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**UN/CEFACT FORUM ACTIVITIES
SINCE THE THIRTEENTH PLENARY SESSION**

Report by the Forum Management Group

INTRODUCTION

1. The Forum is the operational entity of the United Nations Centre for Trade Facilitation and Electronic Business (UN/CEFACT). It is comprised of five Permanent Groups managed by the Forum Management Group (FMG), which in turn is governed by the UN/CEFACT Bureau. The UN/CEFACT Forum convenes twice a year in different parts of the world to allow all Permanent Groups, Working Groups and project teams to meet for one week in the same location.
2. During the past 12 months, the UN/CEFACT Forum has made progress on the approved programme of work for 2008 - 2009. Details on the delivery of trade facilitation Recommendations, electronic business standards, technical specifications and best practice, are given under II – Reports from the Permanent Groups.
3. The FMG manages the day-to-day operations of the Forum through fortnightly conference calls throughout the year, and through virtual communications on a day-to-day basis. The results are circulated to all of the Permanent Groups.
4. The FMG met together with the UN/CEFACT Plenary Bureau, in Extended Bureau format, in an annual face-to-face session over three days, in January 2008, as well as on a daily basis during the biannual Forum meetings, to discuss strategy, priorities, teamwork and communications.

I. MEETINGS

5. Forum meetings were organized in September 2007 in Stockholm and in April 2008 in Mexico City.

6. Agreement has been reached for the organization of the next Forum meetings: the 13th Forum meeting in Saly, Senegal, in November 2008; the 14th in Rome in April 2009; the 15th in Sapporo, Japan, in September 2009; and the 16th in Cardiff, United Kingdom, in April 2010.

7. A permanent requirement that has evolved at recent Forum meetings is the need to provide “parallel” or capacity-building events for promoting UN/CEFACT’s work for the benefit of government and business representatives in the host country and countries in the region.

8. A joint UN/CEFACT Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Symposium on paperless trading was held in Seoul in May 2008.

9. The project portfolio has been reviewed and priorities for delivery in 2008 have been identified. This work will continue and the current project delivery process has been improved. A new wiki Web-based tool will be implemented during 2008 to post the project matrix on the UN/CEFACT website.

10. Work is continuing on improving the workflow between the Permanent Groups of the Forum.

11. Work on the Trade Facilitation Implementation Guide and its capacity-building programme has continued and its first deliverables will be completed during 2008. This project is funded by the Government of Sweden.

A. Eleventh UN/CEFACT Forum, Stockholm

12. Over 200 experts from all over the world took part in the 11th UN/CEFACT Forum held in Stockholm, Sweden from 24 to 28 September 2007.

13. During the opening session, Sweden’s Minister for Foreign Trade, Ms. Ewa Björling, noted that UN/CEFACT had developed a number of tools that had been implemented globally, and must continue to safeguard the use of global standards. In addition, she stated that new tools for the development and facilitation of globalized trade needed to be introduced. Ms. Björling also stated her belief that UN/CEFACT could provide the necessary platform for such work.

14. At a special seminar for Swedish business and government officials, the Minister’s State Secretary, Mr. Hans Jeppson, emphasized the opportunities that trade facilitation presented for Sweden. He said that there was a need for a lingua franca in international trade to cross borders and to ensure that traders understood each other. The seminar highlighted the importance of global standards in international trade. For example, by using standards, Sweden can automatically process 98 per cent of the 6 million customs declarations it receives each year.

B. Twelfth UN/CEFACT Forum, Mexico City, Mexico

15. Some 150 delegates representing every continent, as well as a further 50 from Mexico and the region, attended the 12th UN/CEFACT Forum held in Mexico City, Mexico from 7 to 11 April 2008.

16. Opening the Forum, the Mexican Undersecretary of Industry and Commerce, Ms. Rocío Ruiz Chávez, said that UN/CEFACT's efforts in trade facilitation using emerging information and communication technology provided outstanding solutions for trade growth by helping to simplify procedures, customs requirements and document flows. She gave examples of recent steps Mexico had taken to improve international trade, such as the decision to implement an electronic Single Window for export and import procedures. Mexico had also simplified the system of import taxes, reduced paperwork requirements and created a single, unified register for exporters.

17. Together with the Forum hosts, a World eBusiness Congress was organised in parallel with the 12th UN/CEFACT Forum. Many speakers from the UN/CEFACT Forum presented different aspects of the Forum's work to an audience drawn essentially from Mexico and Latin America.

C. JOINT APEC-UN/CEFACT CAPACITY-BUILDING SYMPOSIUM ON PAPERLESS TRADING, SEOUL

18. Delegates from more than 20 countries in the Asia-Pacific region attended the joint APEC-UN/CEFACT Capacity-Building Symposium on Paperless Trading in Seoul, Republic of Korea, from 26-28 May 2008. The Symposium sought to identify instruments that would enable a "phased development" of paperless trading in APEC's member economies.

