



Programme of Work of the UNECE PPP Business Advisory Board

Presentation by Mr. James Stewart,
Chairman of the UNECE PPP Business Advisory Board

Moscow

October 22, 2013





Outline

- The Business Advisory Board (BAB)'s Mandate
- Importance of involving the private sector in the UNECE
- International PPP Centre of Excellence (ICoE)
- BAB's three objectives
- Q&A for business in working under the UN
- Next Steps





BAB's Mandate

- BAB receives its mandate from the Intergovernmental UNECE Teams of Specialists on PPPs and reports to its Bureau/ Executive Board
- The Bureau strongly encourages the involvement of the private sector in the work of the ICoE
- The BAB serves as the link between the ICoE and the private sector
- The BAB - in time - should become an integral part of the UNECE International PPP Centre of Excellence





Why involve the private sector in the ICoE

- Practical knowledge of structuring projects
- Awareness of the challenges governments face in implementing PPPs
- Access to global information and knowledge about PPP projects





BAB's three objectives

- Assists Governments with the implementation of international PPP best practices and standards through High-level national consultative meetings
- Advises ICoE and the Specialist Centres on their elaboration of international PPP best practices and standards
- Advises the ICoE on its work





1. High-level national consultative meetings

- Advises on the compliance of projects and processes with UNECE best practices, standards and recommendations
- Preparation and diffusion of national consultation reports prepared by the BAB
- Possible mentoring /follow up with Governments where consultations have been held?





2. Advising on Best practices and recommendations/ standards

- Selecting the issues and best practices /projects in PPPs that the Specialist centres will focus
- Comments and assists Specialists centres with the preparation of their best Practice Guides
- Commenting on the best practices as they become standards and recommendations of the ICoE during the UN validation process





3. Advising the ICoE on its work

Current issues before the ICoE include the following:

- Setting up of Specialist centres in countries to identify best practices in a specific sector
- Fund-raising for the Coordinating hub in Geneva and the Specialist Centres
- Preparing the initial baseline studies of Specialist centres and mobilising support through creating 'international community of practices' for the Specialist centres





Some of the questions that the private sector faces working under the United Nations

The UN is an open, inclusive body, welcoming all requests from member states for support. But how do we practically meet the possible high volume of requests from Governments for national consultative visits and at the same time achieve high quality standards in deliverables?

Answer: we do have to be a little selective. For example, our added value as a group is to advise on projects and thus it would not be cost effective to visit countries which are at pre-PPP stages in their development





UN is not a body linked to any one group and should be representative of the UN body as a whole: How to ensure that the Board's membership is geographically, culturally and gender balanced?

Answer: It is important that the BAB is representative of the UN as a whole and the Chairman must seek to achieve this. Business also is making efforts itself in an effort to serve its client base of becoming multi-cultural and supporting diversity as well





UN has prioritised partnerships for development in the post 2015 agenda: How can the Board incorporate these UN development goals into its advice on PPPs?

Answer: PPP must support the UN development agenda. They are not an optional add on: members of the BAB want not just to 'do PPPs', they want to do the very best. Those that can assist the socially and economically vulnerable in our societies are to be identified and promoted.





- **UN welcomes private sector involvement and seeks that partnerships between the UN and the business community are transparent: How should individual members perform their duties and advise Governments: in their individual capacities or as representatives of their companies?**
- Answer: Companies are involved in the BAB not to crudely sell the services and products of their companies to customers. They are primarily looking to develop markets where everyone can benefit. Obviously a conflict of interest might risk the impartiality of the advice being given and thus we may consider it useful to get members to declare their interests in a specific country that we are advising.





Next steps

- Organisation and sequencing of consultative meetings
- Instigation of the process through written requests from Governments to the UNECE Executive Secretary Under Secretary General
- Continuing the recruitment of the members of the BAB

