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**Economic Commission for Europe**

Committee on Innovation, Competitiveness and Public-Private Partnerships

**Team of Specialists on Innovation and Competitiveness Policies****Twelfth session**

Geneva, 5–6 December 2019

Item 1 of the provisional agenda

**Adoption of the agenda and election of officers****Annotated provisional agenda for the twelfth session\*, \*\*****To be held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva, starting at 10 a.m. on 5 December 2019****I. Provisional agenda**

1. Adoption of the agenda and election of officers.
2. Substantive segment: “Smart and sustainable cities: the role of governance and innovation policy”.
3. Review of the work of the Team of Specialists on Innovation and Competitiveness Policies since the eleventh session:
  - (a) Discussion on high-level innovation policy principles for sustainable development;
  - (b) Discussion on the draft methodological guide for the national Innovation for Sustainable Development Reviews;
  - (c) Discussion on progress with the Innovation Policy Outlook;
  - (d) Discussion on progress with the Innovation for Sustainable Development Review of Georgia;

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\* Delegates attending meetings at the Palais des Nations should register online here: <https://uncdb.unece.org/app/ext/meeting-registration?id=VGrms0>. Prior to the session, delegates (except for 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 14 for the issuance of an identification badge. Additional information for delegates, including a map of the premises, is available on the ECE website at <http://www.unece.org/meetings/practical.html>.

\*\* This document was scheduled for publication after the standard publication date owing to circumstances beyond the submitter’s control.



- (e) Other work since the eleventh session.
- 4. Inter-sessional implementation plan for the remainder of 2019 and for 2020.
- 5. Any other business.
- 6. Adoption of the Report of the session.

## II. Annotations to the provisional agenda

<i>Title of document</i>	<i>Document symbol</i>	<i>For information/discussion</i>
Agenda	ECE/CECI/ICP/2019/1	Information
Inter-sessional implementation plan for 2018-2019.	ECE/CECI/2019/2, Annex II	Information
The Fourth Industrial Revolution – reshaping innovation policies for sustainable and inclusive growth	ECE/CECI/2019/3	Information
Draft terms of reference for a task force on high-level principles for innovation policies	ECE/CECI/ICP/2019/INF.1	Discussion
Overview of the draft methodological guide for the national Innovation for Sustainable Development Reviews	ECE/CECI/ICP/2019/INF.2	Discussion
Progress report on the Innovation Policy Outlook	ECE/CECI/ICP/2019/INF.3	Discussion
Progress report on the Innovation for Sustainable Development Review of Georgia	ECE/CECI/ICP/2019/INF.4	Discussion

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

(ECE/CECI/ICP/2019/1)

- 7. The Team of Specialists on Innovation and Competitiveness Policies will adopt its agenda.
- 8. The objectives of the twelfth session are to:
  - (a) Discuss and address topical, substantive issues related to the programme of work of the Team of Specialists;
  - (b) Review the outputs and activities carried out since the eleventh session and agree on an implementation plan for the period until the thirteenth session in 2020.

### 2. Substantive segment: “Smart and sustainable cities: the role of governance and innovation policy”

- 9. The substantive segment will be a policy seminar on “Smart and sustainable cities: the role of governance and innovation policy”. It will provide a platform for international knowledge-sharing and policy-learning in this area.

10. Over half the global population live in cities as of 2019 and this figure is projected to reach over two thirds by 2050<sup>1</sup>. The proportion is even higher in the ECE region, where cities account for over 75 percent of the population in Europe, 80 percent in North America, and close to 50 percent in Central Asia<sup>2</sup>. Globally, cities account for around 80% of GDP, driving growth and structural change.

11. Rapid urbanization and, in some cases, deurbanization bring challenges in land usage, clean water, affordable housing, waste management, air pollution, human health, traffic congestion, and inadequate and aging infrastructures, among others. If not properly managed, this may undermine long-term sustainable development.

