



UNECE

International PPP Centre of Excellence

Committee on Innovation, Competitiveness and Public-Private Partnerships

Working Party on Public-Private Partnerships

Third session

3-4 December 2019, Palais des Nations, Geneva, Switzerland

Room XII

[Programme](#)

The Working Party on Public-Private Partnerships is an intergovernmental body established in 2016 and it comprises over 2000 experts coming from the public and private sector, NGOs and international organizations. On 3-4 December 2019, the session will focus on the contribution of the UNECE work on People-first PPPs to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), with a policy discussion addressing a number of key challenges, including the pros and cons of a People-first Project Facilitation Hub to assist Governments to identify and prepare the right projects that comply with the SDGs. The ongoing work on the Project Impact Assessment Tool as a mechanism to evaluate and score projects in compliance with the SDGs and case studies will also be presented.

Day 1 | Tuesday, 3 December 2019

10:00–10:45 **Opening, adoption of agenda¹ and election of officers**

Policy Discussion: Implementing People-first PPP projects in support of the SDGs

10:45–13:00 **Session I: Identifying People-first pilot projects for low and middle-income countries**

Challenge

The challenge is that Governments have difficulties in identifying priorities in projects in order to meet the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). In parallel there are often weak enabling environments existing in many low and middle-income countries – indeed in precisely the countries most in need of high-quality ‘People-first’ PPPs.

Key questions

Project pipeline:

- (i) What are the projects that can best be described as People-first?
- (ii) Are there sectors where People-first PPPs cannot be achieved and should thus be avoided?

Project Evaluation Tool:

- (i) How would the evaluation methodology currently being developed by UNECE work to screen projects?

Policies and Enabling environment for People-first PPPs:

- (i) Rather than doing everything that is required, are there priority actions that countries should do in developing a People-first enabling environment?
- (ii) Transparency and accountability issues are prevalent in many low and middle-income countries: how should governments best implement the UNECE [standard](#) and [declaration](#) on a Zero Tolerance Approach to Corruption in PPP procurement?
- (iii) How should Governments deal with the challenge of ‘unsolicited bids’?

Moderator: **Geoffrey Hamilton**, UNECE

10:45-11:45 **Project pipeline**

Case studies:	China:	Sun Jiong	Kyrgyzstan:	Mederbek Ismailov
	India:	Naresh Bana	Tajikistan:	Isfandiyor Uzmonzoda
	Kazakhstan:	Bekmurat Talipov	Ukraine:	Irina Zapatrina

Discussant: **Pedro Neves**, UNECE PPP Business Advisory Board

¹ The draft annotated agenda is contained in document [ECE/CECI/WP/PPP/2019/1](#) and is composed of the following items (the agenda is available online as an official UN document and will not be circulated at the meeting so delegates are kindly requested to either bring their own copy or access it online):

1. Adoption of the agenda
2. Election of officers
3. Policy Discussion: Implementing People-first PPP projects in support of the SDGs
4. Review of the PPP work since the second session of the Working Party on PPPs on 20-21 November 2018
5. Implementation plan for 2019-2020
6. Other business
7. Adoption of the report of the third session

11:45-12:00 Project Evaluation Tool

Panellists: **Melissa Peneycad**, Acting Managing Director and Director, Sustainable Projects, Institute for Sustainable Infrastructure
Waleska Lemus, Sustainable Infrastructure Foundation

12:00-12:15 **Keynote speaker:**

H.E. Mr. Walter Stevens, Ambassador, Head of Delegation of the European Union to the UN and other international organisations in Geneva

12:15-13:00 Policies and Enabling environment for People-first PPPs

Panellists: **Steve Davis**, Welsh Government (United Kingdom)
Sam Tabuchi (Japan)
Christopher Clement-Davies, Project Team leader, UNECE/EBRD draft People-first model PPP law
Bruno de Cazalet, UNECE PPP Business Advisory Board
Doris Chevalier, CEO Infraboost

Q&A

Expected Outcome from the Session

- Identify the objectives of the Project Facilitation Hub as well as the sectors, projects and the countries to benefit from its services (refer to [background paper](#))

13:00–15:00 **Lunch break**

15:00–16:30 **Session II: How will a Project Facilitation Hub help to develop these projects?**

Background

The proposed Hub would consist of both a Fund and a Facilitating entity. The Fund would be hosted at a Multilateral Development Bank (MDB). The facilitating entity would be located in a place to be determined. The Hub would advance People-first PPP models for the SDGs. Donors (typically governments or supranational entities such as the EU) will contribute to the fund in order to support its purpose, namely financing People-first PPPs.

