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**Programme of work: Cooperation with other organizations and
Economic commission for Europe bodies**

Cooperation with other organizations and Economic Commission for Europe bodies

Submitted by the secretariat

I. Introduction

1. This document maps cooperation under the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) Sub-programme on Trade during 2019-2020. The first part provides an overview of collaborative efforts with development partners, while the second features an account of the areas and cooperation mechanisms underpinning these efforts.
2. Sections covering activities by the United Nations Centre for Trade Facilitation and Electronic Business (UN/CEFACT) are for information only.

II. Agricultural Quality Standards

3. ECE continues to pool efforts with the United Nations Economic Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) and Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) in implementing the United Nations Development Account (UNDA) project for increased policy coherence and sustainability of national production and consumption patterns in North-South and South-South agriculture trade.¹ ECE is also cooperating with the United Nations Economic and

¹ The project was launched in February 2018 to strengthen national capacities for using international best practices, tools and instruments as well as developing integrated strategies for sustainable agricultural trade and food loss prevention.

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Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) on food loss and waste solution for increased sustainability and food security.

4. ECE continued to work closely with the European Commission to maintain the complete harmonization of marketing standards with ECE standards. It also cooperated with the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) Scheme for the Application of International Standards for Fruit and Vegetables to facilitate the common interpretation of ECE standards and their application in international trade. It cooperates with the Codex Alimentarius Committees on Fresh Fruits and Vegetables and on Processed Fruits and Vegetables in developing commercial quality standards and maintaining existing ones.

5. ECE is working closely with United Nations country teams in Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan. It has organized jointly with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and donor agencies a regional train the trainer workshop on the sustainability of national production and consumption patterns in agriculture trade in Tashkent, Uzbekistan. The country teams were vital in disseminating, promoting and helping with the implementation of ECE's work in this area in the respective countries. ECE also organized several joint activities with the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) on "Sustainable natural resources and their value chains" (June 2019) as well as on "Food loss/waste and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) – Policy perspective for the Agenda 2030" (November 2019). ECE contributed a chapter in the FAO's "Regional Overview of Food Security and Nutrition in Europe and Central Asia 2019" (FAO Regional Office for Europe and Central Asia). ECE also cooperated with the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) in the organization of training activities on sustainable trade of agricultural produce in September 2019.

6. Cooperation is on-going with the International Trade Centre (ITC) on the development and dissemination of training material for sustainable trade of agricultural produce as well as with the FAO-WHO Codex Alimentarius Commission.

7. Cooperation continued with the Asian Development Bank (ADB) on the cross-regional use of methodologies for the analysis of documentary and procedural gaps in the agricultural trade of ADB member countries with ECE countries and among themselves, the development of domestic and export market built on safe and quality food and the use of the WP.7's standards and outputs in this area.

III. Regulatory Cooperation and Standardization Policies

A. Cooperation with international and regional organizations

8. Through the Working Party on Regulatory Cooperation and Standardization Policies (WP.6), ECE is a permanent observer at the WTO Committee on Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT). ECE participated in all official meetings of the TBT Committee and provided the Committee with updates on its activities. Members of the Committee have expressed keen interest in ECE activities on "Standards for the SDGs" and "Gender Responsive Standards". In November 2019, the ECE secretariat made a presentation at the "Thematic Session on Standards" on incorporating standards by reference in regulations (ECE Recommendation D).

9. ECE strengthened cooperation with UN/WOMEN in support of gender responsive standards. For example, WP.6 co-organized with the UN/WOMEN regional office for Europe and Central Asia an online event on "Re-tooling for sustainability" in March 2020.

10. Collaboration with the International Trade Centre (ITC) continued on several initiatives, particularly in the area of gender-responsive standards and voluntary

sustainability standards. The ECE secretariat is working with ITC on the publication of a joint guidebook on integrating risk management in trade facilitation, which will be issued in 2021.

11. ECE works closely with United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR) to promote the implementation of international standards as tools for the reduction of disaster risks, including health risks such as the current pandemic, particularly in the urban context. It participates in a task force – led by the UN/HABITAT secretariat – developing a suite of ISO standards on “Urban Resilience”.

12. ECE continued to contribute to the OECD “Partnership for effective international rule-making” developing best practice on the variety of international instruments of regulatory cooperation issued by international rulemaking institutions. The WP.6 secretariat represented ECE at the World Economic Forum (WEF)’s meeting on “Consultations with international organizations” in October 2018 and followed up to engage the WEF in the ECE Gender Responsive Standards initiative.

13. At the regional level, the European Commission supports WP.6 activities, particularly in the area of market surveillance and gender-responsive standards. CEN/CENELEC – the organizations that develop European Standards – were vocal advocates of the Gender Responsive Standards Declaration to their membership.

