

**ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE**

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

128th meeting

Geneva, 15 May 2023

Item 4 of the provisional agenda

Informal Document No. 2023/20

**Annual report on evaluation 2022**

## Note by the Secretariat

### 1. INTRODUCTION

1. The present report is submitted to the Executive Committee (EXCOM) for information. EXCOM requested the Secretariat to prepare an annual report on evaluation at the ninety-first meeting on 24 March 2017<sup>1</sup>, beginning with an annual report for 2017. The purpose of the report is to inform the UNECE member States on evaluation efforts conducted during the past year, future evaluation plans, the status and information on completed and ongoing evaluations, and changes generated by the implementation of relevant recommendations.

2. As per the UNECE Evaluation Policy, the Secretariat undertakes evaluations to promote organizational learning, contribute to improvement of programme or project performance, and ensure accountability to member States and other stakeholders. The present report consolidates and analyses the outcome of all evaluations conducted in 2022 to support this objective. The Executive Secretary, through the Programme Management and Support Services Division (PMSSD) and its Programme Management Unit (PMU), ensures the consistent application of evaluation norms and standards across UNECE, and ensures the application of the key outcomes of evaluations into the future planning of the UNECE programme of work.

3. The analysis is based on the results of all evaluations conducted by UNECE, relevant external and/or system-wide evaluations, and the UN System-Wide Action Plan (UN-SWAP) to implement the Chief Executives Board for Coordination (CEB) Policy on gender equality and the empowerment of women.<sup>2</sup>

### 2. BACKGROUND ON EVALUATION IN THE UN SECRETARIAT AND IN UNECE

4. The Secretary-General's Bulletin ST/SGB/2018/3<sup>3</sup> outlines inter alia the requirements for evaluation for all United Nations Secretariat entities. The purpose of evaluation is to determine as systematically and objectively as possible the relevance, efficiency, effectiveness and impact of the Organization's activities in relation to their objectives, and to enable the Secretariat and Member States to engage in systematic reflection, and, if necessary, reviewing their objectives.<sup>4</sup>

5. To this end, all programmes shall be evaluated over a fixed time period, which shall include periodic internal evaluation of activities and the ad hoc in-depth evaluation of selected programme areas or topics.<sup>5</sup> Evaluations may be conducted by external entities, such as the Office of Internal Oversight Services (OIOS), the Joint Inspection Unit (JIU) and at the request of Member States, or by respective departments (called "internal evaluation"). Internal evaluation shall be independent and assess the relevance, effectiveness and efficiency of subprogrammes and activities. Heads of departments are responsible for ensuring high quality results, rigorous evaluation methodology, transfer of evaluation information, and conduct of ad hoc studies.

6. To complement Secretary-General's Bulletin ST/SGB/2018/3, in August 2021, the Under-Secretary-General for Management Strategy, Policy and Compliance (DMSPC) issued Administrative Instruction ST/AI/2021/3 'Evaluation in the UN Secretariat' and related

<sup>1</sup> [Chair's conclusions of 91<sup>st</sup> EXCOM meeting](#)

<sup>2</sup> <https://undocs.org/CEB/2006/2>

<sup>3</sup> ST/SGB/2018/3 Secretary-General's bulletin Regulations and Rules Governing Programme Planning, the Programme Aspects of the Budget, the Monitoring of Implementation and the Methods of Evaluation, 1 June 2018

<sup>4</sup> ST/SGB/2018/3 Reg 7.1

<sup>5</sup> ST/SGB/2018/3 Reg 7.2 and Rule 107.2

‘Guidelines’<sup>6</sup>. The Administrative Instruction requires all Secretariat entities to have an evaluation policy, calls for every entity to have an evaluation plan and to evaluate every subprogramme at least once every six years.

7. To fully align and comply with the new evaluation framework of the Secretariat, ECE subsequently updated its own Evaluation Policy, which was approved by ECE Executive Committee at its 119<sup>th</sup> meeting on 16 December 2021<sup>7</sup>.

### 3. EVALUATION RESOURCES

8. In 2022, evaluations were managed by the P-4 Management and Programme Analyst, overseen by the Chief, a.i. of the PMU.

9. ECE remains concerned about the lack of adequate resources from the regular budget to evaluate regular budget activities in line with ST/AI/2021/3 request that all subprogrammes be covered by an internal evaluation at least once in every six years within existing resources.

10. Independence and the quality of evaluations are inextricably linked to dedicated resources for engaging external evaluators. The continuing trend of decreasing resources under the regular budget puts evaluation activities at risk. This is particularly challenging at ECE given the high number of subprogrammes (eight).

11. As described in ECE Evaluation Policy (section 7), “in addition to consultancy and staff costs related to evaluation in the regular budget, the Executive Secretary and subprogrammes can mobilize extrabudgetary and in-kind resources from donors for conducting internal evaluations”. Presently, resources to conduct evaluations of programmes and activities funded through the regular budget are much lower than those to evaluate projects and activities funded through the UN Development Account or extrabudgetary resources, for which approximately 4% and 2% of project activities are dedicated to evaluation, respectively. Voluntary contributions would be used to supplement limited regular budget resources available to evaluate ECE core programme and subprogramme level activities.

12. Moreover, ECE has over the years gathered a good understanding of areas needing strengthening, e.g. on programme management, mainstreaming of cross-cutting issues and knowledge management. However, its resources to train staff are extremely limited. Voluntary contributions would be used to build capacity of its staff in the areas identified through evaluations as needing to be reinforced, which would also strengthen the evaluation culture in the organization.

13. With the current report, ECE calls for EXCOM support in further strengthening ECE evaluation capacity, including through voluntary contributions to support the conduct of upcoming evaluations and related activities such as capacity building on results-based management and on mainstreaming cross-cutting issues in ECE programming and evaluations.

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<sup>6</sup> [ST/AI/2021/3](#) and related [Guidelines](#)

<sup>7</sup> [UNECE Evaluation Policy](#)

## 4. EVALUATIONS COMPLETED IN 2022

### 4.1 Internal evaluations

14. The Revised Evaluation Plan for 2022 was approved by EXCOM in July 2021<sup>8</sup>. The plan was developed based on an assessment of risks, as well as ensuring the widest possible coverage of the ECE programme of work over successive years.

15. As reflected in Table 1 below, a total of eight evaluations were completed in 2022: three subprogramme-level evaluations and five evaluations of extrabudgetary or UN Development Account projects at the end of their cycles.

Category of Evaluation	Title of Evaluation (and link to Evaluation report)	Subprogramme
1 Subprogramme	<a href="#">Self-evaluation on the activities serviced by ECE under the Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters (Aarhus Convention) and its Protocol on Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers (2018-2021)</a>	Environment
2 Subprogramme	<a href="#">Self-evaluation on the relevance of the Forest Products Annual Market Review to the needs of member States and challenges in the forest sector</a>	Forests and the forest industry
3 Subprogramme	<a href="#">Evaluation of UNECE Forum of Mayors</a>	Housing, land management and population
4 UNDA 1819BA	<a href="#">Sustainable transport connectivity and implementation of transport related SDGs in selected landlocked and transit/bridging countries</a>	Transport
5 UNDA 1819AB	<a href="#">Integrated energy and water resource management in support of sustainable development in South-East Europe and Central Asia</a>	Sustainable energy
6 UNDA 1819AE	<a href="#">Evidence-based environmental governance and sustainable environmental policies in support of the 2030 Agenda in South-East Europe</a>	Environment
7 UNDA 2023AA	<a href="#">Urban economic and financial recovery and resilience building in the time of COVID-19</a>	Housing, land management and population
8 XB Project E330	<a href="#">Enhancing usage and uptake of standards for sustainable development, gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls</a>	Economic Cooperation and Integration

**Table 1: Evaluations Completed in 2022**

16. The following section contains highlights of the findings and recommendations made in the framework of the three subprogramme level evaluations, included in the 2022 Evaluation plan approved by EXCOM. For information on projects evaluations, please consult the evaluation reports at the links provided above.

***Subprogramme-level evaluation on the activities serviced by ECE under the Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in***

<sup>8</sup> [Chair's conclusions of 117<sup>th</sup> EXCOM meeting](#)

***Environmental Matters (Aarhus Convention) and its Protocol on Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers (2018-2021)***<sup>9</sup>

17. This evaluation, conducted in Q3 and Q4 of 2022, assessed the extent to which the activities serviced by ECE under the Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters (Aarhus Convention) and its Protocol on Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers from January 2018 to December 2021 were implemented in a coherent, effective and efficient way and whether these activities were relevant for advancing intergovernmental efforts towards improved public participation in decision-making and access to information and to justice in environmental matters.

18. The evaluation found that through the Convention and its Protocol, ECE provided a wide range of activities relevant for advancing intergovernmental efforts in access to information, public participation in decision-making, and access to justice in environmental matters, allowing Parties, other member states, and NGOs to assess compliance, share experiences and discuss policy issues. The evaluation recommended, inter alia, to further enhance the implementation of the Aarhus Convention and its Protocol by continuing to encourage participation from all stakeholders; allocating adequate resources for this initiative; and enhancing synergies among relevant international instruments. The evaluation also suggested that ECE continues encouraging a gender-based and human rights-based approach in all activities of the two treaties, monitor the participation of women and people with disabilities and strive to ensure that the treaties activities conform to the accessibility standards for people with disabilities.

19. The management response for this evaluation was finalized in March 2023<sup>10</sup>, accepted six recommendations and partially accepted one. Progress on their implementation will be reported through the biannual progress reports and to EXCOM in future Annual reports on evaluation.

***Subprogramme-level evaluation on the relevance of the Forest Products Annual Market Review to the needs of member States and challenges in the forest sector***<sup>11</sup>

20. This evaluation, conducted during Q3 and Q4 of 2022, assessed the relevance, coherence, efficiency and sustainability of the Forest Products Annual Market Review conducted by ECE to the needs of member States in capturing and conceptualizing shifting trends affecting sustainable forest management and forest products markets for informing policy decisions in the ECE region.

21. The evaluation found that the Review provided valuable and up-to-date information allowing policymakers to adopt evidence-based policies for the sustainable production and consumption of sustainable forest products and that it was a valuable resource for small businesses and the academia. The evaluation has made several recommendations to improve the publication. It suggested that the Review includes information on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) relevant to the forest products market sectors, that it could further raise awareness of gender and human rights issues related to the forest market sector by including relevant questions in the Country Market Statements and summarizing the results in the economic overview and policies chapter of the Review. Moreover, the evaluation recommends that the subprogramme considers redirecting resources from printing to producing an electronic publication that will have the advantage of being accessible to visually impaired users and those who do not speak one of the three official languages of the UNECE; explore technological solutions to streamline workflow and create automated text generation and interactive graphics; and ask its member States to

<sup>9</sup> [Evaluation of the Aarhus Convention and its Protocol on Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers](#)

<sup>10</sup> [Management response - Activities serviced by ECE under the Aarhus Convention and its Protocol](#)

<sup>11</sup> [Evaluation on the relevance of the Forest Products Annual Market Review](#)

consider sustainable funding for the independent market expert input to the Review through a multi-donor, multi-year project.

22. The management response for this evaluation was finalized in February 2023<sup>12</sup> and accepted all five recommendations contained in the report. ECE will seek to close four of them in 2023 and one in 2024 and will report on their implementation through the biannual progress reports and to EXCOM in future Annual reports on evaluation.

***Subprogramme-level evaluation of UNECE Forum of Mayors<sup>13</sup>***

23. This evaluation, conducted during Q2 and Q3 of 2022, assessed the relevance, coherence, effectiveness, efficiency, impact and sustainability of UNECE Forum of Mayors from 2019 to 2022. The evaluation found that the role of mayors and cities was a positive and growing force on the global stage that had emerged as a broad and valued platform to engage ECE mayors and member States in practical discussions on sustainable urban development in the region.

24. The evaluation recommended, inter alia, establishing the Forum formally, attaching it to the annual sessions of the Committee on Urban Development, Housing and Land Management (CUDHLM), providing more information on impact measurement and strengthening the secretariat by hiring a dedicated staff member. Other recommendations include strengthening the connection with other ECE subprogrammes and divisions, developing terms of reference for the Steering Committee, and improving the city selection system. The Forum should also be organized on an annual basis, with two or three sessions held in Geneva, alternating with other locations. The inclusion of a "global segment" and a formal position of "Patron" for the Forum are also suggested.

25. The main conclusions and recommendations emerging from the evaluation of the Forum of Mayors were brought to the attention of member States at the 83rd session of the Committee on Urban Development, Housing and Land Management (CUDHLM)<sup>14</sup> and at the 126<sup>th</sup> meeting of ECE Executive Committee that decided to continue the Forum of Mayors beyond 2022<sup>15</sup>; to establish the Forum as a subsidiary body of the CUDHLM in the form of a Team of Specialists; and that the Forum will be convened annually in Geneva immediately prior to the CUDHLM's session.

26. The management response for this evaluation was finalized in February 2023<sup>16</sup> in line with the decisions taken by EXCOM; of the 14 recommendations contained in the report, the management response accepted six, partially accepted six and did not accept two. ECE will seek to close all of them in 2023 and will report on their implementation through the biannual progress reports and to EXCOM in future Annual reports on evaluations.

27. As reflected in Table 2 below, two evaluations started in 2022 but will be completed in 2023. Moreover, ten projects initially scheduled for completion in 2022 were extended and evaluations postponed accordingly.

