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**Economic Commission for Europe****Steering Committee on Trade Capacity and Standards****Fifth session**

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Item 8 (f) of the provisional agenda

**Programme of work****Draft programme of work of the Trade subprogramme for 2020****Note by the Secretariat****Introduction**

1. The present document sets out the draft programme of work of the Trade subprogramme (“the subprogramme”) for 2020. The Steering Committee on Trade Capacity and Standards (“the Committee”) is invited to adopt it and recommend to the Executive Committee (Excom) for approval. Any subsequent additional, discontinued or carried over outputs will be reflected in Umoja used by the Secretariat for planning, monitoring and reporting on the implementation of the programme.
2. The draft programme of work applies a results-based management (RBM) approach, a broad management approach which establishes logical relationship between the hierarchical results (deliverables – objectives – impact) known as ‘results chain’, the resources (human and financial) known as ‘inputs’ and the external factors (strategic, governance, operational, financial) which can prevent from achieving the objective.
3. The objective, the most significant planned result and the deliverables in the draft programme of work correspond to those contained in the ECE proposed programme budget for 2020. The objective of the subprogramme is aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). In attaining its objective, the subprogramme builds on cross-sectoral collaboration with other subprogrammes in relevant ECE nexus areas where multiple SDGs converge<sup>1</sup>. This type of collaboration enables the subprogramme to maximize existing

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<sup>1</sup> The ECE nexus areas are as follows: 1) Sustainable use of natural resources; 2) Sustainable and smart cities for all ages; 3) Sustainable mobility and smart connectivity; and 4) Measuring and monitoring SDGs.



synergies, increase the efficiency of its work and have a multiplying effect on the impact of its actions to support countries to implement SDGs. The deliverables of the subprogramme fall into the following main categories: (a) facilitation of the intergovernmental process and expert groups; (b) generation and transfer of knowledge, including technical cooperation projects, training events, seminars, workshops, and publications; (c) other substantive deliverables, and (d) communication deliverables.

4. The details of the proposed publications are provided in Annex I. The overall ECE legislative mandates and those specific for the subprogramme are listed in Annex II.

## **I. Objective and alignment with SDGs**

5. The objective of the subprogramme is to enhance trade facilitation, agricultural quality standards, regulatory and trade-related economic cooperation for the transition to sustainable economic growth and sustainable production and consumption in the ECE region and beyond.

6. The responsibility for the subprogramme is vested in the Economic Cooperation and Trade Division.

7. The objective is aligned with Sustainable Development Goal 8, which is to ‘promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all’. Progress towards the attainment of the objective will help to: “achieve higher levels of economic productivity through diversification, technological upgrading and innovation, including through a focus on high-value added and labour-intensive sectors”; “promote development-oriented policies that support productive activities, decent job creation, entrepreneurship, creativity and innovation, and encourage the growth of micro-, small- and medium-sized enterprises, including through access to financial services”; and “increase Aid for Trade support for developing countries”.

8. The objective is also aligned with Sustainable Development Goal 12, which is to ‘ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns. Progress towards the attainment of the objective will help to: “halve per capita global food waste and reduce food losses along production and supply chains, including post-harvest losses”; encourage companies, especially large and transnational companies, to adopt sustainable practices; “promote public procurement practices that are sustainable, in accordance with national policies and practices”; ensure that people have the relevant information and awareness for sustainable development; and “support developing countries to strengthen their technological capacity to move towards more sustainable patterns of consumption and production”.

9. The objective is further aligned with Sustainable Development Goal 17, which is to ‘strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development’. Progress towards the attainment of the objective will help to: promote a multilateral trading system; increase the exports of developing countries; strengthen domestic resource mobilization to improve domestic capacity for revenue collection; enhance the use of information and communications technology; enhance the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development to share knowledge, expertise, technology and financial resources; encourage and promote public, public-private and civil society partnerships; and enhance capacity-building support to developing countries.

10. The objective is also aligned with Sustainable Development Goal 5, which is to ‘achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls’. Progress towards the attainment of the objective will help to: ensure women’s effective participation for leadership at all levels of decision-making in economic life; undertake reforms to give women equal rights to economic resources and financial services; enhance the use of information and communications technology, to promote the empowerment of women; and adopt and

strengthen sound policies and enforceable legislation for the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls at all levels.

11. Alignment with the Sustainable Development Goals serves as a framework for contributing to the objective of the subprogramme. Within this framework, the subprogramme will develop cross-sectoral activities with other ECE subprogrammes where there is complementarity between the respective SDGs and targets in line with the nexus areas described in paragraph 3 above.

