

Draft project concept

Recommendation: Architecture framework to design traceability systems for sustainable trade in textile

1. Project purpose

The project's purpose is to provide stakeholders with a recommended framework to develop the high level design for traceability systems in international trade, with a focus on the clothing sector.

The framework shall help stakeholders to develop the description of the planned traceability system including the definition of the traceable asset, the policy claim system will support, the starting and end point of the traced supply chain, and the rules and the audit mechanisms for the governance of the system.

2. Project scope

Traceability provides new means for Governments and trade to use modern information technology and collaborative tools to improve trade and to produce and deliver goods in a more efficient, secure and sustainable manner.

The UN/CEFACT agriculture expert group has already developed an international technical standard for electronic exchange of traceability information. This standard is currently available to trace important business processes of the animal and fish supply chain.

UN/CEFACT is expanding the coverage of its technical standard. UN/CEFACT is working inter alia with the CITES convention on traceability in trade with CITES controlled species. Further information on UN/CEFACT traceability is provided at in a briefing note to the Plenary¹.

The UN/CEFACT traceability standard covers the technical aspects of exchanging eBusiness message for traceability purposes.

Governments and trade are now increasingly looking on traceability standards to assert that the production, transport and distribution of goods and services is in conformity with high level policy objectives and values of the civil society. These policy objectives are directly and indirectly related to the UN Sustainable Development Goals. When designing cross border traceability projects were Government agencies are involved the decision makers are facing a number of challenges:

¹ ECE/TRADE/C/CEFACT/2016/9, Briefing note on the development of a UN/CEFACT Standard on Traceability of Animals and Fish

For example traceability projects typically have many different stakeholders whose diverse interests need to be reconciled. Solutions need to be found to integrate the needs of smallholders, SMEs and developing countries in a traceability solution. Cross border information exchange on traceability events may require agreements between Government agencies and audit of conformity of business processes. In addition traceability system that involves Government agencies will also require appropriate Governance and management structures.

The purpose of the traceability framework is to provide a structured approach to describe a traceability system from a functional (stakeholder) point of view which – in a later step - can be implemented in a technical traceability solution.

The framework shall foster a transparent approach was stakeholders can participate in the development of the high level design of the traceability project. The Framework will foster a joint ownership as basis for sustainable support of the future traceability system for the clothing sector.

The framework will build on existing exiting standards and recommendations of UN/CEFACT. In particular with will complement the existing project deliverable on Traceability with a recommendation that helps decision makers to implement the solution.

3. Project deliverables

The deliverables of the project are:

- A recommendation on an Architecture Framework to design traceability systems for sustainable trade in textile.
- An annex of the Recommendation in form of a Guide that explains the architecture framework for use of decision makers.

4. Exit criteria

- Recommendation text ready for publishing
- Internal and external review logs showing that all serious comments have been considered

5. Project Team membership and required functional expertise

Membership is open to experts with broad knowledge in one or more areas of preparing, planning, implementing and managing traceability systems in different areas of international trade, in particular but not limited to logistics and supply chain management, agriculture and textile trade, lyfe-cycle analysis of environmental, social and health impacts of production and consumption processes, sanitary and phytosanitary control, and risk management.

Experts are expected to contribute to the work based solely on their expertise and to comply with the UN/CEFACT Code of Conduct and Ethics.

6. HoD support (required for technical standards, business standards and UNECE recommendations

List at least three Country heads of delegation who support this project, and include their written expression of support

7. Geographical Focus

The geographic focus is global.

8. Initial contributions

Background paper on traceability architecture for cross border trade in the clothing sector.

9. Resource Requirements

The Project should mostly be prepared in between Forums and there might be need for a conference call facility provided by the UNECE secretariat at some point.

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