

## 2023 Programme-level evaluation

**The role of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe to support implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, in the context of UN development system reform**

Progress report as of 4 July 2024

#	Recommendation	Management response	Responsibility	Target date	Progress
1	The UNECE Secretariat should <b>undertake a more strategic prioritization process tailored to each programme country. This should identify the top 3 to 4 specific priorities for technical cooperation</b> , where UNECE has an exclusive knowledge niche and where regulatory instruments and expertise can be martialled for relatively quick and consistent action in partnership with the UNRC, UNCT and government.	UNECE accepts the recommendation.  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 regular prioritization exercises to identify strategic priorities for technical cooperation. The priorities and vision will be reflected in the UNECE country briefs that will be updated on a regular basis, as necessary	Dmitry Mariyasin, Deputy Executive Secretary		<b>Implemented as of 30 June 2024</b>  Prioritization has been done: (i) as part of the regular updates of the Country Briefs and discussions with the Resident Coordinators; and (ii) through the participation in the UNSDCFs processes for the cycle 2026-2030.
2	The UNECE Secretariat should <b>consider how to strengthen the country focal point role of RAs to achieve the representation, coordination, partnership and resource mobilization results</b> it wants from engagement with country coordination mechanisms and frameworks.	UNECE partially accepts the recommendation.  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	Tatiana Molcean, Executive Secretary, supported by Michael Sylver, Director, Programme Management & Support Services Division		<b>Implemented as of 4 July 2024</b>  The internal directive on the Management of RPTC has been revised through a consultative process and promulgated as of 4 July 2024. The revised version clarifies the roles of the Regional Advisers and the Programme Management Unit with respect to coverage of UNCTs and country-level processes.

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		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.			
3	The UNECE Secretariat should <b>enhance its reporting on cooperation results to emphasize collaboration and synergies with the UN system</b> ; requirements for this should be included in reporting guidance, where feasible.	UNECE accepts the recommendation.  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.	Nicolas Dath-Baron, Chief, Programme Management Unit		<b>Implemented as of 4 July 2024</b>  The 2025 Proposed programme budget ( <a href="#">A/79/6(Sect.20)</a> ) emphasizes collaboration and synergies with other agencies in paras. 20.6 and 20.7  The <a href="#">2023 Annual report on Technical Cooperation</a> , presented to EXCOM at the 134 <sup>th</sup> Meeting provides more granular details regarding this collaboration and synergies.
4	<b>Within available resources, the UNECE Secretariat should realign available human resources to support enhanced engagement with regional and country coordination mechanisms and frameworks.</b>	UNECE partially accepts the recommendation.  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	Tatiana Molcean, Executive Secretary, supported by Michael Sylver, Director, Programme Management & Support Services Division		<b>Implemented as of 4 July 2024</b>  The internal directive on the Management of RPTC has been revised through a consultative process and promulgated as of 4 July 2024. The revised version clarifies the roles of the Regional Advisers and the Programme Management Unit with respect to coverage of UNCTs and country-level processes.

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		RPTC, to clarify the roles of the Regional Advisers and the Programme Management Unit with respect to coverage of UNCTs and country-level processes.			
5	To sustain the cross-sector approach and promote collaboration amongst the subprogrammes, the <b>UNECE should focus on the high-level themes and take steps to reactivate the nexus approach.</b>	<p>UNECE partially accepts the recommendation.</p> <p>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.</p>	Nicola Koch, Secretary of the Commission	30 June 2025	<p><b>In Progress</b></p> <p>At its 134<sup>th</sup> meeting on 1 July 2024, the Executive Committee adopted a <a href="#">decision</a> designing a cross-cutting theme for the seventy-first Commission session, to be held on 9-10 April 2025.</p> <p>The decision also invites “<i>relevant subsidiary bodies of the UNECE and the secretariat to consider how they may contribute, as appropriate, to the cross-cutting theme of the seventy-first Commission session within their respective mandates, ongoing work and existing resources.</i>”</p> <p>The Commission theme thus contributes to fostering cross-sectoral collaboration across subprogrammes and the intergovernmental and expert body architecture.</p> <p>Further, and as mandated at the 70<sup>th</sup> session, the secretariat will present a progress report on the implementation of the Commission decision related to the previous cross-cutting theme at its next session. - It will document additional work undertaken on the issue, including through cross-sectoral collaboration across Divisions and across different parts of the subsidiary architecture of UNECE.</p>
6	Based upon a strategic prioritization process (recommendation 1) the UNECE Secretariat should work to <b>secure strategic, longer-term partnerships with selected UNOs that have a larger operational presence at country level and with other major partners and donors.</b>	<p>UNECE accepts the recommendation.</p> <p>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.</p>	Executive Secretary, Deputy Executive Secretary and Division Directors	31 Dec 2025	<p><b>In progress</b></p> <p><b>Environment Division</b> is one of the co-chairs of the IBC Environment and Climate Change. The Regional Adviser for Environment is a co-chair of UNSDCF Result Groups in Tajikistan and Uzbekistan which focus on environment and climate change dimension of UNSDCF. The Regional Adviser works closely with RCs and UNCTs and has established strategic partnerships with UN agencies on the ground. Through joint projects with UNEP and FAO in Uzbekistan and with UNDP in Georgia, Environment Division continues to build strong partnerships with UNOs.</p>

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					<p>The Regional Adviser in <b>Statistics</b> is a co-chair of the Regional Coordination Group on data and statistics that includes all data persons from the UNCTs and representatives of the regional and country offices of UNOs. The group has regular meetings to coordinate the capacity development activities in programme countries.</p> <p>The <b>Sustainable energy</b> division partners on a regular basis with UNOs with local presence to take advantage of synergies and facilitate project implementation. This is a standard approach that however identifies every time the relevant UNO depending on focus, competence and capacity to collaborate. We do consult regularly as well with other donors (typically USAID, GIZ and others) on their activities so as to avoid duplication and have complementary approaches.</p>
7	To operationalize strategies and directives for technical cooperation (TC), the UNECE Secretariat should: (1) <b>Adjust the strategy and criteria for TC activities to promote linkages with the CF</b> , where relevant; and (2) <b>Include the mainstreaming of cross-cutting concerns explicitly in guiding principles for TC</b> (gender equality, human rights, disability inclusion, the environment and climate change)	<p>UNECE partially accepts the recommendation.</p> <p>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.</p>	Tatiana Molcean, Executive Secretary, supported by Michael Sylver, Director, Programme Management & Support Services Division	30 June 2024	<p><b>Implemented as of 4 July 2024</b></p> <p>The internal directive on the Management of RPTC has been revised through a consultative process and promulgated as of 4 July 2024.</p> <p>The revised version promotes linkages with the UNSDCFs and includes the mainstreaming of cross-cutting concerns in the guiding principles for technical cooperation.</p>
8	The UNECE Secretariat should <b>explore ways to offer a stronger and more consistent narrative about its major contributions and value-added at the outcome level</b> (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 <b>annually ask member States</b>	<p>UNECE partially accepts the recommendation.</p> <p>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</p>	Division Directors and Secretaries of Sectoral Committees	31 Dec 2024	<p><b>In progress</b></p> <p>Preparation of the 2026 Proposed programme plan will start in September 2024.</p>

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	<b>to assess the contribution and valued added of UNECE regulatory and technical cooperation to country priorities and the SDGs.</b>	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.			