



UNECE

Committee on Innovation, Competitiveness and Public-Private Partnerships



Working Party on Public-Private Partnerships¹ Sixth session

Programme²

Palais des Nations, conference room XXIV and online
Geneva, 1-2 December 2022

¹ The Working Party on Public-Private Partnerships is an intergovernmental body established in 2016 and it convenes over 2000 experts coming from the public and private sector, civil society and international organizations. The Working Party provides a platform for different opinions on Public-Private Partnerships from all stakeholder groups. The session on 1-2 December 2022 will be held in a hybrid form with some delegates present in the conference room and others joining remotely.

² As of 30 November 2022

Introduction

The sixth session of the Working Party on Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs) will take place in a hybrid format on 1-2 December 2022 in Geneva, in conference room XXIV at the Palais des Nations.

In the current global context of economic and social instability, where the systemic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic remain overwhelmingly present and while the war in Ukraine is still raging, the implementation of the United Nations 2030 Agenda remains elusive. More than ever, it is consequently of utmost importance to accelerate the achievement of the SDGs in the ECE region.

Infrastructure projects that are compliant with the ECE 'PPPs for the SDGs' approach can play an important role towards promoting sustainability, circularity and economic recovery and reconstruction within the ECE region and globally. To this end, the policy debate at the forthcoming session of the Working Party is designed to contribute to the cross-cutting theme of the 69th Commission session of the ECE on the circular economy transition, while also contributing to the cross-cutting theme of the high-level segment of the 70th Commission session which will take place in April 2023 devoted to "digital and green transformations for sustainable development in the ECE region".

Goals of the session

- To **increase** knowledge on the extent to which PPPs can be used for reconstruction and economic recovery;
- To **consider** how the increasing digital transformation of PPPs can improve the delivery of PPP projects for sustainable development;
- To **chart a path** for the Working Party towards the development and use of new and existing tools, guidelines standards and capacity building activities that promote high-quality projects that contribute to accelerate the SDG implementation in the ECE region through PPPs

Programme organisation

The Working Party will be organised as a hybrid event with interpretation in English, French and Russian as follows:

- Two 2-hour sessions from 10:00 to 12:00 and from 15:00 to 17:00 CET on 1 December 2022; and
- Two 3-hour sessions from 10:00 to 13:00 and from 15:00 to 18:00 CET on 2 December 2022.

The **policy discussion** will be organised in a high-level debate (90 minutes) and two (60 minute) panel discussions on 1 December 2022, while the **general segment**, with important discussions and decisions on the ECE PPP programme, including future work, will take place on 2 December 2022.

Thursday, 1 December 2022

10:00 - 10:30 | **Opening by Ms. Olga Algayerova**, Executive Secretary, UNECE

Item 1. Adoption of the agenda

Item 2. Election of observers to the Bureau

10:30 - 12:00 | **Item 3. Policy Discussion**

“Accelerating the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals in the ECE region through Public-Private Partnerships”

High-level policy debate

The role of PPPs for the SDGs to accelerate sustainable development

At the current pace of progress, the ECE region will only achieve 25 per cent of the SDG targets by 2030 and as we approach the halfway mark of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, urgent action is needed to accelerate sustainable development. Furthermore, the COVID-19 pandemic and the war in Ukraine have global and systemic impacts and the outlook for the world economy is rapidly worsening. The high-level debate will discuss how the ECE PPP approach for the SDGs can boost SDG investment and accelerate the development of sustainable infrastructure – green, resilient, inclusive, circular, fiscally sustainable and of high quality – for economic recovery and reconstruction in the ECE region.

Key questions

- (i) How is the PPPs for the SDGs approach contributing to enable sustainable infrastructure projects, including in the contexts of economic recovery and reconstruction?
- (ii) How can digital and green transformations for sustainable development, including green PPP procurement and circular economy transition, be achieved in countries through PPPs for the SDGs?
- (iii) How could sustainable finance be further mainstreamed into the ECE PPP work to address the ever-increasing infrastructure investment gap, to recover better from the pandemic, and to contribute to sustainable economic recovery and reconstruction?

Keynote speakers

Mr. Narzullo Oblomuradov, Chairman of the State Committee for Ecology and Environmental Protection, Uzbekistan

Ms. Ani Ispiryan, Deputy Minister of Economy, Armenia*

Mr. Sharaf Sheralizoda, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, Tajikistan

Moderator

Ms. Sedef Yavuz-Noyan, Head, PPP Department, Presidency of Turkish Republic, Strategy and Budget Office*

Introduction

Mr. George Katapodis, Chairperson, UNECE Working Party on PPPs, Greece*

Panellists (in alphabetical order)

Mr. Jaco Cilliers, Resident Representative a.i., UNDP Ukraine

Mr. Antonio Carlos Rodrigues, CEO, Grupo Casais, Portugal

Ms. Mehita Fanny, Regional Manager, PPP Division, IFC*

Mr. Richard Threlfall, Global Head, KPMG IMPACT, KPMG*

12:00 - 15:00 | **Lunch break**

15:00 - 16:00 | **Panel 1**

Sustainable economic recovery and reconstruction: How can PPPs for the SDGs accelerate the delivery of sustainable infrastructure projects?

