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Activities of the Forum Management Group and the Permanent Groups

Activities of the Forum Management Group and the permanent groups*

Activities since the sixteenth session

Report by the Forum Management Group

Summary

The Forum is the operational entity of the United Nations Centre for Trade Facilitation and Electronic Business (UN/CEFACT). It comprises five permanent groups managed by the Forum Management Group, which, in turn, is managed by the Bureau. The 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.

During the past eight months, the Forum has made progress on the programme of work for 2010-2011. Details of the delivery of trade facilitation recommendations, electronic business standards, technical specifications and best practice are given under section I.

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* This document is being submitted pursuant to the document entitled "Mandate and Terms of Reference of the United Nations Centre for Trade Facilitation and Electronic Business (UN/CEFACT)" (TRADE/R.650/Rev.4, para. 50).

Contents

I. 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 managed by the Bureau. The 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 eight months, the Forum has made progress on the approved programme of work for 2010-2011. Details of the delivery of trade facilitation recommendations, electronic business standards, technical specifications and best practice, are set out in the current report.

3.   The FMG manages the operations of the Forum through fortnightly conference calls throughout the year, and through virtual communications on a day-to-day basis. The results are posted on the UN/CEFACT website.

4.   The FMG met with the UN/CEFACT Plenary Bureau at an informal session over two days in March 2011 prior to the Global Meeting of Experts in McLean, Virginia, United States of America, to discuss strategy, priorities, teamwork and communications.

5.   A list of the abbreviations used in the current document is attached as an annex.

II. Meetings

6.   It was agreed at the 16th UN/CEFACT Plenary in December 2010 that a Forum meeting would need to be held in the first quarter of 2011 to further develop the proposals for the reorganization of UN/CEFACT. It was also agreed that the Forum's project work, under the approved programme of work, should continue unhindered during the discussions about the reorganization. The delegation of the United States offered to host the meeting at the Logistics Management Institute in McLean, from 28 March to 1 April 2011.

A. Global Meeting of Experts, Logistics Management Institute, McLean, Virginia, United States

7.   Some 115 experts from all over the world took part in the exceptional Global Meeting of Experts (GME), which was hosted by the United States delegation to UN/CEFACT at the Logistics Management Institute (LMI) in McLean, Virginia, USA from 28 March to 1 April 2011. The United States Government did not sign a Host Country Agreement (HCA). Under these circumstances, the UN secretariat could not agree to the meeting being held as a UN/CEFACT Forum, but suggested that it be held instead, on an exceptional basis, as a Global Meeting of Experts (GME), without the support of the UNECE secretariat

8.   The FMG would like to record here its sincere thanks to the delegation of the United States and the staff of LMI for the commitment and contribution they made to making this meeting so successful. It had to be organized at very short notice, and the organizers were obliged to assume additional costs and responsibilities.

9.   The meeting was opened by the Head of the United States delegation to UN/CEFACT, Mr. Marion Royal. The President and Chief Executive Officer of LMI, Mr. Nelson Ford gave the welcome address. During the week of the meeting UN/CEFACT

Working Groups progressed project work under the approved programme of work, 2010-2011. Much of the week was devoted to open discussions on the reorganization of UN/CEFACT, in which all experts participated. Four brainstorming sessions took place organized around possible new Programme Development Areas (PDAs) in order to seek achievable synergies and cross domain cooperation. Many useful exchanges of views took place and suggestions on future potential options were received. The discussions have been ongoing since the McLean GME through a number of transition teams in order to prepare a coherent proposal for the consideration of the Plenary.

10.   In addition to the normal series of information meetings that took place ("Lunch & Learns"), a number of extremely interesting presentations were made to the GME by LMI experts on the work and projects of the Institute.

11.   A requirement that has emerged from recent Forum meetings is the need to hold parallel or capacity-building events for promoting UN/CEFACT's work for the benefit of government and business representatives in the host countries and countries in their regions.

