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Committee on Innovation, Competitiveness and Public-Private Partnerships

Working Party on Public-Private Partnerships

Seventh session

Geneva, 25-26 November 2024

Item 3 of the provisional agenda

Review of the work since the seventh session of the Working Party on Public-Private Partnerships on 30 November – 1 December 2023

Annual summary report of Bureau decisions since the seventh session of the Working Party on Public-Private Partnerships on 30 November – 1 December 2023

Note by the secretariat

Background

This document contains the consolidated list of decisions (verbatim and in date order) taken by the Bureau of the Working Party on Public-Private Partnerships since the seventh session of the Working Party on Public-Private Partnerships on 30 November – 1 December 2023.

During the period in question, the Bureau took 26 decisions during 6 meetings.

The document is submitted by the secretariat to the Working Party for information in line with Rule 16 of the Rules of Procedure (ECE/CECI/(WP/PPP/2021/5/Rev.1).

List of decisions

Bureau meeting – Friday, 15 December 2023

Decision 2023-39. Brief welcome to new Bureau members and presentations

The Bureau:

1. Took note of the Rules of Procedures in document ECE/CECI/PPP/WP/2021/5/Rev.1 and the guidelines on the use of official titles prepared by the secretariat; and
2. Agreed that if members and observers are in doubt on their interpretation, they should seek clarity and direction from the secretariat.

Decision 2023-40. Selection of the vice-Chairperson (pursuant to Rule 10(c)(ii) of the Rules of Procedure)

The Bureau selected Ms. Eleni Bakoula (Greece) as the vice-Chairperson of the Working Party on PPPs pursuant to Rule 10(c)(ii) of the Rules of Procedure.

Decision 2023-41. Main outcomes of the seventh session of Working Party: new and ongoing PPP normative work – practical guides and standards

The Bureau:

1. Took note of the outcomes of the seventh session of the Working Party on PPPs;
2. Nominated the following Bureau members and observers as focal points and liaisons:
 - (i). Mr. Gabriele Pasquini (Italy) (practical guide on improving the delivery of PPPs through digital transformation throughout the project lifecycle in support of the SDGs, and practical guide on PPPs in digital infrastructure: diagnostics in healthcare (telemedicine) and other digital public services);
 - (ii). Mr. Syed Zaidi (Canada) (practical guide on green and sustainable PPP procurement for the SDGs);
 - (iii). Ms. Doris Chevalier (Bureau observer) (practical guide on the state of PPP and infrastructure finance midway to 2030); and
 - (iv). Ms. Melissa Peneycad (Bureau observer), with the support of Mr. Joan Enric Ricart (Bureau observer) (PPP online learning material for policy makers) ;
3. Requested all Bureau liaisons to work closely with the leaders of the drafting teams and the secretariat to ensure that the drafting teams pay particular attention to the rights of vulnerable groups by adopting a human rights-based approach to PPPs and infrastructure when developing the guides;
4. Reiterated that all guides launched in 2023 should be finalised in 2024 and submitted to the next session of the Working Party for decision;
5. Appointed Mr. David Baxter as the drafting team leader for the new standard on PPP in off-grid renewable energy;
6. Requested the secretariat to prepare a proposal on a practical guide on small-scale PPPs for its consideration at the next meeting and requested the Chair and the secretariat to hold a meeting with the President of WAPPP to discuss their potential involvement;
7. Took note of the secretariat's plans to mobilise experts and set up drafting teams for new products to be launched in 2024 on:
 - (i). A practical guide on enhancing stakeholder engagement throughout the PPP project lifecycle in support of the SDGs;
 - (ii). A practical guide on promoting gender equality and women's empowerment through PPPs for the SDGs;
 - (iii). A standard on PPPs in off-grid renewable energy; and
8. Agreed with the secretariat's proposal to appoint Mr. David Dodd to coordinate the preparatory work on a new guide/standard on climate resilient PPP and infrastructure up to the 8th UNECE International PPP Forum in May 2024, and requested the secretariat to submit a proposal on this workstream for the Bureau's consideration at its meeting in July 2024, in line with the Working Party decision 2023 – 4.4(6)(i).

Decision 2023-42. Preparations for the 8th edition of UNECE International PPP Forum (Istanbul, 8-10 May 2024)

The Bureau:

1. Took note with appreciation of the secretariat's preparations for the 8th edition of the UNECE International PPP Forum in Istanbul from 8 to 10 May 2024, including the:
 - (i). Theme of accelerating the SDGs and climate action, with a link to resilient infrastructure, economic recovery and reconstruction;
 - (ii). Publication of the Forum schedule by 31 January 2024; and
 - (iii). Publication of the Forum provisional programme by 1 March 2024; and
2. Requested the secretariat to organize sessions on the topics identified by the Working Party at its last session and to mobilise speakers and experts.

