

Presentation

Ms. Chantelle McCabe, Independent Evaluator of Working Party 6

My name is Ms. Chantelle McCabe and I am the Independent Evaluator of Working Party 6. I am speaking to you today from New Zealand.

This year, I have been conducting an **independent sub-programme level evaluation** for UNECE's Trade sub-programme, the area which was identified for the 2018-2019 evaluation work plan, in particular Working Party 6 on Regulatory Cooperation and Standardisation Policies. The **purpose** of this evaluation is to review UNECE's support to the advancement of Regulatory Cooperation and Standardization Policies to member States (Working Party 6) towards achieving the 2030 Agenda with a focus on gender equality and the empowerment of women. This evaluation assesses the relevance, effectiveness, efficiency, sustainability and impact of Working Party 6 in supporting member States to reduce technical barriers to trade and increase regulatory coherence in sectors that have a critical impact on sustainable development. The **scope** encompasses all activities undertaken under the auspices of Working Party 6 from January 2015 to December 2018. UNECE's geographical scope covers 56 member States located in Europe, North America,¹ the Caucasus,² Central Asia³ and Western Asia.⁴ However, many of its standards and legal instruments are used worldwide, and a number of countries outside the region participate in UNECE's normative work. This includes Working Party 6's normative work, as well as some of the normative work in the following subprogrammes: Environment, Statistics, Sustainable Energy, Trade, Transport.⁵

With respect to **methodology**, the evaluation has used a mix of data sources: (i) primary data collection through survey questionnaires and in-depth key informant interviews; and (ii) secondary data through a desk review of project documents and other relevant materials. The evaluation has used both quantitative and qualitative data. Data analysis has used triangulation where possible. The evaluator has used gender analysis and a human rights based approach, in line with United Nations Evaluation Group (UNEG) norms and standards.

The draft **recommendations** are as follows.

¹ Canada and USA.

² Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia.

³ Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan.

⁴ Israel.

⁵ <https://www.unece.org/info/where-we-work/where-we-work.html>

1. Update and reflect the work of Working Party 6 in line with the 2030 Agenda, which was adopted by UN Member States in 2015. Review and update the terms of reference of Working Party 6 in line with the Guidelines for Establishment and Functioning of Working Parties within UNECE (ECE/EX/1 paragraph 3(d)) to assess and propose necessary adjustments to the mandate and status of Working Party 6, and submit to the Steering Committee on Trade Capacity and Standards.
2. Find ways to address inclusion and participation in Working Party 6 advisory groups. This could include (i) increasing representation of women in all Working Party 6 subsidiary groups to increase input of women in the standards development process, to improve gender balance in these bodies, and to enhance expertise to create and deliver gender inclusivity; (ii) setting up a system of regional hubs or rotating the timing of subsidiary group virtual meetings so that participants in time zones different to Europe may be more easily included.
3. Explore ways to address resource constraints, for example, by making full use of the resources assigned to Working Party 6, interns from Master's programmes on standardization, and extra-budgetary projects with project funded project managers.
4. Seek partnerships with a broad range of women's organisations, including those representing vulnerable groups of women, in each thematic area and subsidiary group to seek their perspectives, address their needs, and to reach those furthest behind.
5. In order to present the findings of the two most recent Working Party 6 initiatives, consider developing a publication on Gender Responsive Standards and the Sustainable Development Goals, focusing on SDG 5 as a standalone and cross cutting goal to showcase how standards contribute to achievement of gender equality, gender mainstreaming, and achievement of the SDGs in the UNECE region.

The final evaluation report is currently being finalized for submission to UNECE next month.

I would like to extend my thanks and appreciation to all interlocutors who provided inputs to the key informant interviews, survey, and document review. I would also like to extend my congratulations to Working Party 6 for its commendable work. Thank you.