12.   The project portfolio has been reviewed and priorities for delivery in 2011 identified. This work will continue and the project delivery process has been improved. The posting and tracking of UN/CEFACT projects on the website continue to be updated regularly.

13.   Work on the trade facilitation implementation guide and its capacity-building programme has continued. Some delays were encountered and the contract with the Swedish Development Agency re-negotiated during 2010. The first deliverables are expected this year. This project is funded by the Government of Sweden.

14.   Following the 16th UN/CEFACT Plenary session, the Forum Management Group attended the meeting of the UNECE Executive Committee (EXCOM) in December 2010 when issues concerning UN/CEFACT were discussed. UN/CEFACT was invited to report back to the EXCOM following the 17th UN/CEFACT Plenary in July 2011.

III. Reports from the permanent groups

A. International Trade and Business Processes Group

Group 1: Supply Chain

15.   The following projects have new or updated supporting XML Schemas as part of CCL10A (10 out of 12 projects are in ODP7 - Publication):

- Cross Industry Scheduling
- Cross Industry Delivery (updated)
- Cross Industry Quotation
- Cross Industry Ordering (updated)
- Cross Industry Catalogue (updated)
- Cross Industry Invoice (updated)
- Cross Industry Remittance Advice
- Market Research Information
- Supply Chain Process - Common Requirements

16.   The REACH project (Registration, Evaluation, Authorisation and Restriction of Chemicals) is in ODP1 – Requirements Gathering.

17.   There is continued collaboration with TBG6 on the use of CCTS3 and NDR3 for the supply chain messages.

18.   TBG1 has improved the routines for automation of RSM production.

Group 3: Transport and Logistics

19.   During the past months, TBG3 has been actively involved in contributing (brainstorming sessions, TBG Steering Committees…) to the set-up of the future organization of UN/CEFACT. For this purpose, we have submitted a position paper highlighting the issues to be resolved prior to the GME meeting in Washington end March 2011.

20.   Work has been pursued on the projects related to the Business Requirement Specifications in the area of transport and forwarding with the priorities being Transport Status Requesting & Reporting, Transport Instructions, Dangerous Goods Declaration and Waybill including Road CMR, Railroad CIM, and Maritime Bill of lading. A proposal for a new project "Cargo Tracing and Tracking" has been approved, for which cooperation with Customs has been sought.

21.   Joint work has started in cooperation with TBG4/WCO (World Customs Organization) and TBG15 (International Trade Procedures) for a worldwide harmonized implementation of the message "Advance Cargo Declaration" by National Customs, which is required to improve the security of freight.

22.   TBG3 cooperates also with TBG4 on the WCO Data Model, UCR and GOVCBR and with other business and governmental organizations: GS1 on the Transport Instruction, the International Air Transport Agency on the Shipper's Declaration for Dangerous Goods and on Cargo XML, and the International Maritime Organization on Electronic FAL Forms etc.

23.   A number of data maintenance requests (57 out of 100) have been processed with the Applied Technologies Group (ATG) during the GME week, especially for the new area of urban logistics (sustainable development) and for maritime transport.

24.   TBG3 is holding three 1-week interim meetings in 2011 (Paris 21-25 February; Berlin 20-24 June; and Valencia, Spain, 14-18 November). This represents a total of 25 days spent in meetings, including the CEFACT Forum/GME plus the teleconference calls.

25.   TBG3 maintains close liaison with the standards committees of the International Organization for Standardization (ISO), especially TC204 dealing with intelligent transport systems, as well as TC8 marine and TC104 containers.

26.   TBG3/ITIGG pursued working on developing a new version of the worldwide ITIGG implementation guidelines (version 3.0), with priorities for Transport Status Request/Report, Transport Instruction, Dangerous Goods Declaration and Waybill to be valid for both EDIFACT and ebXML.

Group 4: Customs

27.   TBG 4 presented the WCO *Single Window Compendium* to TBG 15, which generated interest for the future work of finalizing this Compendium. As there is common ground concerning the Single Window, an agreement was made that TBG 15 would leave comments and proposals on the *Compendium* and future publications in that area.

