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UN SPECA activities to support knowledge-based development and trade

Almaty, 18 September 2018



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UN Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia (SPECA)

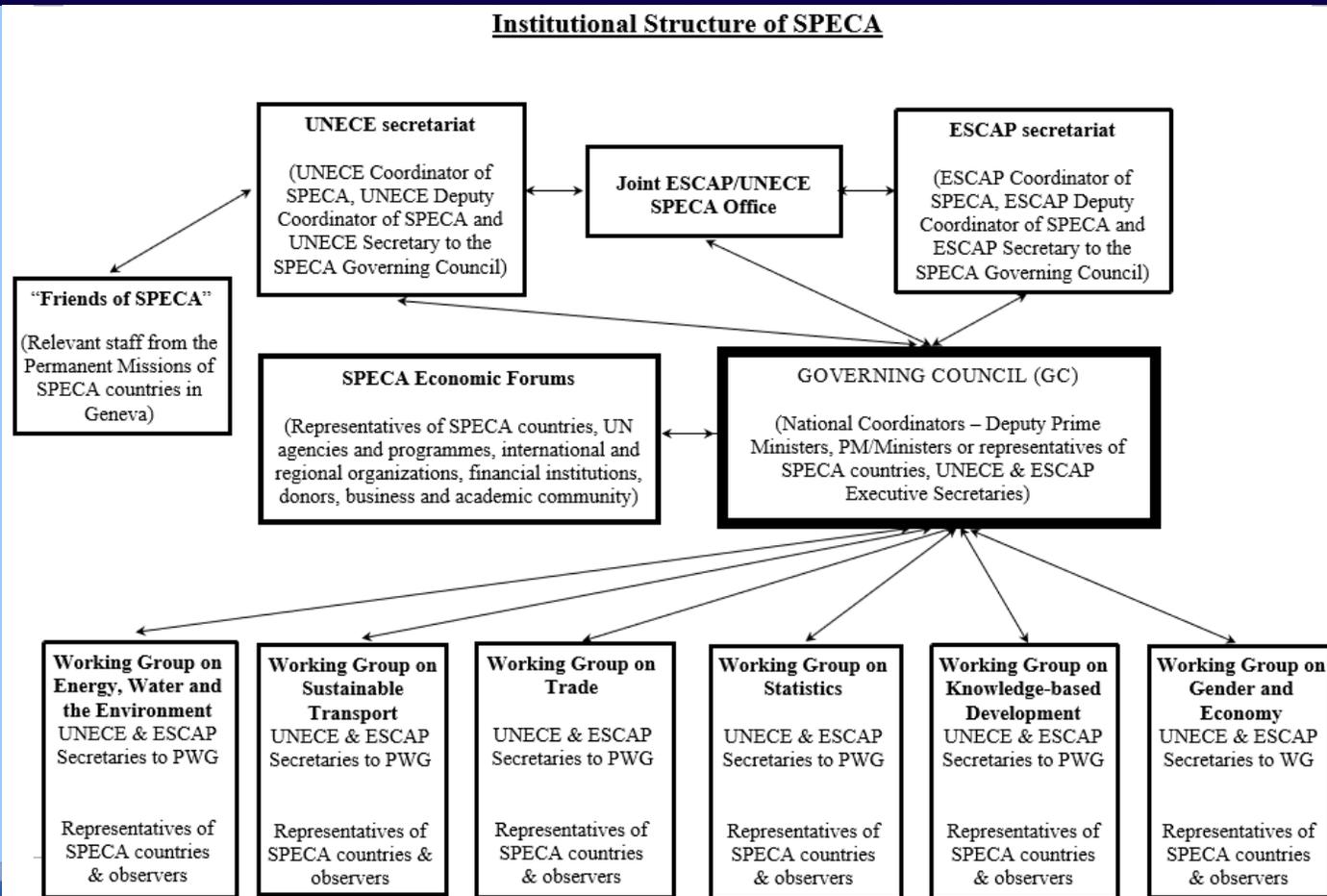
- 1998: SPECA launch following Tashkent Declaration.
- Goal to strengthen sub-regional cooperation in Central Asia and its integration into world economy.
- Current participating countries: Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan.
- Secretariat support provided by two UN Regional Commissions: United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) and Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP).
- Coordinator at UNECE is Deputy Executive Secretary, with support of Mr. Mario Apostolov, Regional Advisor, tel. +41 22 917134, e-mail: Mario.Apostolov@unece.org