II. REPORTS FROM THE PERMANENT GROUPS

A. INTERNATIONAL TRADE AND BUSINESS PROCESSES GROUP

International Trade and Business Processes Group 1 Supply Chain

19. The Material Safety Data Sheet (MSDS) project was included in the 07B Core Components Library (CCL). Some further corrections were done in version 08A of the CLL. For 08B, the following batch of projects is scheduled: Scheduling, Ordering, Despatch & Receipt, Invoicing version 2, Remittance Advice. The 09A Library is scheduled to include the eCatalogue as well as the Quotation projects.

20. International trade and Business Processes Group 1, 2, 3, 5 and 18, supported by International trade and Business Processes Group 17, have decided to jointly create the 08B Business Information Entity (BIE) submission. This will lead to an 08B release that supports the Supply Chain, Procurement, Transport and Cross-border processes. The submission is expected to be harmonized by International trade and Business Processes Group 17 in September.

21. Publication by International trade and Business Processes Group 1 of normative message standards based on CCL 08B is expected in Q4 2008. International trade and Business Processes Group 5 has provided input with respect to the eInvoice. These requirements will be analysed and should be included in the 08B release. International trade and Business Processes Group 1 will continue to have joint meetings with International trade and Business Processes Group 5 and International trade and Business Processes Group 6 to ensure that the UN/CEFACT eInvoice and Remittance Advice meet their requirements. In the area of public procurement area. International trade and Business Processes Group 6 and International trade and Business Processes Group 19 have established a close cooperation. In addition, International trade and Business Processes Group 1 is taking a leading role in the CEN/ISSS eInvoicing workshop, and also participates in the EU Expert Group on electronic invoicing. Finally, the NES (Northern European user group of UBL) and US Government are directly participating in

International trade and Business Processes Group 1. Active contributors to TBG1's work now include: the Swedish public sector (local authorities and county councils), the Danish public sector, EDIFrance, CEN/EEG1 workshop, CEN/BII workshop, BoostAero, GS1, Odette, AIAG, JAI, OASIS/UBL, Rosettanet, US Government, LMI/Defence Logistics Agency, and Korea Polytechnic University.

International trade and Business Processes Group 2 – Digital Paper

22. The work of International trade and Business Processes Group 2 has continued to focus on the development of the UNeDocs BUY-SHIP-PAY CCTS-compliant business information data model. In 2007, the TBG2 UNeDocs project team completed the public review (Step 5 of the UN/CEFACT Open Development Process) of the UNeDocs data model, made approved changes based on the comments received, and moved forward to the implementation verification stage (ODP step 6).

23. Ten ODP step 6 implementation verification projects have been formally registered, including a data exchange pilot project (United Kingdom and Malaysia) and an EU Commission-funded project in 5 states focused on SMEs. There are also other regional projects hosted by APEC and UNECE/ESCAP. Additional projects include national electronic documentation projects in the UK and Thailand, and the UN/CEFACT TBG18 eCERT Sanitary Certificates and TBG3 Global Transport Guidelines development projects. Five of these have submitted implementation verification reports, and the completed set was scheduled for submission by June 2008. The planned completion dates are for ODP step 6 by the end of summer 2008 and for ODP step 7 (UN/CEFACT publication) by the end of 2008.

24. The Stockholm and Mexico Forums featured joint meetings with other UN/CEFACT Working Groups involved in Cross Border Trade Processes (TBG1, 3, 5, 8, 14, 15 and 18) and all are working towards full alignment of their BUY-SHIP-PAY deliverables to include common Core Component Library structures and aligned business information models. Two UNeDocs workshops were hosted by UNESCAP in Bangkok, and another was hosted by JASTPRO in Tokyo. UNeDocs was highlighted at AFACT, ASEAN and at trade facilitation events held in parallel with the Stockholm and Mexico Forums, and at two UNECE-hosted events in Almaty and Belgrade during 2007.

International trade and Business Processes Group 3 Transportation

25. The Transportation Core Components that were submitted in cooperation with TBG2's UNeDocs have now been harmonized by TBG17 (ACC level) in the CCL 08A. The Business Requirements Specification (BRS) for International Forwarding Multimodal Transport has been completed and is forwarded for approval at the UN/CEFACT Plenary in September 2008. TBG3 is working on the individual BRS's in the area of transport and forwarding with the priorities being Transport Status Reporting, Transport Instructions, Booking, WayBill and Manifest. TBG3 co-operates with GS1 and IATA on the Transport Instruction. TBG3 will have four 1-week meetings in 2008 to progress this work. Discussions were also held with the UBL-TSC on Transport / Logistics and it was agreed that the UN/CEFACT TBG3 would be leading in further developments. TBG3 have started working on developing a new version of the worldwide ITIGG implementation guidelines to be valid for both EDI and XML.