	<b>XB project #</b>	<b>Project Title</b>	<b>Comment</b>	<b>Subprogramme</b>
1	E355	Enhancing understanding of the implications and opportunities of moving to carbon neutrality in the UNECE region across the power and energy intensive	Evaluation ongoing	Sustainable Energy

<sup>12</sup> [Management Response - Forest Products Annual Market Review](#)

<sup>13</sup> [Evaluation of UNECE Forum of Mayors](#)

<sup>14</sup> ECE/HBP/2022/4

<sup>15</sup> Including approval of the Terms of Reference of the Forum of Mayors for the period 2023-2024

<sup>16</sup> [Management Response – Forum of Mayors](#)

	<b>XB project #</b>	<b>Project Title</b>	<b>Comment</b>	<b>Subprogramme</b>
		industries by 2050		
2	E340	Improved sustainable urban development in 17 Norwegian cities	Evaluation ongoing	Housing, land management and population
3	E320	Enhancing transparency and traceability for more sustainable value chains in the garment and footwear sector	Project extended until 31.12.23 and evaluation planned for 2024 <sup>17</sup>	Economic Cooperation and Integration
4	E360	Enhancing the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development through strategic cooperation among the SPECA countries	Project extended until 30.06.24	Trade
5	E293	Strengthening the capacity of Central Asian countries to implement trade facilitation measures and better integrate into the international rules-based trading system	Project extended until 31.12.23	Trade
6	E371	Road Safety Phase V	Joint evaluation planned for 2023 <sup>18</sup>	Executive direction and management
7	E365	Road Safety Phase VI		
8	E370, formerly E369	Secretariat to the UN Road Safety Trust Fund - Phase II		
9	E384	Secretariat to the UN Road Safety Trust Fund - Phase III	Joint evaluation planned for 2025 <sup>19</sup>	Executive direction and management
10	E331	Modernising Statistical Production Phase 3		
11	E345	Improve capacities of UNECE member States in developing evidence-based policy measures to meet their commitments under MIP ANRIS arid 2017 Lisbon Ministerial Declaration: Ageing (Phase III)	Project extended until 31.12.23	Housing, land management and population
12	E311	Enhancing strategic environmental assessment and transboundary environmental impact assessment in Eastern Europe and the Caucasus	Project extended until 31.12.23	Environment

**Table 2: Projects extended in 2022**

## 4.2 External evaluations

28. During the year, OIOS conducted an evaluation of ECE subprogrammes 4 and 6<sup>20</sup> and made four recommendations related to: (a) tracking of member States' requests for technical assistance; division-wide strategic planning; (b) operationalization of the ECE strategies on resource mobilization, partnerships; and (d) the integration of gender, environment, disability inclusion, and human rights considerations in the subprogrammes workstreams. The evaluation findings and recommendations are presented to EXCOM at its 128<sup>th</sup> Meeting, along with the

<sup>17</sup> Project E320 (Phase I) has been extended until 31.12.2023. Project E414 (Phase II) has been approved and will end on 30.06.2024. A joint evaluation of Phases I & II is planned for 2024

<sup>18</sup> Project E385 (Road Safety Phase VII) E385 approved and ending on 31.12.23. Joint evaluation of Phases V-VII (E371, E365, E385) to be conducted in 2023

<sup>19</sup> Joint evaluation of Phases II-IV (E370, E384, E407) to be conducted in 2025

<sup>20</sup> *Evaluation of the Economic Commission for Europe: subprogramme 4, Economic cooperation and integration, and subprogramme 6, Trade*; [E/AC.51/2023/5](#)

present report.

29. In 2022 UNECE also participated in two Secretariat-wide evaluations conducted by OIOS, namely the evaluation of UN Secretariat entities' contribution to the SDGs<sup>21</sup> and the biennial review on strengthening the role of evaluation and the application of evaluation findings on programme design, delivery and policy directives for 2020-2021<sup>22</sup>.

30. The evaluation on UN Secretariat entities' contribution to the SDGs included a recommendation (number 2) addressed to all Secretariat entities asking them to clearly, distinctly and specifically articulate in their internal strategic plans and workplans how they will support host governments in achieving the SDGs. ECE has accepted this recommendation but recalled that the format of the proposed programme budget shall comply with General Assembly resolution 77/267 and is therefore beyond the strict purview of ECE. ECE also informed OIOS that, at the Commission level, the secretariat will continue to present annually its report on technical cooperation activities structured by SDG and covering all funding sources.

31. The biennial review on *Strengthening the Role of Evaluation* does not contain any recommendation addressed to ECE. The review found that evaluation culture across the Secretariat was largely still weak, and most entities reported inadequate capacities and skills necessary to engage in meaningful internal evaluation. In contrast, the UN Regional Commissions are presented as "large operational entities" despite of their small size, because of the maturity of the evaluation process. ECE is regularly quoted throughout the report for best practices.

32. All three evaluations will be presented to the Committee of Programme and Coordination (CPC) of the General Assembly at its 63<sup>rd</sup> session of June 2023.

## 5. IMPLEMENTATION OF OUTSTANDING RECOMMENDATIONS IN 2022

### 5.1 Implementation of outstanding recommendations from external evaluations

33. ECE reports progress on closing outstanding evaluations recommendations to OIOS every six-months, and through the annual Compact of the Executive Secretary with the Secretary-General. All Progress Reports pertaining to ECE evaluations are available on the Open UNECE website. In 2022, ECE had no outstanding recommendations.

### 5.2 Implementation of outstanding recommendations from internal evaluations

34. Since December 2018, progress reports from internal evaluations are prepared twice a year in June and December to inform on the actions taken to close the outstanding recommendations. 41 recommendations were closed in 2022, all as implemented. 22 recommendations were outstanding as of 31 December 2022, of which only 3 overdue (target date was 31 December 2022). Summary tables as of 30 June and 31 December 2022 are presented in Annexes III and V and the details of the actions taken can be found in progress reports as of 31 December 2022, available on Open UNECE<sup>23</sup> for each evaluation.

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<sup>21</sup> *Thematic evaluation of secretariat support to the Sustainable Development Goals*; [E/AC.51/2023/3](#)

<sup>22</sup> *Strengthening the role of evaluation and the application of evaluation findings on programme design, delivery and policy directives*; A/78/70

<sup>23</sup> <https://unece.org/evaluation-reports>



## 6. LESSONS LEARNT FROM 2022 EVALUATIONS

35. On 10 March 2023, the Programme Management Unit organized an *Annual Exchange of Experience on Evaluations* with the participation of 39 UN staff, including ECE Deputy Executive Secretary, staff from all 8 ECE subprogrammes who conducted evaluations in 2022 or will conduct evaluations in 2023. In alignment with the ECE Evaluation Policy, the purpose of this exercise was to: (i) promote organizational learning; (ii) contribute to the improvement of programme performance; and (iii) ensure the accountability of the Secretariat.

36. The Programme Management Unit reminded ECE staff about the continuous emphasis on evaluation in the UN Secretariat as a critical tool to improve programme performance and accountability; stressed that results and lessons learned from evaluations should be considered in the preparation of plans and budgets for future cycles and asked programme managers to ensure that such linkages between past evaluations and future programming are made as explicit as possible so to demonstrate how ECE is using evaluations to inform future planning and improve programme performance.

37. The 54 recommendations from the eight evaluation reports released in 2022 cover various areas such as sustainability, partnerships, capacity building, cross-cutting issues, resources and knowledge management. PMU and programme managers who had evaluations in 2022 shared the main lessons learned during the Annual Exchange and discussed with other ECE managers the actions they were taking to implement the recommendations contained in the evaluations to improve their future programming and their replicability across the ECE programme.

38. **Long-term of sustainability of ECE interventions:** The evaluations identified possible measures to mitigate project sustainability risks. These included maintaining the networks created by the projects by engaging beneficiary countries and ensuring they benefit from membership in the network; devising new forms of strategic partnerships with other UN entities and institutions to ensure sustainability of capacity building interventions; monitoring national appropriation of project results; and strengthening cross-collaboration across ECE subprogrammes, including through the Regional Advisers.

39. **Capacity and partnerships building:** Evaluations recommended that country-level capacity building should continue and be made more ‘hands on’; besides technical issues, ECE should also identify governance aspects where member States require support, e.g., on how to develop an accountability chain or how to be inclusive and unlock citizens participation. ECE should also help governments strengthen their capacities to access funding for their plans.

Moreover, evaluations recommended that United Nations Country Teams (UNCTs) be kept informed and involved in capacity building activities during the whole duration of the project, including through workshops for all project beneficiary countries with representatives of governments, CSOs and UN system entities to share experiences, network, and develop partnerships for future needs.

40. **Resources and knowledge management:** Some reports stressed the need to allocate adequate budgets to carry out the planned activities, as well as the importance of mobilizing resources through multi-donor, multi-year projects. A number of evaluations suggested systematizing the lessons learned from the projects by distilling the vast knowledge produced into policy guidelines that would provide practical and concise guidance to national and local governments. Moreover, it was recommended that ECE proposes to its member States a more structured and innovative approach to manage and facilitate the sharing of lessons learned and good practices among national stakeholders at the national, regional and global levels through

inclusive mechanisms attracting a broader civil society audience along with the specialists in the sector, more business representatives, urban planners, gender specialists, environment specialists, etc. ECE sectoral working parties that have a mandate to promote experience sharing could be well placed to take up this role.

41. **Sustainable Development Goals:** Some evaluations found that projects activities could strengthen linkages to the SDGs, e.g., that some publications produced by ECE could be more explicitly linked to information, data and statistics on relevant SDGs. It was also recommended that ECE continues disseminating its ‘nexus approach’ with member States and encourage ministries to engage on the SDGs across sector silos.

42. **Integrating human-rights, gender equality and other cross-cutting issues into ECE programming and evaluations:** PMU continued asking the evaluators to focus on assessing whether ECE activities were integrating human-rights, gender equality, disability, leaving no one behind and climate change perspectives and provide recommendations on how to further strengthen these considerations in its interventions. The evaluations recommended that future projects and programmes include a step-by-step planning approach to ensure integration of cross-cutting issues, with outcomes and indicators and advised that ECE could establish mechanisms and tools such as checklists derived from UN-wide and ECE-specific strategies and guidance on the integration of cross-cutting issues when designing technical cooperation interventions. Evaluations also suggested strengthening partnerships with relevant UN agencies such as UN Women and OHCHR, as well as with national and regional organizations with subject-matter expertise and facilitate the sharing of successful experiences on mainstreaming cross-cutting issues through regional and national workshops. Moreover, it was also recommended that ECE more systematically monitors the participation of women and people with disabilities in meetings participants and speakers as well as in senior management positions in governing and subsidiary bodies. Finally, it was suggested that ECE should explore making its activities more accessible, e.g., by making its publications machine-readable.

43. The Annual Exchange meeting this year also included two presentations on issues that evaluations found needing continuous attention: (i) by the new ECE Senior Social Affairs Officer and Gender Adviser who presented ECE challenges in achieving meaningful mainstreaming of gender within the organization’s work and suggested areas of focus and potential solutions to strengthen the mainstreaming of gender equality and human rights in programming and evaluations; and (ii) by the PMU on results-based management.

44. In addition to the lessons highlighted above, the 2022 evaluations also reviewed the impact of COVID-19 on projects implementation. Among others, the evaluation of the project ‘Sustainable transport connectivity and implementation of transport-related SDGs in selected landlocked and transit/bridging countries’ recognized the validity and usefulness of the emergency preparedness indicators developed in response to the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic and recommended that ECE continues to promote these indicators’ broader use among UN Member States, thereby strengthening inland transport sector resilience to and preparedness for possible future contingency situations.

## 7. EVALUATION PARTNERSHIPS

45. ECE leverages partnerships with other relevant organizations to enhance its evaluative function and activities, and coordinates with the other Regional Commissions through the Chiefs of Programme Planning, and the Evaluation Focal Point Network. ECE collaborates actively with

the Departments of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA) on evaluation of UN Development Account (UNDA) projects. UNECE also engages with the JIU, OIOS and DMSPC on a regular basis.

46. ECE is an active member of the UN Evaluation Group (UNEG), which establishes the norms and standards for evaluation for all UN agencies, funds and programmes. UNEG is an interagency professional network that brings together the evaluation units of the UN system, including UN departments, specialized agencies, funds and programmes, and affiliated organizations.

## 8. UN-SWAP EVALUATION SCORECARD (GENDER) 2022

47. In 2018, UN-Women rolled out the UN-SWAP 2.0, which represents an update of the previous framework, building into its lessons learnt from the first five years of implementation.

48. As part of the annual reporting requirements, each department conducts an annual meta-evaluation of all evaluations completed in the prior year. The UN-SWAP Evaluation Scorecard is a reporting tool organized around four criteria that capture the overall elements related to mainstreaming gender equality and the empowerment of women as reflected in the evaluation reports conducted by the entities in a given year.

49. UNECE achieved a rating of Exceeds Requirements in UN-SWAP 2.0 indicator 4 (evaluation) for the inclusion of gender in evaluations in 2022, based on a review of the eight evaluation reports, maintaining the 2019, 2020 and 2021 levels. The key drivers for this rating are (a) meeting the UNEG gender equality related norms and standards; (b) systematically applying UNEG Guidance on Integrating Human Rights and Gender Equality in Evaluations during all phases of the evaluation in UNECE; and (c) conducting at least one evaluation to assess corporate performance on gender mainstreaming or equivalent every 5-8 years<sup>24</sup>.

## 9. FUTURE EVALUATIONS

50. The 2023 Evaluation Work Plan as approved by EXCOM at its 119<sup>th</sup> meeting on 16 December 2021<sup>25</sup> is contained in Annex I. The projects scheduled to close in 2023 and that will undergo an evaluation are attached in Annex II.

51. EXCOM approved the 2024 Evaluation Work Plan<sup>26</sup> at its 126<sup>th</sup> meeting of 13 January 2023<sup>27</sup>; it is referred in the 2024 Proposed programme budget for Section 20, Economic development in Europe<sup>28</sup>, to be approved by the General Assembly in its 78<sup>th</sup> session.

52. The 2025 Evaluation plan will be submitted to EXCOM for approval, alongside with the review of the 2025 Proposed programme budget, in December 2023.

53. In terms of external evaluations, in 2023 OIOS will evaluate the Regular Programme of Technical Cooperation, that will be presented to the Committee of Programme and Coordination (CPC) of the General Assembly in 2024.

