



# Economic and Social Council

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## Economic Commission for Europe

Committee on Innovation, Competitiveness and Public-Private Partnerships

Team of Specialists on Innovation and Competitiveness Policies

### Tenth session

Geneva, 19–20 October 2017

Item 1 of the provisional agenda

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

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

**To be held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva, starting at 10 a.m. on 19 October 2017**

### **I. Provisional agenda**

1. Adoption of the agenda and election of officers.
2. Substantive segment: Towards the Circular Economy - Innovation Policies for Sustainable Production and Consumption.
3. Review of the work of the Team of Specialists on Innovation and Competitiveness Policies since the ninth session.
4. Inter-sessional implementation plan for 2017-2018.
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=Ns1q5m>. 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/2017/1

1. The Team will adopt its agenda.
2. The objectives of the tenth 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 ninth session and agree on an implementation plan for work to be carried out until the eleventh session in 2018.
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: Towards the Circular Economy - Innovation Policies for Sustainable Production and Consumption

4. The substantive segment will be an Applied Policy Seminar on “Towards the Circular Economy – Innovation Policies for Sustainable Production and Consumption”. 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 the countries of the world to achieve economic prosperity while protecting our planet and ensuring social inclusion.
6. Not only is innovation at the core of SDG 9, but the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development has acknowledged the potential that innovation offers for achieving all its goals as a cross-cutting means of implementation. In particular, innovation is a key enabler for SDG 12, “Ensure sustainable production and consumption patterns” and for Goal 11 “Make cities inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable”. In 2018, the United Nations global High Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development as well as the Multi-Stakeholder Forum on Science, Technology and Innovation for Sustainable Development, will be dedicated, among other Goals, to SDG 11 and SDG 12. The Applied Policy Seminar will provide an opportunity for delegates to share experiences from the UNECE region on the role which innovation policies can play in advancing these goals, and thereby generate valuable regional input for next year’s global events.
7. Sustainable consumption and production is about promoting resource and energy efficiency, sustainable infrastructure, and providing access to basic services, green and decent jobs and a better quality of life for all. It supports overall development, reduces future economic, environmental and social costs, strengthens economic competitiveness and reduces poverty. Sustainable consumption and production aims at “doing more and better with less”, increasing net welfare gains from economic activities by reducing resource use, degradation and pollution along the whole product lifecycle, while increasing quality of life.
8. The circular economy model can play a strong role for SDG 12. It offers a profitable opportunity to move away from resource-intensive processes, maximising the use of

existing assets and creating new revenue streams. A circular economy renders production and consumption processes more sustainable and competitive, allowing countries to boost competitiveness, reduce the use of natural resources, allowing energy savings.

9. Innovation is already driving the move to the circular economy and to sustainable consumption and production patterns. There are numerous examples of new technologies, processes, services and business models that are re-shaping product life cycles from design through production and usage on to disposal and re-cycling. Similarly, innovative forms of sustainable consumption, such as sharing platforms, are emerging in areas such as transport, housing and others.

10. However, the move towards the circular economy is still at an early stage in most of the ECE region, and the potential of innovation to make production and consumption fully sustainable is far from being fully exploited. For instance, even in the European Union the average manufactured asset still lasts only nine years and still only 40 per cent of discarded materials undergo some form of recycling.

11. Fully realizing the potential of innovation in this critical area will require dedicated and sustained policy efforts to create enabling frameworks and incentives for private innovation efforts in circular economy fields and to encourage consumers to rapidly and broadly adopt innovative sustainable consumption patterns. This will also require innovative approaches to regulation (regulatory innovation) to provide incentives and eliminate barriers and, in financing tools (financial innovation) to mobilize private, public, and blended finance.

12. The meeting will allow for an interactive discussion among private and public sector stakeholders in the UNECE region to understand and agree on how better to promote and use innovation to move towards sustainable production and consumption and eventually a circular economy.

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

(a) How can ECE countries further encourage innovative entrepreneurship for a circular economy – product innovation, process innovation, product life cycle innovation, innovation for consumption?

(b) How can ECE countries ensure the right regulatory framework for innovation – addressing regulatory barriers for activities and business models (the role of law, standards and norms)?

(c) What are the possible incentives to enable innovation to deliver new and more sustainable business practices (e.g. taxation, subsidies, green procurement)?

(d) How should ECE countries mobilize and scale up private and public finance - what are the innovative financing tools to finance the circular economy?

(e) How should countries ensure policy consistency (i.e. how to align policy support of entrepreneurship, innovation and sustainable development)?

(f) How can governments promote shifts towards a circular economy at the sub-national and local levels – best practices from smart cities?