12. Innovation will be central to meeting these challenges. Recognizing this, more and more cities turn to the vision of “smart sustainable cities”, as a means to fulfil Sustainable Development Goal 9, “Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation” and Goal 11, “Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable”. A smart and sustainable city is defined as an “Innovative city that uses ICT and other means to improve quality of life, efficiency of urban operations and services, and competitiveness, while ensuring that it meets the needs of the present and future generations with respect to economic, social, environmental and cultural aspects.”<sup>3</sup>

13. In principle, cities are well-placed to generate the innovations needed to make urbanization sustainable. They can be not only engines of economic growth, but also the places (or ‘laboratories’) where new ideas can be developed, modified, tested, and scaled up.<sup>4</sup> Cities are where different elements come together: citizens, industries, jobs, research and education institutions, consumers, investors, policy makers, culture – and perhaps most importantly, different kinds of talent. Increasingly ubiquitous connectivity and cheap data processing open up legion possibilities for stakeholders to interact, including participating in decision-making in a transparent fashion. In other words, cities can function as hubs of experimentation and innovation, offering manifold opportunities for urban planning, urban life, and the creation of new jobs, through shared platforms, service trade, and better use of technology.

14. However, to be “smart”, a city not only needs a comprehensive commitment to using technology well, but to transform governance, citizen interaction, and value creation across the board. Innovation is especially needed at the policy level to address institutional and non-technical urban problems and create conditions enabling a city to be smart and sustainable.<sup>5</sup>

15. The success of smart city projects is not determined by technology or technical capital alone; success is dependent on leadership, inter-organizational coordination and citizen engagement. The active involvement of stakeholders – including citizens – in the co-creation and implementation of smart sustainable city solutions is important for improving transparency and incentivizing society towards more sustainable practices and behaviours. Smart sustainable cities should therefore use technology to build strong

<sup>1</sup> United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs Population Division, World Urbanization Prospects: The 2018 Revision, File 21: Annual Percentage of Population at Mid-Year Residing in Urban Areas by Region, Subregion, Country and Area, 1950-2050. Available at: <https://population.un.org/wup/Download/>

<sup>2</sup> United Nations Habitat III 2017 Regional Report for the UNECE region: <http://www.unece.org/housing/habitat3regionalreport.html>

<sup>3</sup> Definition endorsed by the Committee on Housing and Land Management in 2015 (ECE/HBP/184) and contained in ITU-T Recommendation Y.4903

<sup>4</sup> United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), 2016, Sustainable Cities Hubs of Innovation, Low Carbon Industrialization and Climate Action. Available at: [https://www.unido.org/sites/default/files/2017-03/CITIES\\_22.06.2016\\_WEB\\_0.PDF](https://www.unido.org/sites/default/files/2017-03/CITIES_22.06.2016_WEB_0.PDF)

<sup>5</sup> Taewoo Nam, Theresa A. Pardo., 2014 “Smart city as urban innovation: Focusing on management, policy and context”.

relationships between citizens and city governments so that all citizens can benefit from, and can even co-create public services.<sup>6</sup>

16. Integrated packages of policy measures, such as fiscal incentives, investments in research and development, sustainable public procurement, incentives for innovation along the whole product life-cycle are instrumental to drive the necessary changes, to support the establishment of new business models and produce a cultural shift.

17. There are several challenges to overcome in cities' transition to becoming smart and sustainable. Knowledge gaps, limited finances, lack of policy coordination among state actors, absence of monitoring tools prevent urban stakeholders from developing sustainably and integrating effective design and technologies. Policy coordination between the urban, regional and national levels is critical in particular to facilitate scaling up sustainability solutions pioneered in one city to the rest of the economy.

18. The substantive segment explores the role of innovation policy and governance in this context, including the following questions:

(a) What is a smart and sustainable city and what are the opportunities and challenges it entails? How can ECE countries with economies in transition learn from what has succeeded – and failed – in more advanced countries?

(b) How can better use of technology change a city and what role should innovation policies and institutions play?

(c) What institutions, capacities, skills, processes, and rules of the game are needed to enable experimentation with new ideas at the city level?

(d) What are the best rules, incentives, and procurement arrangements to spur private sector innovation that contributes to sustainable development?

(e) What are the best approaches to governance, partnership, and citizen engagement to enable this transition?

(f) How can local governments engage a wider circle of stakeholders – businesses, consumers, public authorities, academia and research institutes?

(g) How can we monitor and evaluate the impact and ensure that we stop what is not working, scale up what does, and learn from our experiences?

19. This segment will serve as the basis for a policy paper on this topic to be submitted for endorsement to the next session of the UNECE Committee on Innovation, Competitiveness and Public Private Partnerships on 22 – 25 March 2020.