28.   A draft resolution concerning advance cargo information for primarily security reasons had been prepared jointly by TBG 3 and TBG 15. TBG 4 put forward the proposal that the option that the issue of developing a standard message for the Advance Cargo Declaration was best undertaken within the framework of the WCO, more precisely the in the SAFE Working Group and the Data Model Project Team. TBG 4 also presented a detailed time plan for developing the messages requested in the draft resolution.

29.   TBG 4 presented to TBG 18 the efforts to include eCert in the WCO Data Model and agreements were made on future cooperation in this area.

30.   During the GME, TBG 4 participated actively in the various brainstorming sessions related to the restructuring of UN/CEFACT.

Group 5: Finance

31.   TBG5's future programme of work will be included in the UN/CEFACT POW 2011-2012.

32.   TBG5 will continue to liaise with ISO/TC68 where the global financial services industry develops and implements international standards.

Group 6: Architecture, Engineering, & Construction

33.   TBG6 has been working on the publication of CCTS 3/NDR-based business standards. Specifically:

  • Planning was restated for publication of the Cross Industry Invoice (CII), eTendering version 2, and Contract Financial Execution Management (CFEM) as an annex to the Implementation Guide;

  • A new project, drafted in McLean, has been adopted by FMG: "Procedure for CCTS 3 / NDR 3 artefacts Publication" (5 country HoDs' have approved this project to be launched); Chris Hassler will be the project leader and Kevin Smith will be the project editor. TBG1 and TBG6 will be part of this project.

34.   Regarding eTendering v2 and CFEM v1 publication:

  • Drafting final BRS/RSM/XML Schemas are going on well;

  • Decisions have to be taken about planning of future incorporation of eNotification outputs and change requests.

35.   Regarding Recommendation 37:

  • Meeting with representatives from UNCITRAL and the United States delegation have taken place in McLean;

  • A list of comments is awaited.

36.   TBG6 has the following joint activities with other groups:

  • With TBG1 for CCTS 3 / NDR 3 publication process and launching of the new project for this purpose;

  • With TBG19, in order to update planning:

      • For eTendering/eNotification process;

      • For coordination with the new LNP (Legal Notices Publication) project.

37. With ATG and ICG, on the publication process of CCTS3- and NDR3-based standards:

- After listing the required content and actions for reference schemas publication and submission of a standard, a proposal has been made concerning processes for:

  - Production;

  - Submission;

  - Audit;

  - Publication.

- This proposal will be taken into account for the publication of the CII, eTendering and CFEM.

Group 8: Insurance

38. The goal of the International Trade and Business Processes Group 8 (TBG8) is to set up a common, harmonized insurance data dictionary, which will be used as input for the TBG17 harmonization process. The insurance industry will use this as a reference dictionary for developing data models, object class models or message structures and to facilitate interoperability within the global Insurance sector.

39. The TBG8 project work uses the existing data standards of the eEG7-member organizations as well as the ACORD Global Insurance Standard to harmonize its respective dictionaries and to discover generic and/or insurance specific core components.

40. Several submissions to the Core Component Library were made in the past years. The Library now contains insurance-related information for contract administration and claims handling in the insurance areas of private and commercial motor insurance, private homeowner insurance, and health insurance. The actual harmonization project between ACORD and eEG7 covers the requirements of commercial property and casualty insurance.

Group 9: Travel, Tourism, & Leisure

41. For the Small Scaled Lodging House (SLH) Reservation Information Process project, a draft BRS was proposed to TBG 9 at the GME and slightly amended since then. The group will prepare the document for public review. The process is a new project approved by the FMG in January this year.

42. The Travel Destination Information Process project was discussed within the group and will be proposed as a new project towards the third quarter of 2011 under the leadership of the Republic of Korea. Since the GME, the subject was discussed in the TT&L working group meeting with AFACT members. The information entities proposed at this meeting will be validated by applying actual cases of travel areas in each country attended. Virtual meetings will be held once every two months among AFACT TT&L members and working results will be proposed to TBG 9 of UN/CEFACT Forum.