International trade and Business Processes Group 4 Customs

26. The Group did not meet in Stockholm or in Mexico City.

International trade and Business Processes Group 5 – Finance

27. The inclusion of the semantic parts of Customer Credit Transfer in the Core Component Library marks the successful first presence of finance in UN/CEFACT ebXML. TBG5 adheres to the global financial strategy to promote ISO 20022 as the only financial standard, as there is little point in separate development. TBG5 also supports securing integration, and is determined to make the required financial data available for the completeness of the UN/CEFACT Core Component Library. TBG5 continues to participate actively in cross-domain projects, which are increasingly important in the financial sphere. Currently, the key focus is on e-invoicing and integration into the financial payment chain.

International trade and Business Processes Group 6 Architecture & Construction

28. In March 2008, TBG6 released its first “full XML UN/CEFACT standards” in the field of Public Procurement, comprising: (a) the eTendering standard, which includes 20 different electronic transactions from the Information Notice to the Contract Award. This standard can be used in any kind of tender path: open, restricted or limited tenders. It applies to Works, Goods and Services domains; and (b) the Project Schedule and Cost Performance Management, which includes 10 different electronic transactions in this field of project management. These two standards have been made available through the UN/CEFACT website.

29. The joint projects between the Supply Chain (TBG1) and the Architecture, Engineering and Construction (TBG6) working groups have been reviewed, including the eCatalog and the Contract Financial Execution Management (CFEM) projects. The new project for business needs regarding Security in Messages and Documents has been launched with participation from TBG1 and TBG3, with the aim of establishing a map of existing standards. The first draft document is being updated and will be published on TBG6 website. All the TBGs will be invited to contribute to the business requirements.

International trade and Business Processes Group 8 Insurance

30. TBG8 convened in Stockholm and Mexico City. Its project work is developed externally through Global Insurance Standards (ACORD), the Centre for Study of Insurance Operations (CSIO), and the eBES Expert Group Seven, although monthly virtual meetings take place to monitor progress. The Working Group’s project is to harmonize its respective dictionaries and to discover generic and/or insurance specific core components. The accepted TBG17 submission contains insurance-related information for Contract, Party and Coverage to construct Insurance Information Messages. The Group’s plan is to finalize the resubmission and new areas of business including claims, life insurance, health insurance, and automotive insurance.

International trade and Business Processes Group 9 Travel, Tourism & Leisure

31. The Travel, Tourism & Leisure Working Group’s first set of schemas for requesting and receiving information on small-scaled lodging was published as part CCL 07A. TBG9 is working on the next BRS and core components for this project, which is the information for the actual products offered at a small-scaled lodging house. TBG9 also reviewed data maintenance requests (DMR) code requests, and participated in TBG17.

International trade and Business Processes Group 10 Healthcare

32. The Healthcare Working Group and eBES Expert Group 9 have continued working together, as well as in collaboration with CEN Technical Committee 251 Working Group I for the semantic part of the messaging.

33. International trade and Business Processes Group10 has defined a project for the development of specific Healthcare Core Components, in which the passive use of Health Level 7 CMETS is allowed. TBG10 is working hard to get more healthcare experts involved in the ebXML process. In 2007, ISO TC215 (Healthcare) introduced an e-Business Task Group, which proposes formal liaisons between TC215 and UN/CEFACT, and between TC215 and OASIS.

34. International trade and Business Processes Group 10 is searching for a new Chair for 2009.

International trade and Business Processes Group 12 – Accounting & Audit

35. The Accounting and Audit Working Group (TBG12) focused its activities on improving the domain business model. A first draft BRS related to the “Accounting Entry” data model was developed and the complete set of elements intensely scrutinized. TBG17 has harmonized “Accounting Entry” Aggregate Core Components (ACCs), Basic Core Components (BCCs) and Association Core Components (ASCCs) which will be part of CCL 08A. Aggregate Business Information Entities (ABIEs), Basic Business Information Entities (BBIEs) and Association Business Information Entities (ASBIEs) was to be harmonized early in 2008. BRSs and Requirements Specification Mappings (RSMs) will be updated and forwarded for registration together with the TBG17-validated harmonization.

36. International trade and Business Processes Group12 also prepared the next steps for accounting messaging: draft data models were designed with the discovered elements for (a) the account message (part of a chart of accounts) and (b) the accounting message to be used as a container of ledger entry lines, journal entries and/or accounts messages. International trade and Business Processes Group 12 had contacts with the Swedish SIE Standardisation Organisation and the Swedish Auditors’ Institute SRF. International trade and Business Processes Group 12 and the Extensible Business Reporting Language Global Ledger (XBRL GL) had a fruitful joint meeting. Both groups issued a common communiqué stating the established similarities in their respective works and their willingness to maintain correspondence between their corresponding data models under the UN/CEFACT Forum umbrella.

37. International trade and Business Processes Group 18 (Agriculture) expressed an urgent need for financial reporting for agricultural cooperatives. TBG12 has amended its P075 “Reporting” project to become a joint TBG12-TBG18 project. TBG12 will anticipate the development of its Reporting project to be as close as possible of TBG18 schedule.