The panel will explore opportunities and challenges in streamlining and accelerating the delivery of PPPs for the SDGs in the reconstruction phase in post-pandemic, post-disaster and post-war contexts. The panel will discuss solutions to seek a fast-track PPP process while implementing the ECE Guiding Principles on PPPs for the SDGs and meeting the PPP for the SDGs outcomes. This includes through the replicability of similar projects, special procedures and legislation, the procurement of projects in batches, and the establishment of special funds with due regard to environmental and other considerations (such as gender and stakeholder engagement).

Key questions

- (i) What are the challenges and lessons learned from speedy and successful PPP and infrastructure reconstruction projects?
- (ii) How can the PPPs for the SDGs approach be used to accelerate the delivery of reconstruction projects, while ensuring their sustainability and due diligence?
- (iii) What is the role of governments, and what are the tools available to them, in ensuring sustainable economic recovery and reconstruction through PPP projects?

Moderator

Ms. Melissa Peneycad, Managing Director, Institute for Sustainable Infrastructure*

Panellists (in alphabetical order)

Mr. David Dodd, President ISRC, New Orleans*

Ms. Rose-Lourdes Elysée, Chief of the Central Management Unit of PPP, Haiti

Mr. Niko Gachechiladze, Director, PPP Agency, Ukraine and **Ms. Julia Skubak**, Director of Investment Department, Ministry of Economy, Ukraine

Mr. Sam Tabuchi, Toyo University, Japan*

Mr. Aliaksei Vavokhin, Development and Coordination Officer, UN Resident Coordinator Office in Ukraine

Q&A

Expected outcomes from the session

- Increased knowledge on the ways in which PPPs can be used for reconstruction and economic recovery, including through a fast-track PPP process complying with the SDGs
- Set the foundation for the elaboration of possible ECE guidelines on PPPs for the SDGs for sustainable economic recovery and reconstruction

16:00 - 17:00

Panel 2

Digital transformation:³ How can the PPP lifecycle be improved to deliver PPP projects in support of the SDGs?

Digital and green transformations for sustainable development in the ECE region is the crosscutting theme for the [70th Commission session](#) in April 2023.⁴ This panel will discuss how the adoption of digital solutions and technologies can enhance the delivery, performance and sustainability of PPP projects in support of the SDGs. In particular, it will explore opportunities to improve each stage of the PPP lifecycle with the use of data, information technology, and other digital approaches. It will also discuss how to achieve digital transformation in countries and cities through PPPs for the SDGs, as a way to promote the development of sustainable digital ecosystems through PPPs. It will finally highlight important PPP and infrastructure projects that benefited from the advances in information and communication technologies (ICT) and exist as a result of digital transformation.

Key questions

- (i) How can the digital transformation of the PPP project lifecycle improve infrastructure delivery at pre-procurement (e.g., stakeholder engagement and government approval processes) and post-procurement phases?
- (ii) How have public services benefitted from the advances in ICT and digital transformation (e.g., PPPs in telemedicine)?
- (iii) What would be an ideal enabling environment for countries and cities to promote and develop digital ecosystems through PPPs?

Moderator:

Mr. Jean-Patrick Marquet, World Economic Forum*

Panellists (in alphabetical order):

Ms. Doris Chevalier, CEO, Infraboost*

Mr. Christophe Dossarps, CEO, Sustainable Infrastructure Foundation*

Ms. Amanda Loeffen, Human Right 2 Water*

Mr. Gabriele Pasquini, Director, Presidency of the Council of Ministers, Italy

Ms. Stacy Sinclair, Vice-Chair, FIDIC's Digital Transformation Committee

Q&A

Expected outcomes from the session

- Shed light on the demonstrated benefits and potential of the digital transformation of PPP projects through their lifecycle for sustainability
- Set the foundations for the elaboration of possible ECE Guidelines on digital transformation in quality infrastructure and PPPs

³ Any new work on digital transformation would need to draw on the existing work by the international community and the multilateral development banks. Furthermore, this work would benefit from the cooperation with multilateral platforms for sustainable infrastructure (including SOURCE) in line with the Programme of Work of the Economic Cooperation and Integration subprogramme for 2023 (ECE/CECI/2022/5)

⁴ See further 'Focus of the future work of the Working Party in support of Public-Private Partnerships for the Sustainable Development Goals' (ECE/CECI/WP/PPP/2022/INF.2)

Friday, 2 December 2022

10:00 - 13:00 | **General Segment**

Item 4. Review of the work since the fifth session of the Working Party on Public-Private Partnerships on 29-20 November 2021