<sup>24</sup> ECE conducted its last programme-level evaluation of Gender Mainstreaming in 2019

<sup>25</sup> [Chair's Conclusions from the 119th Meeting](#), para 53

<sup>26</sup> [Informal document No. 2023/6](#)

<sup>27</sup> [Chair's Conclusions from the 126th Meeting](#), para 73

<sup>28</sup> A/78/6(Sect.20), to be published during the second quarter of 2023

**List of Annexes:**

Annex I: Approved ECE Evaluation Plan for 2023

Annex II: Tentative Schedule of UNDA and XB Project Evaluations for 2023

Annex III: Summary of Evaluation Recommendations as of 30 June 2022

Annex IV: List of recommendations from internal evaluations closed as of 30 June 2022

Annex V: Summary of Evaluation Recommendations as of 31 December 2022

Annex VI: List of recommendations from internal evaluations closed as of 31 December 2022

**Annex I: Approved ECE Evaluation Plan for 2023**

Evaluation Title	Subprogramme	Resources (Financial & Human)															
<i>Review of UNECE's role to support the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, in the context of the UN development system reform (2017-2023)</i>	Programme-level	\$18,000 (external consultant) P-4: 2 months GS-OL: 0.5 month															
				<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th>Unit Monthly Cost<sup>29</sup></th> <th>Total</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Consultancy</td> <td></td> <td>\$18,000</td> </tr> <tr> <td>P-4, 2 months</td> <td>\$17,083</td> <td>\$34,167</td> </tr> <tr> <td>GS-OL, 0.5 month</td> <td>\$11,558</td> <td>\$5,779</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td><b>\$57,946</b></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		Unit Monthly Cost <sup>29</sup>	Total	Consultancy		\$18,000	P-4, 2 months	\$17,083	\$34,167	GS-OL, 0.5 month	\$11,558	\$5,779	
	Unit Monthly Cost <sup>29</sup>	Total															
Consultancy		\$18,000															
P-4, 2 months	\$17,083	\$34,167															
GS-OL, 0.5 month	\$11,558	\$5,779															
		<b>\$57,946</b>															

<sup>29</sup> Based on 2021 Salary Costs, version 5, February 2020, at full rate, including common staff costs and without staff assessment

## Annex II: Tentative Schedule of UNDA and XB Project Evaluations for 2023

Evaluation Title		Project ID	Funding Source/ Project Budget USD	Evaluation Budget <sup>30</sup> USD	Responsible Staff / Subprogramme	Schedule (Q) <sup>31</sup>
1.	Improve capacities of UNECE member States in developing evidence-based policy measures to meet their commitments under MIPAA/RIS and 2017 Lisbon Ministerial Declaration: Ageing (Phase III)	E345	XB/350,000	6,000	Lisa Christina Warth, Housing, land management and population	Q1
2.	International Centre of Excellence on PPPs: development and implementation of PPP standards and recommendations	E267	XB/870,000	15,700	Tony Bonnici, Economic Cooperation and Integration	Q2
3.	Promoting innovation policy capacities in Eastern Europe and the Caucasus	E317	XB/2,215,000	45,000	Jakob Martin Fexer, Economic Cooperation and Integration	Q2
4.	Enhancing coherence and integration of economic and social statistics in support of the implementation of 2008 SNA	E264	XB/912,000	18,000	Carsten Boldsen, Statistics	Q2
5.	Modernising Statistical Production Phase 3	E331	XB/600,000	10,400	Taeke Gjaltema, Statistics	Q3
6.	Enhancing strategic environmental assessment and transboundary environmental impact assessment in Eastern Europe and the Caucasus <sup>32</sup>	E311	XB/2,817,000	51,000	Leonid Kalashnyk, Environment	Q3
7.	Strengthening the capacity of Central Asian countries to implement trade facilitation measures and better integrate into the international rules-based trading system	E293	XB/350,000	6,000	Mario Apostolov, Trade	Q4
8.	Strengthened innovation policies of landlocked Central Asian countries in support of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development	2023N	UNDA/483,300	17,000	Christopher Athey, Economic Cooperation and Integration	Q4
9.	<i>Inter-regional cooperation for the implementation of the New Urban Agenda<sup>33</sup></i>	2023P	<i>UNDA/1,526,000</i>	<i>60,000</i>	<i>Gulnara Roll, Housing, land management and population</i>	<i>Q4</i>
10.	Working Group on Environmental Monitoring and Assessment (WGEM &A)	E280	XB/1,293,800	22,000	Nicholas Bonvoisin, Environment	Q4
11.	Strengthening cooperation and national capacities in selected UNECE countries for sustainable forest management	E374	XB/257,800	5,000	Roman Michalak, Housing, land management and population	Q4
12.	Road Safety Projects Phases V	E371	XB/836,000	13,000	Priti Gautam, Executive direction and management	Q4
13.	Road Safety Projects Phases VI	E365	XB/827,800	13,500		
14.	Road Safety Projects Phases VII	E385	XB/2,622,000	47,000		
15.	Increasing Awareness for Road Safety	E413	XB, 250,000	4,226		

<sup>30</sup> In line with UNECE Evaluation policy, internal evaluations are conducted by consultants

<sup>31</sup> Evaluations starting in Q4 will be finalized in Q1 2023

<sup>32</sup> Will be conducted by the donor

<sup>33</sup> Evaluation to be led by ECLAC

## Annex III: Summary of Evaluation Recommendations as of 30 June 2022

Div.	Unit / Sections responsible	Project	Outstanding Recs as at 31.12.2021	New Recs since 01.01.2022	Recs closed (impl.) 30.06.2022	Outstanding Recs as at 30.06.2022
ED	Water Convention	Implementation of the National Water and Health Targets in the Kyrgyz Republic and Tajikistan through National Policy Dialogues	6	-	6	-
ED	Office of the Director	Capacity Building for Cooperation on Dam Safety in Central Asia	-	5	2	3
SD	Population Unit	Extending policy relevance of the Active Ageing Index (AAI): Cooperation with UNECE	3	-	2	1
SD	Population Unit	Advancing intergovernmental work towards the implementation of the 2017 Lisbon Ministerial Declaration and MIPAA/RIS commitments	3	-	-	3
SED	Division Director	Evaluation of UNECE Collaboration with UN and other Partners in Delivering on Energy for Sustainable Development	4	-	3	1
ECTD	Regional Adviser Economic Cooperation & Integration	Strengthening capacities of SPECA countries for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals	2	-	-	2
ECTD	Innovative Policies Development Section	Innovation for Sustainable Development Reviews and sub-regional Innovation Policy Outlook	7	-	7	-
ECTD	Market Access Section	UNECE's support to the advancement of Regulatory Cooperation and Standardization Policies in member States (Working Party 6)	2	-	-	2
ECTD	Market Access Section	Strengthening the National Capacities of Selected UNECE Countries for Evidence-Based Regulatory and Procedural Trade Policies to Achieve SDGs	5	-	5	-
FLHD	Joint UNECE/FAO Forestry and Timber Section	Project Accountability Systems for Sustainable Forest Management in the Caucasus and Central Asia	1	-	1	-
OES	Secretariat Special Envoy	Road Safety project Phase I to IV	2	-	-	2
OES	Secretariat Road Safety Fund	Independent Evaluation of the United Nations Road Safety Trust Fund (UNRSF) Secretariat	2	-	1	1
OES		Programme level evaluation: UNECE engagement with the Private Sector	-	8	-	8
			<b>37</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>23</b>
			74%	26%	54%	46%

## Annex IV: List of recommendations from internal evaluations closed as of 30 June 2022

### Subprogramme: Environment

#### Evaluation Title and Date: Implementation of the National Water and Health Targets in the Kyrgyz Republic and Tajikistan through National Policy Dialogues (Jun-19)

No.	Report Recommendation	Management Response	Progress Report as of June 2022
2	For future projects, direct involvement of senior leadership at early stages is crucial to ensure high effectiveness and achievements of planned results in time.	<p>UNECE partially accepts this recommendation.</p> <p>UNECE had involved high-level officials in both beneficiary countries from the very beginning of the project. However, political changes in the ministries or in the governments can happen at any time and are beyond UNECE control. UNECE will continue to follow the approach of facilitating involvement of senior leadership into similar projects in the future, including through the UNECE senior leadership.</p>	<p>Implemented as of June 2022</p> <p>Contextual narrative: After the termination of the project, UNECE has been in contact with the donor country about the possibility of having a third phase of the project in Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan. However, due to funding limitations, a third phase is not envisaged. “Improving water, sanitation, hygiene and health through implementation of the programme of work of the Protocol on Water and Health” project funded by the Russian Federation, also promoting accession to the Protocol on Water and Health was started by UNECE in January 2022, but subsequently put on hold.</p> <p>Despite the absence of a running direct follow-up project, UNECE has promoted accession to the Protocol on Water and Health at the highest level in Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan, for example in meetings between the UNECE Executive Secretary and Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan ministers at the sidelines of the Dushanbe water conference in June 2022. Also in other projects, such as the International Climate Initiative (IKI) project, UNECE senior leadership involvement at Director/Deputy Executive Secretary level has been pursued from the inception phase.</p>
3	Additional awareness raising events (seminars, workshops) would be recommended to raise effectiveness of future projects in terms of shortening the time to achieve results	<p>UNECE accepts this recommendation.</p> <p>In future similar projects UNECE will include awareness activities to improve visibility and effectiveness of the project results. The type of awareness activities (awareness-raising campaigns, promotion events, visual materials) will be discussed closely with the relevant stakeholders and communication experts</p>	<p>Implemented as of June 2022</p> <p>See contextual narrative from recommendation 2</p> <p>In projects starting in 2022, UNECE has built on the experience of this project and incorporated awareness-raising events in order to enhance project effectiveness and visibility. Examples are the project funded by the Russian Federation under the Protocol on Water and Health on improving water, sanitation, hygiene and health in Central Asia, Eastern Europe and the Caucasus, the IKI project, the National Policy Dialogues successor “EU4Environment – Water Resources and Environmental Data” project in Eastern Partnership countries etc.</p>
4	For future projects, it is recommended to allocate more time both for project communication with state authorities and for coordination of all issues between government partners in combination with ensuring an appropriate level of responsibility (decision-making) of members of working groups	<p>UNECE partially accepts this recommendation.</p> <p>UNECE made considerable efforts and succeeded in effectively establishing a relationship with high-level decision-makers in both countries. However, in terms of nomination of experts for the working groups, the decision power to designate officials remains within the relevant authorities and is beyond UNECE control. In future similar projects UNECE will make efforts to recommend participants with a high level of responsibilities.</p>	<p>Implemented as of June 2022</p> <p>See contextual narrative from recommendation 2</p> <p>In new projects, UNECE is building on the experience of this project and allocates more time for both project communication with state authorities and for coordination of all issues between government partners, in combination with ensuring an appropriate level of responsibility of members of working groups. Examples are the National Policy Dialogue projects in Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia where UNECE communicates both at expert and at highest level and advocates for increased high-level engagement in working groups etc.</p>



No.	Report Recommendation	Management Response	Progress Report as of June 2022
			Further developments are subject to the observation that the nomination of members of working groups may remain within the decision-making power of the relevant authorities and be beyond UNECE control.
6	In order to increase the impact of future projects, cooperation with other donor programs should be further strengthened, which would enlarge the information influence and coverage	<p>UNECE partially accepts this recommendation.</p> <p>For future projects, UNECE will coordinate its activities with the relevant UN agencies and other donors through direct contacts and at the relevant events as it was done earlier. UNECE will work with the Regional UNDG Teams, Resident Coordinators and UN Country Teams to facilitate the achievement of shared results</p>	<p>Implemented as of June 2022</p> <p>UNECE is strengthening cooperation with other donor programs and with the relevant UN entities in countries where National Policy Dialogues in Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia are operational. For example, UNECE contributes to Common Country Analysis and cooperation frameworks in target countries, takes part in UN reporting, in regional donor coordination meetings e.g. in Central Asia, but also in the new National Policy dialogues programme in Eastern Europe and the Caucasus. New projects, such as the IKI project, are starting with an initial assessment of ongoing similar projects by other partners. Close cooperation is also happening with UN RCs and country teams.</p>
7	UNECE would benefit from a more active exchange of information with other projects and programs in order to strengthen focus on gender differences and inadequate access to water and sanitation, which will support promotional of behavioural changes essential to realizing the full benefits of water and sanitation services	<p>UNECE partially accepts this recommendation.</p> <p>For future projects, UNECE will make additional efforts to engage with the projects working on the human rights to water and sanitation as well as the relevant civil society actors. However, the decision on the engagement of such stakeholders in projects ultimately lies with the concerned governments</p>	<p>Implemented as of 30 June 2022</p> <p>In new projects started in 2022, UNECE is actively engaging with other projects and programs, as well as with actors from civil society, in order to strengthen focus on gender differences and inadequate access to water and sanitation.</p> <p>In this respect, the Protocol Secretariat carries out work in the area of equitable access to water and sanitation, which contributes to the implementation of the human rights to safe drinking water and sanitation, and in the context of which cooperation was established with some civil society actors and with the UN Special Rapporteur on the human rights to safe drinking water and sanitation.</p> <p>The issue of equitable access to water and sanitation is promoted through new project eg. “EU4Environment – Water Resources and Environmental Data” in the Eastern Partnership countries.</p> <p>The gender perspective was integrated in the “Improving water, sanitation, hygiene and health through implementation of the programme of work of the Protocol on Water and Health” project strategy through promoting implementation of gender-sensitive national targets related to water, sanitation, hygiene and health.</p>
8	For future projects, special gender analysis/assessment of the project document and planning of specific activities on gender mainstreaming would be needed at the initial stage	<p>UNECE accepts this recommendation.</p> <p>For future projects, UNECE will pay increased to consideration of gender aspects and gender mainstreaming at the stage of the project proposal development. In doing so, UNECE will follow its Policy for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (2016-2020)</p>	<p>Implemented as of 30 June 2022</p> <p>In new projects such as the EU project water and data in EAP countries, UNECE is has incorporated gender considerations</p> <p>The Protocol promotes a gender-inclusive approach, particularly through its provisions on ensuring access to water and sanitation for everyone, especially those who suffer a disadvantage or social exclusion. The area of work under the Protocol of equitable access to water and sanitation contributes to the implementation of the human rights to safe drinking water and sanitation, including the principle of non-discrimination and equality. The project funded by the Russian Federation along with ensuring active participation of women as experts and delegates in project events, would be designed in a way that takes into account the special needs of women and girls in this area, including</p>

No.	Report Recommendation	Management Response	Progress Report as of June 2022
			in relation to menstrual hygiene management but also other aspects, such as design and operation of water and sanitation facilities.