International trade and Business Processes Group 13 Environmental Standards

38. TBG13 worked on changes to its first Business Requirement Specification on Waste Tracking Phase I. The Group updated its work plan, and targeted the resubmission of the BRS for before the 11th UN/CEFACT Forum in Sweden, in September 2007. TBG13 submitted its BRS to TBG Steering at the commencement of the Mexico Forum. The document was accepted by TBG Steering, and the project is now moving towards the submission of the Core Components. In addition, TBG13 has begun planning the next TBG13 Project – Notification for the Movement of Hazardous Waste. The project proposal will be forwarded for acceptance upon its completion.

International trade and Business Processes Group 14 – Business Process Analysis

39. International trade and Business Processes Group 14 is a cross-domain group responsible for the analysis and harmonisation of business processes. At the twelfth UN/CEFACT Forum held in Mexico City in April 2008, International trade and Business Processes Group 14 moved from being a research group to a research and operational group.

40. On Project P058 “Framework for Building Common Business Processes”, International trade and Business Processes Group 14 delivered the V01-00 of the specification into ODP 5. In the context of Project P059 “International Supply Chain Reference Model”, International trade and Business Processes Group 14 delivered V1.4 of the Buy-Ship-Pay model and the related Modelling Guidelines. TBG is now expected to engage with TBG14 at the start of each new project within TBGs to ensure any potential re-use of existing models and to position new process models within the overall Buy-Ship-Pay Reference Model.

41. At the twelfth UN/CEFACT Forum, International trade and Business Processes Group 14 ran the Modellers’ Reference Initiative (MRI) workshop with the participation of some 14 key contributors to UN/CEFACT work. The MRI report is now with International trade and Business Processes Group management for consideration and release. In addition, International trade and Business Processes Group 14 delivered a “Lunch & Learn” session at the Mexico Forum that explained how International trade and Business Processes Group 14 will operate in its cross-domain role. The work at the Mexico Forum also included the beginning of collaborative work with International trade and Business Processes Group 17. International trade and Business Processes Group 14 has also now been engaged in the FMG initiative to advance International trade and Business Processes Group 2’s work on UNeDocs. TBG14 is now engaged in various International trade and Business Processes Group 1/3/6 projects (e.g., eCat, CIO, CII, Quotation), helping the International trade and Business Processes Groups to do business process modelling and create their own modelling resources.

International trade and Business Processes Group 15 – International Trade Procedures

42. In response to stakeholder requests, the International Trade Procedures Working Group is developing the guidance and tools to support a national Single Window facility. Two proposed Recommendations, No. 34 on the Data Simplification and Standardization and No. 35 on establishing a legal framework, aim to help Governments create a simple, standard national dataset for trade-related information requirements and ensure an enabling legal environment for the efficient and effective operation of a national Single Window.

43. International trade and Business Processes Group 15 also completed work on the revision of UN/CEFACT Recommendation 11 (Documentary Aspects of the Transport of Dangerous Goods) and achieved significant progress on the revisions of Recommendation 6 (Aligned Invoice Layout Key for International Trade), to accommodate e-invoicing, and on Recommendation 12, facilitating maritime transport documents.

44. A Project Team within International trade and Business Processes Group 15 began to manage the production of the Trade Facilitation Implementation Guide (TFIG). This project, supported by extra budgetary funding from Sweden, will deliver a comprehensive and comprehensible Guide offering practical advice and training techniques for the implementation of trade facilitation recommendations, instruments, standards, and other trade simplification measures.

45. A International trade and Business Processes Group 15 representative attended and made a presentation at the World e-Business Congress, a parallel event with the 12th UN/CEFACT Forum, demonstrating the use and value of UNeDocs in pilot projects on paperless trading.

International trade and Business Processes Group 16 – Entry Points

46. The Working Group on Entry Points maintained the website for the International Trade and Business Group, making a working repository for Group information and working documents on the Internet. The maintenance of some Groups' web pages has been turned over to a designated individual in each of these particular Working Groups. TBG16 is now developing a new Data Maintenance Request (DMR) procedure for updates to the UN/CEFACT XML deliverables.

International trade and Business Processes Group 17 Harmonization

47. The Core Component Harmonization Working Group is a cross-domain group. The majority of its harmonization work is conducted during interim meetings and via weekly conference calls. During the Forum meetings, International trade and Business Processes Group 17 interfaces with the other International Trade and Business Group Working Groups and with the other Permanent Groups. As part of the Core Components Library, International trade and Business Processes Group 17 finalized the CCL 07A and CCL 07B, containing Business Information Entities and messages for TBG6's (Architecture and Construction) Project Schedule and Cost Performance Management, eTendering, and for International trade and Business Processes Group 9 (Travel, Tourism and Leisure) for Small-Scale Lodging House, and both are now published.

48. CCL 08A, published this year, is an extensive library containing the Agricultural Health Certificates and Crop Data Sheets, UNEDocs and Transport, SWIFT, Accounting Entry and Insurance components, and the Material Safety Data Sheet Business Information Entities and schema.

49. International trade and Business Processes Group 17 collaborated with ICG during the audit review process to improve the processes of both groups, and reduced the time to publication.