43. TBG9 held meetings in Tokyo and at the AFACT Mid-term Meeting in Kaohsiung. The two-country meeting was held on 28 April in Tokyo with members from Japan and the Republic of Korea. The TT&L WG meeting was held on 2 and 3 May at the AFACT Mid-term Meeting with 11 members present from 3 countries.

Group 10: Healthcare

44.   Many of the standardization activities previously dealt with by the International Trade and Business Processes Group 10 (TBG10) and eBES Expert Group 9 have increasingly been overtaken by CEN (European Committee for Standardization) Technical Committee 251, ISO Technical Committee 215, as well as by Health Level 7. For this reason, TBG10 has mostly been passive in the last year.

Group 12: Accounting & Audit

45.   Group 12 (TBG12) is responsible for using the UN/CEFACT Modelling Methodology for the accounting and auditing domains and financial reporting.

46.   The first message, "Accounting Entry", was made available within the CCL 08B. Several software companies have participated in its development.

47.   This Group continues to feed the CCL with accounting and audit input that covers specific accounting domains. A chart of accounts message, ledger message, financial statements and many mandatory declarations using this reporting message have been developed.

48.   At the same time, a companion message named "Wrap" completes the set. It facilitates transmission of several accounting messages within a single sending.

49.   The messages "Reporting", "Chart of Accounts", "Ledger" and "Accounting Message" was made available within the CCL 10A.

50.   The messages "Trial Balance" and "Bundle Collection" have been developed, successively approved and available within the CCL 11A.

51.   Implementation of "Accounting Entry" highlighted that some needs were not covered and minor changes were requested. The updated version is part of CCL10A and CCL11A.

52.   A last message, "Lexical Nomenclature", is in progress. This is the last one which is currently in progress; it will achieve the development and complete the set of standard messages related to accounting and audit domains.

53.   All will be in ODP "Maintenance" as of 2012.

Group 13: Environment

54.   The International Trade and Business Processes Group 13 (TBG13) supports and promotes both international and regional cooperation activities related to exchanging environmental data.

55.   Core Components and Business Information Entities related to transboundary movements of waste, based on the Basel Convention, were submitted by TBG13 and published within CCL 09A. So far, there has been limited progress with waste movement data-exchange implementation. Therefore, TBG13 plans on increasing implementation activities by supporting the setup of an online message validation and testing site. The Group also plans to extend the models with waste certificate content and additional content of so-called notifications, i.e. applications for prior consent to transboundary movements of waste.

56.   TBG1 had talks with TBG13 on REACH, the project dealing with the Registration, Evaluation, Authorisation and Restriction of Chemical substances. TBG13 will contribute to this project.

Group 14: Business Process Analysis

57.   In the light of the ongoing reorganization of UN/CEFACT, TBG14 focused on two main activities in 2011:

>   (a) Maintaining the ongoing projects especially the UN/CEFACT Buy-Ship-Pay process model. This is the international supply chain reference model and a key concept in applying BPA, and has been further developed and promoted in the current version 2010A. The documentation was updated and all these deliverables were made available through Confluence;

>   (b) Supporting the reorganization by active participation in several working groups to communicate the goals, raise awareness of the aims and finding consensual solutions to adopt the reorganization plan.

58.   Project P059: International Supply Chain Reference Model (ISCM) also known as the Buy-Ship-Pay Process Model

59.   TBG14 is a cross-domain group responsible for the analysis and harmonization of business processes. Therefore, TBG14 has been active in several TBG projects to create UMM-compliant process models for their projects as part of the deliverables. These UMM models are gathered and put into context within the Project P059 "International Supply Chain Reference Model", where TBG14 delivered the latest version 2010A of the Buy-Ship-Pay Process Model. These deliverables are available via TBG's Confluence WebSite[1.]

