



# Economic and Social Council

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## Economic Commission for Europe

### Committee on Trade

#### Fourth session

Geneva, 14-15 June 2011

Item 9 of the provisional agenda

#### Programme of work

### Programme of work of the Trade subprogramme for biennium 2012-2013\*

#### Note by the Secretariat

#### Introduction

1. The present document sets out the draft programme of work of the Trade subprogramme (“the subprogramme”) for 2012–2013. The Committee on Trade (“the Committee”) is invited to consider the programme and subsequently adopt it at its fourth session. It will then be submitted to the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) Executive Committee for formal approval. The Committee will have the opportunity to adjust its programme of work in the course of the biennium. Such adjustments will be reflected in a separate document.
2. The draft programme of work applies a results-based approach. For each cluster of activities, an expected accomplishment comprises a list of outputs/activities to be carried out in 2012–2013. The delivery of these outputs/activities is expected to contribute to achieving the expected results.
3. The grouping of activities into clusters is exactly the same as used by the Committee for the biennial evaluation of its subprogramme performance. The correlation between the ECE Strategic Framework and the cluster framework used for subprogramme biennial evaluation for 2012–2013 is shown in Annex II to the present document.
4. Furthermore, the outputs/activities listed in this document correspond with the ECE proposed programme budget for 2012–2013 and are complemented by additional items to reflect more recent developments and needs of ECE member States. For easy reference, such new outputs/activities have been marked as “additional”.

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\* This document was submitted late due to delayed inputs.

5. The outputs/activities have been listed under the cluster of activities according to the following main categories: (a) meetings and related parliamentary documentation; (b) publications and other information material; and (c) technical cooperation, including, seminars, workshops, training sessions, advisory services.

6. The relevant indicators of achievement, the baseline and target data, against which performance will be measured, are presented in Annex II to this document, to facilitate the task of the Committee to assess whether all outputs which are necessary to achieve the expected result have been included in the plan.

7. Finally, Annex I to the present document lists the ECE overall legislative mandates and those specific to this subprogramme.

## I. Objective and strategy

8. The objective of the subprogramme is to *facilitate trade and trade-related economic cooperation among countries of the ECE region and with the rest of the world*

9. The responsibility for the subprogramme is vested in the *Trade and Sustainable Land Management Division*. The subprogramme supports Millennium Development Goal 8 by contributing to the establishment of an open, rule-based, predictable and non-discriminatory trading system, especially in the less economically developed and landlocked countries of the ECE region. It also takes into account the importance accorded to trade as a key vehicle for economic growth, elimination of poverty and greater regional cooperation and stability in other major United Nations outcome documents.

10. The subprogramme will aim at reducing barriers to trade caused by differences in trade procedures, standards and documents as well as differences in regulatory approaches and standards for manufactured and agricultural products that hamper market access. More concretely, it will develop and promote:

(a) Simple, transparent and effective processes for global commerce through the development and maintenance of international trade facilitation instruments, especially to support international supply chains and the integration of countries into the global economy. These instruments include global standards and best practices for moving from paper-based to automated electronic processes, as well as for the harmonization and simplification of business practices used in international trade;

(b) A predictable, transparent and harmonized regulatory environment for commerce and business through strengthening of the convergence of regulations as well as through the promotion of international standards and best practices in areas of regulatory cooperation, conformity assessment and market surveillance;

(c) Trade in agricultural produce through the development of up-to-date agricultural quality standards used by Governments for regulatory purposes and the private sector, as well as through explanatory brochures based on these standards in cooperation with the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development Scheme for the Application of International Standards for Fruit and Vegetables.

11. The subprogramme will also achieve its objectives by supporting Governments, with a special emphasis on the less economically developed and landlocked countries of the region, in the national and regional adaptation and implementation of ECE trade-related standards and recommendations, including their integration into national and regional trade facilitation strategies, trade policy and regulatory regimes.