14. The Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS), the Interstate Council for Standardization, Metrology and Certification (EASC) and the Eurasian Economic Commission (EEC) are also important partners. The EEC hosted the 2019 meeting of the MARS Group, while the 2020 MARS meeting is scheduled to be held in conjunction with the annual meeting of EASC. These organizations also report their and their member States use of the WP.6 deliverables. For instance, WP.6 “Recommendation S” on “Applying Predictive Risk Management for Targeted Market Surveillance” was an input in the EEC risk-based approach to border inspections, and the International Model on Regulatory Harmonization, as contained in WP.6 Recommendation L, was used as a basis for regulatory harmonization among the CIS countries. Beyond the ECE region, close cooperation continued with the African Regional Standards Organization, and a new partnership was established with the Standards and Metrology Institute for Islamic Countries (SMIIC).

B. Cooperation with standard setting and quality infrastructure organizations

(i) Standardization policies

15. The standardization community continues to support the work of WP.6. The Declaration on “Gender Responsive Standards” has been signed to date by well over sixty organizations including: 50 national standards bodies from all continents; all major international standards organizations (ISO, ITU, IEC²); voluntary sustainability standards organizations and regional standards bodies (see complete list of signatories at: <http://www.unece.org/tradewelcome/steering-committee-on-trade-capacity-and-standards/tradewp6/thematic-areas/gender-initiative.html>)

16. The opening of the Declaration for signature was held as an offline and online event on 14th May 2019 bringing together over fifty standard bodies that made a joint commitment for gender equality and women empowerment. In September 2019, as part of ECE’s cooperation with the ISO the first meeting of the signatories took place at the organization’s General Assembly in Cape Town, South Africa. This high-profile event brought together

² International Telecommunication Union (ITU), International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC)

over sixty representatives from forty standards bodies through which ECE increased awareness about how standards contribute to the realization of the SDGs and, in particular SDG 5.

17. Another important area of ECE's collaboration with over thirty bodies was the launch of the Portal "Standards for the SDGs" in October 2019. This online resource increases awareness of policymakers on how standards support the achievement of the Goals and Targets of Agenda 2030. It features a mapping tool, a repository of case studies as well as supporting training materials and can be consulted at standards4sdgs.ECE.org

18. WP.6 also partners closely with the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) in support of two sectoral initiatives, respectively on "Equipment used in environments with an explosive atmosphere" and on "Cybersecurity". The first of these benefits from the support of the IEC System for Certification to Standards Relating to Equipment for Use in Explosive Atmosphere (IECEX) and of the German government through the Physikalisch-Technische Bundesanstalt (PTB).

19. The Group of Experts on Risk Management in Regulatory Systems (GRM) benefits from a partnership with the ISO Technical Committee (TC) 262 on Risk Management, and WP.6 is a member of the Strategic Alliance and Regulatory Group (STAR), which provides strategic advice to the ISO Committee on Conformity Assessment (ISO/CASCO). The British Standards Institution (BSI) has recently taken up the Chair of the Gender responsive standards initiative.

(ii) Metrology and other areas of the national and international system of quality infrastructure

20. WP.6 works in partnership with all the national, regional and international institutions that lay the foundations of the quality infrastructure systems. In this area, the closest partner is the National Metrology Body of Germany (PTB), which is also the major donor of the project on "Usage and Uptake of Voluntary Standards".

21. Other close partners in this area are the Bureau International des Poids et Mesures (BIPM), International Committee of Weights and Measures (CIPM), the International Accreditation Forum (IAF), the IEC, the International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (ILAC), the International Organization of Legal Metrology (OIML), the International Committee for Legal Metrology (CIML), ISO, ITU and the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO). The cooperation entails e.g. mutually shared expertise and support to technical assistance and participation in meetings, as appropriate.

22. Since 2010, the Working Party has been a member of the "International Network on Quality Infrastructure" (previously Network on Metrology, Accreditation and Standardization for Developing Countries (DCMAS)), which includes: BIPM, CIPM, International Accreditation Forum (IAF), IEC, ILAC, OIML, International Committee for Legal Metrology (CIML), ISO, ITU, and UNIDO, the WTO and the World Bank. The cooperation includes e.g. shared expertise and mutual participation in meetings.

C. Cooperation with Academia

23. Cooperation with Academia continued in 2019-2020. The WP.6 secretariat prepared a chapter on "ECE Initiatives on Education on Standardization" for the book on "Sustainable Development: Knowledge and Education About Standardisation" and took part in the WSC Academic Day 2019 (October 2019, Belgrade).

24. Additionally, a High-level panel on "Education on standards-related issues" was held as part of the WP.6 annual session with participation from fifteen universities from the ECE

region and beyond. The panel recommended to establish a “Group of Experts on Education on Standards-Related issues” which would structure the existing network of rectors and scholars that actively contribute to WP.6 activities.

