



**UNITED NATIONS SPECIAL PROGRAMME FOR THE ECONOMIES**  
**OF CENTRAL ASIA (SPECA)**

**FIFTEENTH SESSION OF THE SPECA GOVERNING COUNCIL**

**20 November 2020**

**DECISIONS**

**Decision 1 (SPECA/GC/Dec/2020/1)**

The Governing Council notes with satisfaction the outcomes of the 2020 SPECA Economic Forum on “Regional Cooperation to Support Socioeconomic Recovery in the Wake of COVID-19” held on 18-19 November 2020. The Governing Council calls upon ESCAP and UNECE, the United Nations Resident Coordinators and country teams, the United Nations funds, programmes and specialized agencies, international and regional organizations, international financial institutions and donor agencies to provide active support to the SPECA participating countries in strengthening cooperation in the subregion to foster a sustainable, resilient and inclusive socioeconomic recovery in the wake of COVID-19, and a transition towards a circular economy. It invites the international agencies to assist the SPECA participating countries in implementing relevant international agendas, such as the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Vienna Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries for the Decade 2014-2024, as well as the SPECA Ashgabat Initiative, on the national and regional levels.

**Decision 2 (SPECA/GC/Dec/2020/2)**

The Governing Council adopts the Bishkek Declaration of the 2020 SPECA Economic Forum on “Regional Cooperation to Support Socioeconomic Recovery in the Wake of COVID-19”.

**Decision 3 (SPECA/GC/Dec/2020/3)**

In view of Decision 5 (SPECA/GC/Dec/2019/5) of the 2019 session of the Governing Council, the United Nations secretariat developed draft legal documents for establishing a SPECA Fund: “Agreement on the establishment of the SPECA Fund”, “Statute of the SPECA Fund”, and “Headquarters Agreement”. The Governing Council expresses its appreciation to the UNECE secretariat for the elaboration of these documents.

The Governing Council decides that the establishment of the SPECA Secretariat and the SPECA Fund needs to be further considered holistically. The Governing Council requests the United

Nations secretariat to conduct consultations among the SPECA participating countries in order to reach a final decision on these issues. The Governing Council will continue considering the outcome of the consultations at its next session in 2021.

**Decision 4 (SPECA/GC/Dec/2020/4)**

The Governing Council notes the statement of the ESCAP and UNECE secretariats on the SPECA Working Group on Statistics. Based on the comments from the SPECA countries during the discussion, the Governing Council decides to continue the activities of the SPECA Working Group on Statistics in virtual modality in order to minimize financial costs.

The Governing Council takes note of the initiative of Uzbekistan to establish a new SPECA Working Group on Investment and Financial Cooperation, taking into account that Uzbekistan will submit information on the establishment of the new Working Group to the ESCAP and UNECE secretariats for further consideration at the next session of the Council in 2021.

**Decision 5 (SPECA/GC/Dec/2020/5)**

The Governing Council notes with appreciation the Progress Reports on the activities of the five SPECA Thematic Working Groups since its previous session and expresses satisfaction with the implementation of the activities covered in their reports. The Council also notes with appreciation the progress made in the implementation of the Ashgabat Initiative on reducing barriers to trade and transport using UN instruments, the SPECA Strategy on Trade Facilitation, Principles of Sustainable Trade and Strategy on Innovation for Sustainable Development.

**Decision 6 (SPECA/GC/Dec/2020/6)**

The Governing Council expresses its sincere gratitude to the Kyrgyz Republic for the Chairmanship and excellent organization of the fifteenth session of the SPECA Governing Council and the 2020 SPECA Economic Forum in virtual modality.

**Decision 7 (SPECA/GC/Dec/2020/7)**

The Governing Council welcomes the offer by the Government of the Republic of Uzbekistan to assume the Chairmanship of SPECA in 2021, and elects Uzbekistan as the Chair country of SPECA for 2021.

**Decision 8 (SPECA/GC/Dec/2020/8)**

The Governing Council decides that the sixteenth session of the SPECA Governing Council and the 2021 SPECA Economic Forum will be held in Uzbekistan in 2021. The exact dates and venue of these events as well as the theme of the 2021 SPECA Economic Forum will be agreed upon and communicated through the diplomatic channels.

**Decision 9 (SPECA/GC/Dec/2020/9)**

The Governing Council expresses its deep appreciation to the secretariats of ESCAP and UNECE for their efforts to organize these important annual events in virtual modality, notably for their active work aimed at strengthening SPECA and their continued support to the implementation of the SPECA activities.