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Economic Commission for Europe

Committee on Trade

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Programme of Work

Programme 17 - Economic development in Europe Strategic Framework for 2016-2017

Subprogramme 6 Trade

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

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat

(a) Increased consensus on best practices and strengthened implementation of ECE recommendations, norms, standards, guidelines and tools for trade facilitation and electronic business

Indicators of achievement

(a) (i) Number of new and/or revised recommendations, norms, standards and tools for trade facilitation and electronic business adopted by the ECE

Performance measures

2012-2013: 24 new and/or revised instruments

Estimate 2014-2015: 24 new and/or revised instruments

Target 2016-2017: 22 new and/or revised instruments

(ii) Number of page views of ECE key trade facilitation and electronic business recommendations, norms, standards, guidelines and tools, as a proxy for their use

Performance measures

2012-2013: 1,300,000 page views

Estimate 2014-2015: 1,000,000 page views

Target 2016-2017: 900,000 page views

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Target 2016-2017: 22 new and/or revised instruments

(ii) Number of page views of ECE key trade facilitation and electronic business recommendations, norms, standards, guidelines and tools, as a proxy for their use

Performance measures

2012-2013: 1,300,000 page views

Estimate 2014-2015: 1,000,000 page views

Target 2016-2017: 900,000 page views

(b) Increased consensus on best practices and strengthened implementation of ECE recommendations, norms, standards, guidelines and tools for regulatory cooperation

(b) Number of new and/or revised recommendations and tools for regulatory cooperation adopted by the ECE

Performance measures

2012-2013: 2 new and/or revised recommendations and tools

Estimate 2014-2015: 1 new and/or revised recommendations and tools

Target 2016-2017: 2 new and/or revised recommendations and tools

(c) Increased consensus on best practices and strengthened implementation of ECE recommendations, norms, standards, guidelines and tools for agricultural quality standards

(c) (i) Number of new and/or revised recommendations and standards on agricultural produce adopted by the ECE

Performance measures

2012-2013: 25 new and/or revised recommendations and standards

Estimate 2014-2015: 25 new and/or revised recommendations and standards

Target 2016-2017: 25 new and/or revised recommendations and standards

(ii) Number of implementations of existing, new or revised ECE agricultural quality standards by member States

Performance measures

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Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat

Indicators of achievement

(a) Increased consensus on best practices and strengthened implementation of ECE recommendations, norms, standards, guidelines and tools for trade facilitation and electronic business

(a) (i) Number of new and/or revised recommendations, norms, standards and tools for trade facilitation and electronic business adopted by the ECE

Performance measures

2012-2013: 24 new and/or revised instruments

Estimate 2014-2015: 24 new and/or revised instruments

Target 2016-2017: 22 new and/or revised instruments

(ii) Number of page views of ECE key trade facilitation and electronic business recommendations, norms, standards, guidelines and tools, as a proxy for their use

Performance measures

2012-2013: 1,300,000 page views

Estimate 2014-2015: 1,000,000 page views

Target 2016-2017: 900,000 page views

2012-2013: 970 implementations

Estimate 2014-2015: 1000 implementations

Target 2016-2017: 1000 implementations

(iii) Number of opened *pdf* files with ECE recommendations and standards on agricultural produce, as a proxy for their use

Performance measures

2012-2013: 47,100 files

Estimate 2014-2015: 46,000 files

Target 2016-2017: 45,000 files

(d) Enhanced national capacity of member States for the implementation of ECE recommendations, norms, standards, guidelines and tools

(d) Number of new national actions to implement ECE recommendations, norms, standards, guidelines and tools

Performance measures

2012-2013: 2 national actions

Estimate 2014-2015: 2 national actions

Target 2016-2017: 4 national actions

I. Strategy

1. The Economic Cooperation, Trade, and Land Management Division is responsible for implementing the subprogramme. The subprogramme contributes to the establishment of an open, rule-based, predictable and non-discriminatory trading system, especially in ECE's less economically developed and landlocked developing countries. It takes into account the international recognition of trade as a key vehicle for achieving sustained economic growth, the elimination of poverty, and greater regional integration by United Nations' summits and conferences on sustainable development and the post 2015 development agenda.