IV. Trade Facilitation

25. ECE is part of the United Nations Inter-Agency cluster on Trade and Productive Capacity. The cluster, which is led by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), was established in 2007 to create synergies between productive capacity-building and trade development under the United Nations “Delivering as One” initiative.

26. ECE also participates in the Joint United Nations Regional Commissions (UNRCs) Approach on Trade Facilitation, launched in January 2010 by the five UN Regional Commissions. In 2019, the ECE and its sister regional commissions launched the third Global Survey on Digital and Sustainable Trade Facilitation (previously Survey on trade facilitation and paperless trade), which covered 129 countries. The results were presented at UNRCs joint events during the World Trade Organization (WTO) Aid for Trade Global Review, held in Geneva (July 2019). The ECE Regional Report was published in December 2019. The five Regional Commissions have jointly developed an online portal (untfsurvey.org) to help countries visualize and compare the implementation of measures across regions and economies. The results of the survey for countries of the ECE region are presented to the twenty-sixth UN/CEFACT session (ECE/TRADE/C/CEFACT/2020/17). Jointly with the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), at the ESCAP Trade Facilitation Forum, and in collaboration with the ITC and UNCTAD, ECE led the organization of a policy dialogue on key drivers for the sustainability of NTFCs in the Asian region (September 2019, New Delhi).

27. The ECE secretariat has developed its role in the multi-stakeholder eTrade for All³ platform. In connection with such initiatives, it has partnered with the ITC and UNCTAD to organize focus sessions on digital trade facilitation (UNCTAD eCommerce Week, April 2019 and April 2020, Geneva).

28. ECE has engaged in the eighteenth Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) Conference of the Parties (August 2019, Geneva) and has continued to support the CITES Secretariat and its member States in the fight against illegal wildlife trade through the development of the eCITES standards and through the organization of workshops to support countries in their efforts to digitalize CITES permits.

29. Blockchain/Distributed Ledger Technology has been a major subject during this past period. UN/CEFACT and its secretariat have collaborated with other organizations to provide clarity and to explain the importance of clear semantic standards in this field. This includes the OECD, the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS), the Dutch Blockchain Coalition, the Government of Slovenia, the United Nations SDG Lab, and the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA) Division for Public Institutions and Digital Government (DPIDG). In particular, during 2019 and 2020, and jointly with United Nations SDG Lab, the ECE secretariat has led several inter-agency meetings to facilitate the exchange of information and lessons learned about ongoing blockchain projects and related work in the United Nations system of organizations (e.g. the World Food Programme,

³ eTrade for All is an initiative to help developing countries assess challenges and opportunities, to leverage the potential of eTrade for sustainable and inclusive development, connect with potential partners, learn about trends and best practices, and access up-to-date e-commerce data. See (as of January 2020): <https://etradeforall.org/>

UNICEF, the United Nations Office at Geneva, UNCTAD, the WTO, the World Health Organization, the ITC, and the Joint Inspection Unit of the United Nations System).

30. The OECD has supported the promotion and dissemination of UN/CEFACT recommendations and standards for advanced technologies and due diligence in industry value chains by engaging the ECE secretariat in the finalization of publications (e.g. OECD Discussion paper “Is there a role for blockchain in responsible supply chains”, 2019), and hosting ECE sessions at the OECD Blockchain Policy Forum and OECD Due Diligence Forum (February and September 2019, and February 2020, Paris).

A. United Nations Regional Commissions joint approach to trade facilitation

31. The United Nations Regional Commissions have taken a joint approach to trade facilitation, which was launched in Beirut in January 2010 by the Executive Secretaries of the five Regional Commissions, and subsequently endorsed by all five Regional Commissions. In 2015 they initiated launched a Survey on Trade Facilitation and Paperless Trade. In 2019, the ECE, jointly with the other Regional Commissions, conducted the third Global Survey on Digital and Sustainable Trade Facilitation, which covered 129 countries from the five regions of the world and whose preliminary results were presented at a joint event during the WTO Aid for Trade Global Review, held in Geneva in July 2019. The Global Report and the Regional Reports from other Regional Commissions were released in December 2019.

32. The third Global Survey on Digital and Sustainable Trade Facilitation was even more relevant for the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda. The implementation rates of the participating countries are calculated based on thirty-eight indicators for general trade facilitation measures that are part of the WTO TFA provisions, along with additional measures on automation and cross-border paperless trade transaction, and measures attempting to gauge the inclusiveness of trade facilitation reforms. The latter ones focus on trade facilitation for Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (SMEs), agriculture, women in trade, and trade financing.

33. The third Global Survey was conducted in close collaboration with other global and regional bodies engaged in trade facilitation and digital trade like UNCTAD, the International Chamber of Commerce (ICC) and the Eurasian Economic Commission (EEC).

