



UNITED NATIONS ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

Recommendations on regulatory cooperation and standardization policies

Working Party on
Regulatory Cooperation and
Standardization Policies

J.

Definitions¹

The Working Party on Technical Harmonization and Standardization Policies,

Recognizing that internationally agreed general terms and their definitions are indispensable for developing international cooperation in standardization and related activities;

Recalling that the international work on definitions has been initiated at the UNECE²;

Noting that the latest ISO/IEC guides/standards on definitions, namely ISO/IEC Guide 2:2004 "Standardization and related activities -- General vocabulary" and ISO/IEC international standard 17000:2004 "Conformity assessment -- Vocabulary and general principles" meet requests presented by the governmental officials and standardization community participating at the Working Party on Regulatory Cooperation and Standardization Policies;

Noting also that ISO/IEC Guide 2:2004 and ISO/IEC standard 17000:2004 "were prepared in close cooperation and with contribution from standards-setting bodies of the UNECE member States;

¹ Recommendation adopted in 1988 and revised in 2006.

² The work on definitions started at the beginning of the 1970s under the auspices of the ECE Group of experts ("Government Officials Responsible for Standardization" – a predecessor body of the Working Party on Regulatory Cooperation and Standardization Policies (WP.6)). It continued later on as a joint activity with ISO (and then it was finally transferred to ISO) to be published in 1976 as the first guide on definitions - ISO Guide 2 "General terms and their definitions concerning standardization and related activities".

Emphasising that the World Trade Organization Agreement on Technical Barriers to Trade makes an explicit reference to the ISO Guide 2:1991 as a basis for definitions to be used by Governments, thus necessitating regular updating of legal and other documents making reference to international documents on definitions;

Considering that the said Guide and standard well meet the requirements of the UNECE Governments and other United Nations Governments for an international terminology for standardization and related activities;

Has agreed to recommend that:

- J.1** UNECE Governments and other United Nations Governments should endorse ISO/IEC Guide 2:2004 “Standardization and related activities - General vocabulary” and ISO/IEC international standard ISO/IEC 17000:2004 “Conformity assessment- Vocabulary and general principles”.
- J.2** UNECE Governments and other United Nations Governments should encourage their national standards bodies to publish ISO/IEC Guide 2:2004 and standard ISO/IEC 17000:2004 as national guides or standards translated into their national languages.
- J.3** UNECE Governments and other United Nations Governments should promote the use of the terms in ISO/IEC Guide 2:2004 and in standard ISO/IEC 17000 and as defined in national legislation, standardization and related activities as well as in relevant international cooperation.