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Institutional Structure of SPECA





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SPECA Economic Forum and Governing Council

- Institutional structure of SPECA includes a Governing Council, meeting once a year usually together with an annual SPECA Economic Forum.
- This year, SPECA Economic Forum will take place 20-21 September in Almaty, and SPECA Governing Council on 21 September.
- Theme of 2018 SPECA Economic Forum: Twenty years of SPECA: A new stage in regional cooperation for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.
- Strong linkages with Vienna Programme of Action:

V. Priorities for action

Priority 1: Fundamental transit policy issues.

Priority 2: Infrastructure development and maintenance:

(a) Transport infrastructure;

(b) Energy and information and communications technology infrastructure.

Priority 3: International trade and trade facilitation:

(a) International trade;

(b) Trade facilitation.

Priority 4: Regional integration and cooperation.

Priority 5: Structural economic transformation.

Priority 6: Means of implementation.



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Key role for SPECA in delivering SDGs in sub-region (1)

Work driven by thematic working groups (WGs) that have identified SDG priorities:

The WG on Water, Energy and the Environment:

- o SDG 6 (Clean water and sanitation), target 6.5, and
- o SDG 7 (Affordable and clean energy), targets 7.1 and 7.2.

The WG on Sustainable Transport, Transit and Connectivity:

- o SDG 3 (Good health and wellbeing), target 3.6;
- o SDG 7 (Affordable and clean energy), target 7.3;
- o SDG 9 (Industry, innovation and infrastructure), target 9.1;
- o SDG 11 (Sustainable cities and communities), target 11.2; and
- o SDG 12 (Responsible consumption and production), target 12.c.



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Key role for SPECA in delivering SDGs in sub-region (2)

Work driven by thematic working groups (WGs) that have identified SDG priorities:

The WG on Trade:

- o SDG 17 (Partnerships for the Goals), targets 17.10, and 17.11. The WG made tangible contribution to progress on target 17.10 through a SPECA Trade Policy Forum in Ashgabat in May 2016 (notably on WTO accession), national WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement readiness assessments and trainings for trade facilitation implementation.

The WG on Knowledge-Based Development:

- o SDGs 8 (Decent work and economic growth), targets 8.2 and 8.3;
- o SDG 9 (Industry, innovation and infrastructure), targets 9.1, 9.4, 9.5, 9b and 9c.
- o SDG 13 (combat climate change and its impacts), targets 13.1, 13.3
- o SDG 17 (Partnerships for the Goals), targets 17.1, 17.2



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Key role for SPECA in delivering SDGs in sub-region (3)

Work driven by thematic working groups (WGs) that have identified SDG priorities:

The WG on Gender and the Economy:

- o SDG 5 (Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls), in particular targets 5.1, 5.2, 5.4, 5.5, 5a, 5b, and 5c

Reflecting the gender dimension and mainstreaming gender, the following SDGs were identified:

- o SDG 1 (End poverty in all its forms everywhere), targets 1.4 and 1.b
- o SDG 4 (Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all) targets 4.4, 4.5 and 4.7
- o SDG 8 (Decent work and economic growth), targets 8.3, 8.5, 8.8 and 8.10.
- o SDG 9 (Industry, innovation and infrastructure), targets 9.1, 9.3 and 9c.
- o SDG 10 (Reduce inequality within and among countries), targets 10.2, 10.3 and 10.4.