50. The Submission Template has been updated and released for harmonization of both Core Components and Business Information Entities. An updated Submission Guidelines and Procedures document that helps submitters develop core components has been published.

51. International trade and Business Processes Group 17 also developed a standard presentation for use by International trade and Business Processes Group 17 members describing TBG17 and its work, and this presentation has been translated into French, German, and Chinese.

International trade and Business Processes Group 18 – Agriculture

52. Both the e-Cert and the eDAPLOS projects have been submitted to ICG. The next step is the submission to ATG for schema.

53. During the twelfth UN/CEFACT Forum, International trade and Business Processes Group 18 validated five new project proposals: Livestock Animal Record, Electronic Data Exchange Proxy, Electronic Data Interchange of Laboratory Analysis in Agriculture and in the Field of Agri-food, Tracking and Tracing Fish, and Cattle Registration and Movement Data Exchange and Animal Passport. A joint project has been set up with International trade and Business Processes Group 12: P075 - Accounting Reporting – Joint Project Amendment. For these new projects, BRSs will be developed.

54. TBG18 now needs to develop a long-term strategic vision for its work, and proposes to prepare a portfolio of TBG18 work. This would include a summary of all current and completed projects.

International trade and Business Processes Group 19 – e-Government

55. The eArchiving Business Requirements Specification, “Transfer of digital records” is under preparation and was planned to be reviewed International trade and Business Processes Group 19 by June 2008.

56. International trade and Business Processes Group 19 also continued its activities on eGovernment data model development, approved several International trade and Business Processes Group 17 submissions of core components for inclusion in the CCL 08A.

57. In September 2007, International trade and Business Processes Group 1, International trade and Business Processes Group 6, and International trade and Business Processes Group 19 launched a joint project on ePublic procurement. Its activity is linked to the progress of the European CEN-ISSS project BII. An important objective is to push for the convergence of UBL and UN/CEFACT models. The UNECE secretariat has issued a call for participation to all UN/CEFACT HoDs.

B. APPLIED TECHNOLOGIES GROUP

58. The UN/CEFACT Applied Technologies Group (ATG) is responsible for creating and maintaining UN/CEFACT trade, business, and administration document structures based on a specific technology or standard. This includes the design, assembly, and production of syntax-specific solutions based on identified business and/or technical requirements from the empowered groups of UN/CEFACT.

59. Applied Technologies Group convened during the UN/CEFACT Forum meetings in Stockholm and Mexico City. It also held face-to-face meetings in June 2007 in Waldorf, Germany, and in January 2008 in San Francisco, United States of America.

60. In keeping with its mandate, the bulk of Applied Technologies Group’s work is divided between two Working Groups. However, some projects cross Working Group boundaries and are treated as Permanent Group-level projects. The distribution is as follows: (1) Applied Technologies Group Cross working group projects, including the Data Type Catalogue project and the Standard Business Document Header project; (2) Applied Technologies Group 1 EDIFACT Syntax: Applied Technologies Group 1 is responsible for the development and maintenance of EDIFACT syntax solutions to support the UN/CEFACT work programme; (3) Applied Technologies Group 2 – XML Syntax: Applied Technologies Group 2 is responsible for the development and maintenance of XML syntax solutions to support the UN/CEFACT work programme.

61. In the context of the Data Type Catalogue project, Applied Technologies Group had developed and maintains two versions of the data type catalogue against CCTS 2.01. (CCTS 2.01 identified the need for ongoing maintenance of lower level data types independent of the technical specification. The Data Type Catalogue project was established in ATG in 2007 for this purpose.) The first version of the Catalogue was published in December and faithfully contained all data type information from CCTS 2.01 without change as a baseline catalogue. After publication, 28 Data Maintenance Requests (DMRs) were received against this initial baseline, and were processed during the January 2008 Applied Technologies Group F2F. During the Mexico Forum, a subsequent Version 2.1 of the Data Type Catalogue was approved.

62. The project team has also been developing the first version of the CCTS 3.0 Data Type Catalogue, which represents the changes to data type structures as defined in CCTS 3.0. The first version is being published in June 2008 in draft form to support the CCTS 3.0 implementation verification already underway. A final version is expected to be published in early 2009 in conjunction

with the corresponding XML NDR Version 3.0, scheduled for publication at the same time. The timing of release is coordinated with the finalization of CCTS 3.0 expected at the end of 2008.

63. Applied Technologies Group's Standard Business Document Header project is currently on hold pending finalization of CCTS 3.0 and XML NDR 3.0.

Applied Technologies Group 1 EDIFACT Syntax

64. At the Stockholm Forum, Applied Technologies Group 1 processed 42 EDIFACT Data Maintenance Requests (DMRs): 6 were approved; 32 were approved with changes; 1 was postponed; and 3 were withdrawn.

65. At the Mexico Forum, Applied Technologies Group 1 processed 33 EDIFACT DMRs: 21 were approved; 7 were approved with changes; 2 were postponed; and 3 were withdrawn.