## **II. Highlighted planned result for 2020**

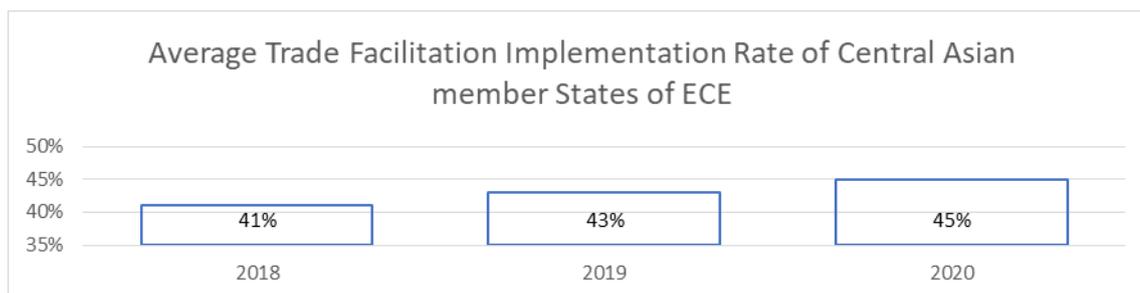
### **Enhancing trade efficiency in Central Asia**

12. In 2018, according to the 2017 Global Survey on Trade Facilitation and Paperless Trade, the average implementation rate of trade facilitation measures in Central Asian countries (Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan) was 41%, which was lower than other sub-regions. The challenge was that cutting unnecessary trade barriers for faster and efficient global trade was not progressing as well as in other sub-regions and, as for landlocked countries, there was an urgent need to reduce the burden of bureaucratic processes and increasing automation of trade-related regulatory procedures.

13. In 2018, Central Asian countries requested ECE support to improve the performance in trade facilitation, in particular, policies and actions that would make trade simpler and easier for traders. In response, for 2020, ECE will help Central Asian countries to implement its policy recommendations through its outreach and capacity-building support in the areas of e-commerce and adoption of standards for trade facilitation. These policy recommendations cover the implementation of a variety of ECE agricultural quality standards as well as trade facilitation recommendations such as the Single Window (UN/CEFACT Recommendations 33-36) and tools for consultation, public-private partnerships and monitoring in trade facilitation (UN/CEFACT Recommendations 40-42) in the global Trade Facilitation Agreement context.

14. The planned deliverable is expected to contribute to the result, which is to improve trade facilitation implementation rate in Central Asia. This rate is based on the percentage of implementation of trade facilitation tools, instruments, standards and recommendations, as evidenced by the biennial UN Regional Commissions' Global Survey on Trade Facilitation and Paperless Trade. This will be achieved through National Trade Facilitation Committees operationalized, and policy recommendations, standards and tools in trade facilitation and e-business such as Single Window Development implemented, to speed up import and export processes. It is expected that in 2020, the Central Asian countries would implement many of the policy recommendations, standards and tools to reduce bureaucratic burdens and unnecessary trade procedures.

15. Evidence of the result, if achieved, will include an increased average trade facilitation implementation rate of 45% for the Central Asian countries in the planned UN Regional Commissions Global Survey on Trade Facilitation and Paperless Trade 2019-2020, as shown in the figure below.



	The Central Asia member States start to formulate standards and tools for trade facilitation and electronic business	The Central Asia member States integrate or adopt 2-3 standards and tools for trade facilitation and electronic business
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*Note: (i) The UNRC Global Survey is undertaken every two years. The data for 2018 is taken from the 2017-2018 survey and the data for 2020 will be taken from the 2019-2020 survey. The Central Asian countries are expected to adopt standards and tools during 2018-2020; (ii) Data for 2019 is an estimate for the intermediate result.*

16. The result, if achieved, will demonstrate progress made in 2020 towards the collective attainment of the objective. It will also contribute to the nexus areas on sustainable mobility and smart connectivity and sustainable use of natural resources.

### III. External factors

17. The subprogramme is expected to achieve its objective on the assumption that: (a) there is political will and cooperation among Governments and international organizations; (b) there is demand for ECE standards and recommendations; (c) member States provide the necessary information; (d) there is active participation by experts in ECE technical meetings; and (e) donor support for the work of the subprogramme is adequate.

### IV. Deliverables to be implemented in 2020

<i>Deliverables</i>	<i>2020 plan</i>
Quantified deliverables	
<b>A. Facilitation of the intergovernmental process and expert bodies:</b>	
<b>Parliamentary documentation</b> (Number of documents)	<b>110</b>
1. Parliamentary documentation for the Steering Committee on Trade Capacity and Standards	13
2. Parliamentary documentation for the Working Party on Regulatory Cooperation and Standardization Policies	13
3. Parliamentary documentation for the Working Party on Agricultural Quality Standards	60
4. Parliamentary documentation for the Centre for Trade Facilitation and Electronic Business (UN/CEFACT)	24
<b>Substantive services for meetings</b> (Number of 3-hour meetings)	<b>91</b>
5. Plenary and Bureau meetings of the Steering Committee on Trade Capacity and Standards	7

