

# Economic Commission for Europe

## Committee on Environmental Policy

### Twenty-eighth session

Geneva, 1-3 November 2023

Item 12 of the provisional agenda

### Criteria for financial support for participation in meetings and events

Information paper No. 9

27 October 2023

## Countries eligible for financial support to participate in meetings and events

### Note by the secretariat in consultation with the CEP Bureau

1. The Committee on Environmental Policy (CEP) at its nineteenth session (22–25 October 2013) “...took note of the assessment of criteria for providing financial support for participation in meetings and events (ECE/CEP/2013/20), and approved the recommendations contained therein (see paras. 20 and 21)”. Paragraph 21 stipulates in particular that “(a) ... The CEP shall take decision at each regular session on either amending the present criteria, or extending them for another period; (b) The draft of a relevant decision of the CEP shall be based on the input from the secretariat, in consultation with the Bureau and its Chair, to be prepared and circulated beforehand ...”.

2. According to the mandate referred to in a para 1 above, the Committee at its twenty-seventh session (Geneva, 3-5 November 2021) approved the revised criteria for providing financial support for participation in meetings and events, as presented in information paper No. 8, and requested the Bureau, with support from the secretariat, to periodically verify the availability of data for 2021 and, if available for all countries with economies in transition, to prepare revised criteria for financial support for subsequent approval by the Committee.

3. The secretariat continued to monitor data availability. After assessing the situation in mid-October 2023, the secretariat has found that the data series available from different sources exhibit some differences which may affect the integrity of the approach. Namely:

- (a) The Statistical Database of the UNECE (the primary source of data for the CEP decisions) provides the recent 2022 data for some but not all countries<sup>1</sup>. Moreover, data for three countries was even older than 2021. The resulting table of countries that fall within the thresholds of eligibility is attached below as **Annex 1**.
- (b) The United Nations Statistics Division database UNdata (the additional source of data for the CEP decisions) data was even older than that of the UNECE database, so this source was not used.
- (c) For comparison, the World Bank DataBank was also accessed. It had the most recent data of the three sources. **Annex 2** combines the UNECE Statistical Database data that was available for 2022, updated with the 2022 data from World Bank DataBank for countries for which the UNECE data was older.

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<sup>1</sup> Data was sought for 16 countries of Eastern Europe, South-Eastern Europe, Caucasus, and Central Asia.

4. The criteria contain lower and upper thresholds<sup>2</sup>. The thresholds are the same as adopted by the previous session of the CEP:
  - (a) The lower threshold (for full financial support) is set to 4,500 in current US\$ of the gross domestic product (GDP) per capita.
  - (b) The upper threshold (for full financial support) is set to 5,500 in current US\$ of GDP per capita.
5. Other approaches may be applied under projects where donors are earmarking their contributions with particular conditions.
6. In view of various factors that might limit the uniformity of approach for both Annex 1 and Annex 2 tables, the secretariat prepared the present document for the consideration of the CEP Bureau at its meeting of October 31, with the understanding that the Bureau might wish to have comprehensive information before issuing its recommendation to the CEP.

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<sup>2</sup> As defined in the document “Assessment of criteria for providing financial support for participation in meetings and events” (ECE/CEP/2013/20).

## Annex 1

[Based on UNECE Statistical Database data only]

### Countries eligible for financial support to participate in meetings and events

1. For the purposes of this paper, “partial financial support” includes Daily Subsistence Allowance (DSA) only; and “full financial support” includes DSA and travel expenses.
2. The lower threshold for financial support equals US\$ 4,500. Representatives of the member States with annual GDP per capita below the lower threshold are entitled to full<sup>a</sup> financial support to participate in meetings and events to which the CEP decision applies. Other approaches may be applied under projects with donor contributions on certain conditions.
3. The upper threshold for financial support equals US\$ 5,500. Representatives of the member States with annual GDP per capita between the lower and upper thresholds are entitled to partial<sup>b</sup> financial support to participate in meetings and events to which the CEP decision applies.

#### List of countries eligible for financial support

<b>Countries eligible for financial support, total: 6</b>	
<b>Eligible for travel expenses and DSA support, subtotal: 4</b>	
<i>Country</i>	<i>GDP per capita<sup>cd</sup>, US\$</i>
Tajikistan	1067
Kyrgyzstan	1692
Uzbekistan	2361
Moldova, Republic of	3311 <sup>e</sup>
<b>Eligible for DSA support only, subtotal: 1</b>	
<i>Country</i>	<i>GDP per capita, US\$</i>
Armenia	4684 <sup>f</sup>
Ukraine	4828 <sup>g</sup>

<sup>a</sup> Travel expenses and DSA, subject to availability of extrabudgetary resources for this purpose.

<sup>b</sup> DSA only, subject to availability of extrabudgetary resources for this purpose.

<sup>c</sup> Source: Statistical Database of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (<https://w3.unece.org/PXWeb/en/Pivot/>). Country GDP per capita in nominal US\$ has been calculated by dividing the figure for “GDP per capita at current prices, NCUs” onto the figure for “Exchange rate (XR), NCU per US\$” of the same year. Database was accessed on 16 October 2023.

<sup>d</sup> Data for 2022, unless indicated otherwise.

<sup>e</sup> Data for 2019.

<sup>f</sup> Data for 2021.

<sup>g</sup> Data for 2021.

## Annex 2

[Based on UNECE Statistical Database data for 2022 and World Bank data for 2022]

### Countries eligible for financial support to participate in meetings and events

1. For the purposes of this paper, “partial financial support” includes Daily Subsistence Allowance (DSA) only; and “full financial support” includes DSA and travel expenses.
2. The lower threshold for financial support equals US\$ 4,500. Representatives of the member States with annual GDP per capita below the lower threshold are entitled to full<sup>h</sup> financial support to participate in meetings and events to which the CEP decision applies. Other approaches may be applied under projects with donor contributions on certain conditions.
3. The upper threshold for financial support equals US\$ 5,500. Representatives of the member States with annual GDP per capita between the lower and upper thresholds are entitled to partial<sup>i</sup> financial support to participate in meetings and events to which the CEP decision applies.

#### List of countries eligible for financial support<sup>j</sup>

Countries eligible for financial support, total: 4	
Eligible for travel expenses and DSA support, subtotal: 3	
<i>Country</i>	<i>GDP per capita<sup>k</sup>, US</i>
Tajikistan	1067
Kyrgyzstan	1692
Uzbekistan	2361
Eligible for DSA support only, subtotal: 1	
<i>Country</i>	<i>GDP per capita, US</i>
Ukraine	4534 <sup>l</sup>

<sup>h</sup> Travel expenses and DSA, subject to availability of extrabudgetary resources for this purpose.

<sup>i</sup> DSA only, subject to availability of extrabudgetary resources for this purpose.

<sup>j</sup> All data has been from year 2022 - for countries that appear in the table as well as for those that have exceeded the threshold and therefore do not appear in the table.

<sup>k</sup> Data is from UNECE unless indicated otherwise. Source: Statistical Database of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (<https://w3.unece.org/PXWeb/en/Pivot/>). Country GDP per capita in nominal US\$ has been calculated by dividing the figure for “GDP per capita at current prices, NCUs” onto the figure for “Exchange rate (XR), NCU per US\$” for the same year. Database was accessed on 16 October 2023.

<sup>l</sup> Data from the World Bank. Source: The World Bank DataBank (<https://databank.worldbank.org/>), World Development Indicators. Database was accessed on 16 October 2021.