



# Relevance of the UNECE PPP Work to the United Nations Sevilla Commitment (2025)

## Implications for the DRC and the PNSD 2024–2028

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## Executive Summary

The **United Nations Sevilla Commitment (2025)** sets a new global framework for financing sustainable development, focused on:

1. reforming the international financial architecture,
2. addressing the global debt and development crisis, and
3. mobilizing public and private capital at scale through sustainable, transparent mechanisms.

The **Sevilla Platform for Action** includes over 130 concrete initiatives—many directly dependent on the effective use of Public-Private Partnerships (PPP), blended finance, and impact-oriented investment models.

In parallel, the **UNECE Working Party in support of PPPs for the SDGs** has developed the world's most advanced standards, evaluation tools, and capacity-building systems for governments seeking to mobilize private investment responsibly, transparently, and in alignment with the SDGs. These include sector-specific PPP standards, procurement and governance guidelines, and in particular the **PIERS methodology**, a robust five-dimensional evaluation tool ensuring that infrastructure delivers *measurable “People-first” impact*.

For the **Democratic Republic of Congo**, which faces major infrastructure deficits, constrained fiscal space, and an urgent need to accelerate implementation of its **Plan National Stratégique de Développement (PNSD) 2024–2028**, the convergence of Sevilla and UNECE represents a strategic opportunity.

### How This Supports the PNSD 2024–2028

**The PNSD** prioritizes:

- Mobilization of productive investments;
- Development of infrastructure (energy, roads, water, health, education);
- Industrialization and economic diversification;
- Governance and transparency;
- Social inclusion and youth employment.<sup>2</sup>

**UNECE PPP tools** can help the Government of DRC:

- Structuring bankable projects without increasing public debt;
- Strengthening governance and transparency in project execution;
- Attracting institutional, climate, and industrial investors;
- Ensuring projects genuinely benefit local communities;
- Accelerating priority value chains (mining, agribusiness, SEZs, green energy, logistics corridors).

### Role of the future NABII-DRC (National Platform for Impact Investment)

The NABII-DRC, now in formation, can serve as the **national mechanism** that connects Sevilla's global commitments and UNECE's technical tools to the PNSD's national priorities by:

- **Building a pipeline of projects** structured according to PIERS standards;
- **Mobilizing investment** (impact investors, climate funds, infrastructure funds, diaspora);
- Ensuring **transparency, integrity, and impact monitoring**;
- **Strengthening the capacities** of ministries, agencies, and provinces in PPPs and blended finance;
- **Accelerating the implementation** of high-impact PNSD projects (renewable energy, corridors, SEZs, health, education, water).

<sup>1</sup> [Ninth session of the Working Party on Public-Private Partnerships | UNECE](#)

<sup>2</sup>



### **Conclusion**

The DRC stands at a pivotal moment.

The Sevilla Commitment outlines **the global roadmap**.

The UNECE provides **the practical tools**.

The PNSD defines **the national priorities**.

The **NABII-DRC** can unite these three pillars to deliver high-quality, bankable, transparent and inclusive infrastructure and industrial projects.

**This alignment represents a unique opportunity for the DRC to attract large-scale sustainable investment, strengthen governance, and accelerate its structural transformation.**



## 1. Introduction

The **United Nations Sevilla Commitment**, adopted at the Fourth International Conference on Financing for Development (2025), establishes a new global framework to finance sustainable development. It focuses on:

1. Addressing the **debt and development crisis**
2. Reforming the **international financial architecture**
3. Mobilizing **public and private investment at scale**
4. Implementing **130 concrete actions** through the **Sevilla Platform for Action**

At the same time, the **UNECE Working Party in support of Public-Private Partnerships (PPP) for the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)** has spent nearly a decade developing **normative tools, practical guidelines, and capacity-building models** that directly operationalize Sevilla's priorities.

For low-income countries (LICs) like the **Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC)**, facing major infrastructure deficits, limited fiscal space, and the urgent need to meet the objectives of the **Plan National Stratégique de Développement (PNSD) 2024–2028**, the relevance is immediate and strategic.

This background note outlines how **UNECE PPP standards and tools** can support the implementation of the Sevilla Commitment and how the forthcoming **NABII-DRC** (National Platform for Impact Investment) can help translate these instruments into actionable solutions that align with the PNSD.

## 2. The Sevilla Commitment: A New Global Framework for Financing Development

The Sevilla Commitment puts forward a bold agenda:

### 2.1 Addressing the debt and development crisis

- Encourages inclusive, long-term financing mechanisms
- Calls for infrastructure financing that does not exacerbate sovereign debt burdens
- Prioritizes **sustainable PPPs and blended finance** as alternatives to traditional public borrowing.

### 2.2 Reforming the international financial architecture

- Calls for more equitable access to capital



- Recognizes **the need for tools** that guide governments in structuring projects to attract private investment
- Supports **global coordination** on transparency, ESG alignment, and risk reduction.

## 2.3 Scaling up public and private investment

- Over **US\$4 trillion** in annual SDG financing gap must be mobilized
- **PPPs and innovative financing** are explicitly recognized as central instruments
- Governments must learn to *structure, prepare, finance, and evaluate* projects using global standards.

