



## **Public-Private Partnership Project Impact Assessment Tool For the Sustainable Development Goals**

### **Preparatory meeting**

*25 March 2019 - 9:30-12:30 - Geneva, Palais des Nations*

**Room IV**

### **Concept note**

#### **Introduction**

UNECE is preparing an Impact Investment Tool that can measure the impact of infrastructure projects including Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs) and their compliance with the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Projects which comply with the UN SDGs are those which have the following outcomes:

- Increase access to essential services and promote equity in distribution of services;
- Are economically effective (e.g. do not incur too high levels of debt, empower women, generate local, high-quality jobs in construction services and in related supply chains, etc.);
- Engage with all stakeholders throughout the lifecycle of projects;
- Are cutting Co2 emissions and utilizing renewable energy sources;
- Are replicable (involve a training component that allows the development of skills to do similar projects in host countries).

This Tool is designed in a way that can measure all projects in a consistent way across a spectrum of projects involved in such sectors as water, energy, municipal services, etc. It is also designed to measure real impacts as opposed to what might be termed a more superficial methodology that only focusses on specific UN SDGs whose outcomes do meaningfully score projects. The five above mentioned outcomes are chosen because of their relevance to the types of “development” that the UN SDGs are seeking to achieve:

- Transformational
- Inclusive
- Sustainable
- Economically effective
- Green.

This work on preparing such a Tool will be undertaken by a Project Team consisting of public and private sectors, representatives of international organizations, academia and civil society.

## Objectives of the Preparatory Meeting

The objectives of this meeting are:

1. To consult with different stakeholders (representatives of UN agencies, governments, NGOs, civil society bodies, academia, the banks, the impact investing community, etc.) undertaking similar or related UNSDG work. Such a consultation will focus on some of the specific tasks that will be undertaken by a very soon to be created international Project team, namely:
  - a. Identifying the metrics
  - b. Validating the methodology
  - c. Operationalising the tool (both as a self-assessment tool for project developers and governments, and where third party, authorised certifiers can undertake this assessment).
2. To recruit experts to join the Project Team;
3. To discuss the ways in which the outputs of the Project Team can be scaled up to influence decision takers involved in infrastructure design, operations and financing;
4. To explore how the Impact Investment Tool can be used by different stakeholders.

Our aim with this meeting is to tap into the existing expertise and set up a better-informed network for the Project team initiative. Only by doing this can we reach the scale and become global in scope to effectively support the achievement of the SDGs. This is also a partnering effort and we are interested to explore ways in which different organisations can join us in carrying out this work.

## Benefits

Such an infrastructure Impact Investment Tool can create a number of benefits, including, *inter alia*:

- Help public and private decision takers in designing infrastructure projects to ensure that they mention SDG outcomes and comply with the desired outcomes;
- Reward partnerships by designating/certifying them as compliant with the UNSDGs;
- Guide and mobilize all stakeholders on the importance of the UN 2030 Development Agenda.

## Work of the Project Team

The Project Team will be asked to undertake the following:

- **Creating Partnerships:** The Tool should ideally be as widely used as possible and attract partners from within the UN (UNEP, UNDP, UNOPS, UNICEF, the UN Regional Commissions, etc.), as well as from other international organizations, multilateral development banks, the banking community; and the Team will seek to create such partnerships;
- **Gathering PPP Project/Infrastructure case studies** on the basis of which the Tool will be developed;
- **Defining the metrics** and scoring them appropriately. Each of the five outcomes mentioned above will have separate metrics (five or six) which will be scored, and different weights will be given for each of the indicators;
- **Validation:** The Team will present the Tool to different groups for validation;
- **Implementation:** The Team will identify a mechanism for utilizing the tool in such a way that it can be widely distributed. This will involve training the trainers of prospective certifiers who will use the methodology.

## Provisional Agenda of the Preparatory meeting

1. Presentation of the purpose of the Tool
2. Comments by experts
3. Comments by possible partners of the project
4. Work on validation and implementation
5. Report to the Committee on Innovation, Competitiveness and Public-Private Partnerships scheduled for 25 - 27 March 2019.
6. Next steps.