60.   This model consists of detailed description for about 35 trade-related key processes, such as Quotation, Tendering, Catalogue, Ordering, Scheduling, Invoicing, etc. The related Modelling Guidelines explains how the Model was developed and shows the use and its benefit for the stakeholders (i.e. reuse of existing models in BPA (Business Process Analysis) and BPM (Business Process Modelling) efforts, and to position new process models within the overall Model).

61.   Together with TBG15 BPM had been used to support the Recommendation on Consultation Models for Public and Private Sector Consultation. With this example, the use of BPA/BPM to support trade-facilitation aims had been shown and discussed.

62.   To raise awareness of BPA and its potential in trade facilitation, a paper to introduce BPA in this context has been developed and discussed with other TBGs. (see TBG14 - BPAandTF_v05.pdf[2]).

63.   We also consider liaisons with other organizations such as WCO and WTO highly important, and having great potential for further improvements of UN/CEFACT role in the area of trade facilitation. We therefore recommend that high priority be accorded to these aspects in the reorganization plan.

Group 15: International Trade Procedures

64.   *Recommendation 12 on Measures to Facilitate Maritime Transport Document Procedures* has been revised by TBG 15. The revision was started in 2002 when a revision team was formed at the request of UNCITRAL among others. In 2007 it was decided that the revision should be put on hold awaiting the ratification of the UNCITRAL Convention known as the Rotterdam Rules. Taking into account the importance of promoting Best Practice and modern solutions, the Group now submits the revised Recommendation to the Plenary for approval.

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[1]   http://www1.unece.org/cefact/platform/display/TBG/International+Supply+Chain+Reference+Model.
[2]   http://www1.unece.org/cefact/platform/download/attachments/39747745/TBG14+-BPAandTF_v05.pdf.

65.   The Group has published a revision of *Recommendation 5 Abbreviations of Incoterms -Alphabetic Code for Incoterms® 2010* based on the International Chamber of Commerce's Incoterms 2010. The recommendation has not changed in substance but adopts the changes made by ICC to Incoterms.

66.   The Group continues the work on draft recommendation 36 on Single Window Interoperability and a recommendation on Consultation models. Calls for participation went out during the first quarter of 2011.

67.   Information material on Mobile Business (m-Business) has been prepared for publication and updated after comments from several sources, notably ISO TC68.

68.   TBG 15 members are active participants in the Trade Facilitation Implementation Guide Project Team

Group 16: Entry Point

69.   The Entry Point still maintains the official website for the International Trade and Business Group (note: this website will be closed as soon the reorganization becomes effective).

70.   TBG16 has developed a Change Request (CR) procedure for updates to the UN/CEFACT XML deliverables. The procedure is now fully implemented. If the Entry Point concept disappears in the reorganization, in the future this process will have to be carried out differently.

71.   TBG16 has also participated in many discussions concerning the reorganization, and is part of the "Transition Team" that evaluates how to implement the reorganization.

Group 17: Harmonization

72.   The International Trade and Business Processes Group 17 (TBG17) is a cross-domain group, responsible for consistency and harmonization of core components across business domains and sectors, contributing to a concise and well-defined glossary of business terms, business data semantic definitions, and structuring of the content of data exchanges. Members represent other International Trade and Business Processes Groups, plus liaison members from several other entities, including AFACT, CITES, GS1, IATA, ISO, Joint Automotive Industry, OASIS (UBL), the Government of the United States, WCO and ANSI ASC X12.

73.   Most of the Group's harmonization work is conducted during interim meetings and through weekly conference calls. During the Forum meetings, TBG17 interfaces with the other TBGs and permanent groups.

74.   As part of the Core Components Library (CCL), TBG17 finalized the CCL 08B, CCL 09A, CCL 09B and CCL 10A, containing Business Information Entities:

- CCL 08B is an extensive library containing the Business Information Entities for the Buy-Ship-Pay Data Model and Accounting Entry;

- CCL 09A contains the TBG1 eInvoice, the Basel Convention, and IATA eFreight Invoice, as well as Building Insurance, and submissions from the Government of the United States, RosettaNet and for travel products;

- CCL 09B contains Supply Chain Ordering, Despatch Advice, and eCatalogue, IATA eFreight Dangerous Goods, CITES2/ASYCUDA Import/Export, Market Survey, four Accounting submissions, Construction Valuation Breakdown and eTendering, and United States Government Acquisitions and Performance Scheduling update.