Decision 2023-43. Tentative schedule of meetings in 2024

The Bureau noted the schedule of Bureau meetings in 2024 (with additional meetings as required):

1. Friday, 1 March (14:00 CET)
2. Thursday, 2 May (14:00 CEST)
3. Friday, 5 July (14:00 CEST)
4. Tuesday, 1 October (14:00 CEST)

Decision 2023-44. Any other business (AOB)

The Bureau:

1. Took note of the dates of the eighth session of the Working Party on PPPs: 25 and 26 November 2024; and
2. Decided to hold its next meeting on Friday, 1 March 2024 at 14:00 CET.

Bureau meeting – Friday, 1 March 2024

Decision 2024-01. Preparations for the 8th edition of the UNECE International PPP Forum (8-10 May)

The Bureau took note with appreciation of:

1. The secretariat's preparations for the 8th edition of the UNECE International PPP Forum in Istanbul from 8 to 10 May 2024;
2. The publication of the Forum schedule; and
3. The publication of the Forum provisional programme.

Decision 2024-02. Preparations for the 17th session of the Committee on Innovation, Competitiveness and PPPs (CICPPP) (24-26 June)

The Bureau took note of the update by the secretariat on the preparations for the 17th session of the Committee on Innovation, Competitiveness and PPPs (CICPPP) on 24-26 June 2024.

Decision 2024-03. Small-scale PPPs

The Bureau:

1. Took note of the briefing by the Chair on the preparatory work on small-scale PPPs since its last meeting;

2. Approved the title, purpose, scope and timeline of the practical guidelines on planning and structuring small-scale PPPs in support of the SDGs;
3. Agreed that the practical guide is developed as a joint UNECE-WAPPP document to be submitted to the Working Party on PPPs at its next session;
4. Nominated Ms. Jekaterina Šarmavičienė (Lithuania) and Mr. Sanzhar Bolotov (Kyrgyzstan) as Bureau liaisons; and
5. Requested the Chair to identify and appoint experts on the joint UNECE-WAPPP drafting team to develop the guide.

Decision 2024-04. Ongoing workstreams

The Bureau:

1. Took note with appreciation of the status report by the Bureau liaisons (Mr. Syed Zaidi, Mr. Gabriele Pasquini, and Ms. Doris Chevalier) on the development of practical guides; and
2. Requested the Bureau liaisons and the secretariat to work closely with the drafting team leaders to finalise the work on the guides in time for submission at the next session of the Working Party on PPPs.

Decision 2024-05. New workstreams

The Bureau:

1. Took note of the briefing by the secretariat on the new drafting teams to develop the standards/guidelines agreed by the Working Party on PPPs at its last session; and
2. Nominated the following Bureau members and Observers as liaisons:
 - (i). Mr. Olivier Ginépro (France) - Off-grid Renewable Energy PPP projects in support of the SDGs;
 - (ii). Ms. Eleni Bakoula (Greece) - Climate resilient PPP and infrastructure projects in support of the SDGs;
 - (iii). Ms. Rose Lourdes Elysée (Haiti) - Promoting Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment through PPPs for the SDGs; and
 - (iv). Ms. Melissa Peneycad (Bureau observer) - Enhancing Stakeholder Engagement in PPPs for the SDGs.

Decision 2024-06. Any other business (AOB)

The Bureau decided to hold its next meeting on Thursday, 2 May at 14:00 CET.

Bureau meeting - Thursday, 2 May 2024

Decision 2024-07. Preparations for the 8th edition of the UNECE International PPP Forum (8-10 May)

The Bureau took note with appreciation of the progress in the preparations for the 8th edition of the UNECE International PPP Forum in Istanbul from 8 to 10 May 2024.

Decision 2024-08. Preparations for the 17th session of the Committee on Innovation, Competitiveness and PPPs (CICPPP) (24-26 June)

The Bureau took note of:

1. The update by the Chair and the secretariat on the preparations for the 17th session of the Committee on Innovation, Competitiveness and PPPs (CICPPP) on 24-26 June 2024; and

2. The PPP activities in the draft CICPPP Intersessional Implementation Plan for 2024-2025.

Decision 2024-09. Ongoing workstreams

The Bureau:

1. Took note with appreciation of the status report by the Bureau liaisons (Mr. Syed Zaidi, Mr. Gabriele Pasquini, Ms. Doris Chevalier, Mr. Olivier Ginépro, Ms. Rose-Lourdes Élysée, Ms. Melissa Peneycad, Ms. Jekaterina Šarmavičienė, Mr. Sanzhar Bolotov, and Ms. Eleni Bakoula) on the development of practical guides; and
2. Requested the Bureau liaisons and the secretariat to work closely with the drafting team leaders to finalise the work on the guides in time for submission at the next session of the Working Party on PPPs.