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

#### **(a) Discussion on high-level innovation policy principles for sustainable development**

20. Following and building on the discussions held at the eleventh session of the Team of Specialists in 2018 and the thirteenth session of the Committee on Innovation, Competitiveness and Public-Private Partnerships in 2019, the Team of Specialists will discuss the draft Terms of Reference of the Task Force for the development of high-level innovation policy principles for sustainable development (ECE/CECI/ICP/2019/INF.1). The principles are meant to guide further regional policy dialogue to review, design, reform, and harmonize innovation policies and institutions in ECE countries.

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<sup>6</sup> World Bank 2015, Smart Cities brief. Available at: <https://www.worldbank.org/en/topic/digitaldevelopment/brief/smart-cities>

**(b) Discussion of the draft methodological guide for the national Innovation for Sustainable Development Reviews**

21. The Team of Specialists will discuss the draft methodological guide for the national Innovation for Sustainable Development Reviews (ECE/CECI/ICP/2019/INF.2), developed in response to the discussion at the thirteenth session of the Committee on Innovation, Competitiveness and Public-Private Partnerships in March 2019 (ECE/CECI/2019/2, Annex II, para. 6) and the eleventh session of the Team of Specialists in November 2018.

**(c) Discussion on progress with the Innovation Policy Outlook**

22. The Team of Specialists will discuss the progress of the implementation of the first iteration of the Innovation Policy Outlook (ECE/CECI/ICP/2019/INF.3) following a presentation by the Secretariat.

**(d) Discussion on progress with the Innovation for Sustainable Development Review of Georgia**

23. The Team of Specialists will discuss progress with the Innovation for Sustainable Development Review of Georgia (ECE/CECI/ICP/2019/INF.4) following a presentation by the Secretariat.

**(e) Other work since the eleventh session**

24. The Team of Specialists will review the outcomes and highlights of other work since its eleventh session, including:

(a) The launch of the Innovation for Sustainable Development Review of Kyrgyzstan in Bishkek on 28 February 2019.

(b) The policy document “The Fourth Industrial Revolution – reshaping innovation policies for sustainable and inclusive growth” (ECE/CECI/2019/3), endorsed by the thirteenth session of the ECE Committee on Innovation, Competitiveness and Public-Private Partnerships.

(c) A regional capacity building workshop on “Promoting innovative high growth enterprises in Eastern Europe and the Caucasus” in Minsk, Belarus on 5-6 March 2019, organised in partnership with the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development.

(d) A roundtable on “The Growth We Want - Solutions for Sustained, Inclusive and Sustainable Economic Growth” at the Regional Forum on Sustainable Development for the ECE Region, in Geneva in March 2019.

(e) A regional training on “Innovation for sustainable development” organized jointly with UNCTAD in Geneva on 28 March 2019.

(f) The session “Towards the Circular economy: Innovation Policy for Smart Cities” of the roundtable on “Regional and national solutions towards smart and sustainable cities and the impact of UNECE instruments” at the sixty-eighth session of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe in Geneva on 9 April 2019.

(g) A national capacity building on “Science, technology, innovation policy and risk: access to finance for innovative business – bottlenecks and challenges”, in Minsk, Belarus on 29 May 2019.

(h) A Regional Workshop on “Innovation and Technology Applications for Sustainable Development” in Bishkek on 26 June 2019, organised alongside the 11th session of the Working Group on Knowledge-based Development of the United Nations Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia.

(i) The 11th session of the Working Group on Knowledge-Based Development of the United Nations Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia organised with ESCAP in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan on 27 June 2019.

(j) The SPECA Innovation Strategy for Sustainable Development, which was finalized and adopted by the SPECA Governing Council in November 2019.

(k) The side event on “The growth we want is sustainable: harnessing innovation for a circular economy for all” at the High-Level Political Forum in New York on 9 July 2019.

(l) A study tour on science parks in the Russian Federation organized for policy makers and practitioners from CIS countries in October 2019.

25. Delegates will be invited to take stock of past activities and to discuss effective dissemination of the Team of Specialists’ outputs.

#### **4. Inter-sessional implementation plan for the remainder of 2019 and for 2020**

*(ECE/CECI/2019/2, Annex II)*

26. The secretariat will inform the Team of Specialists of the main outcomes of the thirteenth session of the Committee on Innovation, Competitiveness and Public-Private Partnerships held in Geneva on 25-27 March 2019.

