



# Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General  
20 September 2016

Original: English

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## Economic Commission for Europe

Steering Committee on Trade Capacity and Standards

**Working Party on Regulatory Cooperation and Standardization Policies**

**Twenty-sixth session**

Geneva, 30 November-2 December 2016

Item 8 (b) of the provisional agenda

**Discussion on revision of Recommendation F and Recommendation G**

## **Draft Recommendation G on Recognition of Conformity Assessment Procedures and Results<sup>1</sup>**

**Submitted by the Bureau**

### *Summary*

At its 25th session, the Working Party noted that Recommendation G on: "Recognition of Conformity Assessment Procedures and Results" - adopted by the Working Party in 1988 - retained its validity but needed to be updated taking into consideration developments in this area.

The START Team, interested UN member States and the conformity assessment community worked jointly to prepare an updated version of the recommendation, as contained in this document.

### *Proposed decision*

Member States approve the updated version of Recommendation G on "Recognition of Conformity Assessment Procedures and Results". They mandate the Secretariat to report on its implementation. They encourage the donor community to make available resources for capacity-building projects to assist Member States in its implementation.

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<sup>1</sup> Recommendation adopted in 1988.

1. Working Party on Regulatory Cooperation and Standardization Policies

Bearing in mind that activities for the assessment of conformity of products and services are complementary to standardization activities;

Bearing in mind that it is desirable to facilitate international trade by avoiding the duplication of conformity assessment procedures which are not justified on grounds of safety and public health;

2. Has agreed to recommend that:

(a) Governments should contribute to the development of multilateral agreements for the acceptance of the results of conformity assessment procedures (e.g. calibration, testing, inspection, certification, and accreditation) such as existing international conformity assessment systems or schemes operated by long-standing and respected international organisations.

(b) Governments should take into consideration article 6 of the WTO Agreement on Technical Barriers to Trade in the acceptance of conformity assessment results.

(c) Governments should draft, or contribute to the drafting of, clauses on acceptance of conformity assessment results in more general agreements concerning the harmonization or equivalence of technical regulations, or on mutual recognition of conformity assessment systems.

(d) Governments should promote the use of harmonized assessment for the acceptance of parties wishing to participate in multilateral mutual recognition agreements.

(e) Governments should promote the consistent use of harmonized conformity assessment processes used in multilateral mutual recognition agreements.

(f) Governments should promote the consistent use of harmonized approach for application of standards used for conformity assessment processes in multilateral mutual recognition agreements.

(g) National accreditation systems for conformity assessment bodies already existing or in the process of being established, should be based, as far as the requirements for the technical competence of conformity assessment bodies are concerned, on the application of the relevant ISO/IEC International Standards on conformity assessment.

(h) Governments should promote the use of existing international multilateral mutual recognition arrangements among national accreditation bodies (e.g. IAF MLA and ILAC MRA).

(i) Governments should promote the use of existing international conformity assessment systems and schemes operated by long-standing and respected international organisations (e.g. IEC CA systems and schemes, including joint IEC/ITU certification scheme), and their international multilateral agreements, for the mutual recognition of conformity assessment results prescribed by national requirements.