12. The subprogramme will draw on the work of its intergovernmental bodies and expert groups, and further strengthen cooperation with principal partners, which include the World Trade Organization (WTO), the International Organization for Standardization (ISO), the World Customs Organization (WCO), the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the World Bank, the Bank of International Settlements (BIS), the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), among others, and a wide variety of private sector organizations.

## II. Outputs/activities to be delivered in the 2012–2013 biennium

### Cluster 1

#### Support to the formulation and adoption of ECE recommendations, norms, standards, guidelines and tools for trade facilitation and electronic business

<i>Description of cluster (optional)</i>	<i>Expected accomplishments from this cluster</i>
	Enlarged set of ECE recommendations, norms, standards, guidelines and tools for trade facilitation and electronic business.

#### Outputs/activities

##### (a) Meetings and related parliamentary documentation

- 1.1 Annual sessions of the UN Centre for Trade Facilitation and Electronic Business (UN/CEFACT) plenary 8 days (16 half-days)
- 1.2 Meetings of the UN/CEFACT Forum, twice a year, for a total of 20 days (40 half-days)
- 1.3 Meetings of the UN/CEFACT Bureau, three times a year, for a total of 12 days (24 half-days)
- 1.4 Reports of the UN/CEFACT Forum to the Plenary (2)
- 1.5 Reports of UN/CEFACT plenary (2)
- 1.6 Other documents for the CEFACT plenary, including standards and recommendations (50).
- 1.7 Studies on topics related to trade facilitation implementation issues in transition economies (2)

**Cluster 2**  
**Support to the implementation of ECE recommendations, norms, standards, guidelines and tools for trade facilitation and electronic business**

<i>Description of cluster (optional)</i>	<i>Expected accomplishments from this cluster</i>
	Increased implementation of ECE recommendations, norms, standards, guidelines and tools for trade facilitation and electronic business

*(a) Publications and other information material*

- 2.1 Trade Facilitation and Electronic Business Guidelines and Studies (2).
- 2.2 Capacity building module for structured analysis of cross-border trade business processes (1)
- 2.3 United Nations Trade Data Interchange Directory, also known as the United Nations Electronic Data Interchange for Administration, Commerce and Transport Directory -UN/EDIFACT (4)
- 2.4 UN/CEFACT Business Requirements Specifications Library (2)
- 2.5 UN/CEFACT Core Component Library (4)
- 2.6 UN/CEFACT Schema Library (4)
- 2.7 ECE Standards and Recommendations for Trade and Electronic Business (2)
- 2.8 United Nations Code for Trade and Transport Locations (2)
- 2.9 Web services on the Internet for integration of ECE recommended code lists (1)

*(b) Technical cooperation*

- 2.10 Seminars on Data Harmonization, Single Window, Trade Facilitation and Policy issues in general (6, of which 3 with extra-budgetary resources)
- 2.11 Regional training workshops to build capacity for the use of the Trade Facilitation Implementation Guide (6)
- 2.12 Field project: Establishing a mechanism of interagency cooperation for trade facilitation (additional)
- 2.13 Field project: Building the environment for Single Window for export and import clearance in the Russian Federation (additional/extra-budgetary)

**Cluster 3**  
**Dissemination of information and awareness raising about ECE recommendations, norms, standards, guidelines and tools for trade facilitation and electronic business**

<i>Description of cluster (optional)</i>	<i>Expected accomplishments from this cluster</i>
	Increased awareness and understanding of ECE recommendations, norms, standards, guidelines and tools for trade facilitation and electronic business

*(a) Meetings and related parliamentary documentation*

- 3.1 Management Group of the memorandum of understanding on electronic business, 4 days (8 half-days)

*(b) Publications and other information material*

- 3.2 Information brochures on Trade Facilitation and Electronic Business (2)  
 3.3 Web services for the UN/CEFACT Registry (1)

**Cluster 4**  
**Support to the formulation of ECE recommendations, norms, standards, guidelines and tools for regulatory cooperation**

