UNITED NATIONS SPECIAL PROGRAMME FOR THE ECONOMIES OF CENTRAL ASIA (SPECA)

Sixth Session of the SPECA Project Working Group on Knowledge-Based Development

(Ashgabat, Turkmenistan, 11 June 2014)

PROGRESS REPORT ON THE ACTIVITIES OF THE PWG ON KBD

This report contains activities organized by the UNECE and ESCAP secretariats either within the framework of the SPECA Project Working Group on Knowledge-based Development (PWG on KBD), or addressing topics within its thematic areas that were held since the fifth session of the SPECA PWG on KBD in Baku, Azerbaijan, 4 December 2013.

The Programme of Work of the PWG for 2014-2015 was adopted at the fifth session of the PWG on KBD, held in Baku on 4 December 2013. The UNECE and ESCAP secretariats have carried out the following capacity-building activities for SPECA countries since the fifth session:

- *Completion of the project "Building the capacity of SPECA countries to adopt and apply innovative green technologies for climate change adaptation"*, funded by the United Nations Development Account, and follow-up event – *Policy Seminar on Promoting the Introduction of Green Technologies*, Haifa, Israel, 17-19 December 2013.

- *Implementation of the UNECE project "Innovation performance reviews"*. Within the framework of this project, Innovation Performance Reviews of Kazakhstan and other CIS countries have been completed. Reports are available in English and Russian. Ongoing implementation was discussed during the eighth session of the UNECE Committee on Economic Cooperation and Integration, Geneva, Switzerland, 13 February 2014.

- *Implementation of the UNECE project "PPP readiness assessments in countries of Central Asia". Consultations and Dialogue on the PPP Readiness Assessment of Kazakhstan* were organized by UNECE and the PPP Centre of Kazakhstan in Astana, Kazakhstan, 9 April 2014. PPP readiness assessments of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan have been finalized. These reports will be available online in English and in Russian.

- *UNECE Policy Workshop on Public Support to Venture Capital*, Astana, Kazakhstan, 28 May 2014.

- *Implementation of the ESCAP project "Expanding connectivity of North and Central Asia with the Asia-Pacific region through the development of ICT infrastructure and networks".* Within the framework of this project, a comprehensive report on Internet infrastructure in Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russian Federation, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan has been completed. The report is available online in English and Russian. An additional report on Internet infrastructure in Afghanistan is currently under preparation.

- *Implementation of the ESCAP project "Strengthening information and communications technology capacities for disaster risk reduction and development: addressing information, knowledge and policy gaps in Asia".* ESCAP is further developing the **Asia-Pacific Gateway for Disaster Risk Management and Development**, an online knowledge platform for mainstreaming disaster risk reduction into national development processes.

- *High-level Regional Roundtable on Telecommunications Connectivity in Central Asia*, Almaty, Kazakhstan, 3 June 2014.

Representatives of the SPECA countries participated in the following events:

- Eighth session of the UNECE Committee on Economic Cooperation and Integration, Geneva, Switzerland, 12-14 February 2014.

- ESCAP/APCICT regional workshop on ICTD Project Management and Monitoring and Evaluation, Incheon, Republic of Korea, 15-18 April 2014.

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