

**ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE**

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

130th meeting

Geneva, 9 October 2023

Item 5 of the provisional agenda

Informal Document no. 2023/38

**Extrabudgetary project**

**Strengthen the capacity of SPECA to support countries to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) through sub-regional cooperation**

**UNITED NATIONS ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE  
TECHNICAL COOPERATION PROJECT FORM**

**Project title and project number:** Strengthen the capacity of SPECA to support countries to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) through sub-regional cooperation

**Expected timing/ duration:** October 2023 – December 2027

**Objective and summary of the project:**

The objective of the project is to support SPECA participating States in their sub-regional cooperation to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) The United Nations launched the SPECA programme in 1998 to strengthen subregional cooperation in Central Asia and its integration into the world economy. UNECE and ESCAP jointly support the Programme. The SPECA participating States<sup>1</sup> attribute priority to SPECA as a unique instrument bringing them together to find common solutions to common problems. The Programme operates through six thematic working groups on: water, energy, and environment; transport; trade; innovation and technology; gender and SDGs; and statistics. SPECA is increasingly a country-led initiative. In 2015, the SPECA Governing Council decided that the Programme would become a platform for sub-regional cooperation for the implementation of SDGs. As per decisions of the Governing Council in 2015 and 2016, this work should be done through UNECE, ESCAP, UN country teams, and the SPECA thematic working groups (WG). For example, the 2023 SPECA Economic Forum will focus on transforming the SPECA region into a connectivity hub with global outreach, and the Governing Council session will review and strengthen the SPECA programme as a platform for sub-regional cooperation to achieve the SDGs. The project's objective will be achieved by implementing the following activities:

A1.1. Organization of the annual SPECA events (annual Economic Forums, Governing Council sessions);

A1.2. Organization of annual SPECA thematic working groups, with a specific focus on regional cooperation for the achievement of the SDGs;

A2.1. Development of regional and national studies, guidelines in the core areas of work of SPECA.

**Link to the SDG targets:** 3.6, 5, 6.5, 7.1-3, 8.2-3, 8.5, 8.8, 8.10, 9.1, 9.3-5, 9b and 9c, 10.2-4, 11.2, 12.c, 13.1, 13.3, 17.1, 17.2, 17.10, 17.11

**Expected results of the project:**

EA1. Improved cooperation among the SPECA participating States to achieve SDGs, strengthen regional cooperation and integration with the economies of Europe and Asia as part of agreed programme of action;

EA2. Improved understanding in the SPECA participating States of major trends of sustainable development within the core areas of work of SPECA to support the achievement of SDGs in the SPECA sub-region.

**Target group and beneficiaries of the project:** This project targets government institutions and policymakers dealing with policy issues on the implementation of the Sustainable Development Agenda 2030. The beneficiary countries are Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan.

**Justification of project and its relationship to the programme of work:**

The project is directly linked to the UNECE programme budget for 2023 “Economic development in Europe”, paragraph 20.10 “The United Nations Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia, implemented jointly by ECE and the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, will serve as the major framework for cooperation with other relevant stakeholders in Central Asia”.

**Estimated UN regular budget resources (work months of RB staff/level of Staff):**

P4/0.5 months; G7/0.5 months annually

**Estimated extra budgetary resources:**

Multi-Donor	Amount (US\$)
Azerbaijan	65,000
Kazakhstan	10,000

**Project Manager:**

Mario Apostolov

06.09.2023

**Section/Division:**

Economic Cooperation and Trade

**Cleared by Programme Management Unit:**

Nicolas Dath-Baron

06.09.2023

**Approved by EXCOM<sup>2</sup>**

09.10.2023

<sup>1</sup> Engagement will be in line with S/RES/2679 (2023).

<sup>2</sup> See paragraph 31 (a) of Commission decision A(65),

**Annex**  
**Results-based budget for the extra-budgetary project**

Expected Accomplishments	Planned activities	Estimated costs (US\$)
EA1. Improved cooperation among the SPECA participating States to achieve SDGs, strengthen regional cooperation and integration with the economies of Europe and Asia as part of agreed programme of action	A1.1. Organization of the annual SPECA events (annual Economic Forums, Governing Council sessions) Travel of participants and experts x 15 x 2,500\$ Travel of staff x 3 x 2,500\$	45,000  37,500 7,500
	A1.2. Organization of annual SPECA thematic working groups, with a specific focus on regional cooperation for the achievement of the SDGs Travel of participants and experts x 3 x 2,500\$	7,500  7,500
EA2. Improved understanding in the SPECA participating States of major trends of sustainable development within the core areas of work of SPECA to support the achievement of SDGs in the SPECA sub-region	A2.1. Development of regional and national studies, guidelines in the core areas of work of SPECA Travel of staff x 2 x 2,500\$ International consultant x 10,000\$	15,000  5,000 10,000
Budget summary		67,500
13% of Programme Support Costs		8,775
<b>Total (rounded)</b>		<b>75,000</b>