##### *Implementation Plan for 2020*

27. The Team of Specialists will discuss proposals for work to be undertaken in 2020 in accordance with the Inter-sessional implementation plan for 2019-2020 of the Committee on Innovation, Competitiveness and Public-Private Partnerships (ECE/CECI/2019/2, Annex II). Proposals include:

(a) Within the framework of an agreed capacity building programme for Belarus to support reforms in line with the I4SD review of Belarus launched in 2017, a workshop on “Private-public venture capital funds for innovation projects – sharing international best practices” together with the State Committee on Science and Technology of Belarus, in Minsk on 10 December 2019. This event will inform subsequent work to develop a roadmap for pilot initiatives in this area in Belarus, the draft of which will be discussed in a subsequent event planned for April 2020.

(b) Follow-up policy advisory workshops to support reform efforts in line with policy recommendations from earlier innovation reviews.

(c) Additional regional and national policy advisory and capacity building events on specific issues subject to demand from member States and extrabudgetary funding.

(d) A regional training seminar on selected aspects of innovation policy organized jointly with UNCTAD and other interested UN agencies in the framework of the Inter-Agency Task Team on Science, Technology and Innovation for Sustainable Development in Belgrade in the first quarter of 2020.

(e) The 2020 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.

(f) Finalisation, peer review, and official presentation of the Innovation for Sustainable Development Review of Georgia.

(g) Launch of the research for a new national Innovation for Sustainable Development Review.

(h) Finalisation, peer review, and official presentation of the first iteration of the sub-regional Innovation Policy Outlook.

(i) The publication of a methodological guide on Innovation for Sustainable Development Reviews prepared based on expert consultations with the Team of Specialists on Innovation and Competitiveness Policies.

(j) A task force convened by the Team of Specialists on Innovation and Competitiveness Policies will develop draft high-level policy principles on selected aspects of innovation for sustainable development through a broad multi-stakeholder consultation process.

(k) A policy document on “Smart sustainable cities – the role governance and innovation policy” to be submitted for endorsement to the next session of the UNECE Committee on Innovation, Competitiveness and Public Private Partnerships on 23 – 25 March 2020.

(l) Together with other ECE subprogrammes, develop a flagship publication on “Smart Sustainable Cities for All Ages”, with innovation as a cross-cutting theme and integrating the expertise of the Team of Specialists, as part of the Executive Secretary’s nexus initiative.

28. Delegates are encouraged to express any intentions by ECE member States and other stakeholders to provide extra-budgetary support (such as funds or in-kind contributions, including expert contributions and hosting events) to these activities.

29. The Team of Specialists is invited to consider and agree on the implementation plan for its work in 2020.

## **5. Any other business**

30. The secretariat will update the Team of Specialists on the UNECE “nexus” areas, namely the “Nexus on smart and sustainable cities for all ages” and the preparations for the flagship publication by UNECE on the topic of smart and sustainable cities. The Team of Specialists will be invited to participate in the expert review group for this publication in 2020.

31. The Team of Specialists will decide on the date for its thirteenth session. The secretariat proposes 14 - 15 December 2020.

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

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

## Annex

### Provisional timetable

<i>Time</i>	<i>Agenda Item</i>
<b>Thursday, 5 December 2019</b>	
10 a.m. – 10.30 a.m.	Item 1. Adoption of the agenda and election of officers
10.30 a.m. – 1 p.m.	Item 2. Substantive segment: “Smart and sustainable cities: the role of governance and innovation policy”
3 p.m. – 6 p.m.	Item 2. “Smart and sustainable cities: the role of governance and innovation policy” ( <i>continued</i> )
<b>Friday, 6 December 2019</b>	
10 a.m. – 1 p.m.	Item 3. Review of the work of the Team of Specialists on Innovation and Competitiveness Policies
10 a.m. – 10.30 a.m.	Item 3 a. Discussion on high-level innovation policy principles for sustainable development
10.30 a.m. – 11 a.m.	Item 3 b. Discussion of the Draft Methodological Guide for the national Innovation for Sustainable Development Reviews
11 a.m. – 11.30 a.m.	Item 3 c. Discussion on progress with the Innovation Policy Outlook
11.30 a.m. – 12 p.m.	Item 3 d. Discussion on progress with the Innovation for Sustainable Development Review of Georgia
12 p.m. – 1 p.m.	Item 3 e. Other work since the eleventh session
3 p.m. – 4 p.m.	Item 4. Inter-sessional implementation plan for the remainder of 2019 and for 2020
4 p.m. – 5.30 p.m.	Item 5. Any other business
5.30 – 6 p.m.	Item 6. Adoption of the Report of the session