66. Applied Technologies Group 1 has also continued work on the UML2 EDIFACT Technical Specification, which is currently at Step 6 (Implementation Verification) of UN/CEFACT's Open Development Process. This Specification provides formal methodology and rules for transforming UN/CEFACT Modelling Methodology (UMM)-conformant UML models into the EDIFACT syntax. TBG6 has agreed to act as one implementation verification for this project and will be developing the requisite submission. This project will be completed when a second implementation verification project is identified and submitted.

Applied Technologies Group 2 – XML Syntax

67. Applied Technologies Group 2 completed production and audit of a total of 76 XML schemas in support of D07A, including: 33 Business Process schemas, which support the various approved and audited BRS/RSMs; 1 Common Reusable Schema that contains XML expressions of the CCL 07A library of BIEs; 1 Unqualified Data Type (UDT) Schema – this contains the XML expression of all CCTS-conformant Unqualified Data Types, and is an update of the schema published with the release of the NDR specification and incorporates changes made to the supporting code lists; 1 Qualified Data Type (QDT) Schema, which comprises the XML expressions of all Qualified Data Types contained in CCL 07A; and 39 Standard Code List Schema – these are the XML expressions of UN/CEFACT and other (e.g. ISO) code lists, and restricted code lists for use by the UDT, QDT and business process schema.

68. Applied Technologies Group 2 also completed production and audit of a total of 77 XML schemas in support of D07B, including: 34 Business Process Schema, which support the various approved and audited BRS/RSMs; 1 Common Reusable Schema, containing XML expressions of the CCL 07B library of BIEs; 1 Unqualified Data Type Schema that comprises the XML expression of all CCTS-conformant UDTs, and is an update of the schema published with the release of the NDR specification and incorporates changes made to the supporting code lists; 1 Qualified Data Type Schema, with the XML expressions of all QDTs in CCL 07B; 39 Standard Code List Schema – these are the XML expressions of UN/CEFACT and other (e.g. ISO) code lists, and restricted code lists for use by the UDT, QDT and business process schema.

69. Applied Technologies Group 2 continued cross-organizational alignment with active participation from OAGi, ACORD, GS1, CIDX, UBL, AIAG, and RosettaNet, all of whom have committed to making version 3.0 of the UN/CEFACT XML NDRs the XML schema design methodology to be adopted by all standards development organizations (SDOs). ATG is gaining recognition as the venue of choice for achieving convergence in XML methodologies across vertical standards organizations, which will significantly improve interoperability and greatly facilitate trade.

70. The XML NDR V3.0 project is currently at ODP step 5, and significant progress has been made on the next version of the XML NDR Specification. This Specification will align with the forthcoming CCTS 3.0, and contain a converged set of XML Schema NDRs that will allow other SDOs such as OAGi, ACORD, STAR, GS1, CIDX, RosettaNet, UBL and others to transition from their own standards to those of UN/CEFACT. ODP step 6 is expected for September 2008 and finalization in early 2009.

71. The XML Representation of Core Components project is currently at ODP step 4. This project defines an alternative XML-based format for the representation of Core Components that will facilitate defining, exchanging, submitting, and storing all CCTS artifacts in XML. Such a solution will greatly simplify the task of doing CCTS discovery work and will lead to increased “out of the box” vendor support for CCTS.

C. INFORMATION CONTENT MANAGEMENT GROUP

72. Over the course of the last year, the ICG has moved the UN/CEFACT Registry Specification from ODP 5 (Public Review) to ODP 6 (Implementation Verification), produced the first draft of the UN/CEFACT Code lists in XML Genericode, and completed its regular UN/EDIFACT audit and its maintenance activities for the UN Recommendations related to codes.

73. The Information Content Management Group has successfully completed two audits of the UN/CEFACT Core Component Libraries (CCL 07A and 07B) and the first complete audit of the UN/CEFACT Schemas version 07A. With these audits, the process is now beginning to produce the UN/CEFACT Core Component Libraries and their associated implementation specifications in a more regular and consistent fashion.

74. The Information Content Management Group successfully audited the following Requirements Specification Mapping (RSM) documents and their associated schemas: e-Tendering – TBG6; Small-Scale Lodging House Information Process – TBG9; and Project Schedule and Cost Performance Management – TBG6.

75. The current status of the UN/CEFACT Core Component Libraries and supporting electronic documents is as follows:

- (a) D.06A - only Aggregate Core Components (ACCs), no approved BRS;
- (b) D.06B - first release containing Aggregate Business Information Entities (ABIEs) for the e-Tendering and Cross Industry Invoice (CII) and Release Candidates of their associated Schemas;
- (c) D.07A - fully audited library that supports the e-Tendering and the Small-Scale Lodging House Information Process Business Requirements in addition to their associated schemas;
- (d) D.07B - fully audited library supporting all previous processes in addition to the Project Schedule and Cost Performance Management Business Requirements.