B. Cooperation with Other Regional Bodies

34. ECE secretariat has been cooperating with several European Commission Directorate-Generals (DGs) over the past years.

- In 2019-2020, ECE participated regularly in the Directorate-General for Mobility and Transport (DG MOVE) Digital Transport and Logistics Forum (DTLF) subgroup workshops, studying the documentary requirements in transport and logistics and their dematerialization. UN/CEFACT semantic standards are well positioned to assist this group with its data requirements. Two European Union-sponsored projects supporting the DTLF are also directly supported by UNCEFACT experts.
- The European Union Directorate-General for Taxation and the Customs Union (TAXUD) has been very supportive of UN/CEFACT work on recommendations. TAXUD and the European Union Member States have been active in the revision of Recommendation No. 33 on establishing a Single Window, and how this will apply to a Regional European Single Window.

- The Directorate-General for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries (DG MARE) has engaged in work with the ECE Team of Specialists on Sustainable Fisheries and has funded communication activities to support the dissemination of the FLUX standard. The ECE secretariat is also engaging with the Directorate-General for International Cooperation and Development (DG DEVCO) and the Directorate General for the Environment (DG ENV) on work to advance the sustainability and circularity of value chains in the textile and leather sector in European Union Member States and other regions of the world.

C. Electronic Business Memorandum of Understanding (ebMoU) and ISO Technical Committees

35. The signatories to the Electronic Business Memorandum of Understanding—the ECE, the International Standards Organization (ISO), the International Telecommunications Union (ITU) and the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC)—met several times in 2019-2020 to discuss developments and topics of joint interest. Webinars have been organized on key topics such as the Internet of Things and accessibility. The ECE will hold the position of secretariat of this group until the next meeting in December 2020. The last meeting report is provided for information to the twenty-sixth session (ECE/TRADE/C/CEFACT/INF.5).

36. The ECE secretariat has closely followed the official Category-A liaisons with ISO technical committees (TCs). These include ISO TC 46 (Information and documentation), ISO TC 154 (Processes, data elements and documents in commerce, industry and administration), ISO TC 204 (Intelligent transport systems), ISO TC 307 (Blockchain and distributed ledger technologies), ISO TC 308 (Chain of custody), ISO TC 295 (Audit data services) and the Category-B liaison with ISO TC 68 (Financial services).

37. The ECE secretariat and UN/CEFACT Chair have been active liaisons with ISO TC 154. Several items have been advanced during this period such as a new standard for eCommerce logistics (ISO DIS 23354) and Electronic Data Interchange for Administrations, Commerce and Transport (UN/EDIFACT) syntax.

Summary table: Cooperation with other organizations

<i>Organization</i>	<i>Mechanisms for cooperation</i>	<i>Current cooperation</i>
Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) Euro-Asian Interstate Council for Standardization, Certification and Metrology (EAC) and the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS)	The Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) Euro-Asian Interstate Council for Standardization, Certification and Metrology (EASC) participate regularly in WP.6 meetings.	Participate in WP.6 meetings and use WP.6 International Model on Regulatory Harmonization
European Commission (EC)	<p>The EC participates in the ECE activities related to market surveillance, regulatory cooperation and risk management.</p> <p>The EC participates in the ECE activities on standardization of agricultural quality standards.</p> <p>The ECE contributes to Working Group on Single Window implementation, led by EC's DG TAXUD</p>	<p>The EC participates in all the annual sessions of WP.6, providing input into the work and updates on its own activities.</p> <p>The EC closely cooperates, harmonizes its legislation on marketing standards with ECE standards and attends the annual meetings of WP.7 and its Specialized Sections.</p>
European Union (EU) DG MOVE	ECE TFS is an observer in the DTLF, Digital Transport and Logistics Forum	In 2019-2020, ECE participated regularly in the Directorate-General for Mobility and Transport (DG MOVE) Digital Transport and Logistics Forum (DTLF) subgroup workshops, studying the documentary requirements in transport and logistics and their dematerialization. UN/CEFACT semantic standards are well positioned to assist this group with its data requirements. Two European Union-sponsored projects supporting the DTLF are also directly supported by UNCEFACT experts.
European Union (EU) DG TAXUD	DG TAXUD organizes regular meetings of the Member States' Single Window Implementation group	The European Union Directorate-General for Taxation and the Customs Union (TAXUD) has been supportive of UN/CEFACT work on recommendations. TAXUD and the European Union Member States have been active in the revision of Recommendation No. 33 on establishing a Single Window, and how this will apply to a Regional European Single Window.
European Union (EU) DG MARE	ECE Team of Specialists on Sustainable Fisheries.	The Directorate-General for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries (DG MARE) has engaged in work with the ECE Team of Specialists on Sustainable Fisheries and has funded communication activities to support the dissemination of the FLUX standard. The ECE secretariat is also engaging with the Directorate-General for International Cooperation and Development (DG DEVCO) and the Directorate General for the Environment (DG ENV) on work to advance the sustainability and circularity of value