**Subprogramme: Population**

**Evaluation Title and Date: Extending policy relevance of the Active Ageing Index (AAI): Cooperation with UNECE (Nov-19)**

No.	Report Recommendation	Management Response	Progress Report as of June 2022
1	Improve alignment with SDGs and the Leave no one behind agenda.	<p>UNECE accepts the recommendation.</p> <p>Mapping AAI indicators with SDG targets was already implemented before the end of the project.</p> <p>Given that the project ended on 31 August 2019, it will not be possible for UNECE to continue working on AAI without additional funding. UNECE will use the results of mapping of AAI and SDG targets in its future work to raise awareness about how active ageing contributes to achievement of SDGs. This will be done in the context of the fourth review and appraisal of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing and its Regional Implementation Strategy (MIPAA/RIS) in 2021-2022.</p>	<p>Implemented as at 30 June 2022</p> <p>With the Rome Ministerial Declaration adopted during the 5th UNECE Ministerial Conference on Ageing in June 2022 UNECE member States reiterated in # 7 “[...] We also acknowledge the importance of implementing ageing-related policies in fulfilling the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its aim of ‘leaving no one behind’ as well as the United Nations Decade of Healthy Ageing (2021-2030) and its vision of ‘a world in which all persons can live long, healthy lives’.”</p> <p>and in #40 committed to “enhancing age- and gender-sensitive research and sex-, age- and disability-disaggregated data collection on population ageing and the diverse situations of older persons to inform evidence-based policies, monitoring, and evaluation; “</p>
3	<p>3.1 Document more examples of the application of the index in a way that is relevant for policymakers. Ensure the AAI is linked and used in any policy briefs produced by UNECE.</p> <p>3.2. The EC (and UNECE) should use the visualization tool when completed to conduct publicity (within DG EMPL) on the AAI.</p> <p>3.3 Keep an official centralized recalculation every two years.</p>	<p>UNECE partially accepts the recommendation.</p> <p>3.1: The Population Unit will continue using AAI in its Policy briefs on ageing where appropriate. The country reports referencing the use of AAI in policymaking and monitoring efforts will be used as good examples in the context of the fourth review and appraisal of MIPAA/RIS in 2021-2022.</p> <p>3.2: UNECE will use the visualisation tool (once it is ready) when referring to AAI in its presentations.</p> <p>3.3: Producing specific documents or keeping a centralised recalculation will not be possible without funding. The Population Unit will work with member States to collect available data on AAI indicators for the Statistical Annex of the Synthesis Report on the MIPAA/RIS implementation during the fourth cycle. Report will be issued in the first half of 2022.</p>	<p>Implemented as at 30 June 2022</p> <p>3.1: AAI findings were used in the Policy Brief # 23 on Gender equality in ageing societies (March 2020).</p> <p>The UNECE Guidelines for national reports on MIPAA/RIS implementation in 2018-2022 - adopted by the SWGA Bureau in September 2020 - suggest using the AAI indicators, in particular for the regional Synthesis report.</p> <p>Kazakhstan and Azerbaijan had used the AAI indicators for their national reports as well as Belarus and the Republic of Moldova. A number of other countries made references to the active ageing indicators as part of the monitoring framework of the policies on ageing.</p> <p>3.2. EC DG EMPL has not yet progressed with finalizing the visualization tool for AAI</p> <p>3.3: 2020 AAI results (based on 2018 data) were produced by UNECE in December 2020 for EU countries as well as for several non-EU countries that use the harmonized pan-European surveys. Results are available since January 2021 on the AAI Wiki.</p>

## Subprogramme: Economic Cooperation & Integration

### Evaluation Title and Date: Innovation for Sustainable Development Reviews and sub-regional Innovation Policy Outlook (Oct-20)

No.	Report Recommendation	Management Response	Progress Report as of June 2022
1	<p>The coherence of collaboration with different entities could be further developed by means of organizing joint activities and events with participation of other UN agencies, including WIPO, international organizations, development partners, and stakeholders in the process of the review preparation and implementation of recommendations.</p>	<p>UNECE accepts the recommendation.</p> <p>For the next Innovation for Sustainable Development Reviews (I4SDRs), which will be on the Republic of Moldova and on Uzbekistan, the secretariat will involve relevant UN agencies (including relevant ECE subprogrammes) and other development partners in the consultation processes, as authors or co-authors of individual chapters and in the peer reviews. For the follow-up capacity building with Georgia, the Republic of Moldova, and Armenia, the secretariat will explore the possibility of organizing events jointly with partners as a function of the topic and work programme agreed with these countries following review results and recommendations.</p>	<p>Implemented as of June 2022</p> <p>Innovation for Sustainable Development Review (I4SDR) of Moldova As part of the Innovation for Sustainable Development Reviews (I4SDRs) of Republic of Moldova, the fact-finding exercise included the engagement of international partners in the consultation process, such as IOM and UNDP in Moldova (projects on diaspora for development), as well as FAO representatives in Moldova (expertise on the case study of agri-food sector). The EU's Joint Research Centre (JRC), OECD, FAO, UN RCO and UN country team and other relevant international organisations were engaged in the peer review process of key findings and policy recommendations, along with the OECD, FAO, IOM and UNDP.</p> <p>Innovation for Sustainable Development Review (I4SDR) of Uzbekistan Based on their ongoing projects on innovation policy in Uzbekistan, representatives from the World Bank and UNESCO, participated in the initial stakeholder consultations in Q1 2021. The UNESCO country profile on Uzbek science and research system, published in 2020, serves as the basis for the review. In the drafting process, other UNECE subprogrammes were consulted on the agricultural sector (box in chapter 1; WP.6) environmental sustainability (recently published UNECE Environmental Performance Review; Environment Division). Throughout the subsequent fact-finding exercise, UNECE held meetings with international partners such as the IMF, IFC, EBRD, UNDP Uzbekistan, GIZ and ADB as well as individual experts from the CAREC Institute. The World Bank, UNESCO, ADB, UNDP, WIPO and other relevant international organisations and (inter-)national experts were engaged in the peer review process of key findings and policy recommendations. The Review was published in March 2022.</p>
2	<p>Include in the reviews a tentative timeline to facilitate the implementation process for the governments. Ensure that recommendations include concrete and practical measures to be implemented by non-academic professionals working in the area of innovation policy development.</p>	<p>UNECE accepts the recommendation.</p> <p>The secretariat will:</p> <p>a) ensure in the upcoming reviews of the Republic of Moldova and Uzbekistan that recommendations are mutually consistent and as specific and actionable as possible, and add guidance on timing, importance, and responsible bodies;</p> <p>b) aim to present the recommendations in the form of a one-page, high-level reform road map;</p> <p>c) as part of the follow-up capacity building for Georgia develop action plans or road maps with timelines and further develop specific practical policy measures to facilitate implementation of those policy recommendations the Government wishes to pursue</p>	<p>Implemented as of June 2022</p> <p>a) The recommendations developed under the I4SDRs of the Republic of Moldova and Uzbekistan present clear and actionable items alongside an indication of timeframe and priority level for implementation.</p> <p>b) The recommendations constitute a high-level reform roadmap to help guide policy reform efforts of the national authorities of Moldova and Uzbekistan.</p> <p>c) For both Moldova and Uzbekistan, follow-up capacity building activities have been agreed with the Governments. For Georgia, the follow-up capacity building on innovation-enhancing procurement resulted in a new draft procurement law.</p>

No.	Report Recommendation	Management Response	Progress Report as of June 2022
3	<p>Widen the pool of relevant experts, including the local ones, for team set-up or emergency replacement. Special attention should be paid to the experts' understanding of the context of the target countries, legal frameworks, private sector, and the link between innovations and sustainable development. Female experts should be encouraged to apply. Arrange interactive discussions with the member States governments, where they could validate the draft reports as peer reviewers do.</p>	<p>UNECE accepts the recommendation.</p> <p>For the upcoming reviews of the Republic of Moldova and of Uzbekistan, the secretariat will</p> <p>a) engage at least one female expert as an author for each review;</p> <p>b) increase gender balance among peer reviewers;</p> <p>c) engage at least one new expert or organisation as an author;</p> <p>d) provide detailed guidance to newly recruited experts on the expected structure of their respective chapters through a concept note explaining and aligning the approach to the subject matter based on desk research and agreement with beneficiary countries;</p> <p>e) continue the practice of interactive, regular discussions with beneficiary countries on the content of chapters, the analysis, and draft chapters and reviews.</p>	<p>Implemented as of June 2022</p> <p>As part of the review of Republic of Moldova:</p> <p>a) UNECE engaged one female expert as the author of a chapter, one female expert to conduct a case study on innovation in the agro-food sector, one female expert as local consultant based in Moldova;</p> <p>b) UNECE ensured at least 30% participation of each gender among peer reviewers;</p> <p>c) engaged one new female expert as lead author of a chapter;</p> <p>d) concept notes and a draft chapter outline were developed by UNECE and provided to experts to facilitate the drafting process;</p> <p>e) consultations have been held with the beneficiary country to align understanding of the main concepts of and expectations for the chapters. A representative of the beneficiary country's lead ministry has been involved in the fact-finding exercise through participation in the consultations, as well as in the peer review process.</p> <p>As part of the I4SDR of Uzbekistan:</p> <p>a) One female expert was selected as the author of an elective chapter;</p> <p>b) UNECE ensured 30% participation of female peer reviewers;</p> <p>c) One new female expert was engaged as an author;</p> <p>d) Concept notes and drafted chapter outlines were provided by UNECE to experts for the drafting of respective chapters;</p> <p>e) Consultations were held with the beneficiary country to align expectations on the focus and content of chapters and ministry representatives have been closely involved in fact-finding meetings and the peer review process.</p> <p>For the forthcoming I4SDR of Armenia (to be launched in Q1 2023), several additional steps will be taken towards standardising the process, especially to provide additional guidance and structure for chapter authors to ensure alignment and buy-in systematically.</p>
4	<p>Speed up the reviews production process via further structuration and standardization of the process, e.g., introducing concept notes and data collection questionnaires for the experts. Process optimization is a subject for an individual piece of work requiring deep analysis. The peer review practice could be further upgraded by making written peer reviews collection a standard procedure.</p>	<p>UNECE accepts the recommendation.</p> <p>For the upcoming reviews of the Republic of Moldova and of Uzbekistan the secretariat will</p> <p>a) circulate a questionnaire, using the IPO questionnaire as a basis, to the focal points to collect information from stakeholders to inform the brunt of parts I and II of the review;</p> <p>b) collect, as already done for Georgia, peer review comments in written form in addition to the peer review meeting;</p> <p>c) in the case of the Republic of Moldova build on the findings from the corresponding chapter of the IPO, aiming to complement and update these with strong focus on in-depth chapters in part III.</p>	<p>Implemented as of June 2022</p> <p>a) a detailed background note based on the IPO questionnaire results identifying key gaps was developed by UNECE to guide the elaboration of questions for the fact-finding activities of the experts;</p> <p>b) peer review feedback was collected in written form to complement the peer review meeting;</p> <p>c) building on the main findings and recommendations of the IPO chapter on Moldova, elective chapters in Part III have provided in-depth analysis of topics agreed with the Government of Moldova.</p> <p>As part of the I4SDR of Uzbekistan:</p> <p>a) UNECE circulated a questionnaire to the focal points in Uzbekistan, based on the IPO questionnaire, to guide experts' elaboration of questions throughout the fact-finding process;</p> <p>b) Written peer review comments were collected;</p> <p>Further steps in this direction are being taken for the review of Armenia, started in November 2021, including aligned structure of chapters, and detailed internal processes to guide the research process involving desk research, a series of bilateral consultations, and larger virtual and physical</p>

No.	Report Recommendation	Management Response	Progress Report as of June 2022
5	Pay more attention to special features and needs of individual countries. Private sector engagement should be strengthened. The IPO and the reviews should be regarded as independent streams of work that complement each other in terms of data and perspective, especially when they cover the same countries, but can be sequenced in any convenient order depending on circumstances.	<p>UNECE partially accepts the recommendation.</p> <p>Future projects of the Sustainable Energy Division will capture the impact of the sustainable energy agenda on marginalized and vulnerable groups (including women, youth and elderly), as reflected in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, subject to donor interest and EXCOM approval.</p>	<p>meetings. The process is being documented and expanded in detail to create a living internal manual.</p> <p>Implemented as of June 2022</p> <p>As part of the I4SDR of Moldova, IPO findings and fact-finding activities were used to identify options and to agree 3 priority sustainable development topics for treatment in elective chapters:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Industry-science linkages</li> <li>• Innovation and technology transfer infrastructure</li> <li>• Role of the diaspora in promoting innovation for sustainable development</li> </ul> <p>Strengthened private sector engagement in the fact-finding process included focus groups with private sectors stakeholders in addition to bilateral interviews. In response to initial findings indicating policy challenges to be addressed in the agro-food sector, a sectoral case study is being included for the first time in an I4SD review.</p> <p>For the I4SDR Uzbekistan, the two selected elective chapters focus on enhancing industry-science linkages as well as on strengthening the innovation infrastructure, addressing priority policy issues for private sector development in Uzbekistan and included private sector engagement. The chamber of commerce, business associations and other private sector stakeholders have been consistently involved in the bilateral fact-finding meetings.</p> <p>For the IPO, experts, authors and findings from the I4SDRs of Georgia, Moldova, and Armenia have significantly contributed to the success of the IPO policy dialogue sessions that have been held since the release of the IPO publication.</p>
6	Introduce a more streamlined approach to the follow-up (including capacity building) and incorporate it in funding proposals. Introduce webinars as a regular part of follow-up capacity building. Collect the information about follow-up activities at a single webpage and link it with the reviews programme webpage.	<p>UNECE accepts the recommendation.</p> <p>Funding for capacity building has already been included in the XB projects for the I4SDR of Georgia and for upcoming reviews of the Republic of Moldova and Armenia. As a good practice for all subsequent reviews, we will agree on a detailed capacity building programme around a specific planned or on-going reform effort in line with review recommendations with Georgia similar to the one carried out in 2019-2020 for Belarus. We will also revise the way information on the I4SDRs and on related capacity building is presented on our website.</p>	<p>Implemented as of June 2022</p> <p>Based on a detailed capacity building plan agreed with the Government, UNECE has supported the development of innovation enhancing procurement in Georgia through production of a dedicated handbook, and a series of capacity building webinars; a study tour of Georgian public procurement officials to Norway has also been arranged. Detailed capacity building plans have been agreed with the Governments of Moldova and Uzbekistan in follow-up to the respective Reviews which were published in late 2021 and early 2022. The Review of Armenia is still ongoing.</p>
7	Enrich the reviews with an individual chapter and practical advice for governments on how to mainstream gender equality, women empowerment, and disability inclusion in innovation development. Engage international and local experts to work in pairs on these subject matters.	<p>UNECE partially accepts the recommendation.</p> <p>The secretariat accepts the objective of further mainstreaming gender equality, women's empowerment and disability inclusion (along with other aspects of inclusiveness from the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development, such as poverty reduction or the closing of digital and urban-rural divides). However, this objective can be achieved</p>	<p>Implemented as of June 2022</p> <p>In the framework of the I4SDR of Moldova and based on the topics of elective chapters agreed with the Government, gender aspects were mainstreamed across chapters 2, 4, and 6. These efforts were supported also by international experts through the peer review process.</p> <p>Within the framework of the I4SDR of Uzbekistan and based on the elective topics and in agreement with the Government of Uzbekistan, gender aspects were integrated in chapters 1, 2, and 3.</p>