Challenge

Getting this Fund and the Facilitation entity up and running constitutes a considerable challenge, especially if the Hub is to have the impact required. Beyond these considerable logistical challenges, the Hub needs to address the following:

- People-first PPPs might be more costly to undertake than traditional PPPs;
- Civil society and local communities should be involved in actual delivery as far as possible but the mechanisms for doing this are not always apparent;
- There is in addition strong reluctance by companies to invest in high-risk low-income countries. Thus, a priority for the work of the Hub would be to work to mitigate the risks for investors establishing PPP arrangements in such countries.

Key questions:

- (i) How could the Hub screen countries that are not able to meet People-first standards and best practices and benefit from its services?
- (ii) How could the Hub develop capacities by working with governments to deliver projects?
- (iii) How does the Hub lower the risk in order to implement and make affordable People-first PPP projects?

Panellists: **Matthew Jordan-Tank**, Director, Sustainable Infrastructure Policy & Project Preparation, EBRD
Shamas ur Rehman Toor, Senior Policy & Strategy Officer, AIIB
Jean-Patrick Marquet, Member of the Global Future Council on Infrastructure, WEF
Sedef Yavuz Noyan (Turkey)
Alexander Bazhenov, UNECE PPP Business Advisory Board
Kerry Adler, President and Chief Executive Officer, SkyPower Global
Matthieu Muzumdar, COO, Meridiam
Marc Frilet, Deputy General Secretary, International Specialist Centre in PPPs on Policies Laws and Institutions
Aris Pantelias, European PPP Expertise Centre

Q&A

Expected Outcome from the Session

- Explore the feasibility of setting-up a People-first Project Facilitation Hub with the support of the MDBs

16:30–18:00 **Session III: Key issues in the Hub’s operations, stakeholder engagement, financing, scaling up and the role of the UN**

Challenge

Conscious of the need to accelerate the development of a necessary high-quality project pipeline as well as a new type of more inclusive projects where all stakeholders – civil society, governments themselves and the private sector – have a key role to play in projects and by definition in the operations of the Hub itself, the challenge is to develop the Hub in a way in which it can be inclusive where each participant’s contribution is welcomed as part of a level playing field and no conflict of interest ensuring transparency effectiveness and good governance.

Key questions

- Should it be a fund located in an MDB or should it be just a facilitating entity?
- How can the various entities and stakeholders work under the auspices of the Hub?
- Where would the financing come from?
- What should be the role of the UNECE in the Hub’s operation?

Panellists: **Alena Dadzerkina** (Belarus)
Frederic Bobay (France)
Gabriele Pasquini (Italy)
Sonia Mezzour (Morocco)
Daniel Bruderer, Deputy Head of Infrastructure, SECO
Richard Ornitz, UNECE PPP Business Advisory Board
Anand Chiplunkar, Senior PPP Expert
Kazushige Gobe, Japan Bank for International Cooperation

Q&A

Day 2 | Wednesday, 4 December 2019

10:00–10:30 **Wrap up Session: What are the next steps in establishing the Project Facilitation Hub?**

The session will provide an opportunity to discuss the extent of interest in this proposal and a provisional timetable to the establishment of a People-first Project Facilitation Hub.

- **Geoffrey Hamilton**, UNECE
- **Jean-Patrick Marquet**, Member of the Global Future Council on Infrastructure, WEF

10:30–13:00 **Review of the PPP work since the second session of the Working Party on PPPs on 20-21 November 2018**

- **Measuring and scaling up the Implementation and Impact of UNECE PPP standards, guiding principles, best practices, declarations and recommendations;**
- **Code of Conduct for the UNECE-affiliated International PPP Specialist Centres of Excellence; and**
- **Standards, guidelines and UNECE/EBRD People-first PPP Model law under preparation.**

13:00–15:00 **Lunch break**

15:00–18:00² **Implementation plan for 2019-2020**

Other business

Adoption of the report

² In view of the cost saving measures adopted by UNOG in the *Palais des Nations* to address the current UN liquidity crisis, all meetings should be concluded by 6pm sharp.