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Economic Commission for Europe

Committee on Innovation, Competitiveness and Public-Private Partnerships

Working Party on Public-Private Partnerships

Fifth session

Geneva, 29-30 November 2021

Item 1 of the provisional agenda

Adoption of the agenda

Annotated provisional agenda¹ for the fifth session

To be held in hybrid mode at the Palais des Nations, Geneva, starting at 10 a.m. on 29 November 2021.²

I. Provisional agenda

1. Adoption of the agenda.
2. Policy discussion: Scaling up People-first Public-Private Partnerships projects in sustainable infrastructure to reignite the Decade of Action for the Sustainable Development Goals.
3. Review of the work since the fourth session of the Working Party on Public-Private Partnerships on 1-2 December 2020.
4. Implementation plan for 2021-2022.
5. Rules of Procedure.
6. Election of officers.

¹ Delegates attending meetings at the Palais des Nations should register online and complete an electronic registration form available at <https://www.unecce.org/ppp/wpppp5.html>. 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 is available on the ECE website at <https://unece.org/practical-information-delegates>.

² Four 3-hour hybrid sessions will be organised from 10:00 to 13:00 and 15:00 to 18:00 on 29 and 30 November 2021. Restrictions to in-person participation might apply and delegates have the option to join the sessions online.

7. Other business.
8. Adoption of the report of the fifth session.

II. Annotations to the provisional agenda

Item 1. Adoption of the agenda

<i>Title of document</i>	<i>Document symbol</i>	<i>For information/decision</i>
Annotated provisional agenda	ECE/CECI/WP/PPP/2021/1	Decision

1. The Working Party will adopt the agenda of its fifth session.

Item 2. Policy discussion: Scaling up People-first Public-Private Partnerships projects in sustainable infrastructure to reignite the Decade of Action for the Sustainable Development Goals

2. Under this agenda item, member States will have the opportunity to explore how the UNECE People-first PPP approach in support of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) can be used to scale-up and develop sustainable quality infrastructure projects. Furthermore, the policy discussion will showcase how People-first PPPs can improve the delivery of projects in countries in support of the SDGs, and how they can contribute to the circular economy and beyond, towards a sustainable economy.

3. The policy discussion will respond to the outcomes of the 69th Commission session held in April 2021³ devoted to the topic “circular economy and the sustainable use of natural resources”, where the member States flagged the importance they attach to the circular economy transition in the UNECE region, in connection with the 2030 Agenda and as part of efforts to “build-back-better” post COVID-19.

4. The agenda item will be structured in separate policy sessions and a high-level debate as follows:

A. High-level debate: Reignite the Decade of Action for the Sustainable Development Goals: the role of sustainable infrastructure

5. As the world strives to recover from the COVID-19 pandemic, embracing sustainable infrastructure - green, resilient and of high quality where people are the main beneficiaries - is necessary to stay on track to reignite the Decade of Action and achieve the SDGs, including SDG 12 and the circular economy transition. The high-level debate will discuss how the People-first PPP approach in support of the SDGs can provide substantive guidance to chart a path to reach a more sustainable and equitable future, and concurrently contributing to the circular economy agenda.

³ See decision B(69) Circular economy and the sustainable use of natural resources, in particular paragraphs 10 to 14, in document E/2021/37, E/ECE71494 available at: https://unece.org/sites/default/files/2021-05/E_ECE_1494_e_Final.pdf

B. Session 1: How is the People-first PPP approach for the SDGs contributing to the development of green, inclusive, resilient and fiscally sustainable infrastructure?

6. The People-first PPP approach in support of the SDGs is contributing to the work of the international community aimed at scaling up infrastructure projects that are green, circular, inclusive, resilient and fiscally sustainable. The session will explore, in particular, the convergence in implementing the UNECE Guiding Principles on People-first PPPs in support of the SDGs and the G20 Principles for Quality Infrastructure Investment (QII) endorsed by the G20 Heads of State in 2019 under the Japanese G20 presidency. The session will also discuss the contribution of the People-first PPP approach to the policy recommendations prepared in the context of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda for Financing for Development⁴ aimed at strengthening international coordination to enhance the credibility of sustainability-oriented investment.