<i>Description of cluster (optional)</i>	<i>Expected accomplishments from this cluster</i>
	Enlarged set of ECE recommendations, norms, standards, guidelines and tools for regulatory cooperation

**Outputs/activities**

*(a) Meetings and related parliamentary documentation*

- 4.1 Annual sessions of the Working Party on Regulatory Cooperation and Standardization Policies, two sessions for a total of 5 days (10 half-days)  
 4.2 Documents for the annual sessions of the Working Party, including reports of the ad hoc team of specialists on regulatory techniques and the advisory group on market surveillance (14)  
 4.3 Reports of the Working Party (2)

*(b) Publications and other information material*

- 4.4 Recommendations on Standardization Policies (1)  
 4.5 Report on Regulatory Cooperation (1)

## 4.6 Information Kit on Standardization Policies (1)

**Cluster 5**  
**Support to the formulation of ECE recommendations, norms, standards, guidelines and tools for agricultural quality standards**

<i>Description of cluster (optional)</i>	<i>Expected accomplishments from this cluster</i>
	Enlarged set of ECE recommendations, norms, standards, guidelines and tools for agricultural quality standards.

**Outputs/activities***(a) Meetings and related parliamentary documentation*

- 5.1 Annual sessions of the Working Party on Agricultural Quality Standards, 8 days (16 half-days)
- 5.2 Specialized section on standardization of dry and dried produce, 7 days (14 half days)
- 5.3 Specialized section on standardization of fresh fruit and vegetables, 8 days (16 half-days)
- 5.4 Specialized section on standardization of meat, 6 days (12 half-days)
- 5.5 Specialized section on standardization of seed potatoes, 5 days (10 half-days)
- 5.6 Documents for the annual sessions of the Working Party, including consolidated texts of revised and new standards (50)
- 5.7 Reports of the Working Party on Agricultural Standards (2)
- 5.8 Documents for the specialised sections (70)
- 5.9 Reports of the specialised sections (8)

**Cluster 6**  
**Support to the implementation of ECE recommendations, norms, standards, guidelines and tools for agricultural quality standards**

<i>Description of cluster (optional)</i>	<i>Expected accomplishments from this cluster</i>
	Increased implementation of ECE recommendations, norms, standards, guidelines and tools for agricultural quality standards.

**Outputs/activities**

*(a) Publications and other information material*

- 6.1 ECE Standards for Meat – Carcasses and Parts/Cuts (2)
- 6.2 ECE Standards for Fresh Fruit and Vegetables (revision) (2)
- 6.3 ECE Standards for dry and dried produce (revision) (2)
- 6.4 ECE Standards for meat (revision) (2)
- 6.5 ECE Standards for seed potatoes (revision) (2)
- 6.6 Interpretative guides for agricultural quality standards (4)
- 6.7 Information Brochure on Agricultural Standards (1)

*(b) Technical cooperation*

- 6.8 Seminars on ECE Agricultural Quality Standards for fresh fruit and vegetables (5) (extra-budgetary resources)
- 6.9 Field project (extra-budgetary resources): Increased involvement of institutions in the Russian Federation and other CIS countries in drawing up and applying international standards for commercial agricultural products (additional)

**Cluster 7****Awareness raising about the UNECE's trade programme***Description of cluster (optional)**Expected accomplishments from this cluster*

Increased awareness about the Trade subprogramme's activities

**Outputs/activities***(a) Meetings and related parliamentary documentation*

- 7.1 Annual sessions of the Committee on Trade 6 days (12 half-days)
- 7.2 Meetings of Bureau of the Committee on Trade 5 days (10 half days)
- 7.3 Documents for the Committee on Trade (16)
- 7.4 Reports of the Committee on Trade (2)

*(b) Publications and other information material*

- 7.5 Information Brochure on ECE trade needs assessment methodology (1) (additional)
- 7.6 Annual sets of press releases on the occasion of meetings, forums and the issuance of publications carried by the sub-programme on Trade (2)
- 7.7 Annual Maintenance of the Multiplier Point Network (2).

