DRAFT PROVISIONAL AGENDA FOR THE FIFTY-FOURTH SESSION

to be held in the Palais des Nations, Geneva, starting at 15:00 p.m.
on Monday, 16 September 1996

1. Adoption of the agenda

2. Technical issues and reports from UN/EDIFACT standing technical groups
3. UN/EDIFACT policy and promotion

4. Reports from UN/EDIFACT Steering Group and UN/EDIFACT Rapporteurs

5. UN/EDIFACT directories and message types submitted as Status 0

6. International standardization affecting trade interchange

7. Codes and policy related to codes

8. International Trade Transaction Model

9. Multilingualism in UN/EDIFACT

10. Final report from the Ad hoc Re-engineering proposals for implementation of the

11. Legal/commercial aspects of trade

12. Other business

13. Adoption of the Report of the fiftieth-fourth session

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EXPLANATORY NOTES TO THE PROVISIONAL AGENDA

Introduction

1. The provisional agenda for the fifty-fourth session of the Meeting of Experts on Data Elements and Automatic Data Interchange (GE.1) has been
established in accordance with decisions taken by the Working Party on Facilitation of International Trade Procedures at its forty-third session in March 1996.

2. The provisional timetable presented below has been agreed upon by the Bureau of the Working Party on Facilitation of International Trade Procedures for its forty-fourth session and for the sessions of its Meetings of Experts. It is expected that the experts of GE.1 and GE.2 will have a joint session on legal issues in the morning of Thursday, 19 September 1996.

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<td>Monday 16 September 1996</td>
<td>Informal Meeting GE.1</td>
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<td>Tuesday 17 September 1996</td>
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3. The informal meeting of delegations will take place Monday, 16 September starting at 10:00 and continuing until 13:00. During the meeting on 16 September the WP.4 Bureau will present the consolidated, final report from the three ad hoc groups (for Programme Development, Centre Implementation and Empowerment) established to develop the plans and terms of reference necessary for implementation of the Re-engineering proposal approved at the September 1995 WP.4 session. The WP.4 meeting beginning at 15:00 on 19 September will be to debate and discuss the same document. In the context of trade facilitation work, the word "delegations" refers not only to countries but also to international organizations regularly represented at meetings.

Item 1 - Adoption of the agenda

4. In accordance with the Commission's Rules of Procedures, the first item on the provisional agenda (document TRADE/WP.4/GE.1/104/Rev.1) is the adoption of the agenda.

Item 2 - Technical issues and reports from UN/EDIFACT standing technical groups

5. The UN/EDIFACT Rules for Presentation of Standardized Message and Directories Documentation (TRADE/WP.4/CRP.96), which was modified to take into account WP.4's March 1996 decision to abolish Status 1 and 2 for messages and the publication of Interactive EDI messages and directories, is submitted by the ESG for discussion and regional comment with a view to final approval in March 1997 as TRADE/WP.4/R.1023/Rev.3.

6. TRADE/WP.4/CRP.104 contains a revision of UN/EDIFACT Directory/Release Procedures based upon the decisions made at the March 1996 session of WP.4 abolishing Status 1 and 2 and allowing better version control at the message level. This document is for discussion and regional comment with a view to final approval in March 1997 as TRADE/WP.4/R.982/Rev.1.

7. TRADE/WP.4/R.1240 contains the Executive Summary Report prepared by the Chairman of the Syntax Development Group (SDG) and TRADE/WP.4/R.1238 contains Issues Arising from Meeting 17 of the SDG. The SDG's Comments on TRADE/WP.4/CRP.80 (French position concerning the draft version 4 of the EDIFACT syntax) can be found in TRADE/WP.4/R.1223. These documents are for information.

8. As agreed during the March 1996, the SDG has finalized Parts 1, 2, 3, and 8 of UN/EDIFACT Syntax 9735 Version 4 and the ECE secretariat has submitted them as an existing standard to the ISO for fast track processing. These final
versions are provided for information in documents:
- TRADE/WP.4/R.1241 (UN/EDIFACT Syntax, Part 1, Syntax rules common to all parts of this standard plus directories);
- TRADE/WP.4/R.1242 (UN/EDIFACT Syntax, Part 2, Syntax Rules specific to batch EDI);
- TRADE/WP.4/R.1243 (UN/EDIFACT Syntax, Part 3, Syntax Rules specific to interactive EDI);

9. UN/EDIFACT Syntax 9735 Version 4, Parts 5 and 6 are submitted by the Syntax Development Group for approval, as requested during the March 1996 and can be found in:
- TRADE/WP.4/R.1245 (UN/EDIFACT Syntax, Part 5, Security rules for batch EDI (authenticity, integrity and non-repudiation of origin);
- TRADE/WP.4/R.1246 (UN/EDIFACT Syntax, Part 6, secure authentication and acknowledgement message (message type - AUTACK)).

The German position on these two documents can be found in TRADE/WP.4/CRP.105.