76. The Information Content Management Group successfully moved the UN/CEFACT Registry Implementation Requirements Specification from ODP step 5 to ODP step 6. This Specification defines the underlying infrastructure required to build a formal registry/repository so that Forum members and UN/CEFACT users can access, maintain, and publish the full set of UN/CEFACT Specifications, Recommendations, and other UN/CEFACT publications. It represents one of the fundamental tools that will enable the UN/CEFACT Permanent Groups to carry out their work more efficiently. The latest UN/CEFACT Registry Implementation Requirements Specification version 1.2 may now be used as the basis for the UN/CEFACT Registry implementation.

77. The Information Content Management Group already initiated the migration of the United Nations Code Lists and UN Recommendations Code Lists to a generic format that can be used across the different syntaxes (e.g. XML, UN/EDIFACT). Over the past year, the ICG has produced the first draft of the UN/CEFACT Code lists in XML using the Genericcode specification. Work has now begun on the analysis of the resulting work in order to specify the requirements for an operational version of the code lists.

78. The Information Content Management Group has produced a draft of a staged implementation plan for the UN/CEFACT Registry for consideration within the context of the electronic Business Government and Trade (eBGT) initiative.

79. As part of the regular cycle of updates, the ICG has also met its target in completing a formal audit of the D.07A and D.07B UN/EDIFACT Directories.

80. The Information Content Management Group has produced updates to the following key UN Recommendations: Recommendation 20 (Units of Measure) Revision 5, Recommendation 23 (Freight Cost Codes) Revision 6, and Recommendation 24 (Transport Status Codes) Revision 6.

81. The Information Content Management Group provided support to several TBG Working Groups in clarifying the workflow and use of the related documents as used within the UN/CEFACT.

D. LEGAL GROUP

82. The Legal Group assists the UN/CEFACT Bureau, the FMG, and other Permanent Groups on the legal aspects of electronic business and international trade facilitation and other relevant matters related to the work of the UN/CEFACT. At the request of various UN/CEFACT entities, the LG analyses current legal processes and issues within the mission and objectives of UN/CEFACT, identifies legal constraints that adversely affect the UN/CEFACT mission and LG objectives, and proposes practical improvements to these legal processes and issues. Deliverables generally include legally oriented trade facilitation and electronic business Recommendations to assist other Permanent Groups, the FMG and the UN/CEFACT Bureau in advancing global commerce.

83. Over the past year, the Legal Group has continued to participate with TBG15 in the development of Recommendation 35 on the Legal Framework for International Trade Single Window. Although the Legal Group's limited resources slowed progress, most of the work on Recommendation 35 was completed by late 2007. With the assistance of TBG15 and its Chair, additional resources outside UN/CEFACT will be sought to assist in the finalizing Recommendation 35.

84. The most significant project that engaged the LG during 2007 and early 2008 was its contributions to the work of the Intellectual Property Rights Policy Task Team. Working with the co-Chair of the IPR Policy Task Team, Mr. Jeffrey Kovar of the US Mission to the United Nations in Geneva, members of the Legal Group participated in all aspects of the Task Team's work.

85. The Legal Group also worked with the IPR Policy Task team to facilitate the IPR Policy Seminar held in Stockholm as part of the 11th UN/CEFACT Forum. The Seminar was very well attended and the participation was quite substantial.

86. Finally, Legal Group members assisted the IPR Policy Task Team in preparing its Final Report and Recommendations that were presented to the UN/CEFACT Bureau in March 2008. The LG may continue to play a role in the implementation of the Task Team's Recommendations, depending on the decisions of the UN/CEFACT Bureau.

87. The Legal Group continued to maintain relationships with other international organizations including the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL). In particular, the LG identified an area of work being undertaken by TBG19, its e-Public Procurement (ePP) project,

which might have some intersections with the work of UNCITRAL. After discussions with the UNCITRAL secretariat, it decided to accept the TBG19 general Call for Participation on the project.

E. TECHNIQUES AND METHODOLOGIES GROUP

88. The Techniques and Methodologies Group met at the eleventh and twelfth UN/CEFACT Forums in Stockholm and Mexico City. It also held face-to-face meetings in Kansas City (July 2007), Zurich (December 2007), Berlin (June 2008), and Tokyo (scheduled to take place in September 2008 at the time of writing).

Core Components Working Group

89. The Techniques and Methodologies Group's Core Components Working Group has moved the Core Components Technical Specification (CCTS) 3.0 to ODP step 7 (implementation verification). CCTS 3.0 is expected to be finalized by the end of 2008. In addition, the CCWG delivered the UML Profile for Core Components (UPCC) 1.0 in January 2008. This project was initiated under the name of Business Collaboration Specification Schema (BCSS). However, it was renamed to better reflect its scope, which is customizing the UML metamodel to meet the CCTS 2.01 concepts in order to use UML tools for CCTS modelling and to interchange CCTS models between tools. The CCWG released an initial draft of the Core Components Message Assembly at the end of 2007. This draft is expected to undergo another review cycle once substantial comments from other Groups are received, before moving to ODP 5 by the end of 2008. In 2008, CCWG concentrated much of its work on the UN/CEFACT Context Methodology (UCM). UCM seeks to develop a unified methodology for developing, registering, and using context drivers as part and for the application of a number of UN/CEFACT standard artifacts. The project considers typical requirements, i.e. use cases, submitted by other UN/CEFACT groups and external organizations. The project team is preparing its initial draft to complete ODP step 3 and is expected to progress with the UCM specification to ODP step 5 by the end of the year.

