



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

**Seventeenth session of the SPECA Governing Council**

**(Almaty, Kazakhstan, 18 November 2022)**

**DRAFT DECISIONS<sup>1</sup>**

**Draft decision 1**

The Governing Council notes with satisfaction the outcomes of the 2022 SPECA Economic Forum on “Greener and Safer Future” held in Almaty from 16 to 17 November 2022. The Council calls upon the SPECA participating countries, ESCAP and UNECE, other United Nations agencies and programmes, and international development partners to provide active support to the efforts to promote sustainable and resilient economic growth for the greener and safer future of the region.

**Draft decision 2**

The Governing Council adopts the “Almaty Declaration” on promoting sustainable and resilient economic transformation, sustainable and balanced energy transition, digital transformation, and gender equality and women’s empowerment in the region. The Council requests the participating countries and development partners to support the implementation of this document.

**Draft decision 3**

The Governing Council notes with appreciation the Progress Reports on the activities of the SPECA Thematic Working Groups carried out since its previous session and expresses satisfaction with the implementation of the activities covered in their reports.

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<sup>1</sup> The Delegation of Turkmenistan reserved its position on the content of all draft Decisions of the 17th session of the SPECA Governing Council, with the exception of the draft Decisions 8 and 9, due to the need for thorough elaboration and coordination with the relevant structures of Turkmenistan. The Delegation of Kyrgyzstan reserved its position on the content of draft Decisions 6 and 7.

The Governing Council expresses its appreciation to the SPECA participating countries for supporting and hosting the Thematic Working Groups sessions and meetings. The Council is especially grateful to the Republic of Kazakhstan, Russian Federation, and other development partners for their support of the activities of the SPECA Thematic Working Groups.

#### **Draft decision 4**

In light of Decision (SPECA/GC/Dec/2021/4) of its sixteenth session in 2021, the Governing Council expresses its gratitude to the Government of Kazakhstan for conducting additional consultations among the SPECA participating countries on the establishment of the SPECA Secretariat in Almaty.

The Governing Council, pursuant to Decision 4 (SPECA/GC/Dec/2021/4) adopted in Tashkent on 19 November 2021 and based on consultations with the SPECA participating countries conducted by Kazakhstan, requests participating countries to appoint a group of experts at the level of senior officials from relevant structural departments no later than 31 December 2022.

The Council requests the expert group to meet and discuss by 31 March 2023 the draft Terms of Reference on the establishment of the SPECA Secretariat in Almaty as the first location for further approval by the participating countries.

#### **Draft decision 5**

In light of Decision 5 (SPECA/GC/Dec/2021/5) of its sixteenth session in 2021, the Governing Council expresses its appreciation to the ESCAP and UNECE secretariats for preparation of the Concept of establishing the SPECA Fund in the UN Multi-Partner Trust Fund (MPTF) format. The Council further notes the information on the consultations held on the establishment of the SPECA Fund.

#### **Draft decision 6**

The Governing Council supports the proposal of Azerbaijan to prepare a draft resolution “On the commemoration of the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of establishment of SPECA” for approval at the 78<sup>th</sup> session of the General Assembly in 2023.

#### **Draft decision 7**

The Governing Council takes note of the initiative to establish a council of the Permanent Representatives of SPECA participating countries in Geneva as a working mechanism to improve coordination of SPECA activities in Geneva.

#### **Draft decision 8**

The Governing Council expresses its sincere gratitude to Kazakhstan for its active work as the Chair country of SPECA in 2022.

### **Draft decision 9**

The Governing Council expresses its appreciation to the Government of Azerbaijan for its proposal to assume the Chairmanship of SPECA in 2023 and host the Economic Forum and session of the Governing Council in 2023. The Council elects Azerbaijan as the Chair country of SPECA for 2023.

The Council decides that the eighteenth session of the SPECA Governing Council and the 2023 SPECA Economic Forum will be held in Azerbaijan in 2023. The dates and venue of these events will be agreed upon and communicated through the diplomatic channels. The theme of the 2023 SPECA Economic Forum will be determined in due course.

### **Draft decision 10**

The Governing Council expresses its sincere gratitude to Kazakhstan for chairing the 2022 SPECA high-level events and for the excellent organization of the seventeenth session of the SPECA Governing Council and the 2022 SPECA Economic Forum, as well as the warm hospitality offered to the participants of the SPECA events in Almaty.

### **Draft decision 11**

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