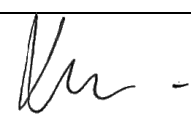
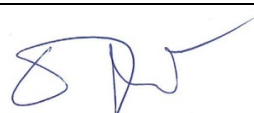
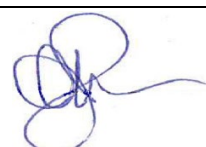


MANAGEMENT RESPONSE

Evaluation Title:	Evaluation of UNECE Project E267 “International Centre of Excellence on Public-Private Partnership: development and implementation of PPP standards and recommendations”		
Period of Review:	2016 - 2023		
Date of Evaluation Report:	01/03/2024		
Approved by:	Chief, PMU Nicolas Dath-Baron	Date	Signature
		30/05/2024	
Cleared by:	Director of Division, Elisabeth Tuerk	30/05/2024	
Prepared by:	Project Manager and Chief of Section Tony Bonnici	30/05/2024	

Recommendation 1:

UNECE to **continue strengthening national capacity of PPP stakeholders in UNECE member States and beyond**, to support the SDGs through the delivery of sustainable, affordable and high-quality infrastructure using PPPs, including with increased funding. This includes support to UNECE member States in aligning their PPP regulations and legal framework with the UNECE core documents on PPPs for the SDGs, the PIERS methodology, and the PPP standards and guidelines developed in the context of the project.

Management Response:

UNECE accepts the recommendation.

Follow up actions and responsibilities:

Under the auspices of the Working Party on Public-Private Partnerships, the secretariat delivers/implements a programme of capacity building and policy advisory services to its member States on PPPs in support of the SDGs. These activities are regularly reported to the Working Party on Public-Private Partnerships and its parent body, the Committee on Innovation, Competitiveness and Public-Private Partnerships, and are reflected in their session reports.

Responsibility: Mr. Tony Bonnici, Chief, Cooperation and Partnerships Section.

Timeline: 31 December 2024

Recommendation 2:

Dissemination of existing UNECE PPP standards, guidelines and tools with extrabudgetary support: Scale up the PPP knowledge development and dissemination supported by the implementation of existing UNECE PPP standards, guidelines, recommendations and the PIERS methodology to facilitate the achievement of the SDGs through sustainable and affordable infrastructure. Mobilising extrabudgetary resources is essential for effective dissemination, and a call on donors and development partners to consider making available extrabudgetary support to the UNECE secretariat to meet the ever-growing demand from member States for PPP capacity building is therefore essential.

Management Response:

UNECE accepts the recommendation.

Follow up actions and responsibilities:

The secretariat is engaged in fundraising from within the United Nations system (e.g., UNDA projects) and from the donor community. One concrete example is the new PPP project under the 16th Tranche of the UNDA which started in 2024 to implement UNECE PPP standards, guidelines and tools, in particular, the PPP and Infrastructure Evaluation and Rating System (PIERS), in member States. At the end of this project, six member States will be trained in the use of the PIERS methodology and will have 40 of their PPP priority projects evaluated and scored against the SDGs. The secretariat has also launched a concerted effort to raise funding to meet requests from member States for PPP capacity building. This effort is outlined in regular documents submitted by the secretariat for information to intergovernmental bodies within the Economic Cooperation and Integration subprogramme.

Responsibility: Mr. Tony Bonnici, Chief, Cooperation and Partnerships Section

Timeline: 31 December 2024

Recommendation 3:

Awareness raising of cross-cutting issues: Continue raising awareness of the UNECE member States and beyond about the importance of mainstreaming/integrating cross-cutting issues such as gender, human rights and disability perspectives into the design and implementation activities of future PPP capacity-building projects. Such future capacity-building projects should always include specific workshops and presentations on cross-cutting issues. Participation of stakeholders in different activities should be recorded in a gender-disaggregated manner.

Management Response:

UNECE accepts the recommendation.

Follow up actions and responsibilities:

The PIERS methodology contains specific indicators on cross-cutting issues, including gender/women empowerment, a human rights-based approach to stakeholder engagement in PPP projects, and a focus on marginalised groups. A new workstream has been launched in 2024 on gender equality and women empowerment in PPPs, which is expected to result in a practical guide for policy makers. In addition, panel discussions on human rights in PPPs, and gender equality in infrastructure finance took place at the 8th edition of the UNECE International PPP Forum in May 2024. These cross-cutting issues will continue to be addressed at future editions of the Forum beyond 2024 and the secretariat will also make suggestions for bringing these issues to deliberations at the Working Party on Public-Private Partnerships and the Committee on Innovation, Competitiveness and Public-Private Partnerships.

Responsibility: Mr. Tony Bonnici, Chief, Cooperation and Partnerships Section

Timeline: 31 December 2025

Recommendation 4:

Gender/disability indicators and targets: Introduce in future PPP capacity building projects gender/disability-responsive indicators and targets to measure and report regularly the progress made on these cross-cutting issues.

Management Response:

UNECE accepts the recommendation.

Follow up actions and responsibilities:

The secretariat will introduce gender/disability-responsive indicators and targets in its future PPP capacity building extrabudgetary projects. It will also measure and report regularly to the PPP governing bodies on the progress made on these cross-cutting issues.

Responsibility: Mr. Tony Bonnici, Chief, Cooperation and Partnerships Section

Timeline: 31 December 2024

Recommendation 5:

A practical guide on stakeholder engagement: UNECE Secretariat to ensure that work on a guide on stakeholder engagement in PPPs for the SDGs is launched in 2024 and is completed in due course.

Management Response:

UNECE accepts the recommendation.

Follow up actions and responsibilities:

A new workstream on stakeholder engagement in PPPs was launched in 2024, and a multistakeholder drafting team was set-up to develop a practical guide for policy makers on stakeholder engagement in PPP projects. The guide is expected to be finalised in 2025.

Responsibility: Mr. Tony Bonnici, Chief, Cooperation and Partnerships Section

Timeline: 31 December 2025