



Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
17 May 2016

Original: English

Economic Commission for Europe

Committee on Innovation, Competitiveness and Public-Private Partnerships

Tenth session

Geneva, 23-25 May 2016

Item of the provisional agenda

Item 5 (b)

PPP Standards and recommendations under preparation

I. Background and information

Public Private Partnerships (PPPs) have been widely identified as a key mechanism for achieving the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). This is primarily because of the huge price tag associated with achieving many of the targets, such as universal health care, access to clean, safe water, and energy for all, etc., that cannot be financed exclusively by the public purse.¹ However, despite their critical role, there is neither a clear definition of the term “PPP”, nor models of PPPs that exemplify what is required if the SDGs are to be achieved.²

It also needs to be borne in mind that, for the most part, PPPs have been elaborated by developed countries, in order to increase ‘value for money’ and improve efficiency - not specifically as a tool for poverty alleviation or social development. Moreover, many people still regard PPPs with considerable scepticism, arguing that PPPs suffer from a “trust deficit” because of their alleged lack of transparency and accountability and this has led to the call for PPPs that are “people first”.

Accordingly, while there is a quite a lot of information on national best practices for PPP models in developed countries such as the United Kingdom, France, Australia, Canada etc. that have given value for money, there is much less information on PPP

¹ Accordingly, SDGs 17 calls for the Revitalisation of “Partnerships for Sustainable development” and refers specifically to PPPs, along with civil society and public partnerships, as one of the preferred options to achieve the SDGs.

² Indeed, it is not certain what “being aligned” or “compliant” with the SDGs actually means. True a case could be made for arguing that PPPs which are ‘people centred’, that improve access to vulnerable groups, that contribute to poverty alleviation and have social transformational impact can be viewed as “SDG aligned” or compliant.

models that can be the vehicle for achieving the United Nations' very ambitious and transformational agenda for eliminating extreme poverty by 2030.

To fill this gap, and to identify the requirements and the models needed, the UNECE, through its International PPP Centre of Excellence, working with international partners, is elaborating international standards and recommendations for policy makers especially in developing countries and transition economies, on how to use PPPs to achieve the SDGs. This task will contribute to the entire spectrum of sectors mentioned in the SDGs, namely: water and sanitation, renewable energy, smart and sustainable cities, health and so on. In addition, UNECE is developing standards and recommendations in the area of law, policy and institutions that are at the core and underpin all types of PPPs. This standards-making work is carried out by Specialist Centres hosted in countries focusing on specific thematic areas which identify best practices and by international project teams that meet virtually and using these best practices, elaborate these materials into standards or recommendations under the UNECE's established [procedures](#).

A list of standards under preparation is shown below for information purposes.

II. Standards and recommendations under preparation

- a) PPP Standards and recommendations nearing completion:
 - I. Recommendations on Zero Tolerance to Corruption in PPP;
 - II. Health Care Policy; and
 - III. Checklist of actions governments can take in compliance with the recommendations on zero tolerance to corruption.
 - b) PPP Standards and recommendations in progress:
 - I. Airports;
 - II. Railways;
 - III. Renewable Energy;
 - IV. Roads; and
 - V. Water and Sanitation.
-

Annex

UNECE PPP Standards development process

Source: <https://www2.unece.org/wiki/display/pppp/PPP+Standards+development+process>

Pages / PPP Projects Home

PPP Standards development process

1 Added by Claudio Meza, last edited by Claudio Meza on Jan 22, 2016 (view change)

Projects overview														
Sector	Project	Project name	Project leader	Support	Extra Budgetary Resources	Start date	End date	ODP 1 Project initiation	ODP 2 Stakeholder mobilization	ODP 3 Draft Development	ODP 4 Public review	ODP 5 Endorsement	ODP 6 Approval	ODP 7 Maintenance
Health	P0001	Health policy	Peter WARD			01.06.2014	30.04.2015							
Legislation, policies and institutions	P0002	Charter on zero tolerance to corruption in PPP	Marc FRILET			01.06.2014	30.04.2015							
Legislation, policies and institutions	P0003	Implementing principles on zero tolerance to corruption in PPP	Syed ZAIDI			01.07.2014	30.04.2015							
Transport	P0004	Airports	Rosário MACÁRIO			01.03.2015	30.11.2015							
Transport	P0005	Railways	Jonathan BECKITT			01.03.2015	30.11.2015							
Transport	P0006	Roads	Alfredo LUCENTE			01.03.2015	30.11.2015							
Water	P0007	Water and Sanitation	Dominique GATEL Maya CHAMLI			01.04.2015	31.03.2016							
Renewable energy	P0008	Renewable Energy	Ana-Katarina HAJDUKA			01.04.2015	31.12.2015							
Legislation, policies and institutions	P0009	Sustainable PPP Procurement	Alexander BAZHENOV			01.11.2015								