10:00 - 11:15 | **Panel Discussion**

ECTD work and outputs on infrastructure and financing of the circular economy transition

This panel will discuss and present the three documents prepared by the Economic Cooperation and Trade Division (ECTD) as a contribution to the cross-cutting ECE theme of the 69th Commission session in 2021, namely:

- (i) Policy Paper on Financing for Circular Economy and Sustainable Use of Natural Resources
- (ii) Guidelines on Promoting Circular Economy in Public-Private Partnerships for the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (ECE/CECI/WP/PPP/2022/4)
- (iii) Guidelines on Public-Private Partnerships for the Sustainable Development Goals in Waste-to-Energy Projects for Non-Recyclable Waste: Pathways towards a Circular Economy (ECE/CECI/WP/PPP/2022/3)

Moderator

Ms. Elisabeth Türk, Director, ECTD, UNECE*

Panellists (in alphabetical order):

Mr. Thanos Bourtsalas, Columbia University

Mr. Anand Chiplunkar, Senior International PPP Consultant

Mr. Mike Evans, Director, ARUP

Ms. Petra Ferk, Co-Founder S-Procurement implementation

Ms. Camille Malafosse, UNECE*

Ms. Maria Cristina Montero de Espinosa Garcia, UNECE*

Ms. Roksolana Shelest, UNECE*

Mr. Patrick Shröder, Senior Research Fellow, Chatham House

Item 5. Implementation plan for 2022-2023

13:00 - 15:00 | **Lunch break**

15:00 - 18:00 | **Item 5. Implementation plan for 2022-2023 (continued)**

15:00 - 15:30 | **Briefing from the EU Commission**

Commission guidance on the use of public-private partnerships in the framework of preventing and fighting money laundering and terrorist financing

Presentation by the EU Commission Directorate General on Financial Stability, Financial Services and Capital Markets Union (FISMA).

Mr. Mattia Ferrara, DG FISMA, EU Commission

Mr. Viktor Ivanov, DG FISMA, EU Commission

Item 6. Other business

Item 7. Adoption of the report of the sixth session

Useful information

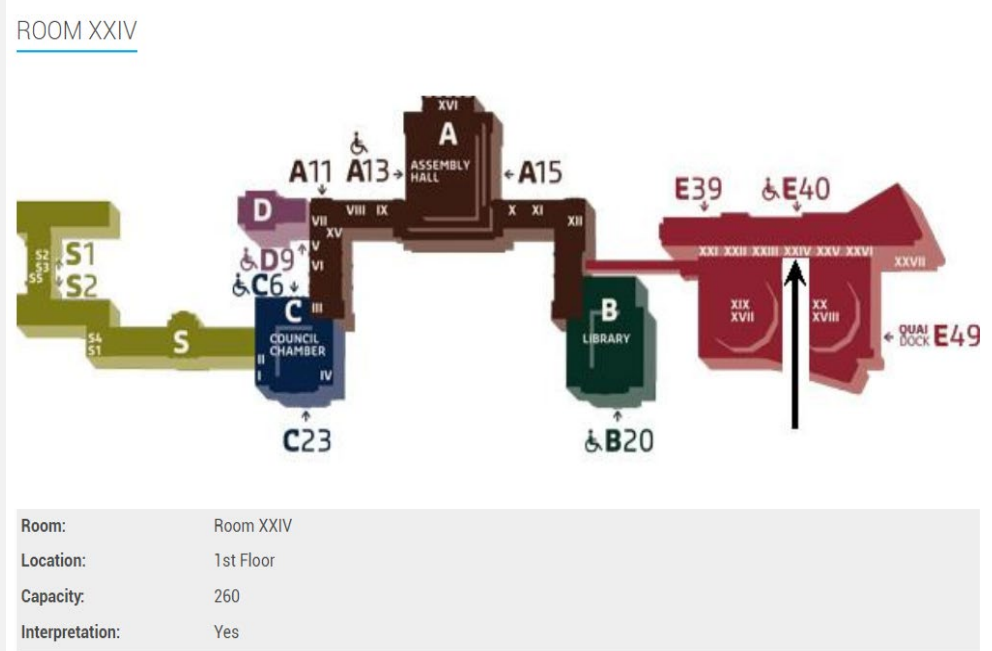
Maps **UNITED NATIONS, Palais des Nations, Room XXIV (Building E, 1st floor)**

Please register ahead of the event at <https://indico.un.org/event/1000588/>

When attending the meeting in person, any attendee has to follow the following instructions:

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 Villa Feuillantines (**NOT** Pregny Gate, which is being renovated), across the road from the Peace Gate, Avenue de la Paix 13, for the issuance of an identification badge.

See map and additional information for delegates available on the UNOG website and at <https://unece.org/practical-information-delegates>.



Contact

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