

Final Progress Report - 31.12.2018

Evaluation of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (IED-16-003)

	Recommendation	Management response	Actions taken by UNECE to close recommendation	OIOS response and implementation date
1	<p>The UNECE secretariat should develop and operationalize a knowledge management strategy that addresses how institutional knowledge and expertise will be captured, stored, shared and integrated into its work programme and activities. In particular, the strategy should address the risk of losing institutional knowledge anticipated with staff departures as discussed in this report and build upon existing organizational guidelines for knowledge sharing.</p> <p><u>Indicator of achievement:</u> Knowledge management strategy with target dates for implementation of each subprogramme.</p>	<p>The nature of the work of UNECE, supporting several intergovernmental bodies covering different thematic areas as well as a high number of related subsidiary bodies, has facilitated the development and sharing of knowledge within the region and beyond. UNECE concurs with OIOS that the technical expertise generated by UNECE risks to be lost if no knowledge management mechanisms are created. In line with previous JIU recommendations addressed to Regional Commissions, UNECE has already started to develop knowledge management mechanisms to capture and store technical knowledge generated by the organization over the years.</p>	<p>The UNECE knowledge management strategy was approved by Directors in December 2016. The strategy was presented to the UNECE Executive Committee on 1 February 2017.</p> <p>http://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/commission/EXCOM/Agenda/2017/89Excom-1_Feb_17/Item_9-2017_6-ECE_Knowledge_management_strategy_and_action_plan.pdf</p>	<p>The Strategy is a roadmap for knowledge management in ECE in the coming years. It identifies tools, task, mechanisms and templates that still need to be developed. The 2017 Action Plan includes the timeline and unit responsible for developing the components of the strategy. According to the timeline by August 2017 the composite tasks of the strategy will have been completed. Strategy document completed. Implementation of the strategy to be reviewed by end of 2017. OIOS considers this recommendation implemented.</p> <p>Implemented January 2017</p>
2	<p>The UNECE secretariat should conduct a mapping of inter-sectoral and inter-divisional initiatives and activities in order to identify opportunities to strengthen the linkages and collaboration between its main functions and subprogrammes. This exercise could include an</p>	<p>The UNECE Secretariat will conduct a mapping of intersectoral and inter-divisional activities with a view to (i) strengthening synergies and linkages; and (ii)</p>	<p>The mapping was completed and submitted to EXCOM on 18 November 2016</p> <p>Informal Document No. 2016/58: http://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/commission/EXCOM/Agenda/2016/87Excom-18Nov16/Item_8-2016_58-Cross-</p>	<p>The document provides a thorough mapping of inter-sectoral and inter-divisional initiatives and activities. It does not include a discussion on options for</p>

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	<p>assessment of the main challenges and opportunities in enhancing the cross-cutting nature of its work.</p> <p><u>Indicator of achievement:</u> Options for strengthening inter-sectoral and inter-divisional initiatives and activities presented and endorsed by EXCOM</p>	<p>promoting collaboration among subprogrammes.</p>	<p>Divisional Activities.pdf</p>	<p>strengthening inter-sectoral and inter-divisional initiatives to be presented and endorsed by EXCOM. OIOS considers this recommendation implemented</p> <p>Implemented January 2017</p>
3	<p>The UNECE secretariat should develop a proposal for presentation to the EXCOM which explores the nature of its global focus, including both possible advantages and disadvantages to extending its worldwide reach. Given that a large proportion of UNECE's products are currently being used by a global audience, this proposal will facilitate discussion among member States regarding a strategic long-term vision for UNECE's regional and global role. The proposal should explore resource mobilization and partnership alternatives that will allow UNECE to adequately respond in the future to global demands.</p> <p><u>Indicator of achievement:</u> Proposal discussed at EXCOM with clear strategic vision outlined for UNECE's global focus.</p>	<p>The UNECE Secretariat will map activities which have a worldwide dissemination. On the basis of this mapping, UNECE will seek the advice of EXCOM and/or the Commissions on how to proceed further.</p>	<p>The Secretariat submitted Informal Document 2017/18 Mapping of the reach of the products of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) to the 91st meeting of the UNECE Executive Committee (EXCOM) on 24 March 2017.</p> <p>http://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/commission/EXCOM/Agenda/2017/91Excom-24_March_17/Item_7-2017_18-Mapping_the_reach_of_ECE_products.pdf</p> <p>Due to preparations for the upcoming biennial Commission Session of UNECE in April 2017, EXCOM requested that this matter be postponed to the 92nd meeting scheduled for 23 June 2017.</p> <p>http://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/commission/EXCOM/Agenda/2017/93Excom-26-September_17/Item_2-Chair_s_conclusions-23.06.2017.pdf</p>	<p>OIOS considers this recommendation implemented.</p> <p>Implemented June 2017</p>
4	<p>The UNECE secretariat should examine how its activities under existing norms, standards, conventions, and related review mechanisms and statistical work can contribute to attainment of the SDGs. In particular, methodologies for the country assessments will need to be adjusted. The tools identified by UNECE should be incorporated into its overall strategy and work plan for its work in</p>	<p>As noted in the evaluation report, on several occasions UNECE has discussed the opportunities presented by the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, given that its work covers many of the areas addressed by the</p>	<p>Since OIOS 2016 evaluation, all UNECE subprogrammes are fully aligned with the SDGs and the 2030 Agenda. Programmes of Work have been approved by the sectoral committees and methodologies for the country assessments have been adjusted. Below is summary of the actions taken per subprogramme, 4 supporting documents are attached but ECE could send for all subprogrammes.</p>	<p>OIOS considers this recommendation implemented.</p> <p>Implemented December 2018</p>