10. The following drafts of Parts 4, 7 and 9 of the UN/EDIFACT Syntax 9735 Version 4 are submitted for review and comment:
- TRADE/WP.4/R.1250 (UN/EDIFACT Syntax, Part 4, Syntax and service report message for batch EDI, (message type - CONTRL));
- TRADE/WP.4/R.1251 (UN/EDIFACT Syntax, Part 7, Security rules for batch EDI (Confidentiality));
- TRADE/WP.4/R.1252 (UN/EDIFACT Syntax, Part 9, Security key and certificate management message (message type - KEYMAN));


12. Ad hoc Group 1's report on its work since the last session can be found in TRADE/WP.4/CRP.97. This document is for information and discussion and may contain recommendations for approval.

Item 3 - UN/EDIFACT policy and promotion

13. As agreed during the March 1996 session, a technical paper has been prepared on the implementation of the decisions to abolish Status 1 and 2 for messages and to replace Draft and Standard directories with "UN/EDIFACT directories". This document is TRADE/WP.4/CRP.98, it is for discussion and had not been received by the secretariat as of 12 August 1996.

Item 4 - Reports from UN/EDIFACT Steering Group and UN/EDIFACT Rapporteurs

14. A report on the activities of the UN /EDIFACT Steering Group from the ESG Chairman will be submitted as TRADE/WP.4/CRP.93. This document is for discussion, although it may reference other documents that are for approval.

15. A report on recent developments in the regions from the Regional UN/EDIFACT Rapporteurs is provided in document TRADE/WP.4/CRP.94. This document is for information only.

16. As requested by GE.1 during its March 1996 session, the Convenor of the Ad Hoc Group on NAD and Duplicate/Overlapping Functionality will give an oral report on inter-session developments and discussions which took place at the April 1996 JRT.

Item 5 - UN/EDIFACT Directories and Message Types Submitted as Status 0

18. As of the time when this revised provisional agenda was prepared the secretariat had not been made aware of any message types to be submitted for Status 0.

19. TRADE/WP.4/R.1239 contains a summary of all those messages noted for Status 0 during the March 1996 session. TRADE/WP.4/R.1184/Corr.2 contains a corrigendum to the the message type QLSPEC which was noted for status 0 during the March 1996 session.

Item 6 - International standardization affecting trade interchange

20. The Standards Liaison Rapporteur's Executive Summary is found in TRADE/WP.4/CRP.99. This document is for discussion and contains recommendations for approval. The Standard Liaison Meeting Report is in TRADE/WP.4/R.106 and is for information.

21. TRADE/WP.4/CRP.100 contains the report on the progress and status of the Basic Semantic Repository (BSR) project by the Chairman of the BSR Management Committee.

22. At the request of the GE.1 Bureau and the EDIFACT Steering Group, renewal of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with ISO will also be discussed under this agenda item.

Item 7 - Codes and policy related to codes

23. No documents were planned for this agenda item as of 10 May 1996.

Item 8 - International Trade Transaction Model

24. As decided during the March 1995 Session of GE.1, this item has been added to the agenda. Document TRADE/WP.4/CRP.103 contains the Report from the Steering Group for the International Trade Transaction Model. This document is for discussion.

Item 9 - Multilingualism in Electronic Data Interchange for Administration, Commerce and Transport (UN/EDIFACT)

25. TRADE/WP.4/CRP.101 contains the report of the Convenor of the Multilingualism and Terminology Group. This document had not been received by the secretariat as of 12 August 1996.

Item 10 - Final Reports from the Ad-hoc groups for Implementation of the Re-engineering Proposals

26. The WP.4 Bureau will submit the consolidated, final report from the three ad hoc groups established to develop the plans and terms of reference necessary for implementation of the Re-engineering proposal approved at the September 1995 in TRADE/WP.4/R.1234. The three ad hoc groups were the: Programme Development Group; Centre Implementation Group; and Empowerment Group. This report is for discussion within GE.1 in light of discussions for approval to be
27. TRADE/WP.4/CRP.95 contains a new draft of UN/EDIFACT procedures, and is for discussion and circulation to the regions for comment.

**Item 11 - Legal and commercial aspects of trade facilitation**

28. TRADE/WP.4/R.102 contains the report from the Legal Rapporteurs. This document is for information and discussion and may contain recommendations for approval. This document had not been received by the secretariat as of 12 August 1996.

**Item 12 - Other business**

29. TRADE/WP.4/R.1222 (EDI, A Management Overview) is submitted by ESCAP, the Economic Commission for Asia and the Pacific within the context of a joint project undertaken with the ECE secretariat in order to provide training materials on EDI and UN/EDIFACT to economies in transition, and in particular, to those CIS countries which are joint ECE/ESCAP members. This document is for information and discussion.

30. TRADE/WP.4/R.1226 (EDI and UN/EDIFACT, A Technical Overview) describes an "electronic book" developed by ESCAP with technical assistance from the ECE. This was also developed within the context of the joint project described above and is for information and discussion.

**Item 13 - Adoption of the Report of the fifty-fourth session**

31. In accordance with established practice, the Meeting of Experts will adopt the Report of its fifty-fourth session in the form of a summary, prepared by the secretariat, of decisions taken during the session, to be presented to the Working Party for approval.