



UNITED NATIONS
ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE



VNESHECONOMBANK

UNECE International PPP Centre of Excellence

High Level Consultations between senior representatives of Governments and the UNECE PPP Business Advisory Board

“Developing standards and best practices in PPPs”

Tuesday 22 October 2013, Moscow

Vnesheconombank, (9, Akademik Sakharov Avenue)

Introduction

1. The UNECE International PPP Centre of Excellence (ICoE) was established to elaborate international best practices and standards in PPPs and to assist Governments with their implementation¹. At its first meeting in Geneva on 25 June 2013, the ICoE agreed to:
 - (i) Establish the Business Advisory Board (BAB) in its role of advising on standards and best practices as well as assisting countries with their implementation;
 - (ii) Identify **potential partner countries** that will hold consultative meetings between senior members of the Government and the BAB on the implementation of standards and best practices in PPPs;
 - (iii) Assist the Specialist Centres to identify possible **priority subject areas** where best practices and standards can be developed by the ICoE in the next twelve months. For example, such areas might include the institutional framework, financing PPPs, legislation and contracts, transparency and procurement and also model templates for several sectors such as renewable energy, water and waste water among others.
2. To this end, it was recommended that the UNECE Business Advisory Board holds a high level consultation with senior representatives from Governments. The latter would ideally be from countries considering PPP as an option but who might have affordability issues with PPPs and who would thus be interested to discuss new financing approaches. In addition, it was also suggested that the discussion might focus on the identification of priority subject areas stemming from the seven principles identified in the UNECE Guidelines on Good Governance in PPPs.
3. Furthermore, given the interest under the Russian presidency of the G20 in the topic of PPPs and the preparation of international best practices in PPPs, it was further decided to host the meeting in Moscow and to hold the event back to back with a high level meeting of the G20 where the conclusions and

¹ More information on the ICoE is available at: <http://www.unece.org/index.php?id=32395>.

recommendations might be presented. The event is kindly hosted by the the State Corporation “Bank for Development and Foreign Economic Affairs” of the Russian Federation (Vnesheconombank) which has been a strong supporter of PPPs and the ICoE.

Purpose

4. The purpose of the meeting is threefold:
 - To officially constitute the UNECE BAB;
 - To identify and prioritize the first set of subject areas for recommendations/standards in PPPs;
 - To discuss the UNECE BAB’s work programme with interested government partners, with a view to agree its activities in countries for 2014.

Participation

5. The meeting is being organised as a dialogue between invited senior representatives of Governments from transition economies and developing countries and members of the UNECE Business Advisory Board. Participants from the multilateral development banks are welcome to attend as observers.

Outcome of the meeting

Selection of subject areas

6. The mandate of the ICoE is to develop new practices and standards in PPP. To this extent, its goal through the Specialist Centres is to develop approximately fifty recommendations/standards on PPPs; advice from public and private sector experts attending the high level consultation is instrumental to identify the priority subject areas where recommendations/standards in PPPs can be developed.
7. It is expected that a major outcome of the meeting will identify a first set of priority subject areas where to develop recommendations/standards in PPPs. The subject areas are underpinned by the UNECE seven good governance principles in PPPs and will stem from a reflection on the UNECE Guidebook on good governance on PPPs.

Agreement with governments on planning national consultation meetings in 2013 /2014

8. The UNECE BAB will advise on best practices and will hold high level consultations with senior Government officials on their countries’ project pipelines and on improving their PPP enabling environments. The BAB consists of top level, highly experienced business representatives, under the chairmanship of James Stewart,² and is currently putting together its meeting schedule for 2014. Governments interested in hosting national consultations with the BAB should inform the UNECE secretariat and /or the Chairman of the BAB.
9. The outcome of the discussions will be a mutually agreed BAB work programme for 2014 and beyond.

Documentation

1. Seven principles of good governance in PPP (from the UNECE Guidebook on Good Governance on PPPs);
2. Suggestion on subject areas for recommendations / standards in PPPs;
3. BAB provisional workplan.

² Formerly CEO of Partnerships UK and currently Senior Partner at KPMG

Provisional Programme

9:00-9:30 **Registration**

9:30-10:00 **High level opening**

Introduction from a Representative of VEB

Keynote speech from a Representative of the Russian Federation Government

Keynote speech from a Representative of the UNECE Secretariat

10:00-11:00 **Session 1: Taking Stock of PPP Today**

The aim of this session is to take stock of the state of PPPs today namely through discussing:

- Prospects for their use in emerging markets
- Financial challenges
- Opportunities for PPPs in specific sectors

Round table discussion with individual members of the Business Advisory Board

Moderator – James Stewart, Chairman of the UNECE BAB

11:00-11:30 **Coffee break**

11:30-12:30 **Session 2: Best practices and standards**

Following a presentation by the UNECE secretariat on the seven principles of good governance in PPPs, participants are invited to discuss and exchange views on the identification of a set of priority subject area where recommendations and standards in PPPs can be developed.

Presentation by the UNECE Secretariat

Outcomes of Sessions 1 and 2

Agreed selection of priority subject areas for recommendations / standards

12:30-14:00 **Lunch break**

14:00-14:30 **Session 3: Work programme of the UNECE Business Advisory Board**

“How the BAB will help governments to implement international best practices and standards?” **Presentation by James Stewart, Chairman of the UNECE Business Advisory Board**

14:30-16:00 **Session 4: Countries responses**

Under this session, participants will have the opportunity to present PPP policies and practices in their countries as well as to provide an overview of challenges and needs. To this extent, countries are also invited to indicate some suggested areas where the BAB might assist them in achieving their goals in PPPs (e.g. advice on legislation, undertaking of a readiness assessment and national consultation meeting etc.) and in implementing PPPs international best practices and instruments.

Participants round table

16:00-16:30 **Coffee break**

16:30 – 17:30 **Outcome of Sessions 3 and 4**

In conclusion of the afternoon session, participants are invited to discuss possible in-country consultative visits of the BAB.

- Format of consultations discussed.
- Readiness of countries to host a consultative visit of the BAB.
- Preliminary workplan of BAB country consultations in 2014.

17:30 – 18:00 **Conclusions and Follow-up**