustainable inclusive growth SPECA region as a trade facilitation and transit center SPECA region as a sustainable transport hub UNECE, ESCAP, IRU, etc. Trade Facilitation in the SPECA region High-level policy segment. Country statements with focus on developing a <u>subregional</u> market through trade and transit facilitation Sub-regional cooperation for achieving the SDGs (SPECA country Resident Coordinators + UNDP, etc.) Closing session. Conclusions and recommendations 	
		Session of the SPECA WG on Trade		
afternoon	parallel meetings		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> supporting regional trade and supply chains e-corridors trade facilitation strategy 	<p align="center">14th session of the SPECA Governing Council</p>
	<p align="center"><i>High-level roundtable on trade policy</i></p> <p align="center"><i>(by invitation only)</i></p>	SPECA WG on Sustainable Transport, Transit and Connectivity		



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Thank you !

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