7.8 Annual Maintenance of the website, providing documents and other information on the activities and work of the subprogramme (2)

7.9 Studies on regulatory and procedural barriers to (2)

*(c) Technical cooperation*

7.10 Conferences and meetings, in cooperation with the WTO and other international organizations, to support the implementation of Aid-for-Trade in the region's transition economies (2) (additional)

## Annex I

### Legislative mandates

#### A. Overall ECE legislative mandates

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

<i>Res No.</i>	<i>Title</i>
55/2	United Nations Millennium Declaration
57/144	Follow-up to the outcome of the Millennium Summit
57/253	World Summit on Sustainable Development
57/270 B	Integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic and social fields
60/1 2005	World Summit Outcome
61/16	Strengthening of the Economic and Social Council
61/210	Integration of the economies in transition into the world economy
62/208	Triennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system
63/11	Cooperation between the United Nations and the Black Sea Economic Cooperation Organization
63/14	Cooperation between the United Nations and the Council of Europe
63/15	Cooperation between the United Nations and the Eurasian Economic Community
63/239	Doha Declaration on Financing for Development: outcome document of the Follow-up International Conference on Financing for Development to Review the Implementation of the Monterrey Consensus
63/281	Climate change and its possible security implications
64/141	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

<i>Res No.</i>	<i>Title</i>
64/193	Follow-up to and implementation of the Monterrey Consensus and the outcome of the 2008 Review Conference (Doha Declaration on Financing for Development)
64/210	Role of the United Nations in promoting development in the context of globalization and interdependence
64/217	Women in development
64/236	Implementation of Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 and the outcomes of the World Summit on Sustainable Development

## 2. Resolutions of the Economic and Social Council

<i>Res No.</i>	<i>Title</i>
1998/46	Further measures for the restructuring and revitalization of the United Nations in the economic, social and related fields
2006/14	Progress in the implementation of General Assembly resolution 59/250 on the triennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system
2006/38	Workplan on reform of the Economic Commission for Europe and revised terms of reference of the Commission
2009/12	Mainstreaming a gender perspective into all policies and programmes in the United Nations system
2009/28	The role of the United Nations system in implementing the ministerial declaration on the internationally agreed goals and commitments in regard to sustainable development adopted at the high-level segment of the 2008 substantive session of the Economic and Social Council
2009/29	Role of the Economic and Social Council in the integrated and coordinated implementation of the outcomes of and follow-up to major United Nations conferences and summits, in light of relevant General Assembly resolutions, including resolution 61/16

## 3. Economic and Social Council decisions

<i>Res No.</i>	<i>Title</i>
1997/224	Declaration on the Strengthening of Economic

<i>Res No.</i>	<i>Title</i>
	Cooperation in Europe and Plan of Action

#### 4. Economic Commission for Europe decisions

<i>Res No.</i>	<i>Title</i>
E/ECE/ 1434/Rev.1	Work Plan on ECE Reform
A (63)	The Work of the Economic Commission for Europe

## B. Legislative mandates specific to the subprogramme

### 1. Resolutions of the General Assembly

<i>Res No.</i>	<i>Title</i>
60/252	World Summit on the Information Society
63/2	Outcome document of the midterm review of the Almaty Programme of Action: Addressing the Special Needs of Landlocked Developing Countries within a New Global Framework for Transit Transport Cooperation for Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries
64/188	International trade and development
64/214	Groups of countries in special situations: specific actions related to the particular needs and problems of landlocked developing countries: outcome of the International Ministerial Conference of Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries and International Financial and Development Institutions on Transit Transport Cooperation

### 2. Resolutions of the Economic and Social Council

<i>Res No.</i>	<i>Title</i>
1991/76	Promotion of interregional cooperation in the area of international trade facilitation
2004/64	International Conference on Financing for Development
2006/46	Follow-up to the World Summit on the Information Society and review of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development