<i>Deliverables</i>	<i>2020 plan</i>
6. Plenary meetings of the Working Party on Regulatory Cooperation and Standardization Policies	5
7. Plenary and specialized sections meetings of the Working Party on Agricultural Quality Standards	26
8. Meetings of the Centre for Trade Facilitation and Electronic Business (UN/CEFACT)	53
<b>B. Generation and transfer of knowledge:</b>	
<b>Field and technical cooperation projects</b> (Number of projects)	<b>4</b>
9. Project on Trade Facilitation	3
10. Project on Food loss and agriculture	1
<b>Seminars, workshops and training events</b> (Number of days)	<b>18</b>
11. Seminars on standardization and inspection agencies and other stakeholders in transition economies and developing countries in the ECE region or beyond on ECE agricultural quality standards	6
12. Seminars for policymakers and experts in transition economies and developing countries in the ECE region or beyond on support for the implementation of trade-related standards, recommendations and guidelines	9
13. Workshops for policymakers and experts in low and middle income countries in the ECE region on trade procedures, supply chain management, conformity assessment and market surveillance and women entrepreneurship	3
<b>Publications</b> (Number of publications)	<b>7</b>
14. Publication on the Summary of ECE Trade Facilitation Best Practice and Recommendations	1
15. Publication on the Guides on Trade standards in the following areas: traceability and risk management; e-business; education; and Sustainable development	2
16. Publication on the Trade Facilitation recommendations, standards and strategies to support policymakers	2
17. Guides on agricultural trade and supply chains	1
18. Publication on the Regulatory and procedural barriers to trade in a country to be decided	1
<b>Technical materials</b> (Number of materials)	<b>8</b>
19. Agricultural quality standards and Guidelines	4
20. Trade facilitation and electronic business	1
21. Posters for standards	2
22. Material for cross border trade	1
Non-quantified deliverables	
<b>D. Communication deliverables:</b>	
<b>Digital platforms and multimedia content:</b> Update and maintenance of the website and databases of the subprogramme	
<b>External and media relations:</b> Annual set of press releases for the subprogramme	
<b>Outreach programmes, special events and information materials:</b> Booklets, fact sheets, information brochures	

## Annex I

### Details of proposed publications and promotional material for 2020

#### A. Non-recurrent publications

<i>PP item No.</i>	<i>Title</i>	<i>Mandate</i>	<i>Print and/or electronic</i>	<i>Trim size</i>	<i>No. Of pages</i>	<i>Original Language</i>	<i>Trnaslated language(s) and source of funding (RB or XB)</i>	<i>No. of copies and language</i>
1	Trade Facilitation Recommendation	The specific mandate for issuing this publication, including its language editions, will be provided upon the approval of the UN/CEFACT programme of work by the Executive Committee in the third quarter of 2019 and reflected in its report.	Print and electronic	A4	40	E	F, R (RB)	200E, 200F, 200R
2	Trade Facilitation Recommendation	The specific mandate for issuing this publication, including its language editions, will be provided upon the approval of the UN/CEFACT programme of work by the Executive Committee in the third quarter of 2019 and reflected in its report.	Print and electronic	A4	40	E	F, R (RB)	500E, 200F, 200R
3	Paper on Trade Facilitation	The specific mandate for issuing this publication, including its language editions, will be provided upon the approval of the UN/CEFACT programme of work by the Executive Committee in the third quarter of 2019 and reflected in its report.	Electronic	A4	40	E	F, R (RB) – translation only	
4	Blockchain and/or Internet of Things	The specific mandate for issuing this publication, including its language editions, will be provided upon the approval of the UN/CEFACT programme of work by the Executive Committee in the third quarter of 2019 and reflected in its report.	Print and electronic	A4	200	E		500E
5	Assessment of regulatory and procedural barriers to trade in Country 1	The specific mandate for issuing this publication is expected to be provided by the session of the ECE Steering Committee on Trade Capacity and Standards in May 2019 and reflected in its report. The work on this publication is based on GA resolution A/RES/68/199, paragraph 2: "Reaffirms that international trade is an engine for development and sustained economic growth, and also reaffirms the critical role that a universal, rules-based, open, non-discriminatory	Print and electronic	A4	200	E		E 100

