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Committee on Innovation, Competitiveness and Public-Private Partnerships

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Item 6 (a) of the agenda

Programme of Work for 2018-2019

Proposals received for activities to be carried out in 2018-2019

I. Introduction

1. The present document is based on the programme of work of the Committee for 2018-2019 (ECE/CECI/2017/6). It provides additional information on activities planned and proposed for the period between the twelfth and thirteenth sessions of the Committee. To facilitate discussion, this document presents activities grouped by the main thematic areas covered by the Committee, i.e. Innovation and Competitiveness, and Public-Private Partnerships.

2. The plans and proposals reflect demand expressed by member States as well as the resources available to the secretariat at the time of writing. Delegates are invited to bring additional proposals and requests to the session.

II. Innovation and Competitiveness Policies

3. The eleventh session of the Team of Specialists on Innovation and Competitiveness Policies will be held in Geneva on 18-19 October 2018. As part of the session, an international policy conference will provide an opportunity for experts from across the ECE region to exchange experiences on innovation policy. The bureau of the Team will decide on the specific topic in consultation with the Team members. The twelfth session will decide on the date for the thirteenth session to be held in 2019.

4. The Innovation for Sustainable Development Review of Kyrgyzstan will be published. A launch event will be held in Bishkek.

6. A training seminar on technology transfer will be organized together with the Government of Kazakhstan with the participation of experts from other Central Asian countries.

7. Follow-up policy advisory workshops to support the implementation of policy recommendations from earlier innovation reviews will be organized in the second half of 2018 and in 2019, including in Armenia, Belarus and Kyrgyzstan.
8. Additional policy advisory and capacity building events will be organised in other countries subject to extra-budgetary funding.
9. In response to requests from member States, a new Innovation for Sustainable Development Review will be carried out in 2018-2019 subject to the availability of extra-budgetary funding.
10. The 2018 session of the Working Group on Knowledge-Based Development of the UN Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia (SPECA) will be organized together with UNESCAP. A policy conference will be organised back-to-back with the session. The precise location and date remain to be decided.
11. A SPECA Innovation Strategy for Sustainable Development will be developed for adoption by the SPECA Governing Council. The scope and possible contents of the strategy will be discussed at the above policy conference.
12. A methodological guide on Innovation for Sustainable Development Reviews will be prepared based on expert consultations within the Team of Specialists on Innovation and Competitiveness Policies.
13. Further work on the methodology for a sub-regional Innovation Policy Index and on a pilot version of the index will be undertaken subject to expressions of interest from member States and the availability of extra-budgetary funding.
14. The Team of Specialists on Innovation and Competitiveness Policies will explore the scope for developing high-level policy principles on selected aspects of innovation for sustainable development.
15. The results of the Committee's work on innovation for sustainable consumption and production will be presented at the 2018 Multi-Stakeholder Forum on Science, Technology and Innovation for Sustainable Development in New York in June.

III. Public-private Partnerships

16. The focus of the work on Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs) is on developing international PPP standards and best practices in support of the Sustainable Development Goals and implementing them in countries through demand-driven national, regional, and international capacity-building activities as well as through policy advisory services carried out by the ECE PPP Business Advisory Board.
17. The second session of the Working Party on PPPs will be held in Geneva on 20-21 November 2018.
18. The third edition of the ECE International PPP Forum will be organised in Geneva on 7-9 May 2018.
19. Meetings of the Business Advisory Board with senior policy makers are planned in Georgia in September 2018 and in Brazil in October 2018. Additional Business Advisory Board meetings will be organized, both in 2018 and 2019, subject to demand from member States and the availability of extra-budgetary resources.
20. A PPP conference will be organised in Kiev, Ukraine on 5-6 June 2018.
21. A regional PPP capacity-building workshop will be organised in the Russian Federation in October 2018.

22. A series of PPP workshops will be organised in Belarus, including a national seminar in Minsk in July 2018.
23. A number of policy advisory and capacity building activities will be held in 2018 and 2019 in CIS countries on formulating and implementing national PPP policy frameworks to promote PPPs as tools to achieve the SDGs. These activities are part of the extrabudgetary project “Strengthening the capacity of CIS countries to advance their use of PPPs to achieve the SDGs” financed by the Russian Federation.
24. A series of policy advisory services and capacity building activities will be organized in Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan in 2018 and 2019, subject to the availability of extra-budgetary resources.
25. International standards on PPPs in health policy, in water and sanitation, in renewable energy, and in transport (roads, rail, urban rail and airports) will be finalized during 2018.
26. The guiding principles on people-first PPPs for the UN SDGs will be finalised in 2018.
27. The campaign to reach 500 people-first PPP case studies will continue to be promoted, and additional case studies will be collected and presented at the third ECE International PPP Forum in Geneva on 7-9 May 2018.
28. A PPP Readiness Assessment study in Tatarstan, Russian Federation will be prepared in the second half of 2018 subject to extra-budgetary resources.
29. An evaluation methodology as an implementation tool to score infrastructure projects against the people-first PPP criteria will be set up during 2018 subject to extra-budgetary resources.
30. A capacity building initiative for countries within the Belt and Road initiative, based on three pillars of cooperation (policy dialogue, national capacity building and transformational projects) will be implemented in 2018 and 2019 subject to extra-budgetary resources.
31. An initiative to empower women through PPPs with the engagement of the private sector will be launched in 2018 subject to extra-budgetary resources.