

DECISIONS OF THE ELEVENTH SESSION OF THE SPECA GOVERNING COUNCIL

(Ganja, Azerbaijan, 23 November 2016)

Decision 1

The Governing Council notes with satisfaction the outcomes of the 2016 SPECA Economic Forum on “Enhanced Implementation of SDGs through Cooperation” held in Ganja on 22-23 November 2016. The Governing Council calls upon ESCAP and UNECE, as well as other United Nations agencies and programmes, to provide active support to regional efforts by SPECA participating countries to implement the Sustainable Developments Goals through cooperation.

Decision 2

The Governing Council adopts the Ganja Declaration on “Enhanced Implementation of SDGs through Cooperation”.

Decision 3

The Governing Council notes with appreciation the Progress Reports on the work carried out by the SPECA Thematic Working Groups since its last session. The Governing Council expresses satisfaction with the scope of activities and the stability of extrabudgetary funding received by SPECA projects.

Decision 4

The Governing Council welcomes the strengthening cooperation between SPECA, the Regional UN Development Group, UN Country Teams in the SPECA countries, and UN and other international organizations, supporting progress towards the achievement of SDGs through enhanced subregional cooperation and towards enhanced economic cooperation in the SPECA subregion. The Governing Council underscores the importance of such partnerships for the success of assistance provided to SPECA countries on the SDGs. The Governing Council invites ESCAP and UNECE and their partner organizations to continue developing close cooperation, including further development and implementation of joint projects.

Decision 5

The Governing Council notes with satisfaction the work done by the SPECA participating countries and the SPECA Thematic Working Groups on implementing the provision of the Declaration of the tenth session of the Governing Council (Dushanbe, 11 November 2015), suggesting to make the SPECA framework an important platform for supporting progress towards many of the SDGs through the exchange of best practice, capacity-building, joint development and implementation of regional projects and sharing of experiences on the use of new financial mechanisms and partnerships.

Decision 6

The Governing Council welcomes the forward looking SPECA evaluation on strengthening its role as a mechanism for cooperation in implementation of the 2030 Agenda for sustainable development in line with the Ganja Declaration.

Decision 7

The Governing Council expresses its sincere gratitude to Azerbaijan for its active work as the Chair country of SPECA between 2015 and 2016.

Decision 8

The Governing Council noted that the Government of Turkmenistan is considering to assume the Chairmanship of SPECA in 2017. The decision of the Government of Turkmenistan will be confirmed through diplomatic channels.

Decision 9

The exact dates and venue of the 2017 SPECA Economic Forum and the 12th session of the SPECA Governing Council will be agreed upon and communicated through diplomatic channels.

Decision 10

The Governing Council expresses its sincere gratitude to the Government of Azerbaijan for the excellent organization and generous hospitality offered to the participants of the 2016 SPECA Economic Forum and the eleventh session of the SPECA Governing Council.

Decision 11

The Governing Council expresses its deep appreciation to the secretariats of ESCAP and UNECE and their Executive Secretaries for their efforts to organize these important annual events and also expresses its special appreciation for their active work aimed at strengthening SPECA and their continued support to Programme implementation.