**3. Economic and Social Council decisions**

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<i>Res No.</i>	<i>Title</i>
1997/225	Economic Commission for Europe Recommendation 25, entitled "Use of the UN/EDIFACT Standard"

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## Annex II

### Correlation between the ECE strategic framework and the cluster framework used for subprogramme biennial evaluation 2012–2013

**Table A.**

*Expected accomplishments of the Subprogramme:*

*Adoption and increased implementation by member States of ECE recommendations, norms, standards, guidelines and tools for trade facilitation and electronic business*

*Indicators of achievement:*

- (i) *The number of new and/or revised ECE recommendations, norms, standards and tools for trade facilitation and electronic business agreed upon by member States*
- (ii) *The number of downloads of key trade facilitation and electronic business recommendations, norms, standards, guidelines and tools from the ECE Internet site, as a proxy for their use*
- (iii) *The number of countries in which ECE took action in response to their requests for assistance in the promotion and implementation of trade facilitation and electronic business instruments*

<i>Cluster</i>	<i>Cluster-level expected accomplishments</i>	<i>Indicators of achievement</i>
1. Support to the formulation and adoption of ECE recommendations, norms, standards, guidelines and tools for trade facilitation and electronic business	Enlarged set of ECE recommendations, norms, standards, guidelines and tools for trade facilitation and electronic business.	<p>(i) The number of new and/or revised ECE recommendations, norms, standards and tools for trade facilitation and electronic business agreed upon by member States</p> <p><i>Performance measures</i>            Baseline 2008-2009: 24 recommendations, norms, etc.            Estimate 2010-2011: 24 recommendations, norms, etc.            Target 2012–2013: 24 recommendations, norms, etc.</p> <p>(ii) Number of countries (regions), international organizations and sectors involved in development of ECE recommendations, norms, standards and tools for trade facilitation and electronic business</p> <p><i>Performance measures:</i>            Baseline 2008-2009: 40 actors involved.            Estimate 2010-2011: 40 actors involved.            Target 2012–2013: actors involved.</p>

<p>2. Support to the implementation of ECE recommendations, norms, standards, guidelines and tools for trade facilitation and electronic business</p>	<p>Increased implementation of ECE recommendations, norms, standards, guidelines and tools for trade facilitation and electronic business</p>	<p>(i) The number of downloads of key trade facilitation and electronic business recommendations, norms, standards, guidelines and tools from the ECE Internet site, as a proxy for their use.</p> <p><i>Performance measures:</i>          Baseline 2008-2009: 119,000 downloads          Estimate 2010-2011: 120,000 downloads          Target 2012-2013: 120,000 downloads</p>
<p>3. Dissemination of information and awareness raising about ECE recommendations, norms, standards, guidelines and tools for trade facilitation and electronic business</p>	<p>Increased awareness and understanding of ECE recommendations, norms, standards, guidelines and tools for trade facilitation and electronic business</p>	<p>(ii) The number of countries in which ECE took action in response to their requests for assistance in the promotion and implementation of trade facilitation and electronic business instruments</p> <p><i>Performance measures:</i>          Baseline 2008-2009: 5 countries          Estimate: 2010-2011: 5 countries          Target 2012-2013: 6 countries</p> <p>(i) The number of requests received by ECE to deliver presentations/ speeches on ECE recommendations, instruments and activities</p> <p><i>Performance measures:</i>          Baseline estimate: 2010-2011: 8          Target 2012-2013: 10 requests</p> <p>(ii) Reference to ECE recommendations, etc. and activities in publications, press and official documents by national, regional and international institutions</p> <p><i>Performance measures:</i>          Baseline estimate: 2010-2011: 8          Target 2012-2013: 10 references</p>

**Table B.**

*Expected accomplishments of the Subprogramme:*

*Adoption by member States of ECE recommendations, norms, standards, guidelines and tools for regulatory cooperation*

*Indicators of achievement:*

*(i) The number of new and/or revised recommendations and tools for regulatory cooperation agreed upon by member States*