Business Process Working Group

90. The Business Process Working Group has delivered a user guide on the UN/CEFACT modelling methodology (UMM) 1.0. This user guide is not in the form of traditional documents; instead the team developed a set of movies guiding the newcomer through the UMM development process to create UMM-compliant artifacts.

91. In addition, the team continued working on the next version of the methodology, UMM 2.0. The initial draft for this version was finalized at the Mexico Forum and the project is now in ODP step 4. UMM 2.0 is expected to be finished before the 14th UN/CEFACT Forum in spring 2009.

92. The Business Process Working Group is also working on a specialization module for UMM that extends its requirements elicitation phase. The project team is in the process of producing its initial draft for the Resource Event Agent (REA) 1.0 specialization module in 2008, moving it to ODP step 4.

Electronic Business Architecture Working Group

93. Techniques and Methodologies Group's Electronic Business Architecture Working Group is currently finishing up the requirements specification (ODP step 2) of the eBusiness Architecture. At the time of the UN/CEFACT Plenary, the eBusiness Architecture team will work on the initial draft (ODP step 3) to be finished by the end of 2008, thus moving the project to ODP step 4.

ANNEX I

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

ABIE	Aggregate Business Information Entities
ACC	Aggregate Core Component
ACORD	Global Insurance Standards
AFACT	Asia Pacific Council for Trade Facilitation and Electronic Business
AIAG	Automotive Industry Action Group
APEC	Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation
ASBIE	Association Business Information Entity
ASCC	Association Core Component
ASEAN	Association of Southeast Asian Nations
BBIE	Basic Business Information Entity
BCC	Basic Core Component
BCSS	Business Collaboration Specification Scheme
BIE	Business Information Entity
BII	Business Interoperability Interfaces
BPWG	Business Process Working Group
BRS	Business Requirements Specification
CCL	Core Components Library
CCTS	Core Components Technical Specification
CCWG	Core Components Working Group
CEN	European Committee for Standardization
CEN/ISSS	Information Society Standardization System of the European Committee for Standardization
CFEM	Contract Financial Execution Management
CIDX	Chemical Industry Data Exchange
CII	Cross-Industry Invoice
CIO	Cross-Industry Order
CMETs	Common Message Element Types
CSIO	Centre for Study of Insurance Operations
DMR	Data Maintenance Request
eBES	e-business Board for European Standardization
eBGT	electronic Business Government and Trade
ebXML	Electronic Business using eXtensible Markup Language
eCert	electronic certification system for government-to-government sanitary and phytosanitary certificates issued for traded food and agricultural commodities
eDAPLOS	electronic message describing the data crop sheet exchanged between farmers and their partners
EDI	Electronic Data Interchange
F2F	Face-to-face meeting
FMG	UN/CEFACT Forum Management Group
HoD	Head of Delegation
IATA	International Air Transport Association
ISO	International Organization for Standardization
ITIGG	International Transport Implementation Guidelines Group

ITPWG	International Trade Procedures Working Group
JASTPRO	Japanese Association for Simplification of International Trade Procedures
MRI	Modellers' Reference Initiative
MSDS	Material Safety Data Sheet
NES	Northern European user group of UBL
OAGi	Open Applications Group
OASIS/UBL	Universal Business Language Technical Committee of the Organization for the Advancement of Structured Information Standards
ODP	Open Development Process
QDT	Qualified Data Type
REA	Resource Event Agent
RSM	Requirements Specification Mapping
SDO	Standards development organization
STAR	Standards for Technology in Automotive Retail
SWIFT	Society for Worldwide Interbank Financial Telecommunication
TBG	International Trade and Business Processes Group
TFIG	Trade Facilitation Implementation Guide
UBL-TSC	Universal Business Language Transport Sub-Committee
UCM	UN/CEFACT Context Methodology
UDT	Unqualified Data Type
UN/CEFACT	United Nations Centre for Trade Facilitation and Electronic Business
UNCITRAL	United Nations Commission on International Trade Law
UN/EDIFACT	United Nations Electronic Data Interchange for Administration, Commerce and Transport
UNeDocs	United Nations electronic Trade Documents
UNESCAP	United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific
UPCC	UML Profile for Core Components
XBRL GL	Extensible Business Reporting Language Global Ledger
XML	Extensible Markup Language
XML NDR	Extensible Markup Language Naming and Design Rules

ANNEX II

NUMBER OF PROJECTS BY KEY WORK AREA ACTIVITY OF THE UN/CEFACT PROGRAMME OF WORK 2008-2009

