



# Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General  
25 August 2016

Original: English

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## Economic Commission for Europe

Committee on Innovation, Competitiveness and Public-Private Partnerships

Team of Specialists on Innovation and Competitiveness Policies

### Ninth session

Geneva, 3–4 November 2016

Item 1 of the provisional agenda

**Adoption of the agenda and election of officers**

## Annotated provisional agenda for the ninth session<sup>1</sup>

**To be held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva, starting at 10 a.m. on 3 November 2016**

### I. Provisional agenda

1. Adoption of the agenda and election of officers.
2. Substantive segment: Innovation for Sustainable Development: Entrepreneurship and Finance.
3. Review of the work of the Team of Specialists on Innovation and Competitiveness Policies since the eighth session.
4. Inter-sessional implementation plan for 2017.
5. Other business.
6. Adoption of the Report of the session.

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<sup>1</sup> Delegates attending meetings at the Palais des Nations should register online at <https://www2.unece.org/uncdb/app/ext/meeting-registration?id=UGiVk4>

Prior to the session, delegates (with the exception of delegates from the Geneva-based Missions) are requested to present themselves with a valid identification card/passport at the Pass and Identification Unit of the UNOG Security and Safety Section, located at the Pregny Gate, Avenue de la Paix 8-14 for the issuance of an identification badge. Additional information for delegates, including a map of the premises, is available on the UNECE website at <http://www.unece.org/meetings/practical.html>.



## II. Annotations to the provisional agenda

### 1. Adoption of the agenda and election of officers

*Documentation:* ECE/CECI/ICP/2016/1

1. The Team will adopt its agenda.
2. The objectives of the ninth session are to:
  - (a) Discuss and address topical, substantive issues related to the programme of work of the Team of Specialists on Innovation and Competitiveness Policies (TOS-ICP);
  - (b) Review the outputs and activities carried out since the eighth session and agree on an implementation plan for work to be carried out until the tenth session in 2017.
3. The Team may elect officers to its bureau as required and in accordance with the Guidelines on Procedures and Practices for ECE Bodies (E/ECE/1468, Annex III para.V.8. p. 18). The term of office of any newly elected officers will begin at the end of this session.

### 2. Substantive segment: Innovation for Sustainable Development: Entrepreneurship and Finance

4. The substantive segment will be an Applied Policy Seminar on “Innovation for Sustainable Development: Entrepreneurship and Finance”. The Seminar will provide a platform for international knowledge-sharing and policy-learning in this area.
5. In September 2015, the General Assembly of the United Nations adopted the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda, which set ambitious global goals that commit countries of the world to achieve economic prosperity while protecting our planet and ensuring social inclusion.
6. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development has acknowledged the potential that innovation offers for achieving its goals. It also recognizes the business community’s central role in driving innovation for sustainable development and indeed calls for a renewed partnership between governments and the business community.
7. Entrepreneurs throughout the UNECE region are busy developing and putting on the market innovative solutions that can make contributions to sustainable development in fields as diverse as healthcare, renewable energy, sustainable agriculture and clean technologies, to name but a few. Enterprises small and large are taking innovative steps to make their own operations more and more sustainable.
8. Investors, including business angels, venture capital funds and others, are increasingly looking for opportunities to fund innovative companies that combine economic return with a positive impact on society; and a good track record on sustainability can be an important asset for established companies to raise financing.
9. At the same time, the extent to which entrepreneurial effort and private sector financial resources will be devoted to areas critical for sustainable development; and the extent to which these efforts will reach scale and have significant impact, also depends on Government policy.
10. Governments have a critical role to play in harnessing innovative entrepreneurship for sustainable development by creating appropriate regulation to align private incentives with societal needs; by defining priority challenges around which innovative entrepreneurship can galvanize; by creating demand for innovations in these areas; by

sponsoring and co-financing early-stage innovation in priority areas; and by facilitating the emergence of markets for sustainable products, production processes and finance (e.g. through certification schemes, standards and product labels).

11. The meeting will allow for an interactive discussion among private and the public sector stakeholders in the UNECE region and reach conclusions to better leverage innovations for economic growth while ensuring ecological sustainability and social inclusion.

12. Issues for discussion include – but are not limited to – the following:

- (a) How to encourage innovative entrepreneurship in areas critical for sustainable development;
- (b) How to ensure innovation in these areas reaches critical scale;
- (c) How to create eco-systems at local and regional level;
- (d) How to mobilize private finance for innovative solutions in these areas;
- (e) How public financial resources can complement or crowd in private finance;
- (f) How to encourage sustainable production in established firms;
- (g) How to ensure policy consistency (i.e. how to align policy support of entrepreneurship, innovation and sustainable development).

13. This applied policy seminar will lay the groundwork for developing good practices and policy recommendations on the interactions between innovation policy, entrepreneurship and finance. The conclusions will also serve as a contribution to the implementation of the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda at the regional level.