No.	Report Recommendation	Management Response	Progress Report as of June 2022
		<p>not only with a separate chapter, but also by mainstreaming these topics, i.e. by covering these aspects within other chapters as part of the relevant narrative, as has already been done increasingly, especially in the Georgia review. Which approach works best will depend on the situation in the country and the needs and expectations of the requesting Government, which has to agree on the review content generally and the topics for the elective, in-depth chapters of Part III in particular.</p> <p>For the upcoming I4SDRs of the Republic of Moldova and Uzbekistan, the secretariat will consult with the Governments and propose different ways of addressing these topics, and will structure the reviews accordingly.</p>	

**Subprogramme: Forest and Forest Industries**

**Evaluation Title and Date: Accountability Systems for Sustainable Forest Management in the Caucasus and Central Asia (Mar-21)**

No.	Report Recommendation	Management Response	Progress Report as of June 2022
5	<p>In order to measure increased knowledge and developed capacity among the beneficiaries, it is recommended to introduce instruments for measuring success of training, knowledge and capacity building activity, like pre-post testing of participants on their knowledge around the activity or topic.</p>	<p>UNECE accepts the recommendation.</p> <p>The joint UNECE/FAO Forestry and Timber Section conducts post-session evaluations on work impact of its national/regional workshops.</p> <p>The joint Section will extend the scope of the evaluation of impact and knowledge and capacity increase among the beneficiaries by adding an additional instrument (pre- testing questionnaire) to monitor the initial level and of knowledge and its change over the period of a implementation of the capacity-building project “Strengthening policy framework on forest landscape restoration in selected UNECE countries to achieve SDG 15”.</p>	<p>Implemented as of June 2022</p> <p>A new instrument (based on pre-post-testing questionnaires) to monitor the initial level of knowledge and its change was developed as part of the implementation of the capacity building project “Strengthening policy framework on forest landscape restoration in selected UNECE countries to achieve SDG 15”.</p> <p>The new instrument was successfully tested during the National Forest Policy Dialogue on “Validating a National Strategy Proposal for Forest Landscape Restoration in Kyrgyzstan” organized in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan, on 23-24 June 2022, UNECE, in collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture of the Republic of Kyrgyzstan and the support of FAO.</p> <p>The instrument will serve as a model that can be easily adapted to the needs of other activities or topics.</p>

## Office of the Executive Secretary

## Evaluation Title and Date: Independent Evaluation of the United Nations Road Safety Trust Fund (UNRSF) Secretariat (Apr-21)

No.	Report Recommendation	Management Response	Progress Report as of June 2022
2	<p>UNRSF should consider “Fit-for-purpose” governance systems.</p> <p>2.1 UNRSF should consider merging steering committee and advisory board both for reducing governance-related workload on the secretariat and increased shared understanding among various stakeholder groups. The current governance system is more suited for a large UN agency than a small trust fund. Since private donors and innovative funding mechanism are expected to provide a significant portion of funding, it is also better from a governance perspective to give these stakeholders a bigger role in steering the direction of the fund.</p> <p>2.2 UNRSF should consider involving the member of such a combined board in joint fundraising efforts. Organizing joint events, participating in their governance and large public events and encouraging them to spread the word about UNRSF and its road safety work are some of the steps that can be undertaken to raise the profile and visibility of the Fund.</p> <p>2.3 UNRSF should clearly discuss expectations and evaluate board members on pre-defined and agreed metrics to evaluate their contributions to the Fund.</p>	<p>UNECE partially accepts this recommendation.</p> <p>a. The recommendation to merge the Advisory Board and Steering Committee will be discussed at the next Advisory Board and Steering Committee meetings taking place in 2021. The implementation of the recommendation will be implemented in accordance with the respective decisions taken therein.</p> <p>b. A roadmap of advocacy opportunities and target donors will be presented to the governance body with a view that governance body members accept to undertake responsibility contribute to the strategic development of the UNRSF and to pursue advocacy opportunities and fundraising targets.</p>	<p>Implemented as of June 2022</p> <p>a. This recommendation was presented to the Steering Committee at its 30 April 2021 session and to the Advisory Board when it met on 10 June 2021. Subsequent informal consultations have been ongoing between the Secretariat and members of the governing bodies to ascertain a consensus position on how best to address this recommendation. Based on the outcome of these consultations, the secretariat will propose an action at the formal meetings of the governing bodies in 2022 for a formal decision. In accordance with discussions with the governing bodies, there was no approval for a merger of the Steering Committee and the Advisory Board. Instead, the Secretariat has been providing a set of criteria to guide the nomination of new members for both the Advisory Board and Steering Committee, noting that by the end of 2022, approximately 58% of the member seats were up for re-election and benefited from the revised criteria. This recommendation should be considered closed given the (on-going) actions taken by the secretariat to ensure a fit-for-purpose membership through new nominations.</p> <p>b. The UNRSF secretariat presented a communications roadmap as well as resource mobilization plans to its Advisory Board and Steering Committee during their fifth and ninth sessions respectively on 20 and 21 October. Both bodies endorsed and agreed to support the communications roadmap and resource mobilization plans. With respect to the latter, the Board committed support to ongoing efforts to step up fund-raising ahead of the planned UNRSF Pledging Conference during the UN High Level Meeting on Road Safety in New York, July 2022, through direct pledges or advocacy. The Steering Committee agreed to bilaterally discuss and actively facilitate engagements at the global, regional and/or national levels with the UNRSF secretariat.</p>

## Subprogramme: Trade

## Evaluation Title and Date: Strengthening the National Capacities of Selected UNECE Countries for Evidence-Based Regulatory and Procedural Trade Policies to Achieve SDGs (Apr-21)

No.	Report Recommendation	Management Response	Progress Report as of June 2022
1	<p>The project will remain relevant as the three beneficiary countries continue their process of regulatory harmonization and expanding their network of global trade partners. UNECE could</p>	<p>UNECE accepts the recommendation.</p> <p>a) The UNECE Economic Cooperation and Trade Division has recently launched a similar project in Uzbekistan within the context of the United Nations Development Account (UNDA) Project, “Transport and Trade Connectivity in the Age of Pandemics”</p>	<p>Implemented as of June 2022</p> <p>The study on regulatory and procedural barriers to trade in Uzbekistan was launched in 2021. The key findings and recommendations were presented to the UNECE member States and various international stakeholders during the Steering Committee on Trade Capacity and Standards (SCTCS) annual session in 27-28 June 2022. A</p>

No.	Report Recommendation	Management Response	Progress Report as of June 2022
	<p>consider this model to be a pilot project that could be rolled out to other countries in future.</p>	<p>(2020-2021). The project involves undertaking a study of regulatory and procedural barriers to trade in the country using UNECE survey-based evaluation methodology, which targets all supply chain actors (enterprises, freight forwarders and State agencies involved in supporting trade in goods). The results will be published in a comprehensive study that features detailed recommendations in the form of a time-bound action plan, which maps recommendation against the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) for guiding implementation facilitating monitoring and evaluation.</p> <p>b) The secretariat stands ready to carry out similar studies in response to beneficiary countries' demand and availability of XB resources.</p>	<p>high-level capital-based delegation headed by Mr. Abidov, Deputy Minister of Investment and Foreign Trade of the Republic of Uzbekistan participated in person in the Committee meeting and commended the results of the study. A comprehensive study, providing detailed analysis, will be published during the third quarter of 2022.</p>
2	<p>The gender-based work can be replicated in the UNECE region and in other regions. The national assessment surveys, female traders' questionnaires and COVID reports have a relevance which is universal.</p>	<p>UNECE accepts the recommendation.</p> <p>a) The study on regulatory and procedural barriers to trade in Uzbekistan will feature a special focus on female-owned enterprises operating in strategic sectors identified in consultation with the Government.</p> <p>b) Within the context of UNDA "Global Initiative towards post-Covid-19 resurgence of the MSME sector" Project (2020-2021), the UNECE ECTD is carrying out two survey-based impact assessments (Republic of Armenia and Republic of Moldova) to trace the impact of COVID-19 on the end-to-end supply chains of female owned micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs).</p> <p>c) The secretariat stands ready to replicate the gender-based work in additional countries in the UNECE region in response to beneficiary countries' demand and availability of XB resources. The secretariat stands ready to share the methodology for the gender-based work for entities ready to roll out similar work in other, non-UNECE regions.</p>	<p>Implemented as of June 2022</p> <p>a) Following consultations with the Government, the study on regulatory and procedural barriers to trade in Uzbekistan will not feature a special focus on female-owned enterprises. Such analysis will be carried out separately subject to the availability of funds, based on the findings and recommendations on the study on regulatory and procedural barriers to trade in Uzbekistan.</p> <p>b) The survey-based assessments on the impact of COVID-19 on the end-to-end supply chains of female owned MSMEs in the Republic of Armenia and Republic of Moldova were completed in 2021. The key results and findings were presented to the UNECE member States and various international stakeholders during the SCTCS annual session in 27-28 June 2022. The assessments will be published during the first quarter of 2022, upon the completion of consultations with the respective Governments.</p>
3	<p>Further disseminate the results of assessments by translating the recommendations into national languages of the beneficiary countries.</p>	<p>UNECE partially accepts the recommendation.</p> <p>a) As this project has been completed, it would be difficult to translate the recommendations emerging from the assessments into the national languages of the beneficiary countries, owing to the lack of funds. This recommendation will be implemented in the future. The UNECE Economic Cooperation and Trade Division will strive to secure enough resources for translating the recommendations from similar assessments during the fund-raising phase.</p> <p>b) A report summarizing the main findings emerging from the COVID-19 impact assessments carried out under this project</p>	<p>Implemented as of June 2022</p> <p>a) A report summarizing the main findings emerging from the COVID-19 impact assessments carried out under this project (Republic of Armenia, Republic of Belarus, Georgia, Republic of Moldova and the Republic of Serbia) was published as part of the SCTCS official meeting documents (21-22 June 2021, Geneva and online) in English and Russian.</p> <p>b) The key findings and recommendations emerging from assessment study on regulatory and procedural barriers to trade in Uzbekistan were published as part of official documents of the 2022 annual session of the SCTCS in English and Russian.</p>



No.	Report Recommendation	Management Response	Progress Report as of June 2022
		<p>(Republic of Armenia, Republic of Belarus, Georgia, Republic of Moldova and the Republic of Serbia) was prepared (in English and Russian) and will be presented to UNECE member States during the upcoming annual session of the Steering Committee on Trade Capacity and Standards (21-22 June 2021, Geneva and online).</p> <p>c) The study on regulatory and procedural barriers to trade in Uzbekistan will be published in English and Russian.</p>	c) The key findings and recommendations of the impact assessments of COVID-19 impact assessment targeting female owned MSMEs in the Republic of Armenia were published in English and Russian.
4	Continue to provide high-level analysis of national responses to the COVID pandemic.	<p>UNECE accepts the recommendation.</p> <p>The study on regulatory and procedural barriers to trade in Uzbekistan will capture the impact of the pandemic on end-to-end supply chains. In so doing it will provide the beneficiary country a trusted, objective overview of multi-agency and cross-departmental issues, assisting individual ministries understand the factors impacting other government departments and help them understand how they can provide more consistent support to the trade sector.</p>	<p>Implemented as of June 2022</p> <p>The study on regulatory and procedural barriers to trade in Uzbekistan assesses the impact of COVID-19 on the country's end-to-end supply chains. The individual chapters feature dedicated subject areas, such as trade facilitation, technical barriers to trade, conformity assessment, with a particular focus on MSMEs, which, inter alia, highlight the way in which the pandemic influenced the State agencies' capacity as well as the MSMEs' participation in trade and long-term development prospects.</p>
5	UNECE has a role to play in providing Governments with the voice of the most vulnerable into the design of future projects.	<p>UNECE accepts the recommendation.</p> <p>a) The study on regulatory and procedural barriers to trade in Uzbekistan will feature a special focus on MSMEs.</p> <p>b) In line with its mandate, beneficiary countries' demand and available XB resources, the secretariat will factor in the special needs of the most vulnerable (e.g. MSMEs, female-owned enterprises etc.) into the design of future projects.</p>	<p>Implemented as of June 2022</p> <p>a) The study on regulatory and procedural barriers to trade in Uzbekistan is based on a survey of 75 MSMEs from across the country.</p> <p>b) The COVID-19 impact assessments on Armenia and the Republic of Moldova focused on female-owned MSMEs, identified as a vulnerable group in both countries. In total, 155 female-owned MSMEs from Armenia and 101 female-owned MSMEs from the Republic of Moldova participated in the survey.</p>

## Subprogramme: Environment

### Evaluation Title and Date: Capacity-building for cooperation on dam safety in Central Asia Phase 3 (Jul-21)

No.	Report Recommendation	Management Response	Progress Report as of June 2022
2	UNECE Secretariat to present the findings of this review to the Committee on Environmental Policy to continue promoting dam safety awareness across all government agencies and among general public.	<p>UNECE accepts the recommendation.</p> <p>The results of the evaluation and the management response will be presented at the next CEP meeting in November 2021.</p>	<p>Implemented as of 30 June 2022</p> <p>The results of the evaluation and the management response were presented at the Committee on Environmental Policy, 3-5 November 2021  <a href="https://unece.org/sites/default/files/2021-12/Item_3_presentation_Dam_Safety_project.pdf">https://unece.org/sites/default/files/2021-12/Item_3_presentation_Dam_Safety_project.pdf</a></p>