Decision 2024-10. Any other business (AOB)

The Bureau decided to hold its next meeting on Friday, 5 July at 14:00 CEST.

Bureau meeting - Friday, 5 July 2024

Decision 2024-11. 8th edition of the UNECE International PPP Forum (Istanbul, 8-10 May)

The Bureau congratulated the Government of Türkiye and the secretariat for organising a most successful 8th edition of the UNECE International PPP Forum in Istanbul, Türkiye from 8 to 10 May 2024.

Decision 2024-12. 17th session of the Committee on Innovation, Competitiveness and PPPs (CICPPP) (24-26 June)

The Bureau:

1. Noted with appreciation the successful conclusion of the 17th session of the Committee on Innovation, Competitiveness and PPPs (CICPPP), and the adoption of the Intersessional Implementation Plan for 2024-2025, including the PPP work; and, in particular
2. Took note of the dates of the 9th International PPP Forum (May 2025).

Decision 2024-13. Preparations for the eighth session of the Working Party on PPPs (25-26 November 2024)

The Bureau:

1. Noted with appreciation the progress presented by the secretariat on the preparations of the eighth session of the Working Party on PPPs and that the Working Party will be an in-person meeting only (no online option);
2. Further noted the decision by the Executive Committee at its meeting on 1 July 2024 designating “**Climate action and resilient infrastructure for a sustainable future**” as the cross-cutting theme for the high-level segment of the 71st Commission session, to be held on 9-10 April 2025;
3. Requested the secretariat to prepare a draft Annotated Provisional Agenda (ECE/CECI/WP/PPP/2024/1) and to share it with the Bureau for its consideration by mid-July 2024 for its clearance by silence procedure by 31 July 2024;
4. Took note of the list of pre-session documents for the Working Party session to be referenced in the Annotated Provisional Agenda, namely:

- (i). ECE/CECI/WP/PPP/2024/3 – Guidelines on Improving the delivery of PPPs through digital transformation throughout the project lifecycle in support of the SDGs;
 - (ii). ECE/CECI/WP/PPP/2024/4 – Guidelines on PPPs in digital infrastructure: diagnostics in healthcare (telemedicine) and other digital public services;
 - (iii). ECE/CECI/WP/PPP/2024/5 – Guidelines on Green and Sustainable PPP Procurement for the SDGs;
 - (iv). ECE/CECI/WP/PPP/2024/6 – Guidelines on the state of PPP and infrastructure finance midway to 2030; and
 - (v). ECE/CECI/WP/PPP/2024/7 – Guidelines on planning, structuring and managing small-scale PPPs in support of the SDGs;
5. Requested the secretariat to finalise as many of these documents as possible and to submit them to the Bureau for clearance; and
6. Commended the secretariat for re issuing all the documents that were endorsed by the Working Party and approved by the CICPPP within the agreed timescale and in accordance with CICPPP Decision 2022 – 4b.2.¹

Decision 2024-14. Ongoing Workstreams

The Bureau:

1. Endorsed the proposal to develop a guide on promoting climate resilient PPP and infrastructure projects in support of the SDGs;
2. Requested the secretariat to set up a drafting team under the leadership of Mr. David Dodd to develop the guide;
3. Took note with appreciation of the status report by the Bureau liaisons on the development of standards and practical guides: (Mr. Syed Zaidi (procurement and small-scale PPPs); Ms. Doris Chevalier (sustainable finance); Ms. Rose-Lourdes Élysée (gender equality and women empowerment); Mr. Olivier Ginépro (off-grid); and Ms. Melissa Peneycad (stakeholder engagement and online training courses)); and
4. Took note with appreciation of the progress in the development of the online training courses and the need for additional financial support, and requested the secretariat to publicise at every available opportunity these courses and encourage experts to enrol.

Decision 2024-15. AOB

The Bureau decided to hold:

1. Its next meeting on Tuesday, 1 October at 14:00 CEST; and
2. An informal meeting for Bureau members on Friday, 20 September at 14:00 CEST on the topic of the re-election and selection of observers.