C. Session 2: How can the legal framework and project preparation be improved in countries to deliver People-first PPP projects in support of the SDGs?

7. The session will discuss the contribution of the People-first PPP approach in support of the SDGs to assist governments to improve the legal framework and the delivery of PPP projects, especially for vulnerable members of communities and to address inequalities exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic. In particular, the work on the People-first PPP/Concessions Model Law and the People-first PPP Evaluation Methodology for the SDGs, developed to implement the UNECE Guiding Principles on People-first PPPs in support of the SDGs, and to be scaled up in cooperation with the multilateral platform SOURCE, will be presented to the delegates.

D. Session 3: How do the People-first PPP projects for the SDGs contribute to the circular economy agenda?

8. The session will explore the extent to which the People-first PPP approach in support of the SDGs can contribute to the circular economy agenda in a holistic matter, that is, by increasing the circularity in infrastructure and by implementing infrastructure for the circular economy and beyond towards a sustainable economy. The session will also consider specific projects that deal with certain aspects of the circular economy agenda, in particular, the potential of waste-to-energy projects for residual non-recyclable materials.

9. The detailed programme of the policy discussion will be developed in consultation with the Bureau and will be made available to participants on the UNECE's website.⁵

Item 3. Review of the work since the fourth session of the Working Party on Public-Private Partnerships on 1-2 December 2020

<i>Title of document</i>	<i>Document symbol</i>	<i>For information/decision</i>
People-first PPP Evaluation Methodology for the SDGs	ECE/CECI/WP/PPP/2021/3	Decision
Standard on People-first PPP/Concession Model Law	ECE/CECI/WP/PPP/2021/4	Decision

⁴ See "Financing for Development in the Era of COVID-19 and Beyond: Menu of Options for the Consideration of Heads of State and Government (Part II)", pp. 13-14, September 2020 available at: https://www.un.org/sites/un2.un.org/files/financing_for_development_covid19_part_ii_hosg.pdf

⁵ The programme will be available at: <https://unece.org/ppp/wpppp5>

10. The Working Party will review the PPP work since its last session in December 2020 on:

(a) Policy documents: International PPP Standards, Guidelines, Guiding Principles, Declarations, and Recommendations; and

(b) Implementation: capacity-building activities and policy advisory services.

A. Policy documents: International PPP Standards, Guidelines, Guiding Principles, Declarations, and Recommendations

11. The following documents are being presented for consideration and endorsement of the Working Party.

The Working Party will decide on whether to endorse the following documents:

(a) People-first PPP Evaluation Methodology for the SDGs; and

(b) Standard on People-first PPP/Concession Model Law.

12. The Working Party will receive a progress report by the secretariat on the draft standards and best practice guides at various stages of preparation.

B. Implementation: capacity-building activities and policy advisory services

13. The Working Party will review the capacity-building activities and the policy advisory services undertaken since the last session.

14. The members of the Working Party will have the opportunity to take stock of past PPP activities and discuss effective means for the promotion and dissemination of this work.

Item 4. Implementation plan for 2021-2022

<i>Title of document</i>	<i>Document symbol</i>	<i>For information/decision</i>
Report of the Working Party on Public-Private Partnerships on its fourth session	ECE/CECI/WP/PPP/2020/2	Information
Intersessional Implementation Plan for 2021-2022	ECE/CECI/2021/2 (Annex II)	Information

15. The Working Party will discuss proposals for work to be undertaken in the remainder of 2021 and in 2022 in accordance with the Intersessional Implementation Plan for 2021-2022 approved by the Committee on Innovation, Competitiveness and Public-Private Partnerships (ECE/CECI/2021/2 (Annex II)).