No.	Report Recommendation	Management Response	Progress Report as of June 2022
5	In the future projects UNECE should systematically assess, monitor and document the usefulness and expected impact of the capacity development workshops by canvassing feedback from the participants through a well-tailored questionnaires, quiz approach application and internet based tools as e.g. Survey Monkey. These assessments should include a space for qualitative comments and improvement proposals by participants.	<p>UNECE accepts this recommendation</p> <p>This recommendation will be brought to the attention of the Director of Environment Division and will apply in future Dam Safety projects if any.</p>	<p>Implemented as of 30 June 2022</p> <p>The recommendation was brought to the attention of the Director of Environment Division and will apply in future dam safety projects.</p>

### Subprogramme: Sustainable Energy

#### Evaluation Title and Date: UNECE Collaboration with UN and other Partners in Delivering on Energy for Sustainable Development (Nov-21)

No.	Report Recommendation	Management Response	Progress Report as of June 2022
1	To continue its focus on diversifying its sources of funding. Particular attention should be given to attracting extrabudgetary sources for mid-to-long-term (3-5 years) technical assistance (which will be larger in scope and monetary terms) and advisory interventions that would focus on the continuity of multilevel assistance (development of policy and legal framework, institutional strengthening, and individual capacity-building of targeted beneficiaries). Synergies, cooperation, and in-kind contributions from all participating parties will strengthen the buy-in and sense of ownership at national and international levels.	<p>UNECE accepts the recommendation.</p> <p>SED will continue its focus on diversifying its sources of funding. It will attempt to attract extrabudgetary sources for near-, mid-, and long-term technical assistance. This will be reflected in the forthcoming resource mobilization plan to be submitted to ECE EXCOM in 2021.</p>	<p>Implemented as of 30 June 2022</p> <p>Significant progress continues to be made on this recommendation. The funding received from the World Nuclear Agency (WNA) for the Carbon Neutrality project and from the European Commission for Sustainable Resource Management, and that secured from Germany (IKI) for high-performance buildings was already reported.</p> <p>The funding for centres of excellence (Ireland, Russian Federation, China) has continued to progress. Donors are also being sought for work on pathways to sustainable energy, hydrogen, renewable energy, methane management, just transition, resilient energy systems and carbon pricing including in cooperation with the Chair and other members of the Bureau of the Committee on Sustainable Energy.</p> <p>The Bureau convened a special session to discuss funding and outreach related to the strategic review of the Sustainable energy subprogramme that is now completed: specific projects on hydrogen and natural gas in transport have been funded, and the other priority areas of the strategic review are under consideration. The Bureau is contemplating an explicit outreach programme to enhance resourcing.</p> <p>To deliver on the mid-to-long-term aspect of this recommendation, discussions have now started with the European Commission to continue funding work on Sustainable Resource Management, including UNFC and UNRMS, but at a larger scale when the current project finishes in 2024.</p>

No.	Report Recommendation	Management Response	Progress Report as of June 2022
5	To continue raising awareness through presentations and analytical papers (linkage to relevant SDGs could also be useful in this regard), of the member States on the human rights dimension and the impact of the sustainable energy agenda on marginalized and vulnerable groups (including women, youth and elderly).	UNECE partially accepts the recommendation. The right to access affordable, reliable and clean energy (SDG 7) and the impact of the sustainable energy agenda on marginalized and vulnerable groups (including women, youth and elderly), as reflected in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, will be reflected in the future programmes of work of the Sustainable Energy Subprogramme, subject to the approval of the Committee on Sustainable Energy.	<p>Implemented as of 30 June 2022</p> <p>As noted, the right to access affordable, reliable and clean energy (SDG 7) and the impact of the sustainable energy agenda on marginalized and vulnerable groups (including women, youth and elderly), as reflected in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, will be reflected in the future programmes of work of the Sustainable energy subprogramme, subject to the approval of the Committee on Sustainable Energy.</p> <p>The strategic review of the Sustainable energy subprogramme has been finalised and it will have enduring impact on the programme of work of the Committee on Sustainable Energy and the work plans of its subsidiary bodies.</p> <p>Under the UNDA project “Global Initiative towards post-COVID-19 resurgence of the MSMEs sector” which is led by UNCTAD and UNESCWA, the Division contributed in the areas of energy efficiency and sustainable resource management by developing guidelines and best practices which support disadvantaged sections of society, including people with disabilities. The core focus was on planet - people - prosperity, which includes building an inclusive society that also considers the challenges of disabled people. This was highlighted in the training workshops organized in January, June and July 2022.</p> <p>A session on the gender aspects of the process of transformation of the coal mining regions was organized during the 17th meeting of the Group of Experts on Coal Mine Methane and Just Transition (18-19 March 2022, Geneva). The presentations, as well as the ensuing debate highlighted the benefits of inclusiveness and diversity of the energy sector and underlined the necessity of providing protective measures not only for the personnel laid off from mines and plants that are incompatible with the green economy, but also for the vulnerable groups whose wellbeing is indirectly but closely linked with the legacy industries.</p> <p>A publication on “Energy Transition and the Post-COVID-19 Socio-economic Recovery: Role of Women and Impact on Them” is currently being finalized for publication later in 2022.</p>
6	To introduce S.M.A.R.T. (Specific, Measurable, Attainable, Relevant, Time-bound) indicators to measure the progress made with regard to the impact of the UNECE’s activities on marginalized and vulnerable groups (including women, youth and elderly).	UNECE partially accepts the recommendation. Future projects of the Sustainable Energy Division will capture the impact of the sustainable energy agenda on marginalized and vulnerable groups (including women, youth and elderly), as reflected in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, subject to donor interest and EXCOM approval.	<p>Implemented as of 30 June 2022</p> <p>The strategic review of the Sustainable energy subprogramme has been finalised and it will have enduring impact on the programme of work of the Committee on Sustainable Energy and the work plans of its subsidiary bodies.</p> <p>UNECE’s activities in sustainable energy based on the strategic review will be assessed regarding their impact on marginalized and vulnerable groups (including women, youth and elderly). A plan has been put in place in the Division to advise project managers that all future projects need to capture the impact of the sustainable energy agenda on marginalized and vulnerable groups (including women, youth and elderly), as reflected in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, subject to donor interest and EXCOM approval.</p>

## Annex V: Summary of Evaluation Recommendations as of 31 December 2022

Div.	Unit / Sections responsible	Project	Outstanding Recs as at 30.06.2022	New Recs since 01.07.2022	Recs closed (impl.) 31.12.2022	Outstanding Recs as at 31.12.2022
ED	Office of the Director	Capacity Building for Cooperation on Dam Safety in Central Asia	3	-	-	3 <sup>34</sup>
ED	Office of the Director	Evidence-based environmental governance and sustainable environmental policies in support of the 2030 Agenda in South-East Europe	-	8	-	8 <sup>35</sup>
SD	Population Unit	Extending policy relevance of the Active Ageing Index (AAI): Cooperation with UNECE	1	-	1	-
SD	Population Unit	Advancing intergovernmental work towards the implementation of the 2017 Lisbon Ministerial Declaration and MIPAA/RIS commitments	3	-	3	-
SED	Office of the Director	Evaluation of UNECE Collaboration with UN and other Partners in Delivering on Energy for Sustainable Development	1	-	1	-
SED	Office of the Director	Integrated energy and water resource management in support of sustainable development in South-East Europe and Central Asia	-	5	2	3 <sup>36</sup>
ECTD	Regional Adviser Economic Cooperation & Integration	Strengthening capacities of SPECA countries for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals	2	-	2	-
ECTD	Market Access Section	UNECE's support to the advancement of Regulatory Cooperation and Standardization Policies in member States (Working Party 6)	2	-	2	-
OES	Secretariat Special Envoy	Road Safety project Phase I to IV	2	-	2	-
OES	Secretariat Road Safety Fund	Independent Evaluation of the United Nations Road Safety Trust Fund (UNRSF) Secretariat	1	-	1	-
OES	Office of DES	Programme level evaluation: UNECE engagement with the Private Sector	8	-	-	8 <sup>37</sup>
			<b>23</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>22</b>
			<i>64%</i>	<i>36%</i>	<i>39%</i>	<i>61%</i>

<sup>34</sup> Of which only one overdue (target implementation date was December 2022)

<sup>35</sup> Of which only one overdue, responsibility of PMU (target implementation date was December 2022)

<sup>36</sup> In progress and on track, none of the recommendations overdue

<sup>37</sup> Of which only one overdue (target implementation date was December 2022)

## Annex VI: List of recommendations from internal evaluations closed as of 31 December 2022

### Subprogramme: Population

#### Evaluation Title and Date: Extending policy relevance of the Active Ageing Index (AAI): Cooperation with UNECE (Nov-19)

No.	Report Recommendation	Management Response	Progress Report as of December 2022
2	<p>2.1. Review Table 11 that contains elements of an Action Plan for follow up by UNECE.</p> <p>2.2. Continue to make the AAI more topical by more explicitly aligning it to current/ upcoming goals/ priorities/ topics (e.g. Europe 2020 - a Strategy for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth; WHO decade of healthy ageing from 2020-2030, rights of older people etc.).</p> <p>2.3. More academic focus should also be encouraged, via competitive funding for academic research using the AAI as a tool</p>	<p>UNECE partially accepts the recommendation.</p> <p>2.1: The table 11 of the evaluation report was reviewed by the Population Unit and most of the suggestions were found relevant. Given that the project ended on 31 August 2019, it will not be possible for UNECE to continue working on AAI without additional funding.</p> <p>2.2: UNECE will keep promoting AAI at relevant events, in particular in the context of the fourth review and appraisal of MIPAA/RIS in 2021-2022; more specific work on aligning AAI with other agendas will not be possible without additional funding.</p> <p>2.3: The Population Unit to the extent possible will continue advising upon request on AAI methodology; it will not be possible to support research or “encourage academic focus” beyond that without additional funding. With additional funding, an international research seminar could be organised with the awards for best papers — the good practice from previous phases of the project which leads to an increase in interest in AAI among researchers. UNECE cannot encourage “competitive funding for academic research” as such, since it is not in its mandate.</p>	<p>Implemented as at 31 December 2022</p> <p>2.1. No additional funding received, i.e. no further work is envisaged.</p> <p>2.2: Suggestion to include AAI indicators in the statistical annex to a Synthesis report on MIPAA/RIS implementation during 2018-2022– has been accepted by the SWGA Bureau in September 2020. Statistical annex of the Synthesis Report issued in June 2022 includes AAI indicators. The Statistical Annex with AAI indicators was included in the Conference Proceedings published in 2022: <a href="https://unece.org/sites/default/files/2022-08/ECE-WG.1.41-Proceedings-Ministerial-Conference-Rome.pdf">https://unece.org/sites/default/files/2022-08/ECE-WG.1.41-Proceedings-Ministerial-Conference-Rome.pdf</a></p> <p>2.3: In 2020, Kazakhstan included AAI indicators in the National Plan of Action on Ageing – technical advice and guidelines how to compute the index shared with national experts/academia and UNFPA office in Kazakhstan. UNECE provided also an expert review of UNFPA-sponsored survey results providing a baseline for the Kazakh AAI results. Azerbaijan has calculated the AAI and published a report in 2021. The Republic of Moldova added a special AAI-related module to the Generations and Gender Survey completed in 2021. The report on the Moldovan AAI was issued in 2022. In all of the above, UNECE Population Unit provided support and methodological advice on the Active Ageing Index indicators.</p>

## Subprogramme: Trade

## Evaluation Title and Date: UNECE's support to the advancement of Regulatory Cooperation and Standardization Policies in member States (Working Party 6) (Dec-19)

No.	Report Recommendation	Management Response	Progress Report as of December 2022
1	<p>Update and reflect the work of Working Party 6 in line with the 2030 Agenda, which was adopted by ECE member States in 2015. Review and update the Terms of Reference of Working Party 6 in line with the Guidelines for the Establishment and Functioning of Working Parties within ECE (ECE/EX/1 paragraph 3(d) – see Annex) to assess and propose necessary adjustments to the mandate and status of Working Party 6 and submit to the Steering Committee on Trade Capacity and Standards.</p>	<p>UNECE accepts the recommendation.</p> <p>The secretariat notes the need to update the Terms of Reference of WP. 6, which date back to 2003, in order to reflect the priorities of the 2030 Agenda, as appropriate. Recent activities by the WP.6 on “Standards for the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)” and on “Gender Responsive Standards” helped raise awareness on SDG-related issues among member States. The revision of the Terms of Reference will build upon current activities of WP.6 that have already been aligned with the 2030 Agenda as reflected in the Programme of Work of WP.6 for 2020. Approved by WP.6 at its 29th Annual Session in 2019 (ECE/CTCS/WP.6/2019/5), the Programme of Work was geared towards supporting members States’ efforts for the delivery of the SDGs.</p> <p>The secretariat of WP.6 will work with the Bureau to draft an update of the Terms of Reference for discussion and – if consensus is found – for adoption at the WP.6 session scheduled for 2-3 November 2020. The updated Terms of Reference will be submitted for review by the Steering Committee for Trade Capacity and Standards at its 7th Session in 2021, for subsequent submission for approval by the EXCOM</p>	<p>Implemented as of December 2022</p> <p>The Virtual Informal Consultations of WP.6 that took place on 2 and 3 November 2020 (replacing the formal WP.6 session due to the restrictions related to the COVID-19 pandemic) endorsed the programme of work where the 2030 Agenda is fully reflected for the parts concerning regulatory cooperation and standardization policies. In view of the informal nature of the session, the 2020 session could not discuss the revision of the Terms of Reference which were not available in E, F and R and was not considered “business-critical decisions”. Consequently, the session assigned the review of the Terms to the Bureau that will complete the revision for the 2021 session.</p> <p>In August 2021, the topic was added to the Agenda of the 31st Session of WP.6 (agenda item 8d) scheduled on 24-26 November 2021, tasking the newly elected Bureau to draft a proposition for a Revised ToR at the 2022 Plenary. The 31st session also proposed an in-depth discussion on the topic of circular economy (closely related to SDG 12) which will allow the Working Party to consider how to integrate this theme into the ToR.</p> <p>At the 31st session of WP.6 (26 November 2021), decision 15 was adopted, which stated that “the WP.6 Bureau shall follow up on this recommendation and present a revised ToR to the next annual session as appropriate.”</p> <p>At the 32nd session of WP.6 (9 November 2022), decision 13 on the revised terms of reference for WP.6 in document ECE/CTCS/WP.6/2022/11 was adopted.</p>
6	<p>In order to present the findings of the two most recent Working Party 6 initiatives, consider developing a publication on Gender Responsive Standards and the Sustainable Development Goals, focusing on SDG 5 as a standalone and cross cutting goal to showcase how standards contribute to achievement of gender equality, gender mainstreaming, and achievement of the SDGs in the UNECE region.</p>	<p>UNECE accepts the recommendation</p> <p>The secretariat is conscious of the need to present the findings of its initiatives to a broader audience. A publication on Gender Responsive Standards was issued in November 2019 and is accessible here. A publication on Standards for the Sustainable Development Goals (ECE/TRADE/444) was issued as early as in October 2018. Four follow-up publications focussing on how standards support the achievement of each of the SDGs that were covered by the XB project on “Standards for the SDGs” (namely SDG 6, 7, 11 and 13) will be issued in 2020.</p>	<p>Implemented as of December 2022</p> <p>In November 2019, the publication “Gender-Responsive Standards” (ECE/TRADE/445) was published. This was in progress at the time of the initial recommendations and directly corresponds to the recommendation 6 “consider developing a publication on Gender-Responsive Standards and Standards Development”. This document is still considered relevant.</p> <p>In addition, a survey was conducted on gender action plans and training related to gender inclusive standards development; the results of this were analysed and subsequently presented to the 2022 Annual Session (see ECE/CTCS/WP.6/2022/8). A training manual on gender-responsive standards and standards development was completed in Spring 2022x translated into Russian (under the project E330) and presented to the Annual Session (see ECE/CTCS/WP.6/2022/INF.2). A similar training manual was developed on standards for SDGs (see ECE/CTCS/WP.6/2022/INF.3). A gender inclusive methodology for creating gender action plans was finalized. This was presented to the</p>

