



Committee on Innovation, Competitiveness and Public-Private Partnerships

Working Party on Public-Private Partnerships Fifth session

29 and 30 November 2021, Palais des Nations, Geneva, Switzerland

Room Tempus 1 and online

[Provisional Programme¹](#)

The Working Party on Public-Private Partnerships is an intergovernmental body established in 2017 and it convenes over 2000 experts coming from the public and private sector, civil society and international organizations. The Working Party provides a platform for different opinions on Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs) from all stakeholder groups. The session on 29-30 November 2021 will be held in a hybrid form with the option to join either in-person or remotely. The session will focus on the contribution of the UNECE work on People-first PPPs to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), with a policy discussion on the theme of “Scaling up People-first PPP projects in sustainable infrastructure to reignite the Decade of Action for the Sustainable Development Goals.”

¹ As of 1 November 2021.

Introduction

The fifth session of the Working Party on Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs) will take place in a hybrid format on 29- 30 November 2021.

The [Decade of Action](#) proclaimed by the United General Assembly to deliver the SDGs, the [69th session of the Commission](#) promoting circular economy and the sustainable use of natural resources in the UNECE region, and the United Nations Secretary-General's report "[Our Common Agenda](#)", with its key proposals across the 12 commitments to accelerate the achievement of the SDGs, serve as an inspiration for the Working Party to lead the way in promoting infrastructure that is green, resilient and of high quality, where people are the main beneficiaries.

Goals of the session

The goals of the session are:

- To **explore ways** for the Working Party to contribute to more high-quality projects that contribute to the circular economy agenda through its People-first PPP approach for the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs); and
- To **review the impact** and **chart a path** for the Working Party towards the development, use and effectiveness of its tools, guidelines, standards and capacity building activities.

Programme organisation

The Working Party will be organised as a hybrid event with interpretation in English, French and Russian as follows:

- Two 2-hour sessions from 11:00 to 13:00 and from 15:00 to 17:00 Geneva time on 29 November, and
- Two 3-hour sessions from 10:00 to 13:00 and from 15:00 to 18:00 Geneva time on 30 November.

The **policy discussion** will be organised in a high-level debate and two panel discussions held on 29 November, while the **general segment**, with important discussions and decisions on the UNECE PPP programme, will take place on 30 November.

Day 1 | Monday, 29 November 2021

11:00-11:15 Opening and adoption of the agenda²

Olga Algayerova, Under-Secretary General and Executive Secretary, UNECE

Policy discussion: Scaling up People-first PPP projects in sustainable infrastructure to reignite the Decade of Action for the Sustainable Development Goals

11:15-13:00 High-level debate: Reignite the Decade of Action for the Sustainable Development Goals: the role of sustainable infrastructure

Background:

As the world strives to recover from the COVID-19 pandemic, embracing sustainable infrastructure - green, resilient and of high quality where people are the main beneficiaries - is necessary to stay on track to reignite the Decade of Action and achieve the SDGs, including SDG 12 and the circular economy transition. The high-level debate will discuss how the People-first PPP approach in support of the SDGs can provide substantive guidance to chart a path to reach a more sustainable and equitable future, and concurrently contributing to the circular economy agenda.

² The annotated provisional agenda is contained in document ECE/CECI/WP/PPP/2021/1.

Key questions:

- How can PPP projects contribute to the circular economy agenda?
- How can the UNECE People-first PPP approach for the SDGs help governments achieve green, resilient and high-quality sustainable infrastructure?
- To what extent can the People-first PPP approach for the SDGs contribute to addressing the inequalities exacerbated by Covid-19, in particular, within vulnerable members of society?

Moderator:

H.E Elisabeth Tichy-Fisslberger, Ambassador of Austria (tbc)

Panellists:

Kerry Adler, President and CEO, SkyPower, Canada

Alexander Bazhenov, Co-founder and partner, InfraKap, Russian Federation

Joss Blériot, Executive Lead, Institutions, Governments and Cities, Ellen MacArthur Foundation

Laurence Carter, Senior Advisor, International Finance Corporation

Alexandra Carvalho, Secretary General, Ministry of Environment, Portugal

Raymond Saner, Director Centre for Socio-Eco-Nomic Development

James Stewart, Senior PPP Adviser, United Kingdom

Sedef Yavuz-Noyan, Head of PPP Department in the Presidency of the Turkish Republic

13:00-15:00 Lunch break**15:00-16:00 Session I: How is the People-first PPP approach for the SDGs contributing to the development of green, inclusive, resilient and fiscally sustainable infrastructure?****Background:**

The People-first PPP approach in support of the SDGs is contributing to the work of the international community aimed at scaling up infrastructure projects that are green, circular, inclusive, resilient and fiscally sustainable. The session will explore, in particular, the convergence in implementing the [UNECE Guiding Principles on People-first PPPs in support of the SDGs](#) (Guiding Principles) and the [G20 Principles for Quality Infrastructure Investment](#) (QII) endorsed by the G20 Heads of State in 2019 under the Japanese G20 presidency.