<i>Organization</i>	<i>Mechanisms for cooperation</i>	<i>Current cooperation</i>
Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)	FAO collaborates with ECE on activities and events related to sustainable agricultural trade and food loss prevention.	chains in the textile and leather sector in European Union Member States and other regions of the world FAO has been joint organizer and convener of several conferences and events to disseminate knowledge and strengthen impact of measures related to sustainable agricultural trade
	ECE collaborates with FAO Regional Office for Europe and Central Asia on the Regional Overview of Food Security and Nutrition in Europe and Central Asia 2019	Contribution to the FAO Regional Overview of Food Security and Nutrition in Europe and Central Asia 2019.
	FAO regional office and the country offices help disseminate ECE training material and best practice.	
	Support to ECE's Blockchain project	FAO participated in the UN/CEFACT Conference on Blockchain and contributed to the future directions of the work to be undertaken.
Codex Alimentarius Commission	Team of Specialists on Sustainable Fishery	FAO is an active member of the Team of Specialists on Sustainable Fisheries.
	Joint workshops and collaboration on standard development	ECE standards are circulated to Codex Committee on Fresh Fruits and Vegetables, the Codex Committee on Processed Fruits and Vegetables and the Codex Alimentarius Commission.
International Air Transport Association (IATA).	Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to strengthen the support to developing countries seeking to implement the World Trade Organization (WTO) Trade Facilitation Agreement.	Joint promotion of the use of international recommendations and standards and best practices in Trade Facilitation and Electronic Business;
		Joint outreach activities to support countries in their implementation of such recommendation and standards - subject to available resources.
		ECE TFS participated in meetings of the IATA group on location codes, further promoting the convergence of the IATA airport codes and UN Location Codes for Trade and Transport (UN/LOCODE) which is widely used by all other means of transport and administrations.
International Chamber of Commerce (ICC)	Memorandum of Understanding on cooperation between ECE and ICC	Participation in the Trade Facilitation Working Group of UN/CEFACT.
	Cooperation with ICC-Ukraine	Support for trade facilitation in Ukraine, notably through the Interagency Working Group on Trade Facilitation and Logistics of Ukraine, chaired by ICC-Ukraine.

<i>Organization</i>	<i>Mechanisms for cooperation</i>	<i>Current cooperation</i>
International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC), International Telecommunication Union (ITU), International Organization for Standardization (ISO)	Memorandum of Understanding between ECE, IEC, ISO and ITU.	<p>ECE, ISO, ITU and IEC met several times in 2019-2020 to discuss developments and topics of joint interest. Webinars have been organized on key topics such as the Internet of Things and accessibility. The ECE provides the rotating secretariat of this group until the next meeting in December 2020.</p> <p>Ongoing cooperation and coordination between the secretariats.</p> <p>Management meetings twice a year between the secretariats, the expert groups and international user groups.</p> <p>Summit meetings by the MoU Management Group on coordination and standardization issues.</p> <p>Ongoing cooperation and coordination between the secretariats.</p>
International Trade Centre (ITC)	ECE, UNCTAD and ITC Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for delivering coordinated outreach and support activities to help the developing countries implement the WTO ATF	<p>ITC collaborates with ECE on the dissemination and development of training material on trade facilitation, ITC works with ECE on the dissemination of ECE agricultural quality standards and capacity-building activities.</p> <p>ITC participants in WP.6's Group of Experts on Risk Management Meetings and events.</p> <p>WP.6 is working with ITC on the publication of a joint guidebook on integrating risk management in trade facilitation, which will be issued in late 2020 or early 2021.</p>
International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) TC 31, the IEC System for Certification to Standards Relating to Equipment for Use in Explosive Atmosphere (IECEx); and Physikalisch-Technische Bundesanstalt (PTB)	Partnership for preparing and implementing two common regulatory frameworks in the sectors of cybersecurity and of "equipment used in environments with an explosive atmosphere"	<p>IECEx organises yearly international conferences in collaboration of ECE. IECEx and PTB participate in WP.6 sessions.</p> <p>WP.6 has initiated work on cybersecurity in cooperation with IEC.</p> <p>IEC is a signatory of WP.6's Declaration on Gender Responsive Standards and Standards Development.</p> <p>IEC participates in all meetings and events of the WP.6 Gender Responsive Standards Initiative.</p>
International Organization for Standardization (ISO) (See also ISO Technical Committees 127, 154, 262, 292 and IEC, ITU and ISO)	Memorandum of Understanding between IEC, ISO, ITU and ECE. Electronic Business Memorandum of Understanding between IEC, ISO, ITU and ECE	<p>ISO attends all WP.6 meetings and seminars as well as UN/CEFACT sessions.</p> <p>TC 127 participates in and supports the WP.6 sectoral regulatory project "Earth-Moving Machinery Initiative".</p> <p>ECE TFS represents ECE in the eB-MoU</p> <p>ISO attends all UN/CEFACT sessions.</p> <p>ECE TFS is a voting member in the ISO 3166 Maintenance Agency (alpha-2 country code).</p>

