

17th session

Committee on Innovation, Competitiveness and Public-Private Partnerships

24-26 June 2024 | Palais des Nations | Room V

Seventeenth session of the Committee on Innovation, Competitiveness and Public-Private Partnerships

Preliminary Programme

Monday, 24 June 2024

10:00 – 10:15

OPENING

10:15 – 10:30

1. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

2. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

A. GENERAL SEGMENT

3. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROGRAMME OF WORK

10:30 – 11:45

3.A TEAM OF SPECIALISTS ON INNOVATION AND COMPETITIVENESS POLICIES

TRANSFORMATIVE INNOVATION POLICIES – CHALLENGES AND PROSPECTS

Transformative innovation, i.e. innovations in many fields that complement each other in cumulatively moving the needle on sustainability transitions, will be central to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The UN-ECE Transformative Innovation Network (ETIN) serves as a platform to support peer learning on transformative innovation policies. This panel discusses some of the early results of this work.

Discussions will be guided by the policy document [Digital and green transformations: exploring the strategic dynamics of experimenting and learning \(ECE/CECI/2024/3\)](#) developed as a result of the 2023 session of the Team of Specialists on Innovation and Competitiveness Policies.

INNOVATION FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN THE UNECE REGION – PROGRESS ON POLICY REFORMS

The Committee is supporting the implementation of innovation policy reforms in pursuit of the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda in the UNECE seventeen programme countries. The work includes assessments, recommendations and capacity building projects to address key bottlenecks for successful innovation, such as weak industry-science linkages, lacking capacity for innovation-enhancing procurement, or unexploited opportunities for diaspora engagement. This panel reviews the impact this work is having on the ground.



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11:45 – 13:00

3.B WORKING PARTY ON PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS

THE IMPACT OF THE PPP ACTIVITIES SINCE THE SIXTEENTH SESSION OF THE COMMITTEE

In this panel, policy makers, leaders of national PPP units, business leaders and infrastructure project developers will review the progress on the Committee's upcoming guidelines and standards in areas such as green and sustainable PPP procurement; digital transformation in PPPs for sustainable development; sustainable finance; gender equality and women empowerment; stakeholder engagement; off-grid renewable energy; small-scale PPPs; and climate resilient infrastructure. They will also discuss the impact of capacity building activities supporting requesting Governments in self-assessing PPP and infrastructure projects using the UNECE PPP and Infrastructure Evaluation and Rating System (PIERS).

13:00 – 15:00

LUNCH BREAK

15:00 – 16:00

4. PROGRAMME OF WORK FOR 2025, INTERSESSIONAL IMPLEMENTATION PLAN FOR 2024-2025, AND RECOMMENDATIONS ON KEY COMPONENTS OF THE PROGRAMME OF WORK FOR 2026

BILATERAL AND SUB-REGIONAL COOPERATION OPPORTUNITIES

Building on the results of the Committee's analytical and capacity building work, this panel will identify priority areas for new initiatives and for follow-up work to sustain existing efforts. It will also identify needs and opportunities for fundraising.

16:00 – 17:40

5. AREAS OF COMMON INTEREST WITH OTHER ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE BODIES AND INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS

17:40 – 17:50

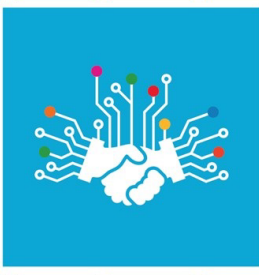
6. FOLLOW-UP TO THE EVALUATION OF THE ECONOMIC COOPERATION AND INTEGRATION SUBPROGRAMME AND THE TRADE SUB-PROGRAMME BY THE OFFICE OF INTERNAL OVERSIGHT

In 2022, the United Nations Office of Internal Oversight Services (OIOS) evaluated the relevance, effectiveness, coherence, sustainability, and integration of cross-cutting issues in subprogramme 4: Economic Cooperation and Integration, and subprogramme 6: Trade of UNECE for the period 2018–2021. The evaluation was part of the United Nations secretariat's regular program periodically evaluating selected aspects of its operations. This segment will discuss the progress of implementing the recommendations of the evaluation as they pertain to subprogramme 6.

17:50 – 18:00

7. OTHER BUSINESS

8. MODALITIES FOR THE ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE 17TH SESSION



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Tuesday, 25 June 2024

10:00 – 13:00

B. SUBSTANTIVE SEGMENT

9. INTERNATIONAL POLICY DIALOGUE

9.A ACCELERATING PROGRESS TOWARDS THE SDGS: THE ROLE OF INNOVATION AND PPPS

The 2024 UNECE SDG Progress Report found that the UNECE region is on track to achieve only 20 of the SDG targets by 2030, down from 21 and 26 in 2023 and 2022, respectively, with 80 requiring accelerations, and 17 requiring a reversal of trend. The 2024 Regional Forum on Sustainable Development for the UNECE Region has called on member States to increase momentum for the SDGs and to take strong messages forward to the High-level Political Forum in July 2024 and the Summit of the Future in September 2024 to underscore the UNECE region's role as a global champion of sustainable development.