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	<p>supporting the 2030 agenda for sustainable development.</p> <p><u>Indicator of achievement:</u> Within each subprogramme, review mechanisms and methodologies adjusted in line with UNECE's overall strategy and work plan for the 2030 agenda for sustainable development.</p>	<p>Sustainable Development Goals. In particular, sectoral bodies have contributed and are contributing with initiatives and different activities to the development of the SDGs and their implementation. As a consequence, and in line with this recommendation, several sub-programmes and conventions have already started to examine how their work can be further aligned to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. UNECE will continue to pay due attention to this work.</p>	<p><u>SP1 Environment</u> The mapping of the Environment subprogramme processes and activities that support countries in achieving the SDGs was realized in the context of the 8th Environment for Europe Ministerial Conference in Batumi, Georgia in June 2016 (ECE/CEP/S/2016/5). The Environmental Performance Review of Mongolia (Nov. 2017) provides an example of an adjusted methodology supporting the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.</p> <p><u>SP2 Transport</u> During its 79th session in February 2017, the Inland Transport Committee considered the Note Sustainable Transport in the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals (ECE/TRANS/2017/6) and requested its subsidiary bodies to align their work with the 2030 Agenda and prepare a road map on the contributions of member States in implementing the 2030 Agenda (para. 26 of ECE/TRANS/270). The Inland Transport Committee, supported by the Sustainable Transport Division of UNECE, carries out a number of activities which have a direct impact on the achievement of the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda. Cycling and green jobs, A joint report by UN Environment-WHO-UNECE (2017) provides an example of an adjusted methodology supporting the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.</p> <p><u>SP3 Statistics</u> The UNECE statistical work is closely aligned with SDGs to improve the availability of good quality, accessible, timely and reliable disaggregated data for measurement of progress towards SDGs. UNECE has developed a Road Map on statistics for SDGs that was approved in 2017 by Chief</p>	

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			<p>Statisticians of about 60 countries from the region and beyond. This is the first such material at global level giving guidance to country statistical offices how to set up the system of providing statistics for SDGs. Many countries in the region and beyond are using the Road Map. In addition, UNECE is developing a number of tools to support countries in implementing the Road Map. These include a template for assessment of countries readiness to provide data on SDG indicators (about 75% of UNECE countries have already carried out or are in the process of such an assessment), guides to setting up a National Reporting Platform for SDG data (53% of UNECE countries have already set up or are developing such a platform), piloting data flows from countries to the international organizations responsible for different SDG indicators, etc.. The annual Expert Meetings on statistics for SDGs serve as a platform for review of progress and exchange of experience in this area (see Expert Meetings in April 2017 (http://www.unece.org/index.php?id=45249) and April 2018 (http://www.unece.org/index.php?id=47533), next meeting planned for April 2019). A number of capacity building workshops have been carried out (see http://www.unece.org/statistics/meetings-and-events.html#).</p> <p><u>SP4 Economic cooperation and integration</u> The Road Map on Statistics for Sustainable Development Goals (2017) provides an example of an adjusted methodology supporting the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.</p> <p><u>SP4 Economic cooperation and integration</u> The subprogramme has articulated their work according to the most relevant SDGs (namely SDG 8, 11, and 12) in the Strategic</p>	

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			<p>Framework for 2018-19. Subsequently, a Proposal for a Working Party on Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs) in support of the UN SDGs (ECE/CECI/2016/6) was adopted by the Committee of Innovation, Competitiveness and PPPs in May 2016 (ECE/CECI/2016/2) and by UNECE EXCOM in September 2016 (ECE/EX/2016/L.17). The Innovation for Sustainable Development Review of Belarus (2017) provides an example of an adjusted methodology supporting the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.</p> <p><u>SP5 Sustainable energy</u> The role of the Committee on Sustainable Energy and its subsidiary bodies in meeting the 2030 Agenda is outlined in a recent note (ECE/ENERGY/2018/2 attached) mapping activities carried out under the sustainable energy subprogramme. The Global Tracking Framework: UNECE Progress in Sustainable Energy (2017) provides an example of an adjusted methodology supporting the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.</p> <p><u>SP6 Trade</u> The subprogramme has articulated their work according to the most relevant SDGs (namely SDG 8, 11, and 12) in the Strategic Framework for 2018-19. During the third session of the Steering Committee on Trade Capacity and Standards (SCTCS) in April 2017, member States requested the secretariat to report on progress made in extending the scope of the evaluation methodology used in its studies on regulatory and procedural barrier to trade to capture the impact of non-tariff measures on the achievement of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The outcome of the review is reflected in documents ECE/CTCS/2018/3 Improving the ECE</p>	