<i>Organization</i>	<i>Mechanisms for cooperation</i>	<i>Current cooperation</i>
		ISO is a signatory of WP.6's Declaration on Gender Responsive Standards and Standards Development. ISO actively participates in all WP.6 Gender Responsive Standards Initiatives meetings and events.
ISO Technical Committee 154 (See also ISO and IEC, ITU and ISO)	Regular Working Group Meetings Annual plenary meetings The MoU for ECE to be Secretary of an ISO Technical Committee is unique of its kind.	ECE is member of the joint maintenance agency of the ISO 7372 Standard (Trade Data Element Directory). Several items have been advanced during this period such as a new standard for eCommerce logistics (ISO DIS 23354) and Electronic Data Interchange for Administrations, Commerce and Transport (UN/EDIFACT) syntax.
ISO Technical Committee 68 on Financial Services	Category B liaison	ECE TFS maintains a Category B liaison with ISO TC 68, sharing information on ongoing work and avoiding unnecessary overlaps. Active participation in ISO TC 68 meetings.
ISO Technical Committee 154 on Processes, data elements and documents in commerce, industry and administration	Category A liaison	ECE TFS maintains a Category A liaison with ISO TC 154, ensuring compatibility of standards and avoiding unnecessary overlaps. ECE is member of the joint maintenance agency of the ISO 7372 Standard (Trade Data Element Directory). ECE is a member of the joint working group for ISO 9735 Standard (EDIFACT application level syntax rules) Active participation in ISO TC 154 meetings.
ISO Technical Committee 204 on Intelligent Transport Systems	Category A liaison	ECE TFS maintains a Category A liaison with ISO TC 204, aiming to ensure compatibility of standards and avoiding unnecessary overlaps. Participation in each other's meetings.
ISO Project Committee 295 on Audit data collection	Category A liaison	ECE TFS maintains a Category A liaison with ISO PC 295, aiming to ensure compatibility of standards and avoiding unnecessary overlaps. Encouraging this newly founded group to reuse the base standards which have already been developed in this field instead of creating new ones. Active participation in ISO PC 295 meetings.
ISO TC 307 on Blockchain technologies	Category A liaison	ECE TFS maintains a Category A liaison with ISO TC 307, aiming to ensure compatibility of standards and avoiding unnecessary overlaps. Provided background information and technical examples to the development of ISO TC 307 work. Active participation in ISO TC 307 meetings.
ISO Technical Committee 262 on Risk Management	The Chair of the ISO/TC 262 in 2016 is also chairing the Group of Experts on Risk	Regular coordination, information exchange and activities in risk management with substantial support to GRM.

<i>Organization</i>	<i>Mechanisms for cooperation</i>	<i>Current cooperation</i>
	Management in Regulatory Cooperation (GRM) of WP.6	
ISO Technical Committee 292 on Security and Resilience	The Head of the Regulatory Cooperation Unit of ECE is co-Convener of the UN Task Force of TC 292, currently developing a suite of standards on “Urban resilience”	Regular coordination of information exchange and activities within the area of disaster risk reduction and supporting implementation of various of frameworks and programmes developed by ECE.
The Bureau International des Poids et Mesures (BIPM), International Committee of Weights and Measures (CIPM), International Accreditation Forum (IAF), International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC), International Laboratory Accreditation Co-operation (ILAC), International Organization of Legal Metrology (OIML), International Committee for Legal Metrology (CIML), ISO, ITU, UNIDO, WTO and the World Bank	<p>All these organizations attend the meetings of the "International Network on Quality Infrastructure" (previously “Network on Metrology, Accreditation and Standardization for Developing Countries” (DCMAS)).</p> <p>The Bureau International des Poids et Mesures (BIPM) participates actively in the meetings of the WP.6.</p> <p>Several standards-making bodies, including CEN, CENELEC, GS1, IEC, ISO and ITU, take part regularly in the annual session of WP.6 and provide updates on their activities and contribute throughout the year to the progress of these activities.</p> <p>The secretariat attends meetings of national, regional and international standards-making bodies.</p>	<p>WP.6 is part of the "International Network on Quality Infrastructure"</p> <p>BIPM is evaluating the use of the Recommendation L in legal metrology.</p> <p>WP.6 works with IEC, its Conformity Assessment Board and its three Conformity Assessment Systems (IECEE, IECEX and IECQ) and its TC 31 on the project on “Equipment for explosive atmospheres.</p> <p>The IECEE attends ECE meetings and participates in the work of the Group of Experts on Risk Management.</p> <p>The ECE secretariat delivers presentations on the WP.6 activities in the context of ISO/CASCO</p> <p>A partnership has been established with the ISO Committee on Consumer Policies (COPOLCO).</p>
Regional Commonwealth in the field of Communications (RCC) and the CIS Inter-State Council on Standardization, Metrology and Certification (EASC)	<p>Regional Commonwealth in the field of Communications (RCC) is a coordinating body of the ministries of communications of 12 CIS states, with a secretariat in Moscow.</p> <p>CIS Inter-State Council on Standardization, Metrology and Certification is one of the effective, functioning inter-regional CIS organizations/bodies that unites standardization bodies from all 12 CIS member states.</p>	RCC participates in UN/CEFACT Plenaries and Forums. RCC’s representatives are leading the UN/CEFACT project for the preparation of a Recommendation for ensuring legally significant trusted transboundary electronic interaction.
The Eurasian Economic Commission (EEC)	The Vice-Chairman of the WP.6 is also the Minister of Technical Regulations of EEC	There are regular contacts and information exchange between WP.6 and EEC on best practices in regulatory cooperation.

