



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

**Eighteenth session of the SPECA Governing Council**

**Baku, Azerbaijan**

**23 November 2023 (10:00 – 13:00, Baku time, CET+2)**

**ANNOTATED PROVISIONAL AGENDA**

The eighteenth session of the SPECA Governing Council will be chaired/moderated by a Vice Minister of Economy of the Republic of Azerbaijan.

**1. Opening of the session**

Opening of the eighteenth session of the Governing Council of the United Nations Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia (SPECA) by a high-level representative of the Government of the Republic of Azerbaijan, followed by opening statements by high-level representatives of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) and the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), and the Heads of Delegation of the SPECA participating States.

**2. Adoption of the Agenda**

The Governing Council will consider the adoption of the agenda of its eighteenth session.

**3. Outcomes of the 2023 SPECA Economic Forum “Transforming the SPECA Region into a Connectivity Hub with Global Outreach”**

Report by the UNECE and ESCAP secretariats followed by a discussion. The Governing Council will consider the adoption of the conclusions and recommendations of the 2023 SPECA Economic Forum.

**4. Implementation of the 2022-2023 Work Plan for the SPECA Thematic Working Groups: Progress Reports of the SPECA Thematic Working Groups on activities since the last session of the Governing Council (Almaty, Kazakhstan, hybrid, 18 November 2022) and 2024-2025 Work Plan for the SPECA Working Groups.**

Progress reports of the SPECA Thematic Working Groups<sup>1</sup> (will be circulated in advance of the session) followed by a discussion:

- Working Group on Water, Energy and Environment
- Working Group on Sustainable Transport, Transit and Connectivity
- Working Group on Trade
- Working Group on Innovation and Technology for Sustainable Development
- Working Group on Gender and SDGs

The Governing Council will take note of progress made in the activities of the SPECA Thematic Working Groups since its seventeenth session, including implementation of the decisions of previous Governing Council sessions and strategic SPECA documents.

The Governing Council will consider the adoption of the **2024-2025 Work Plan for the SPECA Thematic Working Groups**. The draft Work Plan will be circulated in advance of the session. Representatives of the UNECE and ESCAP secretariats will make a presentation on the Work Plan, followed by a discussion.

#### **5. Establishment of SPECA Trust Fund (for information)**

The Governing Council will hear about the progress made on the establishment of the SPECA Trust Fund.

#### **6. Review of the SPECA Terms of Reference (ToR)**

The SPECA Governing Council will consider revisions to the SPECA ToR. The draft of the revised SPECA ToR will be circulated in advance of the session.

#### **7. UN General Assembly Resolution on SPECA (for information)**

The Governing Council will hear about the progress made on a UN General Assembly Resolution on the occasion of the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of SPECA.

#### **8. SPECA Summit (for information)**

The SPECA participating State chairing SPECA in 2023 will inform about the organization of a SPECA Summit on 24 November 2023.

#### **9. Election of the next Chair country of SPECA**

#### **10. Date and venue of the 2024 SPECA Economic Forum and nineteenth session of the SPECA Governing Council**

#### **11. Other business**

#### **12. Adoption of decisions and closing of the session**

Closing statements by the Heads of Delegation of the SPECA participating States, the high-level representatives of the UNECE and ESCAP secretariats.

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<sup>1</sup> The SPECA Governing Council reiterates at all its sessions the request to the SPECA participating States to nominate SPECA focal points and focal points for each Working Group in writing to the ESCAP and UNECE secretariats.