- CCL 10A contains Supply Chain Quotation, Scheduling, Remittance Advice, Additions to Cross Industry Invoice, eCatalogue, and qDTs, WCO data model 3.0 components, Insurance Motor Claims, Accounting Chart of Accounts, Financial Reporting, Ledger, Accounting Message, Agriculture Electronic Data Proxy and Cattle Registration, plus a mixed update of items for Supply Chain, ECE, and the 7372 Maintenance Agency.

75. Note: No CCL 10B will be published; submissions for 10B are included in the CCL 10A publication.

76. CCL 11A contains Agriculture Agronomical Observation, Accounting Trial Balance and updates to existing Accounting components, and an update to the Insurance components.

Group 18: Agriculture

77. TBG18 has been working on several projects. Incorporated into CCL10A were the Cattle Tracking and Agronomical Observations projects. Projects in process are as follows:

- animal and fish traceability;

- agricultural commodities extension to the cross industry invoice (flower and horticulture auction issues).

78. There have been discussions regarding the implementation status of the e-CERT and the CRIE standards, as well as the use of particular code lists. It is the preference of TBG18 that code lists be published and maintained by an expert body.

Group 19: eGovernment

79. TBG19's objective is to develop and maintain business scenarios and business transactions to facilitate the electronic delivery of services to citizens, businesses and governmental organizations.

80. This Group has launched the Legal Notice Publication (LNP) project. The purpose of the project is to create Business Process Models and Business Class Diagrams for documenting the business scenarios and business transactions involved in LNP. The output will be used to obtain and validate the XML messages to support the business transactions. The project will be divided into sub-projects depending upon requirements. Each sub-project may deal with a specific area of LNP. The first sub-project is to cover LNP in the Public Procurement domain.

81. Version 3 Release 1 of the eTendering BRS is being discussed with TBG6 and discussions are under way for the future incorporation of eNotification outputs and change requests in the eTendering BRS.

B. Applied Technologies Group

82. The Applied Technologies Group (ATG) continues to be responsible for syntax solutions and direct support to TBG for all aspects of syntax-specific issues. In addition to the Geneva Forum, ATG also met face-to-face in November 2010 in Washington. ATG groups regularly hold scheduled weekly calls to advance their work.

83. ATG has two group-level projects – Data Type Catalogue and Standard Business Document Header:

(a) Data Type Catalogue – The DTC is in ODP8 Maintenance. Two Data Maintenance Requests have been received and processed to include reintroduction

of Number. Type, refinement of Ordinal. Type and Value. Type, and updating of standard formats for expression of dates and times consistent with ISO 8601. The resulting DTC version 3.1 has been published at the end of Q1 2011;

(b)   Standard Business Document Header (SDBH) – The SDBH project team is updating the previously released version to include concepts around Cloud Computing that are considered vital by many stakeholder countries. The project team works in ODP Step 3 and ODP Step 4 concurrently, going back and forth between these steps in elaborating the project.

84.   During the last year, the project team has processed the following:

(i)   Has started to discuss based on rough draft;

(ii)   Added two entities on data model:

- UCM relation entity;

- Reference Registry relation entity.

(iii)   Accepted new requirements from CEN/ISSS WS/BII-2 "Messaging Envelope Technical Requirements Specification";

(iv)   Changed this project name from Standard Business Document Header to Business Document Header.

ATG1

85.   ATG1 is responsible for EDIFACT syntax issues. Its primary responsibility is processing data maintenance requests (DMRs) for EDIFACT releases. During the last year, ATG1 has processed the following:

• D11A DMRs:

  • 91 approved;

  • 35 approved with changes;

  • 9 postponed;

  • 1 rejected;

  • 6 withdrawn.

