EVALUATION:

UNECE's support to the advancement of Regulatory Cooperation and Standardization Policies in member States (Working Party 6)

UNITED NATIONS ECONOMIC COMMISSION OF EUROPE

FINAL REPORT

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By Ms. Chantelle McCabe, Evaluator
chantellemccabe@gmail.com

1. Acronyms

ANSI - American National Standards Institute
APEC - Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation
BIPM - Bureau International des Poids et Mesures
CEN - European Committee for Standardization
CENELEC - European Committee for Electrotechnical Standardization
CIPM - International Committee of Weights and Measures
CIS - Commonwealth of Independent States
EC - European Commission
ECOSOC – Economic and Social Council, one of the six principal organs of the United Nations
EU – European Union
GRM - (Working Party 6) Group of Experts on Risk Management in Regulatory Systems
ICES - International Council for the Exploration of the Sea
IEC- International Electrotechnical Commission
ISEAL - International Social and Environmental Accreditation and Labelling Alliance
ISO - International Organisation for Standardisation
ITC - International Trade Centre
ITU – International Telecommunication Union
MARS Group – (Working Party 6) Advisory Group on Market Surveillance
OECD - Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development
SDGs – Sustainable Development Goals
SMEs - small and medium enterprises
START-Ed Group – (Working Party 6) Taskforce on Education on Standards and Standards-related issues
UN – United Nations
UN/CEFACT - United Nations Centre for Trade Facilitation and Electronic Business
UNCTAD - United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
UN/FLUX - United Nations Fisheries Language for Universal eXchange
UNIDO - United Nations Industrial Development Organisation
UNISDR - United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction
Working Party 6 - UNECE's Working Party 6 on Regulatory Cooperation and Standardisation Policies
WTO - World Trade Organisation
WWF - World Wildlife Fund

2.   Executive Summary

This is 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 Asia[3] 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, Transport.[5] With respect to **methodology**, the evaluation 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 uses 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.

Regarding **relevance** the evaluation found that the work of Working Party 6 (i) has met the needs that its targets and beneficiaries have expressed and agreed to; (ii) is consistent with the mandate of the Trade sub-programme and its established mandates; (iii) is highly relevant for the broad variety of partnerships it maintains; (iv) the Gender Responsive Standards Initiative is highly relevant with respect to gender equality and empowerment of women; and (v) incorporated the perspective of vulnerable groups in the design of recommendations well with respect to women and persons with disabilities.

In terms of **effectiveness**, the evaluation found that Working Party 6 has achieved positive outcomes in all its areas of intervention. Working Party 6's efforts have added value in respect of providing an impartial platform for engagement, a forum for best practices in its thematic areas, and increasing accessibility to standards for middle income countries and countries with economies in transition. Challenges to achieving the activities' objective and expected accomplishments included resource constraints, limited participation of member States and other stakeholders and limited engagement between meetings, implementation and the challenges of enforcement of voluntary standards, and the lack of understanding of various stakeholders of the linkages between standards, sustainable development, and gender equality.

With respect to **efficiency**, the evaluation found that the relationship between cost (in terms of funds and time) and results was reasonable, given the breadth of the mandate, and the nature

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[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

and volume of accomplishments compared to the budget and human resources. However, mindful of the budgetary constraints, it found that there are insufficient resources to achieve the intended outcomes.

Concerning **sustainability**, the evaluation found that it was not likely that the benefits of the normative work would continue after completion and without overburdening partner institutions.[6] There was low participation of partners and beneficiaries at annual meetings of the Working Party and at regular meetings of advisory bodies by a broad range of stakeholders, including due to language and time zone barriers for some participants. Engagement between meetings was challenging due to time and financial resources of participants and experts, many of whom participate on a *pro bono* basis, noting this is similar to other UNECE Working Parties. There was medium to high ownership of the outcomes of the work.

Regarding **impact**, the evaluation found that Working Party 6 has made a positive contribution within UNECE, particularly through the Gender Responsive Standards Initiative, and the Standards for the SDGs project (funded by extra-budgetary resources), both of which illustrate for colleagues the wider relevance of standards for internationally agreed global goals for the 2030 Agenda and the UN Secretariat's policy of gender mainstreaming. There has been no significant negative impact of the normative work. The outcomes of the Working Party have led to new policies or policy changes in member States in key areas including market surveillance, regulatory cooperation, gender responsive standards, and equipment for explosive environments. Likewise, countries outside of the Europe region have used the Recommendations and other deliverables of Working Party 6, including in regulatory cooperation, gender inclusive standards, risk management, disaster risk resilience, and standards for the SDGs, illustrating the impact of Working Party 6 beyond the UNECE member States. The Gender Responsive Standards Initiative has strengthened the application of gender mainstreaming principles in the development of standards and technical regulations, through raising awareness, and by encouraging the development of gender action plans. However, it is too early to judge whether there have been substantial and meaningful changes in the situation of most vulnerable groups, although there have been positive steps forward and certainly great potential for influence regarding women, people with disabilities, and people living in disaster prone areas.