¹ The Committee Decision 2022 – 4b.2 - Regarding the continued use of the name “*People-first PPPs for the SDGs*”, the Committee took note of the results of the informal consultations conducted with interested delegations on this matter since the fifth session of the Working Party in November 2021, and decided to (a) change the name to “*PPPs for the SDGs*” and (b) progressively reissue the documents endorsed and adopted by the Committee and the Working Party on PPPs to reflect (a). above within the document quota allocated to the ECI subprogramme and without incurring additional costs. The Committee requested the secretariat to reissue three core documents within twelve months, and the rest of the documents within three years. The Committee requested the Bureau of the Working Party on PPPs to decide on which non-core documents should be prioritised during this period.

Bureau meeting - Tuesday, 1 October 2024

Decision 2024-16. Preparations for the eighth session of the Working Party on PPPs (25-26 November 2024)

The Bureau:

1. Noted with appreciation the progress presented by the secretariat on the preparations of the eighth session of the Working Party on PPPs, including the programme for policy discussion.
2. Noted that the Working Party will be an in-person meeting only (no online option);
3. Noted that there are some misalignment between the draft guidelines received and the mandate given by the member States, and that suggestions will soon be sent to the secretariat to enhance the draft;
4. Requested the secretariat to prioritise the documents started in 2023 for submission to the Working Party, namely:
 - (i). Guidelines on improving the delivery of PPPs through digital transformation throughout the project lifecycle in support of the SDGs (ECE/CECI/WP/PPP/2024/3);
 - (ii). Guidelines on PPPs in digital infrastructure: diagnostics in healthcare (telemedicine) and other digital public services (ECE/CECI/WP/PPP/2024/4);
 - (iii). Guidelines on green and sustainable PPP procurement for the SDGs (ECE/CECI/WP/PPP/2024/5); and
 - (iv). Guidelines on the state of PPP and infrastructure finance midway to 2030 (ECE/CECI/WP/PPP/2024/6).
5. Endorsed document ECE/CECI/WP/PPP/2024/INF.2 and requested the secretariat to submit it to the Working Party; and
6. Took note of the interest expressed since May 2024 by Cameroon and Serbia to host the 9th edition of the UNECE International PPP Forum in May 2025, and in light of the Committee's Decision 2024 – 4.3, requested the Chair to consult with the Committee's Chair on the matter, and inform the Bureau on the next steps (including a joint Bureaux consultation meeting).

Decision 2024-17. Election of Observers

The Bureau:

1. Expressed its appreciation to the three Bureau observers – Ms. Doris Chevalier, Ms. Melissa Peneycad and Mr. Joan Enric Ricart – and thanked them for their contribution to the work of the Bureau since their election in December 2022;
2. Took note that their two-year term comes to an end in 2024;
3. Agreed to recommend to the Working Party their re-election for an additional two-year term, and requested the secretariat to communicate this information to the member States in advance of the Working Party session; and
4. Set-up a Bureau sub-group composed of Mr. Syed Zaidi (Chair), Ms. Eleni Bakoula (vice-Chair), Mr. Olivier Ginépro (France) and Mr. Gabriele Pasquini (Italy), to prepare a recommendation to the Bureau in 2025 on how the selection procedure of the observers could be streamlined (including the possibility of suggesting changes to the rules).

Decision 2024-18. Ongoing Workstreams (work started 2024)

The Bureau:

1. Took note with appreciation of the status report by the Bureau liaisons on the development of standards and practical guides where work started in 2024: Mr. Syed Zaidi

and Ms. Jekaterina Šarmaviciene (small-scale PPP), Ms. Rose-Lourdes Élysée (gender and women empowerment), and Mr. Olivier Ginépro (off-grid); and

2. Requested the Chair and the secretariat to continue coordinating the work on small-scale PPPs with WAPPP and to explore the possibility of submitting a draft document for information to the Working Party at its next session.

Decision 2024-19. AOB

The Bureau:

1. Decided to hold its next regular meeting on 13 December 2024 at 14:00 CET; and
2. Noted that a joint coordination meeting of the Bureaux of the Committee and the Working Party on the venue of the Forum will be convened by the Chair before the Working Party session in November 2024.

Thursday, 24 October 2024

Decision 2024-20. Venue of the 9th edition of the UNECE International PPP Forum

The Bureau:

1. Took note of the outcome of the consultation meeting held on 24 October 2024 between the Bureaux of the Committee and the Working Party, in particular, the agreement on the venue of the 9th edition of the UNECE International Forum; and
2. Decided to recommend to the Working Party to accept the invitation of the Government of Serbia to hold the Forum in Belgrade in May 2025, and to request the secretariat to fix the dates in consultation with the host country.
