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INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR THE ERADICATION OF POVERTY

Ján Kubiš, UNECE Executive Secretary, delivered the Secretary-General's message at the commemoration of the *International Day for the Eradication of Poverty* at the Palais des Nations on Monday 19 October.

"Today we recognize the daily struggles and contributions of those living in poverty and resolve to intensify efforts to eliminate the scourge once and for all. At a time of multiple global crises, the poorest and most vulnerable have a special claim on our attention. We know that, in any recession, those hurt first—and worst—are the poor. According to recent estimates, the global economic crisis has claimed at least 50 million jobs this year. As many as 100 million more people are expected to fall below the poverty line in 2009. Climate change further compounds the problem. Despite our world of plenty, children's basic needs are still being sidelined. Millions of children continue to be deprived of an education, with many more at risk of dropping out of school. This is particularly true for girl children.

The United Nations system is responding to the crisis on a number of fronts—promoting food security, building a greener economy, ensuring stronger safety nets and putting forward a *Global Jobs Pact*. We are also developing a *Global Impact and Vulnerability Alert System—GIVAS*—to create a networked capacity for real-time data collection and analysis. Policies must be driven by a solid picture of developments on the ground.

We are at a critical juncture in the fight against poverty. Now is the time to amplify the voices of the vulnerable and ensure that the world follows up on its pledges. With the right investments and concrete action, we can build upon the gains, fulfil our commitments, and ensure that every man, woman and child has the opportunity to make the most of their potential."



The Secretary-General's message was followed by remarks from Bruno Romazzotti, Representative of ATD Fourth World in Geneva, and the showing of a film entitled *"Come with us: Let's make the world a better place"*, produced by the Tapori children's movement on the occasion of the 20th Anniversary of the Convention on the Rights of the Child. In the film, children from Burkina Faso, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ireland, Peru, Poland, Switzerland and Thailand present their concerns and aspirations, as well as the actions they are taking to promote and fulfil the rights of children. ■

UNECE'S GAS CENTRE FEATURES IN GEOPOLITIS

Swiss Television channel TSR2 will dedicate the next edition of its news magazine *Geopolitis* to Europe's gas landscape and the crucial issue of Europe's gas supply on Monday 26 October at 10.25 p.m.

The programme will feature an interview with Jacques Deyrimejian, founding member of UNECE's Gas Centre and former official of Gaz de France.

The programme will be broadcast again on TSR2 on 27 October at 00.45 a.m., 11.10 a.m. and 3.25 p.m. as well as on France 5 et TV5 monde (dates still to be confirmed).

It will also be available online at <http://www.tsr.ch>

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GEOPOLITIS



UN/CEFACT RELEASES NEW eINVOICE STANDARD TO ENHANCE LINKS BETWEEN BUSINESS AND FINANCIAL SUPPLY CHAINS

The United Nations Centre for Trade Facilitation and Electronic Business (UN/CEFACT) has just approved the Cross Industry Invoice (CII) Version 2.0 standard to enhance links between the business and financial supply chains and enable cross-industry and cross-domain interoperability. This common global standard is based on a set of business requirements from different industries and stakeholders in both the private and public sectors.

The CII, which is an electronic document exchanged globally between trading partners with a prime function as a request for payment, is an important accounting document and has potential legal implications for sender and receiver. It is also typically used as the key document for Value Added Tax (VAT) declaration and reclamation, for statistics declarations, and to support export and import declarations in respect of international trade.

The CII addresses the strong business need for large scale implementation of eInvoicing, in particular, offering valuable assistance for business and governments in exchanging structured data. It has international application and also supports the requirements of the European Commission Expert Group on eInvoicing. It will be complemented by a series of additional UN/CEFACT standards covering core supply chain processes including Quotation, Scheduling, Catalogue, Ordering and Despatch Advice.



The release of the second generation of the Cross Industry Invoice, together with ongoing work within the UN/CEFACT Forum, was welcomed by the CEN/ISSS Workshop/BII (European Committee for Standardization Information Society Standardization System Workshop on Business Interoperability Interfaces on public procurement in Europe) as it allows them to move forward with their work on Implementation Verification of key business documents for use in procurement within Europe.

The CII Schema is available from the UNECE website at: http://www.unece.org/unecefact/data/standard/CrossIndustryInvoice_1p0.xsd

MAPPING OF UNITED NATIONS FRAMEWORK CLASSIFICATION FOR FOSSIL ENERGY AND MINERAL RESOURCES



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In July 2007, the Ad Hoc Group of Experts on Harmonization of Fossil Energy and Mineral Resources Terminology charged a special Task Force to prepare a mapping of the United Nations Framework Classification for Fossil Energy and Mineral Resources (UNFC) of 2004 with the classification systems of: the Society of Petroleum Engineers/World Petroleum Council/American Association of Petroleum Geologists/Society of Petroleum Evaluation Engineers (Petroleum Resources Management System); the Committee for Mineral Reserves International Reporting Standards (the CRIRSCO Template ... for minerals); and, the Russian Federation. The mandate of the Task Force, which consisted of the members of the Bureau of the Ad Hoc Group of Experts plus selected experts, also included consideration of possible changes to the UNFC that would facilitate the mapping between these systems.

Although this publication represents the final report of the Mapping Task Force, it needs to be seen as an interim step in an on-going process. In particular, the mapping work was completed in the context of proposed changes to some of the definitions of the UNFC and, as these changes have yet to be adopted, it is therefore provisional in that sense. Further, it should be recognized that as more detailed mapping work is undertaken, it may be necessary to make some adjustments to the mapping between systems.

Action taken on Mapping Report recommendations

The Mapping Task Force reached several key conclusions and made some specific recommendations for due consideration by the Ad Hoc Group of Experts, which are outlined in this publication. Based on these recommendations, a UNFC Revision Task Force was tasked by the Group of Experts to develop and propose a revised version of UNFC-2004. Following extensive consultations and negotiations with all key stakeholders, a revised and simplified text has been developed – UNFC-2009 – which will be considered by the Group of Experts in October.

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