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Working Party on Industry and Enterprise Development

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Sub-item 4.3.1 of the provisional agenda

TEAM OF SPECIALISTS ON ENTREPRENEURSHIP IN POVERTY ALLEVIATION

Progress Report

1. At its First Meeting held on 11 February 2002, the Team of Specialists on Entrepreneurship in Poverty Alleviation discussed a draft work plan, proposed by the UNECE secretariat, and approved a biennium plan of work for 2002-2004 (TRADE/WP.8/2002/11).
2. On 21-22 March 2001, at the annual session of the Working Party on Industry and Enterprise Development (WP.8) established a new integrated Team of Specialists on Entrepreneurship in Poverty Alleviation.
3. In accordance with the initial mandate, the major goals of the Team of Specialists on Entrepreneurship in Poverty Alleviation are:
 - to raise the awareness of the importance of the dimensional approach in enterprise development for poverty alleviation;
 - to review the impact of normative acts, regulation and policies aimed at promoting entrepreneurial activities and to assess their impact on the poor and vulnerable groups;
 - to identify policy instruments, which proved to be effective and efficient in reducing poverty and social inequalities through entrepreneurial activities, and provide policy recommendations;

- to exchange best practices in eradicating poverty through promotion of entrepreneurial activities and self-employment. Such exchange could cover the following areas: "train the trainers" schemes on business management targeted to selected groups of the poor; search of partnerships and markets for their products and services; creation of technology parks;
- to exchange experiences and ideas on how to reduce rural poverty through entrepreneurship;
- to identify technologies, organizational forms and support services, that could reduce the costs of starting-up and running SMEs created by the poor and vulnerable groups; improve access of family businesses and small- and medium-sized enterprises initiated by other groups of the poor to technology;
- to suggest specific programmes to encourage entrepreneurial activities among specific subgroups of the poor and vulnerable, especially for countries and areas that are at high risk of conflict or affected by economic restructuring;
- to identify possible areas of public-private partnership, which could benefit the poor, the poor, in particular, to consider the creation of solidarity funds and other micro-credit schemes among select groups of the poor with the support of the private and public sector;
- and to assist governments, at their requests, in designing income-generating, entrepreneurial, programmes (OPA/AC.20/1).

4. The Second Meeting of the Team of Specialists on Entrepreneurship in Poverty Alleviation was organized by the Coordinating Unit for Operational Activities of the UNECE on 29 August 2002 at the Palais des Nations in connection with the First Regional Forum on Youth: "Security, Opportunity and Prosperity". The UNECE Secretary prepared Note TRADE/WP.8/AC.2/2002/1 as of 25 June 2002. Experts from Israel, Italy, the Kyrgyz Republic, the Republic of Moldova, Ukraine, the United Kingdom, the United States of America and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia attended the Meeting.

5. It was decided that the Team of Specialists would focus on youth unemployment and poverty in order to identify youth-specific factors that have been impeding the entry of young adults to labour markets and the emerging private sector in select countries in transition. It would also consider youth programmes and projects, including programmes, promoting youth entrepreneurial activities, in ECE member States that were successful in alleviating youth unemployment and poverty. On the basis of the above, the Team of Specialists expects to be able to identify best youth entrepreneurship policies and models and to produce guidelines and tool kits that could be applied by governmental and non-governmental organizations of the ECE member States, experiencing large-scale social and economic marginalization of young adults.

6. The Team of Specialists prepared a Questionnaire in order to assess target population, needs and the existing programmes/projects aiming at alleviating youth poverty and unemployment. The Triple E-Questionnaire (Education, Employment, Entrepreneurship) (see

Annex 1) was distributed to all UNECE member countries early 2002 and made also available on the UNECE web-site. As of 30 October 2002, only six countries – Belarus, Bulgaria, Croatia, the Czech Republic and Kyrgyzstan - sent the completed questionnaires back to the ECE Secretariat.

7. The participants of the Second Meeting agreed that due to the differences in quality and quantity of available information on the youth-entrepreneurship theme, each member of the Team would make a proposal to the TOS on countries and/or programmes to be involved in the first phase of activity.

8. The Experts agreed that effort should be made to identify in each country an institutional counterpart (national coordinators) both from Government authorities as well as from youth organizations who could ensure the proper follow-up to the proposed activities. In this regard the Meeting of the TOS on Entrepreneurship in Poverty Alleviation suggested to nominate national institutions and/or private counterparts (NGOs) to be involved in Youth programmes. The UNECE Secretariat in November 2002 send a circular letter to the member States concerning this issue.