### **3. Review of the work of the Team of Specialists on Innovation and Competitiveness Policies since the eighth session**

14. TOS-ICP members will be briefed on key outcomes and highlights of the work carried out since the eighth session, including:

- (a) Policy Document: “Accelerating the adoption of innovations” (ECE/CECI/2016/3) submitted to the 2016 session of the UNECE Committee on Innovation, Competitiveness and Public-Private Partnerships;
- (b) Publication of the Innovation Performance Review of Tajikistan in Russian (ECE/CECI/24);
- (c) Peer Review of the Innovation for Sustainable Development Review of Belarus in Minsk, Belarus, on 6 October 2016;
- (d) Findings and recommendations of the Innovation for Sustainable Development Review of Belarus (ECE/CECI/2016/CRP.1);
- (e) Guidebook on “Innovation in the Public Sector” (ECE/CECI/22);
- (f) Seminar “Innovation Grants – Eligibility Criteria and Selection Process”, Almaty, Kazakhstan, on 20-21 September 2016, in follow-up to the Innovation Performance Review of Kazakhstan;
- (g) Eighth meeting of the SPECA Thematic Working Group on Knowledge-Based Development in Almaty, Kazakhstan on 22 September 2016 (jointly organized with UNESCAP);

(h) High-level International conference on “Laying the foundation in the ECE region for greater integration, economic development and achievement of the sustainable development goals” in Minsk, Belarus, on 26-27 October 2016;

(i) International conference on Innovative Entrepreneurship and Sustainable Development, organized jointly with the Government of Israel in Geneva on 2 November 2016.

15. Members of the Team will be invited to take stock of past activities and to discuss effective means for the dissemination of the Team’s outputs.

#### **4. Inter-sessional implementation plan for 2017**

*Documentation:* Inter-sessional Implementation Plan for 2016-2017 (ECE/CECI/2016/5).

16. The secretariat will inform the Team of the main outcomes of the ninth session of the Committee on Innovation, Competitiveness and Public-Private Partnerships held on 23 - 25 May 2016.

*Implementation Plans for 2017*

17. The Team will discuss proposals for work to be undertaken in 2017 in accordance with the Inter-sessional Implementation Plan for 2016-2017 of the Committee on Innovation, Competitiveness and Public-Private Partnerships (ECE/CECI/2016/5). Proposals include:

(a) A parliamentary document for the 2017 session of the Committee on Innovation, Competitiveness and Public-Private Partnerships on “Innovation for Sustainable Development: Entrepreneurship and Finance”;

(b) A publication based on the policy discussions to be organized at the annual session of TOS-ICP in 2016;

(c) The Innovation for Sustainable Development Review of Belarus will be published, translated into Russian and launched in the country in early 2017;

(d) Proposal(s) for new national Innovation for Sustainable Development Review(s);

(e) Capacity-building activities and policy advisory workshops to support the implementation of the recommendations contained in Innovation Performance Reviews subject to demand from the respective member States and subject to the availability of extra-budgetary resources;

(f) Sub-regional capacity-building and knowledge-sharing conferences and workshops on policies for promoting knowledge-based development, subject to demand from member States and the availability of extra-budgetary funding. Participants are encouraged to bring to the session any expressions of interest by UNECE Member States or other stakeholders for delivering or hosting capacity-building activities in areas related to the work of the Team;

(g) A substantive contribution to the 2017 Multi-Stakeholder Forum on Science, Technology and Innovation for Sustainable Development to be held in New York in June 2017;

(h) Cooperation with the UNECE Environment Sub-Programme and the United Nations Environment Programme on a project to enhance the knowledge and capacity of countries in the EECCA region to develop and implement policies and policy

instruments on sustainable production and consumption for an inclusive green economy (subject to extra-budgetary funding);

- (i) Additional proposals received from Team members before or at the session.

18. Participants are encouraged to express any intentions by UNECE member States and other stakeholders to provide extra-budgetary support (such as funds or in-kind contributions, including the organization of seminars, etc.) to the above activities.

19. The Team is invited to consider and agree on the implementation plan for its work in 2017. The decision will be subject to the UNECE Executive Committee's approval of the programme of work of the Committee on Innovation, Competitiveness and Public-Private Partnerships.

## **5. Other business**

20. The Team will decide on the date for its tenth session. The secretariat proposes 19-20 October 2017.

## **6. Adoption of the Report of the session**

21. The Report will be adopted at the end of the session.

## Annex

### Provisional timetable

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<i>Time</i>	<i>Agenda Item</i>
<b>Thursday, 3 November 2016</b>	
10 a.m. – 1 p.m.	Item 1. Adoption of the agenda and election of officers Item 2. Substantive segment: Innovation for Sustainable Development: Entrepreneurship and Finance
3 p.m. – 6 p.m.	Item 2. Substantive segment: Innovation for Sustainable Development: Entrepreneurship and Finance ( <i>continued</i> )
<b>Friday, 4 November 2016</b>	
10 a.m. – 1 p.m.	Item 2. Substantive segment: Innovation for Sustainable Development: Entrepreneurship and Finance ( <i>continued</i> )
3 p.m. – 6 p.m.	Item 3. Review of the work of the Team of Specialists on Innovation and Competitiveness Policies Item 4. Inter-sessional implementation plan for 2017 Item 5. Other business Item 6. Adoption of the Report of the session

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