ATG2

86.   ATG2 is responsible for XML syntax issues. It has accomplished the following:

• Completed production and audit of a total of 229 XML schemas in support of D10A, including:

  • Business Process Schemas (74), supporting the various approved and audited BRS/RSMs;

  • Common Reusable Schema (1), containing XML expressions of the CCL 09A library of BIEs;

  • Unqualified Data Type Schema (1), containing the XML expression of all CCTS- conformant Unqualified DataTypes. This is an update of the schema published with the release of the Naming and Design Rules (NDR) specification and incorporates changes made to the supporting code lists;

  • Qualified Data Type Schema (1), containing the XML expressions of all qualified data types contained in CCL 09A;

- Standard Code List Schema (152). These schemas are the XML expressions of UN/CEFACT and other (e.g. ISO) code lists, and restricted code lists for use by the Unqualified Data Type Schema, Qualified Data Type Schema and business process schemas.

- Released Corrigendum for NDR containing updated regular expressions for all date, date time, and time types that will greatly simplify implementation in business to business communications containing dates and times;

- Continues working with TBG and ICG to develop implementation plan for migration to version 3 of the common methodologies standards stack;

- Continues working on XML Representation of Core Components specification and associated XML schemas. This Technical Specification is currently at ODP Step 6, awaiting market feed-back from pilot implementations. This project is defining an alternative XML-based format for the representation of Core Components which 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 is expected to lead to increased vendor support for CCTS.

C. Information Content Management Group

87. Since the last ICG report in December 2010, the effects of the economic downturn that led to a large number of the group having to leave has not evolved. The group is still trying to carry out its tasks with a reduced membership. The level of level of work is still very high.

88. The ICG is slowly progressing work on the UN/CEFACT Code lists in XML Genericode.

89. The ICG still maintains its level of support concerning the United Nations recommendations related to codes and has completed its regular maintenance activities for those requiring evolution.

90. The ICG has successfully completed the audit of the UN/CEFACT Core Component Library D.10A and is currently auditing the D.11A library.

91. As part of the regular cycle of updates, the ICG has also met its target in completing a formal audit of the D.10B UN/EDIFACT Directories.

92. The ICG has approved an update to United Nations Recommendation No. 23 (Freight Cost Code – FCC), which will be noted during the course of the coming Plenary.

93. The ICG has also further progressed work on Recommendation 16 (UN/LOCODEs), with a view to bringing its documentation up to date and improving the control of the codes submitted.

D. Legal Group

94. The mission of the Legal Group, reflected in its terms of reference, has been to provide legal guidance and counsel for the programmes of UN/CEFACT in a variety of areas related to the intersections of law and technology. It has done this over the past year by working with and participating regularly with the Forum Management Group and the 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. The Legal Group has also maintained working relationships with other key United Nations and

intergovernmental organizations that are working in the law and technology domain as related to the work of UN/CEFACT.

95. The Legal Group has analysed current legal issues within the mission and objectives of UN/CEFACT, identified legal constraints that might adversely affect the UN/CEFACT mission, and provided advice and counsel on these issues. Deliverables have included direct assistance and legal drafting for legally oriented trade facilitation and electronic business recommendations.

96. The Legal Group continued its work on Recommendation 35 on Establishing a Legal Framework for International Trade Single Window, for which the Group had provided the legal drafting and assistance to TBG15. Recommendation 35 was submitted for consideration to the 2009 Plenary session. At the Plenary, some concerns were raised regarding its legal vetting with UNCITRAL, the core United Nations body responsible for international trade law. As a result of its close ties to UNCITRAL, the Legal Group, working with the UNECE secretariat, was able to assuage these concerns by showing that UNCITRAL had been involved in reviewing Recommendation 35 and by assisting in making further improvements to this international text. The Recommendation was approved on 8 October 2010.

97. The Legal Group has also continued its work with WCO and the WCO-UNCITRAL Joint Legal Task Force (JLTF) on the International Single Window. The JLTF has been building on the work done by the Legal Group on Recommendation 35 by developing more legal research and analysis on many of the legal issues raised in this Recommendation. Members of the Legal Group have participated in several JLTF meetings and continue to be involved in the intersessional work of the JLTF.

