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**Opening address by Virginia Cram-Martos,  
Director, Economic Cooperation and Trade Division  
United Nations Economic Commission for Europe**

**26<sup>th</sup> Session of the Working Party on  
Regulatory Cooperation and Standardization Policies**

Ladies and gentlemen,

Welcome to the second day of the 26th Session of UNECE's Working Party on Regulatory Cooperation and Standardization Policies.

I am pleased to start this meeting after the successful Mini-Workshop yesterday on the role of standards for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for sustainable development.

The workshop focussed on how important cooperation between authorities and standards bodies is for the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The Working Party on Regulatory Cooperation Policies is very well suited as a platform to host this cooperation. First of all, because it is open to a large variety of stakeholders that contribute to our meetings, including authorities, standardization bodies, the business community, laboratories, NGOs and the academia.

And second, because of its broad mandate that encompasses market surveillance, metrology, standards, technical regulations, conformity assessment, accreditation as well as related flanking issues – including risk management.

Risk management in particular is the topic of the mini-workshop that will be held today. As you know, since 2009, UNECE WP.6 has carried out a number of activities relating to the management of risks in regulatory frameworks.

These tools give practical guidance to countries in striking an optimal balance between exposing the public unnecessarily and the societal costs of developing and enforcing regulations.

Today, I am pleased to see that the risk management toolkit will be broadened as a new recommendation will be tabled on how to use risk management tools for post-market control controls.

This is a very important new area, because removing non-conforming products or services from the market contributes to make consumers and workers safer and protects the environment from the risk of accidents and spills.

I then look forward to your productive discussions today and tomorrow, on these important topics.