Key questions:

- What are the common and distinctive features of the Guiding Principles and the QII and how can they mutually advance the SDGs and achieve more high-quality projects?
- How can the UNECE People-first PPP approach for the SDGs be leveraged further in convergence with the work undertaken by the Multilateral Development Banks' Infrastructure Cooperation Platform (MDB ICP) and with other tools developed by the MDBs?
- How could the tools and joint efforts by UNECE, the MDBs and the G20 contribute to a transition towards a new generation of infrastructure and PPP projects to accelerate the implementation of the SDGs?

Moderator:

Jean-Patrick Marquet, Member of the Global Future Council, World Economic Forum

Panellists:

Frédéric Bobay, Project Director, FIN INFRA, Ministry of the Economy, Finance and the Recovery, France

Doris Chevalier, CEO, Infraboost and 4IP Advisory Board

Yuko Tsuji, Deputy Director, PPP/PFI Promotion Office, Cabinet Office, Japan

Speaker from Greece

Q&A

Expected Outcomes from the Session

- Highlight the common and distinctive features of QII and the People-first PPP approach for the SDGs and emphasise their complementarity
- Demonstrate the impact of the tools developed by UNECE and the MDBs towards a new generation of SDG-compliant PPP projects

Documentation:

- [Guiding Principles on People-first Public-Private Partnerships in support of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals](#) (ECE/CECI/2019/5)
- [The G20 Quality Infrastructure Investment Principles](#)
- [The People-first Public-Private Partnerships Evaluation Methodology for the Sustainable Development Goals](#) (ECE/CECI/WP/PPP/2021/3)

16:00-17:00 **Session II: How do the People-first PPP projects for the SDGs contribute to the circular economy agenda?**

Background:

The session will explore the extent to which the People-first PPP approach in support of the SDGs can contribute to the circular economy agenda in a holistic matter, that is, by increasing the circularity in infrastructure and by implementing infrastructure for the circular economy and beyond towards a sustainable economy. The session will also consider specific projects that deal with certain aspects of the circular economy agenda, in particular, the potential of waste-to-energy projects for residual non-recyclable materials.

Key questions:

- What are the circularity elements in the different phases of infrastructure projects – identification, development, and implementation?
- How does the People-first PPP approach for the SDGs contribute to the circular economy and beyond towards a sustainable economy?
- What is the value-added of the People-first PPP approach for the SDGs to achieve sustainable waste-to-energy projects to make the sector fully compatible with the circular economy agenda?

Moderator:

Elisabeth Tuerk, Director, ECTD, UNECE

Panellists:

Athanasios Bourtsalas, Lecturer in Energy and Materials, Columbia University

Marian Chertow, Professor, Yale University (tbc)

Pedro Neves, CEO, Global Solutions, Portugal

Mattia Pellegrini, Head of Unit, Waste Management and Secondary Materials, European Commission (tbc)

Ella Stengler, Managing Director of the Confederation of European Waste to Energy Plants

Q&A

Expected Outcomes from the Session

- Advance the work on the UNECE Guidelines on Promoting People-first PPPs Waste-to-Energy for the Circular Economy
- Identify circularity elements in the different phases of infrastructure projects – identification, development, and implementation (subject to approval by member States, these elements will be summarised in a secretariat paper with policy recommendations)

Documentation:

- [Guidelines on Promoting People-first Public-Private Partnerships Waste-to-Energy Projects for the Circular Economy](#) (ECE/ ECI/WP/PPP/2020/5)

Day 2 | Tuesday, 30 November 2021

General Segment³

10:00-13:00	Item 3. Review of the PPP work since the fourth session of the Working Party on 1-2 December 2020
	Item 4. Implementation plan for 2021-2022
	Item 5. Rules of Procedure
13:00-15:00	Lunch break
15:00-18:00	Item 6. Election of Officers
	Item 7. Other business
	Item 8. Adoption of the report of the fifth session

³ This schedule is tentative and is subject to change based on the epidemiological situation and the availability of UN interpretation services at the time of the meeting.