<i>Organization</i>	<i>Mechanisms for cooperation</i>	<i>Current cooperation</i>
	ECE-EEC MoU with attached Programme of Action	Following up on a long-standing cooperation on trade facilitation and the Single Window with the Customs law department of the EEC, ECE carried out capacity-building on Single Window in the digital economy.
Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)	The two organizations regularly exchange information through their secretariats and attend each other's meetings when possible.	WP.6 secretariat prepared a case study based on the OECD methodology to review International Regulatory Cooperation activities carried out under the umbrella of the ECE. ECE contributes to the OECD "Partnership for effective international rule-making".
OECD Scheme for the application of international standards for fruit and vegetables	Meeting schedules are set up in coordination between secretaries which actively participate in each other's relevant meetings. Joint organization of capacity-building events.	OECD adopts ECE standards. The ECE and the OECD work closely on updating and interpreting the standards.
International Organization of Legal Metrology (OIML)	Studies on Regulatory and Procedural Barriers to Trade	Collaboration with OIML in assisting the countries implement recommendations emerging from the national studies on regulatory and procedural barriers to trade in the area of metrology.
Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE)	Contributions to analytical work	ECE contributes to trade-related parts of reviews and activities under the OSCE economic dimension, drawing on the recommendations emerging from the studies on Regulatory and Procedural Barriers to Trade and the work of the Trade Sub-Programme.
	Joint activity	ECE worked with OSCE on training courses in Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Belarus.
Regional Commissions of the United Nations	Meetings Capacity building Joint projects	Coordination meetings with all four regional commissions on trade and on trade facilitation UN Economic Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) and Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) in implementing the United Nations Development Account (UNDA) project for increased policy coherence and sustainability of national production and consumption patterns in North-South and South-South agriculture trade. ECE supports and cooperates the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) on food loss and waste solution for increased sustainability and food security.
	Collaboration on trade facilitation in common member States and joint support for the SPECA Programme	ECE and UNESCAP support actively the UN activities with the Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia (SPECA).

<i>Organization</i>	<i>Mechanisms for cooperation</i>	<i>Current cooperation</i>
		ECE Regional Adviser collaborated in the preparation and will collaborate on the future implementation of the United Nations Development Account (UNDA) 11 th tranche and a Russian financed project for trade facilitation in the transition economies.
United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)	<p>ECE, UNCTAD and ITC have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for delivering coordinated outreach and support activities to help the developing countries implement the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA).</p> <p>ECE is also a signatory to a MoU with the Global Facilitation Partnership (GFP) since 2005. It is a core partner and Steering Committee member of the GFP, along with the World Bank, WCO, UNCTAD, United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), OECD and the International Road Transport Union (IRU).</p>	<p>ECE and UNCTAD cooperate closely on providing support to countries in the implementation of the WTO TFA. This includes participation in each other's workshops on the topic.</p> <p>ECE is collaborating with UNCTAD in the delivery of training in sustainable agricultural trade.</p> <p>Joint activities and participation in each other's meetings, seminars and forums, joint organization of seminars and mutual contribution to projects.</p>
United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)	<p>Meeting schedules are set up in coordination between secretariats. Joint organization of capacity-building events.</p> <p>Work plans coordinated with the country UNDP offices, UN country teams and with the UNDP regional hub in Istanbul.</p>	<p>Joint training and capacity-building activities in Central Asia to improve the countries integration into international agricultural supply chains. This includes organization of workshops, conducting studies, consultations, development of training material and implementation measures.</p> <p>UNDP participates and provides support for trade facilitation capacity-building activities and for SPECA activities.</p>
UNEP	Meetings	Active participation in UN/CEFACT conferences and meetings
United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO)	<p>UNIDO is a member of the GFP</p> <p>UNIDO is a member of the "International Network on Quality Infrastructure" (previously DCMAS network)</p>	<p>Participation in joint meetings on trade facilitation implementation.</p> <p>UNIDO participates in WP.6 sessions.</p>
UN Inter-Agency Cluster on Trade and Productive Capacity (UNCTAD,	The members of the Cluster provide assistance in building the capacity in the areas of	The Cluster designs and implements joint programmes. ECE has been involved in activities undertaken in its member countries.