No.	Report Recommendation	Management Response	Progress Report as of December 2022
		The secretariat will finalize the follow up publications on “Standards for the SDGs” in 2020, and subject to the availability of XB funds, publish and print it (or its summary) as a visually attractive and user-friendly document.	32nd session of WP.6 (9 November 2022), recorded in decisions 11 took note of the Guidelines on Developing Gender-Responsive Standards in document ECE/CTCS/WP.6/2022/9. The publication is finalized under symbol number ECE/TRADE/472.

### Subprogramme: Transport

#### Evaluation Title and Date: Road Safety project Phase I to IV (Dec-19)

No.	Report Recommendation	Management Response	Progress Report as of December 2022
2	Secretariat of the Special Envoy for Road Safety to define the monitoring tools, set an internal monitoring and evaluation scheme at the project level, and reporting scheme according to the logical framework	<p>UNECE accepts the recommendation.</p> <p>Secretariat of the Special Envoy for Road Safety will define the monitoring tools, set an internal monitoring and evaluation scheme at the project level (potentially aligned with the organizational performance system, if feasible) considering as a primary reference the project revised logical framework, take into consideration development of measurement tools e.g. pre-post evaluation form to measure the increase of knowledge in the workshops. Secretariat will ensure that project reporting corresponds with the project logical framework and provides information about the project progress at the objective and expected accomplishment level, rather than activity-based data of the Special Envoy mandate functions</p>	<p>Implemented as of 31 December 2022</p> <p>Developing the monitoring tools is one of the activities in Phase VI, which has been extended through 2022. The monitoring tools are process level given that activities of the Special Envoy have moved away from capacity building to increasing visibility, meeting with government officials, and advocating for increased accession to the legal instruments. The Secretariat is monitoring number of meetings, countries, high level officials engaged along with new accession to legal instruments. For new projects in the upcoming phases, the secretariat will continue to build monitoring tools at the process, outcome or impact level depending on scope of activities. For example, for the awareness raising initiatives, the Secretariat will collect data on reach through media metrics, coverage generated in terms of placements, hashtag usage and select pilot cities to measure the extent to which the initiatives influence “intent” to change behaviors.</p>
4	UNECE to consult with the donor the possibility of disbursing fund on annual basis.	<p>UNECE accepts the recommendation.</p> <p>UNECE will consult with the donor the possibility of disbursing fund on an annual basis to allow employment of the fixed term Secretariat staff.</p>	<p>Implemented as of 31 December 2022</p> <p>The donor has agreed with the possibility of disbursing funds on an annual basis to allow employment of the fixed term Secretariat staff. UNECE has launched the process of fixed term positions.</p>

### Subprogramme: Trade

#### Evaluation Title and Date: Strengthening capacities of SPECA countries for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the achievement of the SDGs (Aug-20)

No.	Report Recommendation	Management Response	Progress Report as of December 2022
3	<p>Strengthening the work of the Thematic Working Groups:</p> <p>a. When next reviewing the ToRs of Working Groups, make them more targeted and focused on developing and implementing concrete outputs such as strategies with concrete action plans for their implementation.</p> <p>b. Encourage the WG on Gender and SDGs and the WG on Statistics to render more substantive and systematic support to the other TWGs.</p> <p>c. Reinforce the capacity of experts to be able to mainstream concerns of women's rights and the rights-based approach in the work of the TWGs and Economic Forums, based on input from the WG on Gender and SDGs.</p>	<p>UNECE partially accepts the recommendation.</p> <p>a. The ECE SPECA Coordinator will send this recommendation to the ECE focal points for the WG on Sustainable Transport and the WG on Water, Energy and Environment and relevant counterparts in ESCAP with a request to continue support for the SPECA countries in developing strategies/ roadmaps in these areas. The ECE SPECA Coordinator will invite the ECE focal point for the WG on Gender and SDGs to suggest to the country representatives to develop a regional strategy in their respective areas.</p> <p>b. The SPECA Coordinator will invite the ECE and ESCAP focal points for the SPECA WG on Gender and SDGs to provide direct support to each WG on how they can achieve relevant SDGs.</p> <p>c. The ECE SPECA Coordinator will work with ECE's TWG focal points to invite host countries organizing TWG activities, annual Forums, and Governing Council sessions, to pay special attention to mainstreaming women's rights and the rights-based approach defined by the UN.</p>	<p>Implemented as of 31 December 2022</p> <p>a. SPECA focal points in ECE and ESCAP were informed about this recommendation and advised to support the work on strategies and roadmaps in their respective areas. The WG on Sustainable Transport is working on such a strategy, while the WG on Water, Energy and Environment started such work. The 16th session of the SPECA Governing Council took a decision to establish a WG on Investment, which will be operated by Uzbekistan with less support from ESCAP and ECE than the other WGs. ECE informed ESCAP about this recommendation. The ECE SPECA Coordinator invited the ECE focal point on gender, appointed in January 2023, to take the respective action.</p> <p>b. In 2022, the ECE SPECA coordinator had invited ESCAP focal points for the SPECA WG on Gender and SDGs to take the action. In 2022, there was a vibrant, session on women's economic autonomy in the context of the climate crisis, attended at senior level (DES level) from both, ECE and ESCAP, effectively providing guidance to each WG on how they can achieve relevant SDGs. The newly appointed ECE Gender focal point was invited to continue taking this action upon her appointment (January 2023).</p> <p>c. A session on Gender with this objective took place at the 2021 SPECA Economic Forum.</p>
5	<p>Reinforcing the sustainability of support to the SPECA process:</p> <p>a. Find a mechanism in order to sustain the operational cost of supporting the SPECA process, such as the organization of annual meetings in a more systematic and less ad hoc way. This could be done for example by either ensuring that any eventual Trust Fund has a budget for operational support, or through encouraging more systematic contribution from SPECA countries, or by pooling of resources between the two Regional Commissions and devoting it to the sole purpose of organizing the annual meetings of SPECA institutions.</p> <p>b. Intensify efforts to ensure sustained funding to develop further projects/financing for the implementation of the Ashgabat Initiative; the SPECA Trade Facilitation Strategy; the SPECA Innovation Strategy, the regional study on procedural and regulatory barriers to trade, an updated SDG scoping study, etc</p>	<p>UNECE partially accepts the recommendation.</p> <p>a. Given that the establishment of a SPECA Fund fully depends on the will of the SPECA participating countries, ECE can only state that when and if established, it should include (a) budget for operational support for the SPECA process: the annual Forum, Governing Council and TWG meetings; and (b) funding for projects developed and implemented under the WGs. The ECE Coordinator and WG focal points will discuss with their ESCAP focal points how to pool resources in support of the organization of the annual SPECA events.</p> <p>b. The ECE SPECA Coordinator and WG focal points will enquire into the possibilities to raise funds for the implementation of concrete activities recommended in the Ashgabat Initiative; the SPECA Trade Facilitation Strategy; the SPECA Innovation Strategy, the regional study on procedural and regulatory barriers to trade, and redoing the SDG scoping exercise.</p>	<p>Implemented as of 31 December 2022</p> <p>a. The new SPECA Coordinator has initiated the discussions about a future SPECA Secretariat and SPECA Fund that would include a budget for the operational support for the SPECA process. The 16th session of the SPECA Governing Council on 16 November 2021 took concrete decisions on these two issues. Decision 4 (SPECA/GC/Dec/2021/4) In light of Decision 3 (SPECA/GC/Dec/2020/3) of its fifteenth session in 2020, the Governing Council expresses gratitude to the Government of the Republic of Uzbekistan and the UNECE secretariat for conducting consultations among the SPECA participating countries in order to reach a final decision on the SPECA Secretariat and the SPECA Fund holistically. Building upon the consensus of establishing a Secretariat of SPECA on a rotational basis to ensure organizational support to the activities of the Programme, considering the official positions of the countries on the financing and staffing mechanisms, raised at the 16th session of the Governing Council, it decided to carry out additional consultations and establish an expert group to draft the Terms of Reference of the Secretariat and the modalities of its operation, using the concept note proposed by Kazakhstan as a basis. The Governing</p>



## Subprogramme: Population

### Evaluation Title and Date: Advancing intergovernmental work towards the implementation of the 2017 Lisbon Ministerial Declaration and MIPAA/RIS commitments (Sep-20)

No.	Report Recommendation	Management Response	Progress Report as of December 2022
2	Strengthen the relevance of the MIPAA/RIS review process to become a stronger accountability mechanism for governments, including by engaging in further discussion on the subject at the SWGA and make a concerted decision on the future modality of the periodic review process, based on the needs and realities of member States, with due respect to the guiding rules and regulations of the United Nations.	<p>UNECE partially accepts the recommendation.</p> <p>The modalities for MIPAA review and appraisal are agreed upon by the member States at the Commission for Social Development and approved by ECOSOC resolutions (the latest 2020/8). The Secretariat has initiated the discussion at the SWGA and its Bureau to gauge the needs to adjust the modalities at the regional level and supported preparation of the guidelines for national reporting on MIPAA/RIS implementation. The target is to conclude this discussion by November 2022.</p>	<p>Implemented as at 31 December 2022.</p> <p>First exchange of views took place at the 14th meeting of the Standing Working Group on Ageing on 22-23 November 2021.</p> <p>To be further discussed after the 2022 Ministerial Conference on Ageing. In paragraph 47 of the Rome Ministerial Declaration adopted at the Conference, the ministers stated: “[...] We entrust the Standing Working Group on Ageing with the task of updating RIS and exploring the possibility of also updating MIPAA to adapt ageing-related policy responses to economic, social, and digital transitions and emerging challenges, and developing further instruments to support them.” The Standing Working Group on Ageing meeting will take place in November 2022 and will look into the results and process of the MIPAA/RIS review.</p> <p>At its 15th meeting in November 2022, the SWGA decided to develop an Ageing Policies Database as a new tool to enhance access to policy information across the region. Annual policy updates will allow to monitor progress made in the implementation of MIPAA/RIS on a continuous basis.</p> <p>The SWGA further decided to establish a Task Force for the task of updating MIPAA/RIS by 2027.</p>
4	Ensure greater coherence on ageing issues at national and regional levels by strengthening the linkages between 2030 Agenda and the SDG ‘s reporting frameworks with MIPAA/RIS commitments, including through promotion of the use of age-specific indicators in the SDGs monitoring and reporting frameworks, and provision of practical tools and advice on doing so. In pursuing greater coherence with the 2030 Agenda, the Population Unit should seek stronger collaboration with the UN Resident Coordinator’s offices at national level as well as with the Geneva-based Interagency Working Group on Ageing.	<p>UNECE accepts the recommendation.</p> <p>Population Unit will seek to promote the use of age-specific indicators in the SDGs monitoring and reporting frameworks by advancing their inclusion in Voluntary National Reviews (NVRs) and national reports on ICPD (International Conference on Population and Development) implementation among others. The Unit will seek stronger collaboration with the UN Resident Coordinator’s offices at national level and will ensure coordination of the Geneva-based Interagency Group on Ageing.</p>	<p>Implemented as at 31 December 2022.</p> <p>The Synthesis Report on the implementation of MIPAA/RIS in the region over 2017-2022 provides a brief overview on how population ageing is reflected in the Voluntary National Reviews.</p> <p>The Guidelines for national reports on MIPAA/RIS implementation asked member States to report on how population ageing matters are reflected in their VNRs. National reports were received from 40 member States and the Population Unit synthesized the information and presented it at the launch of the Synthesis report at the 2022 Ministerial Conference in Rome.</p> <p>The cooperation on population ageing issues with the UN Resident Coordinators in UNECE programme countries is ensured through regular online meetings organized by UNECE and UNFPA local offices. In 2022, such meetings were held with RCs in Serbia, Belarus, and Georgia. In the Republic of Moldova, UNECE Population Unit organised a roundtable meeting with the UN country team during the field mission in May 2022 (10-year evaluation of the Road Map on mainstreaming ageing implementation). An additional meeting with UNCT Moldova was held in October 2022 to share the findings of the 10-year evaluation and explore options for stronger integration of ageing in activities by the UN at country level.</p>
5	Further improve the relevance and effectiveness of some of its major deliverables, such as the Active Ageing Index (AAI) and the Policy Briefs to mitigate the identified shortcomings and	<p>UNECE accepts the recommendation.</p> <p>Population Unit will promote the use of the AAI indicators for the Statistical annex to the 2022 Synthesis report on MIPAA/RIS implementation and support AAI calculation in non-EU countries, provided additional human</p>	<p>Implemented as at 31 December 2022</p> <p>Statistical annex to the 2022 Synthesis report includes a number of the AAI indicators. The national AAI were calculated in Azerbaijan and Kazakhstan in 2021 and referred in the respective national reports on MIPAA/RIS implementation.</p>