<b>Cluster</b>	<b>Cluster level expected accomplishments</b>	<b>Indicators of achievement</b>
4. Support to the formulation of ECE recommendations, norms, standards, guidelines and tools for regulatory cooperation	Enlarged set of ECE recommendations, norms, standards, guidelines and tools for regulatory cooperation	(i) The number of new and/or revised recommendations and tools for regulatory cooperation agreed upon by member States Performance measures: Baseline 2008-2009: 2 recommendations and tools Estimate: 2010-2011: 2 recommendations and tools Target 2012–2013: 2 recommendations and tools

**Table C.**

*Expected accomplishments of the Subprogramme:*

*Adoption and increased implementation by member States of ECE recommendations, norms, standards, guidelines and tools for agricultural quality standards*

*Indicators of achievement:*

*(i) The number of new or revised recommendations and standards on agricultural produce agreed upon by member States*

*(ii) The cumulative total number of implementations of ECE agricultural quality standards in member States (total number of standards multiplied by total number of countries implementing them)*

*(iii) The number of downloads of recommendations and standards on agricultural produce from the ECE Internet site, as a proxy for their use*

<b>Cluster</b>	<b>Cluster level expected accomplishments</b>	<b>Indicators of achievement</b>
5. Support to the formulation and implementation of ECE recommendations, norms, standards, guidelines and tools for agricultural quality standards	Enlarged set of ECE recommendations, norms, standards, guidelines and tools for agricultural quality standards	(i) The number of new and/or revised ECE recommendations, norms, standards, guidelines and tools for agricultural quality standards agreed upon by member States Performance measures Baseline 2008-2009: 39 recommendations, etc. Estimate: 2010-2011: 25 recommendations. Etc. Target 2012–2013: 25 recommendations, etc.

6. Support to the implementation ECE recommendations, norms, standards, guidelines and tools for agricultural quality standards	Increased implementation of ECE recommendations, norms, standards, guidelines and tools for agricultural quality standards	<p>(i) The cumulative total number of implementations ECE recommendations, norms, standards, guidelines and tools for agricultural quality standards in member States (total number of standards multiplied by total number of countries implementing them)</p> <p><i>Performance measures:</i>          Baseline estimate: 2010-2011: 970 implementations          Target 2012–2013: 970 implementations</p> <p>(ii) The number of downloads of ECE recommendations, norms, standards, guidelines and tools for agricultural quality standards ECE Internet site, as a proxy for their use</p> <p><i>Performance measures:</i>          Baseline 2008-2009: 1,085,000 downloads          Estimate: 2010-2011: 1,000,000 downloads          Target 2012–2013: 1,000,000 downloads</p> <p>(iii) The number of countries in which ECE took action in response to their requests for assistance in the promotion and implementation of ECE recommendations, norms, standards, guidelines and tools for agricultural quality standards</p> <p><i>Performance measures:</i>          Baseline 2008-2009: 5 countries          Estimate: 2010-2011: 5 countries          Target 2012–2013: 6 countries</p>
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**Table D**

*Expected accomplishments of the Subprogramme:*

*Support the achievement of all of the sub-programme's expected accomplishments*

<i>Cluster</i>	<i>Cluster level expected accomplishments</i>	<i>Indicators of achievement</i>
7. Awareness raising about the UNECE's trade programme	Increased awareness about the Trade subprogramme's activities	<p>(i) The number of national action matrices for trade development agreed upon with countries.</p> <p><i>Performance measures:</i> Baseline estimate: 2010-2011: 2 Target 2012-2013: 2</p> <p>(ii) The number of national trade assessments with recommendations agreed upon with the countries assessed</p> <p><i>Performance measures:</i> Baseline estimate: 2010-2011: 2 Target 2012-2013: 2</p> <p>(iii) Total references to ECE sub-programme on Trade outputs and activities</p> <p><i>Performance measures:</i> Baseline estimate: 2010-2011: 20 Target 2012-2013: 30</p>