<i>Organization</i>	<i>Mechanisms for cooperation</i>	<i>Current cooperation</i>
UNIDO, FAO, ILO, UNCITRAL, ITC, WTO, UNDP, the five Regional Commissions, UNEP and UNOPS)	trade and productive policies, in supply side capacity; export capacity; capacity to implement trade and trade related rules; disputes settlement capacity; negotiating capacity; as well as in research and analysis.	
United Nations United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR)	The ECE Group of Experts on Risk Management in Regulatory Systems (GRM) participates in UNISDR activities ECE works closely with UNISDR to promote the implementation of international standards as a tool for the reduction of disaster risks	GRM participated in coordinating UN contribution to the implementation of the “Sendai Framework for Action” as agreed at the Third WCDRR in ISO TC 292. ECE participates in a task force – led by the UN/HABITAT secretariat – currently developing a suite of ISO standards on “Urban Resilience”.
UN Women	Meetings	ECE strengthened cooperation with UN/WOMEN, co-organizing an online event on “Re-tooling for sustainability” in March 2020. High-level representation from UN Women at WP.6 events; Annual Session (Nov 2019) and virtual event (March 2020) UN Women actively participates in the meetings and events of WP.6’s Gender Responsive Standards Initiative.
World Customs Organization (WCO)	ECE-WCO MoU signed in 2001. Collaboration to promote implementation of gender responsive standards and women’s empowerment	WCO participates in UN/CEFACT meetings and expert groups. WCO contributes to ECE work on the Supply Chain Model and on Single Window.
World Bank (WB)	Support by WB to a variety of ECE capacity-building activities and reciprocal support from the ECE to WB goals and objectives, particularly in trade and transport facilitation. ECE signed a MoU with WB/GFP in March 2005. ECE is a core partner and Steering Committee member of the GFP, along with the World Bank, WCO, UNCTAD, UNIDO, OECD and the IRU.	ECE participates actively in and contributes substantial materials to the GFP website. WB participates in the trade and transport facilitation PDA of UN/CEFACT meetings. WB has selected the ECE Single Window Recommendation as the base for its projects in this area.

<i>Organization</i>	<i>Mechanisms for cooperation</i>	<i>Current cooperation</i>
World Trade Organization (WTO)	<p>The United Nations Trade Facilitation Network is an inter-agency group comprising WTO, WB, ITC, UNCTAD and ECE.</p> <p>ECE and WTO staff meet regularly outside the inter-agency group.</p> <p>Through WP.6, the ECE is a permanent observer at the WTO TBT. WP.6 participated in all WTO TBT meetings and provided updates on each activity at each of them.</p>	<p>WTO representatives regularly attend meetings of subsidiary bodies of the Steering Committee on Trade Capacity and Standards.</p> <p>ECE works with WTO on the implementation of Trade Facilitation Agreement in transition countries.</p> <p>ECE Trade Division attends some WTO committee sessions (as representative of the regional commissions of the United Nations) including WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement Annex D+ organizations' meetings.</p> <p>WTO representatives regularly attend the trade facilitation group of UN/CEFACT meetings.</p> <p>The WTO's Standards and Trade Development Facility (STDF) collaborates with ECE on the dissemination and development of training material for sustainable trade of agricultural products.</p> <p>In November 2019, the ECE secretariat presented at the "Thematic Session on Standards" on incorporating standards by reference in regulations (ECE Recommendation D). ECE will also be actively contributing to the WTO TBT workshop on "The role of Gender in the Development of Standards (May 11, 2019) organized by the Mission of Canada.</p> <p>Bi-monthly meetings of the initiative, currently developing guidelines for gender responsive standards and a repository of best practice</p>
63 standards bodies (i.e. ISO, IEC, ITU, CEN/CENELEC; ARSO, etc)	<p>Gender Responsive Standards Declaration</p> <p>Portal on Standards for the SDGs</p>	<p>Support in identifying and mapping standards that can be used in support of the goals and targets of Agenda 2030, as well as in developing case studies of actual use of standards in support of sustainable development by national and local authorities.</p>