16. The Working Party will have the opportunity to hear proposals for new standards, guidelines and policy recommendations to be developed where the Working Party has a mandate.⁶ New proposals are subject to interest by experts participating in drafting teams and the availability of resources.

17. The Working Party will also discuss and decide, as appropriate, on proposals from member States for a possible change of People-first PPP references to capture the entirety of

⁶ The list of approved topics for standards is contained in ECE/CECI/WP/PPP/2017/2. Please also see Conclusion 2018 – 5.3 in ECE/CECI/WP/PPP/2018/2.

the SDGs. It will also discuss how to further develop and operationalize cooperation with the multilateral platforms, including SOURCE for sustainable infrastructure and PPP project preparation, jointly led and financed by multilateral development banks.

18. Participants are encouraged to communicate to the meeting any expressions of interest by member States or other stakeholders for receiving, delivering, or hosting capacity-building activities in the priority areas of the Working Party's work. Requests from member States for capacity-building activities and policy advisory services will be considered based on available capacity and extrabudgetary resources.

19. Participants are also encouraged to bring to the attention of the session any expression of interest by member States and other stakeholders to provide extrabudgetary support towards the UNECE People-first PPP work in support of the SDGs (such as funds or in-kind contributions, including the organization of seminars and networking initiatives).

Item 5. Rules of Procedure

<i>Title of document</i>	<i>Document symbol</i>	<i>For information/decision</i>
Rules of Procedure	ECE/CECI/WP/PPP/2021/5	Decision

20. At its first session in 2017, the Working Party decided that the Rules of Procedure of the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE/778/Rev.5) should govern its proceedings until such time when it decides to develop and adopt its own specific Rules of Procedure.

21. At its fourth session in December 2020, the Working Party agreed to develop its own Rules of Procedure in line with paragraph 2 of Appendix III of document E/ECE/1464 (Guidelines on procedures and practice for ECE bodies), and it set up a drafting team to undertake this task. The drafting team⁷ concluded its work in June 2021 and the draft Rules of Procedure were submitted to the Bureau for its consideration. The Bureau endorsed the draft Rules of Procedure and recommended their adoption by the Working Party. The Working Party will decide on the Rules of Procedure (ECE/CECI/WP/PPP/2021/5).

Item 6. Election of officers

22. The term of office of Bureau members expires at the end of the session and a new Bureau shall be elected pursuant to the Working Party's Rules of Procedure. The Working Party will elect its Bureau for a two-year term.

Item 7. Other business

Dates of the next session

23. The secretariat proposes that the sixth session of the Working Party takes place in Geneva in the last quarter of 2022, subject to conference room availability at the Palais des Nations. The Working Party will decide on the dates of the next session.

⁷ The drafting team was composed of the following Working Party delegates (in alphabetical order): Ms. Lucie Berger (EU Delegation) (drafting group coordinator); Mr. Hafiz Salikhov (Russian Federation); Mr. Sean Smith (United States); Mr. Nicolaus-Alejandro Weil von der Ahe (Germany); and Ms. Sedef Yavuz Noyan (Turkey).

Item 8. Adoption of the report of the fifth session

24. The Working Party will adopt the report of its fifth session.

III. Tentative timetable

<i>Time</i>	<i>Agenda Item</i>
Monday, 29 November 2021	
10:00-13:00	Item 1. Adoption of the agenda Item 2. Policy discussion
13:00-15:00	Lunch break
15:00-18:00	Item 2. Policy discussion (cont'd)
Tuesday, 30 November 2021	
10:00-13:00	Item 3. Review of the work since the fourth session of the Working Party on Public-Private Partnerships on 1-2 December 2020 Item 4: Implementation plan for 2021-2022 Item 5: Rules of Procedure
13:00-15:00	Lunch break
15:00-18:00	Item 6: Election of officers Item 7. Other business Item 8. Adoption of the report of the fifth session