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Key role for SPECA in delivering SDGs in sub-region (4)

Work driven by thematic working groups (WGs) that have identified SDG priorities:

WG on Statistics has specific role in review and monitoring of progress against all SDGs. Consequently, the Group will continue its general work on building capacity in the statistical systems of the SPECA countries to collect and process statistics. Targets 17.18 and 17.19 of SDG 17 (Partnerships) partly cover these objectives.

Aforementioned SDGs and targets, which the SPECA TWGs have selected for future work, in consultation with the SPECA Governments, may become an SDG framework, on which to concentrate the implementation of the SPECA Programme, in order to support the participating countries in achieving the identified SDGs and targets.

For more information on the work plan, institutional structure, meetings and projects under the SPECA programme, please go to the SPECA web page:

<http://www.unece.org/speca/welcome.html>



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Activities of SPECA WG on Trade for sustainable development of landlocked countries of the sub-region

WG on Trade currently concentrating on four deliverables:

- A regional SPECA Trade Facilitation Strategy. Trade Facilitation and the Single Window have been key areas of work in the area of trade in the SPECA setting.
- A set of principles for “sustainable trade”: developing regional trade aligned to the SDGs
- Study on “nexus” between water management, regional trade, energy and SD.
- Position paper on how to deal with non-tariff measures in trade in the SPECA region, so that they do not become barriers to trade.

These are contributions under SPECA to sustainable development of landlocked countries of the sub-region. They will become inputs in the work under SPECA next year, under the SPECA Chairmanship of Turkmenistan. Current plans with Government of Turkmenistan to organize the 2019 SPECA Economic Forum on the subject of Connectivity – more precisely, trade and transport facilitation to turn the SPECA sub-region into a transit hub.



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SPECA Working Group on Knowledge-based Development (WG on KBD)

Long-standing focus on national reviews of innovation policy to reinforce shift to a knowledge-based economy:

Established programme across ECE region, including SPECA sub-region

- Innovation Performance Reviews completed for Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan
- Baseline assessment of national situation and serve as a basis for country level capacity building activities
- Based on int'l good practices
- On request from countries
- Repeat visits by int'l expert teams
- Tailored recommendations
- Peer review and gov't feedback





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SPECA Working Group on Knowledge-based Development (WG on KBD)

From Innovation Performance Reviews to Innovation for Sustainable
Development Reviews

Economic growth is ONE pillar of sustainable development

The others are

- Environmental Sustainability
- Social Inclusion

⇒ Need for additional policies to steer innovation efforts into areas critical for sustainable development

⇒ Can become a valuable tool for follow-up and review within the framework of the 2030 Agenda, including Voluntary National Review process



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SPECA Working Group on Knowledge-based Development (WG on KBD)

“Innovation for Sustainable Development” – Structure of 2nd stage review

1. The role of innovation in the country’s sustainable development strategy; recent economic and innovation performance
2. Governance of the national innovation system: Framework conditions, innovation policies and instruments
3. Knowledge generation and innovation support institutions; industry-science linkages; innovative entrepreneurship and financing
4. Measuring innovation performance
- including international comparisons
5. Innovation in the enterprise sector
6. The role of eco-innovations and social innovations as a pillar of sustainable development



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SPECA Working Group on Knowledge-based Development (WG on KBD)

SPECA Innovation Strategy for Sustainable Development – work in progress

- 2017 SPECA Economic Forum “Innovation for the SDGs in the SPECA region” (Dushanbe, December 2017) reviewed role of innovation as a vehicle for pursuing SDGs in SPECA sub-region
- Recommended the development and implementation of a SPECA Innovation Strategy for Sustainable Development to support Governments’ efforts to achieve the SDGs
 - Should identify possible innovation policies to realize regional synergies and economies of scale for achieving the SDGs and SD targets
 - Provide for sharing and exchanging innovation practices, initiatives and policies in pursuing the SDGs
- 12th session of SPECA Governing Council adopted recommendation (Dushanbe, December 2017), and requested the SPECA WG on KBD work on developing such a Strategy.
- SPECA WG on KBD discussed draft outline of a SPECA Strategy for Sustainable Development at its tenth session (Bishkek, 5 July 2018).