(g) How can countries engage a wider circle of stakeholders – businesses, consumers, public authorities, academia and research institutes to incentivize the society to embed circularity in different processes?

14. This applied policy seminar will lay the groundwork for developing good practices and policy recommendations on innovation for sustainable production and consumption. The conclusions will also serve as a contribution to the United Nations High Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development 2018, particularly its revision of SDG 11 on smart

cities and SDG 12 on sustainable production and consumption, and 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 ninth session**

15. TOS-ICP members will be briefed on main outcomes and highlights of the work since the ninth session, including:

(a) The Policy Document: “Good Practices and Policy Options on Impact Investing – Financing Innovation for Sustainable Development” (ECE/CECI/2017/CRP.1) submitted to the 2017 session of the UNECE Committee on Innovation, Competitiveness and Public-Private Partnerships;

(b) Publication of the Innovation for Sustainable Development Review of Belarus (ECE/CECI/25) and launch event in Minsk;

(c) Preparatory mission, fact finding mission and peer review of the Innovation for Sustainable Development Review of Kyrgyzstan;

(d) Findings and recommendations of the Innovation for Sustainable Development Review of Kyrgyzstan (ECE/CECI/ICP/2017/CRP.1);

(e) Policy workshop on the implementation of recommendations from the Innovation Performance Review of Armenia in Yerevan in December 2016 jointly with the State Committee on Science of Armenia and hosted by UNIDO;

(f) The second start-up competition Ideas4Change (together with other divisions of UNECE) in Geneva on the occasion of the 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Session of the Economic Commission for Europe in cooperation with Startup Nation Central of Israel and the MassChallenge Accelerator;

(g) Ninth meeting of the SPECA Thematic Working Group on Knowledge-Based Development in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan on 23 June 2017 (jointly organized with UNESCAP);

(h) Sub-regional policy conference on “Making Innovation Work for the SDGs” in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan on 22-23 June 2017 (jointly organized with UNESCAP);

(i) Session on “International Experiences on Investing in Innovative Companies” at the 11<sup>th</sup> Siberian Venture Fair and Technoprom Forum in Novosibirsk, Russian Federation on 20-22 June 2017 (jointly organized with the Russian Venture Capital Association);

(j) Publication on Innovation in the Public Sector (ECE/CECI/22).

16. 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 2017-2018**

*Documentation:* ECE/CECI/2017/2, Annex II

17. The secretariat will inform the Team of the main outcomes of the eleventh session of the Committee on Innovation, Competitiveness and Public-Private Partnerships held in Geneva on 20-22 March 2017.

*Implementation Plan for 2017-2018*

18. The Team will discuss proposals for work to be undertaken in the remainder of 2017 and in 2018 in accordance with the Inter-sessional Implementation Plan for 2017-2018 of the Committee on Innovation, Competitiveness and Public-Private Partnerships (ECE/CECI/2017/2, Annex II). Proposals include:

(a) A policy document to be submitted to the 2018 session of the Committee on Innovation, Competitiveness and Public-Private Partnerships on “Towards the Circular Economy - Innovation Policies for Sustainable Production and Consumption”;

(b) Publication of the Russian version of the Innovation for Sustainable Development Review of Belarus;

(c) Publication of the Innovation for Sustainable Development Review of Kyrgyzstan, including a launch event in Bishkek;

(d) The 2017 SPECA Economic Forum, which will be held in conjunction with the 12<sup>th</sup> session of the SPECA Governing Council, with a focus on innovation for sustainable development in Dushanbe, Tajikistan in November 2017, subject to final confirmation by the Government;

(e) The 2018 session of the SPECA Working Group on Knowledge-Based Development, with date and venue subject to confirmation by the host Government;

(f) Initiation of a new national Innovation for Sustainable Development Review;

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

(h) 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;

(i) 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 2018;

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

19. 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.

20. The Team is invited to consider and agree on the implementation plan for its work in the remainder of 2017 and in 2018.

## **5. Other business**

21. The Team will decide on the date for its eleventh session. The secretariat proposes 1-2 November 2018.

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

22. 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, 19 October 2017</b>	
10 a.m. – 1 p.m.	Item 1. Adoption of the agenda and election of officers Item 2. Substantive segment: Towards the Circular Economy - Innovation Policies for Sustainable Production and Consumption
3 p.m. – 6 p.m.	Item 2. Towards the Circular Economy - Innovation Policies for Sustainable Production and Consumption ( <i>continued</i> )
<b>Friday, 20 October 2017</b>	
10 a.m. – 1 p.m.	Item 2. Substantive segment: Towards the Circular Economy - Innovation Policies for Sustainable Production and Consumption ( <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 2017-2018 Item 5. Other business Item 6. Adoption of the Report of the session

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