



21 June 2006

## **ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE**

UNECE International Forum on A Common Regulatory Language for Global Trade,  
20-21 June 2006

Participants to the Forum:

Welcomed the timely initiative of the UNECE in holding such an event and thanked the speakers for their excellent, informative presentations

Noted the relative growth of national regulatory and conformity assessment procedures as technical obstacles to international trade

Stressed the importance of elaborating and promoting good regulatory practices and took note of the discussions on these matters under way at WTO

Confirmed that regulatory dialogue can and should be continued in all relevant international, regional and bilateral fora as a means of transparency, confidence building and facilitation of trade and market access

Encouraged governments to follow good regulatory practices (including consultations with all relevant stakeholders) and to make use of voluntary standards instead of mandatory regulations whenever possible or to make reference in legal and normative acts to the use of relevant international or internationally recognized (i.e. widely used regional and national) standards

Further encouraged governments to enter into regulatory dialogue with their trading partners and, whenever feasible, to make recourse to internationally accepted regulatory approaches and tools such as the “UNECE International Model for Technical Harmonization”

Invited the Chairs of UNECE sectoral committees to make proposals for cross-sectoral projects based on the ideas presented at the Forum

Requested the Bureaux of the Working Party on Regulatory Cooperation and Standardization Policies and the Committee on Trade, to take the list of “Issues raised during the Forum” in annex to these conclusions and consider how they might be taken into account in the programme of work

Requested the secretariat to publish the proceedings of the Forum with the view of disseminating information to interested parties at the national level.