



MANAGEMENT RESPONSE

Evaluation Title:	The role of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe to support the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, in the context of UN development system reform		
Period of Review:	2017 - 2023		
Date of Evaluation Report:	09/08/2023		
Approved by	Executive Secretary Tatiana Molcean	Date	Signature
		20/11/2023	
Prepared by:	Chief, PMU Nicolas Dath-Baron	20/11/2023	

Recommendation 1:

The UNECE Secretariat should undertake a more strategic prioritization process tailored to each programme country. This should identify the top 3 to 4 specific priorities for technical cooperation, where UNECE has an exclusive knowledge niche and where regulatory instruments and expertise can be marshalled for relatively quick and consistent action in partnership with the UNRC, UNCT and government.

Management Response: UNECE accepts the recommendation.

Follow up actions and responsibilities:

UNECE, with inputs from Division Directors and the members of the Working Group on Technical Cooperation, and in consultation with UN Resident Coordinators and Country Teams in the UN programme countries and territory in the UNECE region, will conduct annual prioritization exercises to identify strategic priorities for technical cooperation, as part of UNECE's contribution to UNSDCF's and in response to specific demand from the programme countries. The priorities and vision will be reflected in the UNECE country briefs that will be updated on a regular basis, as necessary.

Responsibility: Deputy Executive Secretary

Timeline: 31 December 2024

Recommendation 2:

The UNECE Secretariat should consider how to strengthen the country focal point role of RAs to achieve the representation, coordination, partnership and resource mobilization results it wants from engagement with country coordination mechanisms and frameworks.

Management Response: UNECE partially accepts the recommendation.

Follow up actions and responsibilities:

Mindful of the continuing adjustments of the UNDS repositioning, but also of the financial constraints, UNECE will continue to adopt an agile approach to cover country-level engagement without decreasing support to its core normative mandate. Unless a significant additional volume of voluntary contribution

is raised, the main funding source to cover country-level will remain the Regular Programme of Technical Cooperation (RPTC, Sect.23) in future years. Relevant amendments will be made to the internal directive on the Management of RPTC, to clarify the roles of the Regional Advisers and the Programme Management Unit with respect to coverage of UNCTs and country-level processes.

Responsibility: Executive Secretary, supported by the Director Programme Management & Support Services Division

Timeline: 30 June 2024

Recommendation 3:

The UNECE Secretariat should enhance its reporting on cooperation results to emphasize collaboration and synergies with the UN system; requirements for this should be included in reporting guidance, where feasible.

Management Response: UNECE accepts the recommendation.

Follow up actions and responsibilities:

In its future reports, UNECE will better emphasize the benefits of collaboration and synergies with UN system organizations. This will be done starting with the 2025 UNECE proposed programme plan and budget documents and the 2023 annual report on technical cooperation activities.

Responsibility: Chief, PMU

Timeline: 30 June 2024

Recommendation 4:

Within available resources, the UNECE Secretariat should realign available human resources to support enhanced engagement with regional and country coordination mechanisms and frameworks.

Management Response: UNECE partially accepts the recommendation.

Follow up actions and responsibilities:

Coverage of the regional level will remain with the Office of the Executive Secretary and the Sustainable Development Unit, in charge of the Regional Collaborative Platform (RCP) and the Regional Forum on Sustainable Development (RFSD). As indicated in the response to recommendation 2, the main funding source for country-level engagement is RPTC, which is currently evaluated by the Office of Internal Oversight Services (OIOS). Pending any decision from the General Assembly on RPTC in 2024 further to the OIOS review, UNECE will only review, where necessary, the internal directive on the Management of RPTC, to clarify the roles of the Regional Advisers and the Programme Management Unit with respect to coverage of UNCTs and country-level processes.

Responsibility: Executive Secretary, supported by the Director Programme Management & Support Services Division

Timeline: 30 June 2024

Recommendation 5:

To sustain the cross-sector approach and promote collaboration amongst the subprogrammes, the UNECE should focus on the high-level themes and take steps to reactivate the nexus approach.

Management Response: UNECE partially accepts the recommendation.

Follow up actions and responsibilities:

The nexus approach was an early response to the UNDS reform, new modalities of cross-sectoral collaboration have emerged since and the secretariat will continue to focus on cross-sectoral high-level

themes agreed by the Commission. Agile collaboration among subprogrammes will also continue in the planning and implementation of their programmes of work, including in the work of sectoral committees and through technical cooperation projects. The biennial report of 71st Commission will take stock of the collaboration among the subprogrammes during the period 2023-2025.

Responsibility: Secretary of the Commission

Timeline: 30 June 2025

Recommendation 6:

Based upon a strategic prioritization process (recommendation 1) the UNECE Secretariat should work to secure strategic, longer-term partnerships with selected UNOs that have a larger operational presence at country level and with other major partners and donors.

Management Response: UNECE accepts the recommendation.

Follow up actions and responsibilities:

Aligned to the outcomes of the prioritization exercise (Recommendation 1), UNECE will work to secure strategic, longer-term partnerships with selected UNOs, ensuring close coordination with the UN RCs.

Responsibility: Executive Secretary, Deputy Executive Secretary and Division Directors

Timeline: 31 December 2025

Recommendation 7:

To operationalize strategies and directives for technical cooperation (TC), the UNECE Secretariat should: (1) Adjust the strategy and criteria for TC activities to promote linkages with the CF, where relevant; and (2) Include the mainstreaming of cross-cutting concerns explicitly in guiding principles for TC (gender equality, human rights, disability inclusion, the environment and climate change)

Management Response: UNECE partially accepts the recommendation

Follow up actions and responsibilities:

UNECE will implement the changes recommended by the evaluation through relevant revisions to the internal directive on Technical Cooperation which operationalizes the Technical Cooperation strategy adopted by EXCOM in May 2021.

Responsibility: Executive Secretary, supported by the Director Programme Management & Support Services Division

Timeline: 30 June 2024

Recommendation 8:

The UNECE Secretariat should explore ways to offer a stronger and more consistent narrative about its major contributions and valued-added at the outcome level (as defined in PPBs); this should emphasise contributions to member States to implement regulatory reform AND contribute to the SDGs.

In addition, the UNECE Secretariat should annually ask member States to assess the contribution and valued added of UNECE regulatory and technical cooperation to country priorities and the SDGs.

Management Response: UNECE partially accepts the recommendation

Follow up actions and responsibilities:

While the reporting guidance and template for the programme budget are within the purview of the UN Controller, UNECE will continue to explore ways to offer a stronger and more consistent narrative under the strategy component of each subprogramme in the programme plan about its major contributions to supporting member States to implement regulatory reform and contribute to the SDGs.

UNECE will conduct a concise, annual user satisfaction survey to sectoral committee delegates to assess the contribution and value added of UNECE regulatory and technical cooperation to country priorities and the SDGs.

Responsibility: Division Directors and Secretaries of Sectoral Committees

Timeline: 31 December 2024