



**Economic and Social
Council**

Distr.
LIMITED

ECE/EX/2006/L.5
4 July 2006

ENGLISH
Original: ENGLISH, FRENCH
AND RUSSIAN

ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Fourth meeting
Geneva, 14 July 2006
Item 2 of the provisional agenda

DECISION ON MATTERS RELATING TO THE COMMITTEE ON TRADE

Terms of reference of the Committee on Trade

Note by the secretariat

The terms of reference annexed to this document were approved by the Committee on Trade at its first session in June 2006. The Executive Committee is invited to approve them.

ANNEX

TERMS OF REFERENCE OF THE COMMITTEE ON TRADE

VISION

An open, rule-based, predictable and non-discriminatory trading system supported by: international standards; simple, transparent and effective processes; and harmonized product regulations.

MISSION STATEMENT

The Committee on Trade develops and promotes international norms and standards, effective procedures and best practices to facilitate the movement of goods and services. It also promotes the convergence or harmonization of regulatory environments. In its work, it takes into account the needs of Governments, the private sector, consumers and civil society. It contributes to the integration and sustainable development of the UNECE region.

TERMS OF REFERENCE

1. The Committee on Trade (hereinafter the “Committee”), acting within the framework of the policies of the United Nations, is entrusted with the implementation of the Trade Subprogramme of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe. It shall facilitate trade and trade-related economic cooperation among countries of the UNECE region and globally.
2. The activities of the Committee and of its subsidiary bodies are primarily of a technical nature and complement policy-related work undertaken by other international bodies.
3. In particular, the Committee shall:
 - (a) develop recommendations, norms, standards and other instruments for trade facilitation, electronic business, regulatory cooperation and trade in agricultural produce;
 - (b) provide a multilateral platform to discuss the policy impact of its work;
 - (c) assist Governments with the practical application of UNECE recommendations, norms and standards, and particularly those in South-Eastern and Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia;
 - (d) help small and medium-sized enterprises integrate into international supply chains by developing global standards and best practices for the simplification and automation of information flows, procedures, processes and business practices used in international trade;
 - (e) review regularly its programme of work, and that of its subsidiary bodies, to ensure coherence of its activities with the overall objectives of the UNECE and develop synergies and joint projects both among its subsidiary bodies and with other UNECE subprogrammes;

(f) coordinate its work with other United Nations regional commissions and with international organizations, especially: the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the World Trade Organization (WTO), the Organization for International Standardization (ISO), the World Customs Organization (WCO), the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), the Bank for International Settlements (BIS), the World Bank and the International Chamber of Commerce (ICC);

(g) contribute to the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals.