98. Although it became involved at a late stage in the development process, the Legal Group provided advice on the legal issues that could possibly arise in Recommendation 37 - Signed Digital Evidence Interoperability Recommendation. It also facilitated the involvement of UNCITRAL and others from the international legal community in Step 5 of the ODP for Recommendation 37, with a view to getting a fuller legal vetting of this Recommendation.

99. Finally, the Legal Group has provided counsel to the Bureau at several meetings regarding how to more fully ensure the examination of legal issues related to the work of UN/CEFACT. This has included consideration of various organizational arrangements that are actively being considered by the Bureau to enhance the effectiveness of UN/CEFACT in accomplishing its mission.

E. Techniques and Methodologies Group

100. The TMG met face-to-face at the Global Meeting of Experts on Trade Facilitation Recommendations and Electronic Business Standards (GME) in Washington D.C., 28 March to 1 April 2011.

101. Currently, the Core Components Working Group (CCWG) works on three projects: the UN/CEFACT Context Methodology (UCM), the UML Profile for Core Components (UPCC), and the Core Component Business Document Assembly (CCBDA)

102. The UN/CEFACT Context Methodology (UCM) project is focused on the definition and delivery of a robust and complete Context Methodology for UN/CEFACT, which is also usable by other organizations. "Context" is the key part of the CCTS component model, facilitating the reasoning and rationale of defining industry, process, business-partners, (and others) specific data objects. Currently, UCM is in ODP step 5 "Public

Review" and the project team has addressed all comments received in the first ODP 5 review cycle.

103. The UML Profile for Core Components 3.0 (UPCC 3.0) is the successor of the current specification UPCC 1.0. The version number has been set to 3.0 in order to be aligned with the Core Component Technical Specification 3.0 (CCTS), on which the UPCC 3 is based. The project is, at the time of writing this report, in the third review cycle of ODP step 5 "Public Review", but is expected to complete this ODP step by time of the UN/CEFACT Plenary in order to progress to ODP 6 "Implementation Verification".

104. Recently, TMG has launched the Core Components Business Document Assembly (CCBDA) project. The project proposal has been accepted and a call for participation has been sent to the HoDs in May 2011.

105. The main work item of the Business Process Working Group (BPWG) is the next version of UN/CEFACT's modelling methodology, i.e. UMM 2.0. The project team has received successful implementation verifications and is expected to complete the administrative steps necessary to progress to ODP 7 "Final Release" at about the time of the UN/CEFACT plenary.

106. Another work item of the BPWG is a specialization module to extend the UMM which is called Resource Event Agent (REA) 1.0. The project team is still working on its first internal draft (ODP 4).

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Annex

List of abbreviations

ABIE	Aggregate Business Information Entities
ACC	Aggregate Core Component
ACORD	Global Insurance Standards
AEC	Architecture, Engineering and Construction
AFACT	Asia Pacific Council for Trade Facilitation and Electronic Business
AIAG	Automotive Industry Action Group
ANSI	American National Standards Institute
APEC	Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation
ASC	Accredited Standards Committee
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
CFEM	Contract Financial Execution Management
CIDX	Chemical Industry Data Exchange
CII	Cross-Industry Invoice

CIO	Cross-Industry Order
CITES	Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora
CMETs	Common Message Element Types
CRIE	Cattle Registration Information Exchange
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
EurAsEC	Eurasian Economic Community
F2F	Face-to-face meeting
FMG	UN/CEFACT Forum Management Group
HoD	Head of Delegation
IATA	International Air Transport Association
ICC	International Chamber of Commerce
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
LNP	Legal Notice Publication
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
UMM	UN/CEFACT Modelling Methodology
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
WCO	World Customs Organization
XBRL GL	Extensible Business Reporting Language Global Ledger
XML	Extensible Markup Language
XML NDR	Extensible Markup Language Naming and Design Rules