The policy dialogue will discuss policy options to strengthen science, technology and innovation and sustainable finance, including PPPs, to accelerate key transitions and advance cooperation towards the SDGs in the region, focusing in particular on climate action and sustainable infrastructure.

OPENING

KEYNOTE

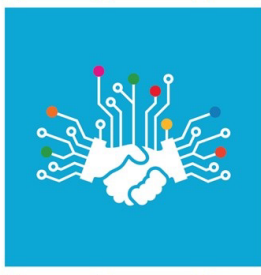
INNOVATION POLICIES FOR CLIMATE ACTION AND SUSTAINABLE INFRASTRUCTURE

At the SDG Summit 2023, the countries of the world have committed to accelerating climate action and to building resilient and sustainable infrastructure. They have also committed to increasing funding for SDG-related innovation in all regions. The UN Summit for the Future later this year is expected to adopt a new Pact for the Future which inter alia renews the commitment to combat climate change and to adapt to its impact, and which calls for supporting private sector investment in science, technology and innovation, and deepening public-private partnerships.

In this panel, policy makers and leading change makers from the business community explore how to act on these commitments. They will showcase real world examples of truly transformative innovations that drive climate action, net zero transitions and resilience in key sectors, such as mobility, transport, energy. Key questions for discussion include: Why progress to the net zero transition and climate change adaptation has not been as fast as hoped? What policy makers can do to accelerate the transition? What change makers and the private sector can do differently to accelerate progress?

13:00 – 15:00

LUNCH BREAK



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9.A ACCELERATING PROGRESS TOWARDS THE SDGS: THE ROLE OF INNOVATION AND PPPS (continued)

INTEGRATING CLIMATE RESILIENCE INTO PPP AND INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS FOR CLIMATE ACTION

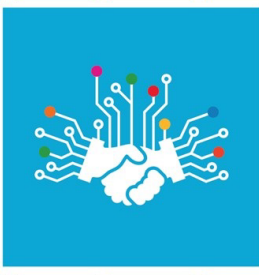
Climate change has accelerated beyond the direst predictions, besieging the planet with increasingly intense and frequent natural events such as floods and earthquakes. This escalating crisis necessitates urgent measures to better adapt, withstand, and recover from these adverse events. The need for PPPs to finance both the infrastructure gap and the integration of climate resilience and adaptation into projects is acute.

This panel will provide key insights on these topics, emphasizing the importance of pursuing this workstream. Key questions for discussion include: How can climate resilience be progressively integrated into PPP and infrastructure projects to support the SDGs? How can existing infrastructure be adapted to become climate resilient? What are the main areas that the new UNECE workstream on PPPs in climate resilience and adaptation would need to cover to address existing and future needs?

GENERATIVE AI AND PPPS: OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES

The integration of Generative Artificial Intelligence (AI) at the development stage of PPPs presents distinct opportunities and challenges. Employing AI early in the process can significantly lower transaction costs and speed up the PPP lifecycle, offering a major boost in efficiency and effectiveness in support of the SDGs. However, these benefits must be weighed against the legal, ethical, and technical risks associated with deploying generative AI at this crucial stage.

This panel will critically examine the pros and cons of using generative AI in the early phases of PPPs, exploring its current utilization to predict infrastructure needs and generate documentation, and evaluating its broader potential. Key questions for discussion include: How are existing PPP projects benefiting from generative AI at the development stage? What potential does generative AI hold to reduce transaction costs for governments and expedite the PPP process? What are the challenges of AI in PPPs and how can these be mitigated?



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Wednesday, 26 June 2024

10:00 – 13:00

9.B UNECE REGIONAL CONFERENCE ON THE CIRCULAR ECONOMY

See a separate programme¹

Registration:

<https://indico.un.org/e/ece/eci/cicppp17>

Further Information:

[17th session of the Committee on Innovation, Competitiveness and Public-Private Partnerships | UNECE](#)

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¹ This Conference is part of the Committee on Innovation, Competitiveness and Public-Private Partnerships ([CICPPP](#)) (agenda item 9, substantive segment (b) Accelerating the Circular Economy transition in the UNECE) and part of the Steering Committee on Trade Capacity and Standards ([SCTCS](#)) (agenda item 2, high-level substantive segment (a) Regional Conference on the Circular Economy). It is organized with support of the United Nations Development Account (UNDA) project on “Accelerating the Transition towards a Circular Economy in the UNECE region”.