These priorities mirror the challenges expressed during the **Ninth session of the Working Party on Public-Private Partnerships** at UNECE, Palais des Nations, on the 24th of November 2025: resource constraints, gaps in project preparation, and the need for high-quality tools that convert policy ambitions into **bankable pipelines** of sustainable infrastructure.

## 3. Relevance of UNECE PPP Tools to the Sevilla Agenda

The UNECE Working Party on PPPs offers **practical, operational solutions** that directly support the Sevilla Platform for Action. Key elements include:

### 3.1 Normative PPP Standards

UNECE has developed a **full suite of PPP standards**,<sup>3</sup> including:

- People-first PPP principles
- Sector-specific PPP standards (rail, renewable energy, health, water, etc.)
- Standards on governance, procurement, zero-tolerance for corruption, and integrity

These standards help governments design PPPs that deliver **value for people and planet**, not only value for money.

### 3.2 PIERS: The Flagship Evaluation Methodology

The **PIERS methodology** (People-first Infrastructure Evaluation and Rating System) is the “*jewel in the crown*” of UNECE PPP tools.

It evaluates projects across five dimensions:

1. **Access & Equity**
2. **Economic Efficiency**
3. **Environmental Sustainability**
4. **Replicability**

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<sup>3</sup> [Ninth session of the Working Party on Public-Private Partnerships | UNECE](#)



## 5. Stakeholder Engagement

PIERS helps governments:

- identify projects with genuine SDG impact,
- improve project design before financing,
- provide transparency to investors.

## 3.3 Guidance on PPP and Infrastructure Finance

UNECE standards provide detailed guidance on:

- Blended finance and risk-sharing
- Green bonds, transition finance
- Impact investing tools
- Lender protections and security packages
- De-risking mechanisms without lowering ESG standards

This directly operationalizes Sevilla's push for **innovative, sustainable, and scalable finance**.

## 3.4 Capacity Building and Subnational Support

UNECE targets:

- low-income (such as DRC) and middle-income countries,
- subnational governments (cities, provinces) lacking PPP expertise,
- public entities with limited fiscal space.

This aligns strongly with **the DRC's needs**, particularly around:

- provincial infrastructure,
- SEZs,
- municipal services,
- transport & energy corridors.

## 4. Alignment with the DRC's PNSD 2024–2028

The PNSD focuses on:

- Mobilization of productive investments;
- Development of infrastructure (energy, roads, water, health, education);
- Industrialization and economic diversification;



- Governance and transparency;
- Social inclusion and youth employment.

UNECE PPP tools directly **help the Government** deliver on these ambitions.

## 4.1 Mobilisation de financements durables

The PNSD requires **large-scale investment** in:

- energy generation,
- transport corridors,
- agro-industrial SEZs,
- mining value chains,
- health and education infrastructure.

UNECE PPP frameworks provide **structuring tools** to prepare projects that attract private investors without overburdening public debt.

## 4.2. Governance and transparency improvement

UNECE PPP standards focus on:

- transparency in procurement,
- participatory stakeholder engagement,
- integrity and anti-corruption mechanisms,
- rigorous ESG-based evaluation.

This supports the PNSD's governance reforms and enhances investor confidence.

## 4.3. Industrial value chain development

UNECE tools support the structuring of:

- renewable energy zones,
- water & sanitation systems,
- logistics and corridors (Kasomeno–Mwenda, Lobito, etc.),
- SEZ-led industrial parks (agro-industries, pharmaceuticals).

## 4.4 Inclusion sociale et capital humain

PIERS ensures projects:

- improve access to essential services,
- benefit vulnerable communities,
- strengthen local participation.



## 5. The Role of NABII-DRC in Implementing Sevilla and UNECE Tools

The forthcoming **National Platform for Impact Investment (NABII-DRC)** can be the *national mechanism* that ties these agendas together.

NABII-DRC can:

### 5.1 Build a Bankable Project Pipeline

- Apply PIERS to screen and prioritize projects aligned with the PNSD
- Develop feasibility studies and structuring support
- Identify projects suitable for PPPs, blended finance, and impact investment

### 5.2 Mobilize Sustainable Investors

NABII-DRC provides an interface for:

- climate funds
- development finance institutions
- impact investors
- private sector industrial players
- diaspora investors

### 5.3 Ensure Governance and Reporting

Using UNECE's PPP standards and PIERS:

- transparent project evaluation
- anti-corruption safeguards
- measurable SDG impact reporting

### 5.4 Capacity Building for Government Agencies

NABII-DRC can coordinate with UNECE (and/or UNECA) to:

- train ministries, agencies, and provinces
- support subnational PPP units
- develop institutional PPP frameworks.

### 5.5 Support Key PNSD Priorities

Including:



- infrastructure modernization,
- industrialization of the mining sector,
- agro-industrial SEZ development,
- renewable energy corridors,
- water & sanitation expansion,
- health and education infrastructure.

## 6. Conclusion

The **Sevilla Commitment (2025)** establishes a global agenda for mobilizing sustainable finance.

The **UNECE PPP standards and tools** provide the *technical means* to implement this agenda.

The **PNSD 2024–2028** outlines the DRC's national development priorities.

And the **NABII-DRC** will be the mechanism that integrates global tools with national priorities to produce *real investment pipelines*.

This alignment offers a rare and historic opportunity:

**to transform the DRC's development ambitions into bankable, transparent, measurable, and impactful infrastructure and industrial projects.**