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SPECA Working Group on Knowledge-based Development (WG on KBD)

SPECA Innovation Strategy for Sustainable Development – next steps

- Positive feedback from stakeholders at SPECA WG on KBD, and proposals made to enrich the draft outline with some complimentary initiatives and activities
- Need to ensure strong country leadership in taking the draft outline to an adopted Strategy with Action Plan
- Draft outline of a SPECA Innovation Strategy for Sustainable Development to be considered by 13th session of SPECA Governing Council, Almaty, 21 September 2018
- Accompanying Roadmap to reach a final, adopted Strategy has been developed, and will also be considered by SPECA Governing Council



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SPECA Working Group on Knowledge-based Development (WG on KBD)

SPECA Innovation Strategy for Sustainable Development – a Roadmap

- 1. SPECA delegates inform Governments of initiative, objectives and proposed activities. Governments nominate Focal Points for elaboration and implementation of the Strategy. Desirable timing: October-December 2018
- 2. National Focal Points, based on draft outline and a questionnaire, consult with relevant national stakeholders regarding the vision, mission, guiding principles, objectives, policy priority areas and governance of the Strategy. Desirable timing: January-June 2019
- 3. National Focal Points discuss a draft version of Strategy, which is then considered at annual session of the SPECA WG on KBD. Desirable timing: June 2019
- 4. Based on these discussions, final draft of the SPECA Innovation Strategy for Sustainable Development is produced and adopted by SPECA Governing Council at its annual session. Desirable timing: July-December 2019
- 5. Action Plan for implementation of SPECA Innovation Strategy for Sustainable Development is developed and adopted by the SPECA countries. Desirable timing: January 2020 and onwards



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SPECA Innovation Strategy for Sustainable Development – key priorities

SDG gaps and SDG policy priorities in the SPECA sub-region

Priority assigned to SDGs by national policy in the SPECA countries	SDG gap faced by SPECA countries	Large gap	Low or medium gap
High priority		SDG6, SDG8, SDG9	SDG4, SDG5, SDG7, SDG13, SDG17
Low or medium priority		SDG3, SDG11, SDG16	SDG1, SDG2, SDG10, SDG12, SDG14, SDG15

Source: UNECE background paper prepared for the 2017 SPECA Economic Forum.



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SPECA Innovation Strategy for Sustainable Development – key priorities

SDG priorities identified during Workshop on “Innovation Strategy, Technology Applications and Infrastructure for the SDGs” (Baku, 4-5 July 2018)

Sustainable Development Goals	Average rank assigned by participants
Goal 1. End poverty in all its forms everywhere	4.38
Goal 2. End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture	4.54
Goal 3. Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages	5.00
Goal 4. Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all	4.93
Goal 5. Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls	4.00
Goal 6. Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all	4.43
Goal 7. Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all	4.29
Goal 8. Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all	4.64
Goal 9. Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation	4.77
Goal 10. Reduce inequality within and among countries	3.92
Goal 11. Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable	4.36
Goal 12. Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns	4.14
Goal 13. Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts[b]	4.07
Goal 14. Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development	3.64
Goal 15. Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss	3.86
Goal 16. Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels	4.36
Goal 17. Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development Finance	4.36

Note: Participants assigned priority ranks to SDGs (5=“high”; 1=“low” priority). Results in table refer to average priority rank from this assessment.

A similar ranking exercise was performed for possible priority activities to target the SDGs under the SPECA Innovation Strategy for Sustainable Development. These will inform development of Action Plan.



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Thank you!

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