Economic Commission for Europe
Steering Committee on Trade Capacity and Standards

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26 – 27 May 2016
Item 5 (g) of the provisional agenda
Strategic Framework 2018-2019: Subprogramme 6 - Trade

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Submitted by the Secretariat

Note by the Secretariat

The Trade Subprogramme’s Strategic Framework for the biennium 2018-2019 is presented to the meeting for information.
I. Subprogramme 6-Trade

A. Objective of the Organization: To strengthen trade facilitation and trade-related economic cooperation in the ECE region and beyond

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Indicators of achievement</th>
<th>Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat</th>
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<td>(a) Increased consensus and strengthened implementation of ECE recommendations, norms, standards, guidelines and tools for trade facilitation and electronic business</td>
<td>(i) Number of new and/or revised recommendations, norms, standards and tools for trade facilitation and electronic business adopted by ECE intergovernmental bodies</td>
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<td>(ii) Number of new measures introduced by member States to implement ECE trade recommendations, norms, standards, guidelines and tools</td>
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<td>(b) Increased consensus on the development of ECE recommendations and guidelines for regulatory cooperation</td>
<td>Number of new and/or revised recommendations and guidelines for regulatory cooperation adopted by ECE intergovernmental bodies</td>
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<tr>
<td>(c) Increased consensus on and strengthened implementation of ECE recommendations, norms, standards, guidelines and tools for agricultural quality standards</td>
<td>(i) Number of new and/or revised recommendations and standards on agricultural produce adopted by ECE intergovernmental bodies</td>
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<td>(ii) Increased number of implementations of ECE agricultural quality standards by member States</td>
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B. Strategy

1. The Economic Cooperation and Trade Division is responsible for implementing the subprogramme. The subprogramme will contribute to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and achievement of SDGs related to trade and trade facilitation, in particular SDGs 2, 8, and 17. The objective of the subprogramme will be achieved through the following strategy:

   (a) international policy dialogue on reducing regulatory and procedural barriers to trade that hamper market access, including those caused by cumbersome procedures and substantial paperwork; differences in trade procedures, standards and documents; and divergent regulatory approaches and product standards;

   (b) normative work to develop standards and recommendations in the areas of trade facilitation, agricultural quality standards and regulatory cooperation; and

   (c) demand-driven training workshops and advisory services, to support the adoption and implementation of ECE standards and recommendations and to disseminate best practices and lessons learned in the subprogramme’s areas of work.
The subprogramme will contribute to the establishment of an open, rule-based, predictable and non-discriminatory global trading system. To this end, the subprogramme will promote:

(a) Simple, transparent and effective processes for global commerce through the development and maintenance of trade facilitation instruments to support integration into the global economy and international supply chains;

(b) Predictable and harmonized regulatory environment by strengthening regulatory cooperation and promoting standards and best practices in regulatory frameworks, risk management, conformity assessment and market surveillance; and

(c) Agricultural trade through the development of up-to-date agricultural quality standards and explanatory guidelines.

2. The subprogramme will support Governments in their national and regional adaptation and implementation of ECE trade-related standards and recommendations in trade facilitation strategies, trade policy and regulatory regimes.