		and equitable multilateral trading system, as well as meaningful trade liberalization, can play in stimulating economic growth and development worldwide, thereby benefiting all countries at all stages of development;". It is also in line with the report of the ECE Steering Committee on Trade Capacity and Standards on its second session (ECE/CTCS/2016/2), where ECE member states requested the secretariat to further expand the focus of the studies by incorporating a gender perspective (Decision 2016-3.3) and the SDGs (Decision 2016-5.4)						
6	Gender Responsive standards	Report of the ECE Working Party on Regulatory Cooperation and Standardization Policies on its 26th session (ECE/CTCS/WP.6/2016/2): "Paragraph 20. The Member States agreed to give a mandate to the Bureau and the Secretariat to initiate consultations on developing a roadmap and a recommendation on mainstreaming gender into standards and regulatory policies at national and international levels (Decision 4).  Paragraph 21. The Working Party requested the Secretariat to prepare a publication on how standards can contribute to sustainable development, especially as regards Goal 5, on "Empower women and girls" (Decision 5)."	Print and electronic	A4	30	E	F, R (RB)	100E, 100F, 100R
7	Code of Good Practise for Food Loss Prevention	The mandate is expected to be provided by the ECE Steering Committee on Trade Capacity and Standards in May 2019.	Electronic	A4	30	E		

**B. Promotional material**

Item no.	Title	Mandate	Print and/or electronic	Trim size	No. of pages	Original language(s)	Translated language(s) and Source of funding (RB or XB)	No. of copies and language(s)
<b>Outreach programmes, special events and information materials: Booklets, fact sheets, information brochures</b>								
1	Information kit on e-business standards	To be provided by the Committee	Print and electronic	A4	6	E	F and R (RB)	300-E 100-F 100-R
2	Information brochure on Trade facilitation and electronic business	To be provided by the Committee	Print and electronic	A4	6	E	F and R (RB)	300-E 100-F 100-R
3	Information brochure on Regulatory Cooperation	To be provided by the Committee	Print and electronic	A4	6	E	F and R (RB)	300-E 100-F 100-R
4	Information brochure on Agricultural quality standards	To be provided by the Committee	Print and electronic	A4	6	E	F and R (RB)	300-E 100-F 100-R

## Annex II

### Legislative mandates

#### A. Overall ECE legislative mandates

##### 1. Resolutions of the General Assembly

<i>Res No.</i>	<i>Title</i>
66/288	The future we want
67/10	Cooperation between the United Nations and the Eurasian Economic Community
67/290	Format and organizational aspects of the high-level political forum on sustainable development
69/277	Political declaration on strengthening cooperation between the United Nations and regional and subregional organizations
69/313	Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development (Addis Ababa Action Agenda)
70/1	Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development
70/133	Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and full implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly
70/221	Operational activities for development of the United Nations system
71/14	Cooperation between the United Nations and the Shanghai Cooperation Organization
71/16	Cooperation between the United Nations and the Economic Cooperation Organization
71/162	Implementation of the outcome of the World Summit for Social Development and of the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly
71/243	Quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system
72/230	Development cooperation with middle-income countries
72/234	Women in development
72/237	South-South Cooperation
72/266	Shifting the management paradigm in the United Nations

72/303	Progress towards an accountability system in the United Nations Secretariat
73/10	Cooperation between the United Nations and the Central European Initiative
73/13	Cooperation between the United Nations and the Black Sea Economic Cooperation Organization
73/14	Cooperation between the United Nations and the Organization for Democracy and Economic Development - GUAM
73/16	Cooperation between the United Nations and the Commonwealth of Independent States
73/195	Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration
73/227	Implementation of Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 and the outcomes of the World Summit on Sustainable Development and of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development
73/231	Disaster risk reduction
73/236	Ensuring access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all

## **2. Economic and Social Council resolutions**

1998/46	Further measures for the restructuring and revitalization of the United Nations in the economic, social and related fields
2006/38	Workplan on reform of the Economic Commission for Europe and revised terms of reference of the Commission
2013/1	Outcome of the review of the 2005 Reform of the Economic Commission for Europe
2016/2	Mainstreaming a gender perspective into all policies and programmes in the United Nations system

## **3. Economic Commission for Europe decisions**

A (64)	The Work of the Economic Commission for Europe
A (65)	Outcome of the review of the 2005 reform of ECE
A (66)	Endorsement of the High-level statement on the post-2015 development agenda and expected sustainable development goals in the ECE region
A (67)	Adoption of the High-level statement

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B (67) Establishment of the Regional Forum on Sustainable Development

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## **B. Legislative mandates specific to the Subprogramme**

### **1. Resolutions of the General Assembly**

- 69/137 Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries for the Decade 2014–2024
- 69/213 Role of transport and transit corridors in ensuring international cooperation for sustainable development
- 70/217 Follow-up to the second United Nations Conference on Landlocked Developing Countries
- 71/239 Follow-up to the second United Nations Conference on Landlocked Developing Countries
- 71/242 Industrial development cooperation
- 73/253 Agriculture development, food security and nutrition

### **2. Economic and Social Council resolutions**

- 1991/76 Promotion of interregional cooperation in the area of international trade facilitation

### **3. Economic and Social Council decisions**

- 1997/225 Economic Commission for Europe Recommendation 25, entitled “Use of the UN/EDIFACT Standard”
-