9. The Participants agreed to establish a **Sub-Group on Elaboration of Project Proposals and Selection Criteria** to be chaired by *Ms. Ronit Dolev* (Israel) with participation of *Mr. Denis Toichiev* (Kyrgyzstan), *Ms. Rachel Golden* (USA), *Mr. Andrew Fiddaman* (UK), and *Mr. Jurij Sosjurko* (Ukraine). The Sub-Group will work through e-mail and submit the criteria to the secretariat within two weeks (i.e. by mid September 2002).

10. Based on the output of the Sub-Group on Elaboration of Project Proposals and Selection Criteria, the second Sub-Group will prepare Recommendations on Selected Countries within 6 to 8 weeks, following the approval of the Project Proposal Criteria. The **Sub-Group on Elaboration of Recommendations and Country Selection** will be chaired by *Mr. M. Vasiljiev* (Yugoslavia) with participation of *Mr. A. Idrisov* (Kyrgyzstan), *Mr. V. Kostyuchenko*, *Mr. E. Kovalskiy* and *Mr. V. Khomenko* (Ukraine), as well as *Ms. M. Gannon* (USA).

11. In parallel with the previously mentioned two Sub-Groups, a third one will deal with evaluation of the Best Practices and Project Proposal Selection based on the papers presented at the Forum as well as submitted project proposals. The **Sub-Group on Best Practices and Project Proposals** will be chaired by *Ms. Rachel Golden* (USA). Members of this Sub-Group are the following: *Mr. S. Coropceanu* (Republic of Moldova), *Mr. A. Idrisov* (Kyrgyzstan), *Mr. Ya. Dontsov*, and *Mr. S. Sosyurko* (Ukraine), *Mr. M. Vasiljiev* (Yugoslavia).

12. A representative of Kyrgyzstan informed the Team of Specialists on the high expectation of its Government in assisting young unemployed to get a job. He suggested that the TOS would include into its programme of work the elaboration of a UNECE Guide on How to Create an Intergovernmental Coordinating Committee on Youth Entrepreneurship. It was agreed that Kyrgyzstan would elaborate a draft proposal to be discussed during the forthcoming Meeting of the TOS on Entrepreneurship in Poverty Alleviation. A representative of Ukraine informed the participants about the efforts undertaken in establishing a Youth Business Committee. Ukraine is ready to joint this initiative and contribute to the elaboration of a draft guide.

13. The representatives of Kyrgyzstan, Republic of Moldova and Ukraine suggested that the TOS on Entrepreneurship in Poverty Alleviation would organize sub-regional forums on youth, taking the First Regional Forum as a model. It was agreed that Ukraine, as a possible host country, will elaborate a project proposal in co-operation with the UNECE Secretariat as well as with other CIS countries to organize such a Forum in Kiev in 2003 or 2004.

**QUESTIONNAIRE
ON
ENTREPRENEURSHIP IN POVERTY ALLEVIATION**

Team of Specialists on Entrepreneurship in Poverty Alleviation

The triple E questionnaire – Assessment of programs & needs

The aim of the questionnaire is to supply the Team Of Specialists with relevant information, which will enable to identify pro-youth policies and interventions to mitigate the risks of youth marginalization as well as ways to stimulate youth entrepreneurship.

We tried to include in the questionnaire all the questions in order to get the relevant information and to be able to make multinational comparisons. All that within the constraints of limited resources and timetable.

We will appreciate your full attention and cooperation in obtaining the data and filling in the full questionnaire and it will be your contribution to the committee important task.

The questionnaire has two main sections.

Section 1 - questions 1-13 – Gathering data, statistics and general information.
(Please make a remark if you data base is somewhat different from the questionnaire,. For example different age groups.)

Section 2 – questions 14 + - Professional evaluation and opinions based on the experience of the filler and other professionals inputs

1. We assume that the filler of the questionnaire will gather the information needed from all sources within the country and will coordinate it vis-à-vis the Team Of Specialists.
2. If there are any differences in applied laws, regulations, charges, educational programs, gender, etc. between states/ provinces / regions/ urban – rural within the country please specify – either by writing general comments specifying the difference or if possible by filling in separate questionnaires
3. We expect that there will be differences in definitions of terms and groups between the countries. In order to enable us to bring it to the same basis and to be as accurate as possible, please make a appropriate remark or attach the definition of the various terms in your country.