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			<p>SCTCS delivery on the 2030 Agenda: Concept note, and ECE/CTCS/2018/4 Terms of Reference for the SCTCS. SCTCS approved the revised terms of reference during the fourth session of May 2018 (ECE/CTCS/2018/2).</p> <p>The UN/CEFACT Programme of Work 2017-2018; The SDGs and the work under Working Party on Agricultural Quality Standards (WP7); and From commitment to action: Standards at work for the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development for WP6 provide examples of adjusted methodologies supporting the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.</p> <p><u>SP7 Forestry and timber</u> The Warsaw Integrated Programme of Work for the period 2018-2021 (ECE/TIM/2017/2) was adopted by the joint session of the Committee on Forests and the Forest Industry (COFFI) and the European Forestry Commission (EFC) in Warsaw, Poland, in October 2017, to contribute to the implementation of the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the achievement of the forest-related SDGs, as well as the implementation of United Nations strategic plan for forests 2017-2030, within the existing mandates of ECE and FAO. The study Green Jobs in the Forest Sector (June 2018) provides an example of an adjusted methodology supporting the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.</p> <p><u>SP8 Housing, land management</u> During its 78th session (November 2017), The Committee on Housing and Land Management requested the Bureau to prepare a comprehensive draft guidance document for the alignment of the activities of the Committee to support implementation of the urban development and housing related goals</p>	

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			<p>of the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development and other key agreements within its existing mandate (ECE/HBP/190). A note (ECE/HBP/2018/2) was presented to the Committee in the context of the 79th session (October 2018).</p> <p>The Country Profiles on the Housing Sector for the Republic of Kazakhstan (2018) is an example of an adjusted methodology supporting the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.</p> <p><u>SP8 Population</u></p> <p>The subprogramme has articulated their work according to the most relevant SDGs (namely SDG 1, 3, and 5) in the Strategic Framework for 2018-19. The Programme of Work of the Working Group on Ageing during its 10th meeting in November 2017 (ECE/WG.1/2017/5).</p> <p>Ahead of the 25th anniversary of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) and its Programme of Action in 2019, UNECE and UNFPA, jointly organized in October 2018, a conference to strengthen the linkages between ICPD and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The Report on ICPD Programme of Action Implementation in the UNECE Region (October 2018) provides an example of an adjusted methodology supporting the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.</p>	
5	<p>The UNECE secretariat should undertake a mapping of existing partnerships and cooperation with non-state actors and develop specific proposals for expanding and strengthening such cooperation in support of the SDGs. The UNECE has established various partnerships within its sectors of work and has been lauded as a strong partner. In seeking to support the ambitious targets of the 2030 agenda for sustainable development, UNECE</p>	<p>As noted in the evaluation report, UNECE has already established various partnerships within its sectoral work and has been lauded as a strong partner. UNECE concurs with the recommendation that to strengthen its contribution to the achievement of the</p>	<p>Since the adoption of the 2030 Agenda, UNECE has continuously expanded its networks with non-state actors. Following the model of engagement developed for the Asia-pacific region, a Regional Civil Society Engagement Mechanism (RCEM) for the SDG / Agenda 2030 process of the UNECE region was established in June 2018:</p> <p>The UNECE-RCEM is a civil society</p>	<p>This recommendation is considered to be fully implemented.</p> <p>Implemented November 2018</p>

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	<p>will need to draw on current partnerships and forge new ones including more non- state actors.</p> <p><u>Indicator of achievement:</u> Current and prospective partnerships are mapped with proposals for strengthening cooperation in support of SDGs presented for consideration at EXCOM</p>	<p>2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the UNECE Secretariat should map existing partnerships and cooperation with non-state actors and develop specific proposals for expanding and strengthening such cooperation.</p>	<p>platform aimed to enable stronger cross constituency coordination and ensure that voices of all these constituencies in each sub-region of UN ECE are heard in intergovernmental processes at regional and global level. The platform is initiated, owned and driven by the CSOs. It has been set up under the auspices of UNECE and seeks to engage with UN agencies and Member States on Agenda 2030 as well as other development related issues/processes. Its modality mirrors that of the Major Groups and Other Stakeholders mechanism that supports civil society input into the follow-up and review process of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and High Level Political Forum process. As an open, inclusive, and flexible mechanism, RCEM is designed to reach the broadest number of CSOs in the region and works with 14 constituencies and 5 sub-regions in ECE.</p> <p>An important function of the UNECE-RCM is the organisation of a civil society forum back-to-back with the annual Regional Forum on Sustainable Development, in close cooperation with the UNECE secretariat.</p>	