2. The subprogramme will work to achieve its objective and expected accomplishments by supporting the reduction of barriers to trade caused by differences in trade procedures, standards and documents, as well as divergent regulatory approaches and standards for manufactured and agricultural products that hamper market access. More specifically, the subprogramme will promote:

(a) Simple, transparent and effective processes for global commerce through development and maintenance of international trade facilitation instruments 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 harmonizing and simplifying business practices in international trade;

(b) A predictable, transparent and harmonized regulatory environment by strengthening the convergence of regulations, as well as by promoting international standards and best practices in regulatory cooperation, conformity assessment, market surveillance and risk management in regulatory systems;

(c) Trade in agricultural produce through the development of up-to-date agricultural quality standards used by Governments and the private sector, as well as through explanatory materials.

3. The subprogramme will support Governments, especially the region's less economically developed and landlocked developing countries, in their national and regional adaptation and implementation of ECE trade-related standards and recommendations in national and regional trade facilitation strategies, trade policy and regulatory regimes.

4. The subprogramme will work through partnerships with national, regional and international experts and stakeholders. These include governments, inter-governmental and non-governmental organizations as well as the private sector, with a particular emphasis on obtaining high-level guidance.

II. External factors

5. The subprogramme is expected to achieve its objective and expected accomplishments on the assumption that: (a) there is political will and cooperation among Governments and international organizations; (b) there is demand from public and private sectors 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) donors provide extra-budgetary funding.

III. Mandates

Overall ECE legislative mandates

General Assembly resolutions

55/2	<i>United Nations Millennium Declaration</i>
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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
60/248	Special subjects relating to the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2006-2007
65/185	Implementation of the outcome of the World Summit for Social Development and of the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly
68/222	Development cooperation with middle-income countries
66/288	The future we want
67/10	Cooperation between the United Nations and the Eurasian Economic Community
67/13	Cooperation between the United Nations and the Black Sea Economic Cooperation Organization
67/14	Cooperation between the United Nations and the Economic Cooperation Organization
67/15	Cooperation between the United Nations and the Shanghai Cooperation Organization
67/83	Cooperation between the United Nations and the Council of Europe
67/148	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
68/204	Follow-up to the International Conference on Financing for Development
68/212	Protection of global climate for present and future generations of humankind

55/2	<i>United Nations Millennium Declaration</i>
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68/225	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 Donor Countries and International Financial and Development Institutions on Transit Transport Cooperation
67/226	Quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system
68/230	South-South cooperation
67/264	Cooperation between the United Nations and the Organization of Islamic Cooperation
67/290	Format and organizational aspects of the high-level political forum on sustainable development
68/6	Outcome document of the Special Event to follow-up on efforts made towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals

Economic and Social Council resolutions

2006/38	<i>Workplan on reform of the Economic Commission for Europe and revised terms of reference of the Commission</i>
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2012/30	Role of the Economic and Social Council in the integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits, in the light of relevant General Assembly resolutions, including resolution 61/16
2013/1	Outcome of the review of the 2005 Reform of the Economic Commission for Europe
2013/16	Mainstreaming a gender perspective into all policies and programmes in the United Nations system

Economic and Social Council decision

2011/247	<i>Report of the Commission on Population and Development on its forty-fourth session and provisional agenda and documentation for its forty-fifth session</i>
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Economic Commission for Europe decisions

ECE/AC.21/ 2002/8	<i>Declaration on the establishment of a Transport, Health and Environment Pan-European Programme (THE PEP) adopted by the Second High-level Meeting on Transport, Health and Environment</i>
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A (64)	The Work of the Economic Commission for Europe
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Legislative mandates specific to ECE subprogrammes

Subprogramme 6: Trade

General Assembly resolutions

65/185	<i>Implementation of the outcome of the World Summit for Social Development and of the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly</i>
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68/198	Information and communications technologies for development
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68/199	International trade and development
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67/264	Cooperation between the United Nations and the Organization of the Islamic Conference
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Economic and Social Council resolution

1991/76	<i>Promotion of interregional cooperation in the area of international trade facilitation</i>
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Economic and Social Council decision

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