Thanks in advance and looking foreword for your cooperation.

Team of Specialists on Entrepreneurship in Poverty Alleviation									
The triple E questionnaire – Assessment of programs & needs									
Country					Total Population				
1.How many in every age group									
	Education system	Apprentice In Job training	Employment	Entrepreneur Self- employed	Unemployed	Total			
12-14									
15 –18									
19 –30									
31 - 35									
Total									
Of total by gender									
Women									
Men									
Of total by race / ethnicity									
I									
II									
III									
2.Outline Training & preparatory Programs for working life*									
	Exist *	Doesn't exist	In most schools	In few	Age	Budget source			
						Government	NGO	Private sector	Other
Educational									
Vocational									
Entrepreneurship									
*Please specify in 3 if exists and fill a project card. if there is a project									
3.Are there targeted programs for vocational training & entrepreneurship for youth & young adults or for the entire population of which youth is part?									
4.What are the general categories for vocational training									
Formal education	Informal education	Private Agencies	Private Sector	Others					
5.Are there new subjects in the curriculum which are market oriented (Like e-education)									
Formal Education	School Curriculum								
	University Curricu.								
	Extra Curriculum								
Vocational training									

Entrepreneurship training								
6. Does Universities play a roll in educating for entrepreneurship & assisting to start SME ?								
	Education in curriculum	Extra curriculum	Certain faculties	Mentoring	Finance			
Public Universities								
Private Universities								
7. Specify other vehicles existing in your country to provide for entrepreneurial training and work training (like corporate education, authorities in charge, army, unions, churches, NGOs, stakeholders etc.):								
8. Name the laws in your country regarding youth & young people employment:								
Minimum starting age								
Wage control								
Apprentice								
Training contracts								
Other								
9. General data (percentages)								
	12-18		19-35					
Illegal employment of youth								
Drop out								
Drug use								
Youth at risk								
Ages of Compulsive Education:								
Youth at compulsive education age that is not working nor studying:								
Youth that doesn't work or study at age that work is permitted by law:								
10. General data - students (percentages)								
Total students and students working part time (up to 10, 11-20 and 21+ hours a week) by age groups	Age group	Students Total	Of which students working by hours per a week (%)					
			Not working	Up to 10	11-20	21+		
	18-25							
	26-35							
	36+							
11. General data self employment by sector (percentages)								
Trade	Services	Agriculture	Manufacturing	Construction	Others			Total
12. Employment or Unemployment service								
Does it exist								
How is it named								
Pubic or privet?								

13. Detail all exciting programs & agencies operating in this field in your country:

[illegible]

14. Please recommend on the targeted age group for the committee work:		
Explain:		
15. What do you see as the obstacles that must be changed for putting more youth into business? Please rank in descending order.(1 – 9)		
Education ()	Role models, networks, connections, support systems ()	Perverse tax incentives ()
Access to capital ()	Logistic support (premises, equipment) ()	Ideas ()
Laws and regulations ()	The economy ()	
16. How do you think youth entrepreneurs would Answer the above question? Please rank in descending order.(1 – 9)		
Education ()	Role models, networks, connections, support systems ()	Perverse tax incentives ()
Access to capital ()	Logistic support (premises, equipment) ()	Ideas ()
Laws and regulations ()	The economy ()	
17. At what level of education do you think it is right to start entrepreneurial education?		
Mark X : Primary () secondary () post secondary ()		
Explain :		
18. How do you categorize the transaction costs (Costs of forming entity such a corporation) mMrk X and specify the cost in US\$		
High (greater than US\$____)/Medium (approximately US\$____)/Low (less than US\$____)		
19. How does the social status of entrepreneurs is viewed in your country? Mark X		
High social status (). Low social status (). Average social status career()		
20. Can you identify any successful youth entrepreneurs?		
1.	2.	3.
5.	6.	4.
21. What roles each of government, business, family and civil society organizations play in providing capital for youth start-up business and developing desire/ mindset to be one's own boss?		
Government		
Business		
Family		
Civil society organizations		
Others		
22.. Remarks		

23. Personal Information on the questionnaire filler:			
Name			
Occupation			
Address			
Telephone			
Fax			
E-mail			
24. Details on people that assisted in filling the questionnaire:			
Name:		Occupation:	
25. Are you interested in being the central address in your country if not how do you recommend?			