No.	Report Recommendation	Management Response	Progress Report as of December 2022
	ensure that they support policy-making processes at national level.	and financial resources could be made available. The identified individual concerns regarding the Policy Brief format will be discussed with the SWGA and its Bureau during preparation of the next work programme (2023-2027) in November 2022.	<p>The Republic of Moldova issued a report on AAI in early 2022.</p> <p>The identified individual concerns regarding the Policy Brief format were discussed with the SWGA and its Bureau during preparation of the next work programme (2023-2027) in November 2022.</p>

### Subprogramme: Sustainable Energy

#### Evaluation Title and Date: UNECE Collaboration with UN and other Partners in Delivering on Energy for Sustainable Development (Nov-20)

No.	Report Recommendation	Management Response	Progress Report as of December 2022
1	To continue its focus on diversifying its sources of funding. Particular attention should be given to attracting extrabudgetary sources for mid-to-long-term (3-5 years) technical assistance (which will be larger in scope and monetary terms) and advisory interventions that would focus on the continuity of multilevel assistance (development of policy and legal framework, institutional strengthening, and individual capacity-building of targeted beneficiaries). Synergies, cooperation, and in-kind contributions from all participating parties will strengthen the buy-in and sense of ownership at national and international levels.	<p>UNECE accepts the recommendation.</p> <p>SED will continue its focus on diversifying its sources of funding. It will attempt to attract extrabudgetary sources for near-, mid-, and long-term technical assistance. This will be reflected in the forthcoming resource mobilization plan to be submitted to ECE EXCOM in 2021.</p>	<p>Implemented as of 30 June 2022</p> <p>Significant progress continues to be made on this recommendation. The funding received from the World Nuclear Agency (WNA) for the Carbon Neutrality project and from the European Commission for Sustainable Resource Management, and that secured from Germany (IKI) for high-performance buildings was already reported.</p> <p>The funding for centres of excellence (Ireland, Russian Federation, China) has continued to progress. Donors are also being sought for work on pathways to sustainable energy, hydrogen, renewable energy, methane management, just transition, resilient energy systems and carbon pricing including in cooperation with the Chair and other members of the Bureau of the Committee on Sustainable Energy.</p> <p>The Bureau convened a special session to discuss funding and outreach related to the strategic review of the Sustainable energy subprogramme that is now completed: specific projects on hydrogen and natural gas in transport have been funded, and the other priority areas of the strategic review are under consideration. The Bureau is contemplating an explicit outreach programme to enhance resourcing.</p> <p>To deliver on the mid-to-long-term aspect of this recommendation, discussions have now started with the European Commission to continue funding work on Sustainable Resource Management, including UNFC and UNRMS, but at a larger scale when the current project finishes in 2024.</p>
3	To consider planning impact evaluations (ex-ante and ex-post) of specific interventions. An ICE, established recently, might be a case in point here. While any impact evaluation is a time- and resource-consuming exercise, it does serve multiple purposes. First and foremost, it would help to measure the potential impact of the planned intervention and report on the tangible and intangible impact/result of this intervention to a broad audience and donor community, resulting in the increased outreach and visibility of the UNECE itself	<p>UNECE partially accepts the recommendation.</p> <p>UNECE will consider planning impact evaluations for recently established ICEs at the programme level or through future Technical Cooperation projects of the Sustainable Energy subprogramme to be submitted to EXCOM by December 2022.</p>	<p>Implemented as of 31 December 2022</p> <p>The best example will be to assess the impact of the High-Performance Buildings Initiative (HPBI), including not only its centres of excellence but also the other three pillars of the initiative (academic consortium, industry leadership group, and thought leadership group). Pending advancement of the various projects and initiatives and availability of resources, full consideration will be given to undertaking an impact evaluation.</p> <p>Another good example of future work on implementing this Recommendation is the IKI project “Improving the energy efficiency of the global building supply chain industry and its products to deliver high performance buildings”. From its inception, the project is planned to have an</p>

No.	Report Recommendation	Management Response	Progress Report as of December 2022
	<p>and the concept/notion of the centres of excellence specifically. This might also have a multiplier effect by spurring interest in expanding the network of the centres of excellence under the guidance and leadership of the UNECE with certain financial contributions from external parties.</p>		<p>Accompanying Impact Evaluation (AIE). The Preparation Phase of this project was approved by the UNECE Executive Committee on 30 November 2022. The Preparation Phase is expected to begin in February 2023.</p> <p>In addition, SED has undertaken a similar approach in the extrabudgetary project E359 ‘Enhancing national capacities to develop and implement energy efficiency standards for buildings in the UNECE region’, with project activities including ‘A3.3. Conducting an impact discovery on how member States could better use and implement best practices and guidelines developed by ECE activities in their national or/and sub-national measures to address the issues of energy efficiency in buildings’ – see the impact study on how member States could better use and implement best practices and guidelines developed by UNECE activities in their national and/or sub-national measures to address the issues of energy efficiency in buildings at the following link: <a href="https://unece.org/sustainable-energy/regional-advisory-services/impact-study">https://unece.org/sustainable-energy/regional-advisory-services/impact-study</a>.</p> <p>Work on the centres of excellence has been slowed by the COVID pandemic. As the centres progress and activities expand, pending available resources an impact evaluation would be worthwhile. The timing of the review might need to be reviewed pending the progress of the COVID pandemic and advancement of the various projects and initiatives.</p>
5	<p>To continue raising awareness through presentations and analytical papers (linkage to relevant SDGs could also be useful in this regard), of the member States on the human rights dimension and the impact of the sustainable energy agenda on marginalized and vulnerable groups (including women, youth and elderly).</p>	<p>UNECE partially accepts the recommendation.</p> <p>The right to access affordable, reliable and clean energy (SDG 7) and the impact of the sustainable energy agenda on marginalized and vulnerable groups (including women, youth and elderly), as reflected in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, will be reflected in the future programmes of work of the Sustainable Energy Subprogramme, subject to the approval of the Committee on Sustainable Energy.</p>	<p>Implemented as of 30 June 2022</p> <p>As noted, the right to access affordable, reliable and clean energy (SDG 7) and the impact of the sustainable energy agenda on marginalized and vulnerable groups (including women, youth and elderly), as reflected in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, will be reflected in the future programmes of work of the Sustainable energy subprogramme, subject to the approval of the Committee on Sustainable Energy.</p> <p>The strategic review of the Sustainable energy subprogramme has been finalised and it will have enduring impact on the programme of work of the Committee on Sustainable Energy and the work plans of its subsidiary bodies.</p> <p>Under the UNDA project “Global Initiative towards post-COVID-19 resurgence of the MSMEs sector” which is led by UNCTAD and UNESCWA, the Division contributed in the areas of energy efficiency and sustainable resource management by developing guidelines and best practices which support disadvantaged sections of society, including people with disabilities. The core focus was on planet - people - prosperity, which includes building an inclusive society that also considers the challenges of disabled people. This was highlighted in the training workshops organized in January, June and July 2022.</p> <p>A session on the gender aspects of the process of transformation of the coal mining regions was organized during the 17th meeting of the Group of Experts on Coal Mine Methane and Just Transition (18-19 March 2022, Geneva). The presentations, as well as the ensuing debate highlighted the benefits of inclusiveness and diversity of the energy sector and underlined the necessity of providing protective measures not only for the personnel laid off from mines and plants that are incompatible with the green economy, but also for the vulnerable groups whose wellbeing is indirectly but closely linked with the legacy industries.</p>

No.	Report Recommendation	Management Response	Progress Report as of December 2022
6	To introduce S.M.A.R.T. (Specific, Measurable, Attainable, Relevant, Time-bound) indicators to measure the progress made with regard to the impact of the UNECE's activities on marginalized and vulnerable groups (including women, youth and elderly).	UNECE partially accepts the recommendation.  Future projects of the Sustainable Energy Division will capture the impact of the sustainable energy agenda on marginalized and vulnerable groups (including women, youth and elderly), as reflected in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, subject to donor interest and EXCOM approval.	A publication on "Energy Transition and the Post-COVID-19 Socio-economic Recovery: Role of Women and Impact on Them" is currently being finalized for publication later in 2022.  Implemented as of 30 June 2022  The strategic review of the Sustainable energy subprogramme has been finalised and it will have enduring impact on the programme of work of the Committee on Sustainable Energy and the work plans of its subsidiary bodies.  UNECE's activities in sustainable energy based on the strategic review will be assessed regarding their impact on marginalized and vulnerable groups (including women, youth and elderly).  A plan has been put in place in the Division to advise project managers that all future projects need to capture the impact of the sustainable energy agenda on marginalized and vulnerable groups (including women, youth and elderly), as reflected in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, subject to donor interest and EXCOM approval.

## Office of the Executive Secretary

### Evaluation Title and Date: Independent Evaluation of the United Nations Road Safety Trust Fund (UNRSF) Secretariat (Apr-21)

No.	Report Recommendation	Management Response	Progress Report as of December 2022
3	<p>UNRSF should setup mechanisms for monitoring outcomes and impacts from the projects.</p> <p>3.1 Systematic RBM mechanisms: UNRSF Secretariat needs to establish systematic mechanisms and tools for operationalizing a results-based monitoring and reporting systems. These mechanisms should also collect data specific to gender and vulnerable populations dimensions.</p> <p>3.2 UNRSF secretariat should play a bigger role in coordination on substantive functions across various UN agencies, while simultaneously involving partner agencies in data collection and reporting.</p> <p>3.3 When a PUNOS network is operational, UNRSF should consider using the network for promoting knowledge management/ organizational learning role of the secretariat, including for documenting best practices and lessons learned in road safety. This should also include tools for wider dissemination of these learning tools and results achieved.</p>	<p>UNECE accepts this recommendation.</p> <p>a. In consultation with MPTFO and internationally accepted standards on results measurement, the UNRSF Secretariat will develop and roll-out a system and related tools for operationalizing results-based monitoring and reporting, taking into account gender and vulnerable populations.</p> <p>b. A system will be designed and implemented to ensure PUNOs benefit from good practices and lessons learnt in road safety, including based on increased engagement with WHO, UN Regional Economic Commissions and regional road safety data observatories.</p>	<p>Implemented as of December 2022.</p> <p>Although this recommendation will always be "on-going" the secretariat has complied with the recommendation, as described below:</p> <p>a. The secretariat has implemented a new logical framework which is to be implemented in the RBM framework of UNRSF projects. Following consultations with RBM experts and UNRSF project teams, the new logframe was adopted on 30 August 2022 by the UNRSF Steering Committee. A first step to the "on-going" work of implementing systematic RBM mechanisms, the UNRSF held information sessions with project teams to provide support regarding project baselines and RBM. Information on gender and vulnerable groups is collected through the project portal system and related project documents and reports.</p> <p>b. The secretariat has set up six Platforms of Engagement that mirror SDGs with the goal of coordinating substantive functions across the various participating UN organizations, facilitating knowledge exchange, sharing best practices and lessons learned. Members of these platforms represent UN organizations but also regional road safety observatories, data experts and representatives from the private sector, donors, civil society and others. Two Platform meetings took place in 2021 – Health (November) and Data and Partnerships (December). In 2022, discussions and consultations were conducted with the members of the platforms. Based on the feedback received, the focus of the platforms was adapted to demonstrate successful projects interventions and generate discussions on good practices and lessons learnt.</p>

No.	Report Recommendation	Management Response	Progress Report as of December 2022
			The Fund has also produced a knowledge repository entitled “countries capture” that consists in a data base compiling all country needs and related potential solutions into projects beneficiaries needs, as well as to support fundraising efforts.

### Subprogramme: Sustainable Energy

#### Evaluation Title and Date: Integrated Energy and Water Resources Management in Support of Sustainable Development in South-Eastern Europe and Central Asia (May-22)

No.	Report Recommendation	Management Response	Progress Report as of December 2022
1	Preserve and maintain the networks created by the Project: While this may seem obvious, momentum from this project can only be carried forward if beneficiary countries are engaged at a close level and feel that they benefit from membership in this network. Internally, it will help establish UNECE as a serious counterparty on this issue for its member states. External benefits of this will be many, but not least, it will help develop further policy ownership from member nations and could work to enhance better institutional cooperation from line ministries.	UNECE accepts the recommendation. UNECE Sustainable Energy Division (SED) will work on maintaining and developing the networks created by the Project in the six beneficiary countries and beyond. Government officials and experts involved in the project implementation will be invited to the events and activities organized by UNECE on the topics related to integrated energy and water resources management, starting with the following meetings in 2022: (1) Annual Sessions of the Committee on Sustainable Energy (September); (2) Annual Sessions of the Expert Group on Resource Management (October); (3) UNECE Workshops related to sustainable resource management (November); and (4) Annual Meetings of the International Forum on Energy for Sustainable Development (November).	Implemented as of 31 December 2022  Experts from the beneficiary countries actively participated in (1) Annual Sessions of the Committee on Sustainable Energy (21-23 September); (2) Towards COP27: UNECE Regional Forum on Climate Initiatives to Finance Climate Action and the SDGs, 17 October; (3) 13th Annual Session of the Expert Group on Resource Management (25 October); (4) COP27 Side Event A global sustainability framework for Critical Raw Materials required for low-carbon transitions (8 November); and (5) events related to the 12th International Forum on Energy for Sustainable Development (September - November).
5	Expand and standardize “post-Project” lessons learned and knowledge management: Establish a sustainable platform/workspace for ongoing capture of the Project learning (lessons learned, good practices) and document these for adaptive management and future projects. Ensure adequate documentation of project activities and establish an archival system (SharePoint site) for storing and accessing data and information.	UNECE accepts the recommendation. UNECE will save the project outputs on the website for broader dissemination. The project outputs, lessons learned, and good practices will be captured in the SharePoint folder and documented for adaptive management and future projects.	Implemented as of 31 December 2022  Project outputs are available on the website for broader dissemination ( <a href="https://unece.org/integrated-energy-and-water-resource-management-project-0#accordion_2">https://unece.org/integrated-energy-and-water-resource-management-project-0#accordion_2</a> ). All documents such as project outputs, lessons learned, and good practices, are captured in the SharePoint folder and documented for adaptive management and future projects.