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Draft Strategic Framework 2014 – 2015 Subprogramme 6: Trade

Note submitted by the secretariat

At its forty-eight meeting on 11 January 2012, the EXCOM took note of the revised draft of the ECE Strategic Framework 2014-2015 as contained in Informal document 2012/1, on the understanding that the secretariat would send this version to UN Headquarters at this stage and that the EXCOM reserved the right to introduce changes to it after the completion of the review process.

This document, which is an extract of the Strategic Framework, contains the Subprogramme 6 on Trade. The document is presented **for information** to the 5th session of the Committee on Trade.

Subprogramme 6: Trade

Objective of the Organization: To facilitate trade and trade-related economic cooperation among countries of the ECE region and with the rest of the world.

<i>Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat</i>	<i>Indicators of achievement</i>
(a) Adoption and increased implementation by Member States of ECE recommendations, norms, standards, guidelines and tools for trade facilitation and electronic business	<p>(a)(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>Performance measures</p> <p>2010-2011: 24 new and/or revised recommendations, norms, standards and tools for trade facilitation and electronic business</p> <p>Estimate 2012-2013: 24 new and/or revised recommendations, norms, standards and tools for trade facilitation and electronic business</p> <p>Target 2014-2015: 24 new and/or revised recommendations, norms, standards and tools for trade facilitation and electronic business</p> <p>(a)(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</p> <p>Performance measures</p> <p>2010-2011: 120,000 downloads</p> <p>Estimate 2012-2013: 120,000 downloads</p> <p>Target 2014-2015: 130,000 downloads</p> <p>(a)(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</p> <p>Performance measures</p> <p>2010-2011: 5 countries</p> <p>Estimate 2012-2013: 6 countries</p> <p>Target 2014-2015: 6 countries</p>
(b) Adoption by Member States of ECE recommendations, norms, standards, guidelines and tools for regulatory cooperation	<p>(b) The number of new and/or revised recommendations and tools for regulatory cooperation agreed upon by Member States</p> <p>Performance measures</p>

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(a) Adoption and increased implementation by Member States of ECE recommendations, norms, standards, guidelines and tools for trade facilitation and electronic business	<p>(a)(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></p> <p>2010-2011: 24 new and/or revised recommendations, norms, standards and tools for trade facilitation and electronic business</p> <p>Estimate 2012-2013: 24 new and/or revised recommendations, norms, standards and tools for trade facilitation and electronic business</p> <p>Target 2014-2015: 24 new and/or revised recommendations, norms, standards and tools for trade facilitation and electronic business</p> <p>(a)(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</p> <p><i>Performance measures</i></p> <p>2010-2011: 120,000 downloads</p> <p>Estimate 2012-2013: 120,000 downloads</p> <p>Target 2014-2015: 130,000 downloads</p> <p>(a)(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</p> <p><i>Performance measures</i></p> <p>2010-2011: 5 countries</p> <p>Estimate 2012-2013: 6 countries</p> <p>Target 2014-2015: 6 countries</p> <p>2010-2011: 2 new and/or revised instruments</p> <p>Estimate 2012-2013: 2 new and/or revised instruments</p> <p>Target 2014-2015: 2 new and/or revised instruments</p>

<i>Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat</i>	<i>Indicators of achievement</i>
(c) Adoption and increased implementation by Member States of ECE recommendations, norms, standards, guidelines and tools for agricultural quality standards	(c)(i) The number of new and/or revised recommendations, explanatory brochures, and standards on agricultural produce agreed upon by Member States <i>Performance measures</i> 2010-2011: 25 new and/or revised recommendations Estimate 2012-2013: 25 new and/or revised recommendations Target 2014-2015: 25 new and/or revised recommendations
	(c)(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) <i>Performance measures</i> 2010-2011: 970 implementations Estimate 2012-2013: 970 implementations Target 2014-2015: 1000 implementations
	(c)(iii) The number of downloads of recommendations and standards on agricultural produce from the ECE Internet site, as a proxy for their use <i>Performance measures</i> 2010-2011: 1 million downloads Estimate 2012-2013: 1 million downloads Target 2014-2015: 1 million downloads
(d) Enhanced national capacity of Member States for trade policy development and implementation	(d)(i) The number of national action matrices for trade development agreed upon with countries <i>Performance measures:</i> 2010-2011: not applicable Estimate 2012–2013: 2 national action matrices Target 2014-2015: 2 national action matrices
	(d)(ii) The number of national trade assessments with recommendations agreed upon with the countries assessed

*Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat**Indicators of achievement*

Performance measures:

2010-2011: 1 assessments

Estimate 2012–2013: 2 assessments

Target 2014-2015: 2 assessments

I. Strategy

1. 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, the elimination of poverty, and greater regional cooperation and stability in other major United Nations outcomes.

2. The subprogramme will aim to reduce 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, and 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, and the Codex Alimentarius Committee on Fresh Fruit and Vegetables.

3. 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.

4. The subprogramme will draw on the work of its intergovernmental bodies and expert groups, and will reinforce cooperation with principal partners, which include international organizations such as the World Trade Organization, the International Organization for Standardization, the World Customs Organization, the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the Bank for International Settlements, the World Bank, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, and other United Nations Regional Commissions; subregional groupings and organizations such as the European Commission, the Commonwealth of Independent States, Eurasian Economic Community (EurAsEC), the Eurasian Economic Commission, the Central European Initiative; and a wide variety of private sector organizations.

II. External factors

5. The subprogramme is expected to achieve its objectives and expected accomplishments on the assumption that (a) there is political will and cooperation among Governments and international organizations, (b) demand from both public and private sectors for standards and recommendations (c) information is available and provided by the States members of ECE and (d) there is active participation by specialists at ECE technical meetings.

III. Legislative mandates

A. General Assembly resolutions

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
65/140	Cooperation between the United Nations and the Organization of the Islamic Conference
65/141	Information and communication technologies for development
65/142	International trade and development
65/172	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

B. Economic and Social Council resolutions

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

C. Economic and Social Council decisions

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