

Intellectual Property Rights Policy governing the development and use of UNECE PPP Standards¹

Background

It is an important UN principal that its work must be made available for use by member States free of charge. The guiding principle under which PPP standards are developed is that the main beneficiary of the standards and recommendations are the member States. Intellectual property rights (IPRs), mainly copyright, are generated throughout the development of PPP standards, third party IPRs may also be used, and this intellectual property rights policy (IPR policy) is aimed at managing the use and ownership of this IPR.

UNECE PPP standards as public goods

In order to promote the widest adoption of the PPP outputs, they can be implemented freely and without any restrictions. The Bureau of the Working Party on PPPs (WP PPP) will not recommend the approval of a standard if it is aware that third parties' IPRs exist in the draft standard or other output that are not freely available for use without any restrictions.

Intellectual Property Ownership and Waiver

All new intellectual property generated throughout the development of the PPP standards belongs to the UNECE. As a condition for participating in the Project Teams, Project Team members agree to waive their rights to enforce any prior IPRs used in the PPP standards and other outputs against any party using the standard or output.

Transparency and Confidentiality

The UNECE and the members of the Project Teams have no duty of confidentiality with respect to any information transferred between them. No information transferred that is subject to any requirement of confidentiality or any restriction on its dissemination will be considered for inclusion in any part of the PPP Open Standard Development Process, and there must be no assumption of any confidentiality obligation with respect to any contribution.

Disclaimer

The following disclaimer must be included in the publication, on the website and in any other form of presentation of UNECE PPP outputs covered by the IPR policy.

The UNECE draws attention to the possibility that the practice or implementation of its outputs (which include but are not limited to standards, recommendations, norms, guidelines and technical specifications) may involve the use of a claimed intellectual property right. Each output is based on the contributions of participants in the PPP standard development process, who have acknowledged that all new intellectual property rights generated belongs to

¹ The IPR policy has been endorsed by TOS PPP at its sixth session on 23-24 June 2014 subject to review by the Office of Legal Counsel in New York.

the UNECE and have also agreed to waive enforcement of their existing intellectual property rights used in the PPP standards against any party using the outputs.

The UNECE takes no position concerning the evidence, validity or applicability of any claimed intellectual property right or any other right that might be claimed by any third parties related to the implementation of its outputs. The UNECE makes no representation that it has made any investigation or effort to evaluate any such rights.

Users of UNECE PPP outputs are cautioned that any third-party intellectual property rights claims related to their use of a UNECE PPP output will be their responsibility and are urged to ensure that their use of UNECE PPP outputs does not infringe on an intellectual property right of a third party.

The UNECE does not accept any liability for any possible infringement of a claimed intellectual property right or any other right that might be claimed to relate to the implementation of any of its outputs.