Recommendations have been made based upon the evaluation findings and conclusions, and developed in consultation with stakeholders.

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 the Establishment and Functioning of Working Parties within UNECE (ECE/EX/1 paragraph 3(d) – see Annex) 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. Take steps to formally establish START-ed and the Gender Responsive Standards Initiative, in line with the agreed guidance and procedures in Annex F.

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[6] With beneficiary countries needing support to implement Working Party 6 best practice and recommendations.

3. Find ways to address inclusion and participation in Working Party 6 advisory groups.[7] This could include (i) increasing representation of women in all Working Party 6 advisory 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 advisory group virtual meetings so that participants in time zones different to Europe may be more easily included.

4. Explore ways to address resource constraints, for example, by making full use of the resources assigned to Working Party 6, considering redistribution of resources within the Section, interns from Master's programmes on standardization, and extra-budgetary projects with project funded project managers.

5. Seek partnerships with a broad range of women's organisations, including those representing vulnerable groups of women, in each thematic area and advisory group to seek their perspectives, address their needs, and to reach those furthest behind.

6. 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.

3.   Introduction

(a)   Purpose

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 of the UNECE Steering Committee on Trade Capacity and Standards) 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 of the Steering Committee on Trade Capacity and Standards 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 results of the evaluation are expected to contribute to the development of a long-term vision for the programme of work of Working Party 6. It will also identify issues that need further attention and that could lead to the development of recommendations for the revision of working modalities in the area of standardization and inform decisions on improving technical cooperation projects on regulatory cooperation and the use of standards.

(b)   Scope of activities for evaluation

The scope encompasses all activities undertaken under the auspices of the Working Party on "Regulatory Cooperation and Standardization Policies" of the UNECE Steering Committee on Trade Capacity and Standards from January 2015 to December 2018. UNECE's geographical scope covers 56 member States located in Europe, North America,[8] the Caucasus,[9] Central Asia[10]

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[7] Advisory Group on Market Surveillance (MARS), Group on Education and Standardisation (START-Ed), Group of Experts on Risk Management in Regulatory Systems (GRM), Standardisation and Regulatory Techniques (START).
[8] Canada and USA.
[9] Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia.
[10] Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan.

and Western Asia.[11] 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, Transport.[12]

Activities under the evaluation include the entire programme of work of the Working Party[13], with a specific focus on the following:

- Activities undertaken under the Regular Budget, including:
    o The work on "Standards for Disaster Risk Reduction" including participation in the World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction in Sendai, Japan, in March 2015;
    o The IEC-ISO-UNECE event on "Using and referencing International Standards to support public policy", in November 2015
    o The mini-workshops held as part of the 2016 Annual Session of the Working Party, respectively on "Standards for Sustainable Development", "Risk Management for Regulatory Systems" and "International Regulatory Cooperation"
    o The International Conference on Standards for the SDGs held back to back to the 27th Annual Session of the Working Party in November 2017,
    o The High-level segment on "Standards for the Sustainable Development Goals" held as part of the 28th Session in November 2018
    o The Workshop on how to apply the UNECE Methodology on "Risk Management for Regulatory Systems" to SDG 14 on "Life below water" in Geesthacht, Germany, 20-22 February 2017.
    o The ICES/UNECE Symposium on Risk Management tools and standards in support of Sustainable Development Goal 14 Reykjavik, Iceland 9-12 October 2018
    o The four annual meetings of the Advisory Group on Market Surveillance and Annual Sessions of the Working Party on "Regulatory Cooperation and Standardization Policies"
    o Work under the sectoral initiatives (Earth-moving machinery; Explosive environments; Pipelines; Cybersecurity)
    o Preparation and servicing of 12 webinars of the Group of Experts on Risk Management in Regulatory Systems
    o Support to the activities of the START-Ed Group on "Education and Standards-related issues"
    o Promotion and advocacy for the use of standards in the context of the implementation of the Sendai Framework of Action
    o Contribution to the work of the initiative established by the International Centre for Trade and Sustainable Development and the World Economic Forum (E15 Initiative) on "Strengthening the global trade and investment system for sustainable development", specifically the taskforce on "Regulatory Coherence".[14]

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[11] Israel.
[12] https://www.unece.org/info/where-we-work/where-we-work.html
[13] http://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/trade/wp6/documents/2017/ECE_CTCS_WP.6_2017_6E_Programme_of_work_2018-19.pdf
[14] Please note regarding Programme of Work 2018-2019, in addition to report of the sectoral activities (III b). As regards d: fully implemented and reported upon as the GRM report to the WP. 6 http://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/trade/wp6/documents/2019/ECE_CTCS_WP.6_2019_7E.pdf . As regards e) was delayed due insufficient partner organizations' engagement, and was then pursued in 2019 (organization of a high-level panel on Education on Standards Related issues during the 2019 Annual Session of the WP. 6, http://www.unece.org/trade/wp6/wp6-29th-2019.html participation by the Secretary of the WP. 6 as a speaker in the World Standards Academic Day 2019 and in the annual workshop of

- Activities developed under the extra-budgetary projects "Strengthening the national capacity of trade-support institutions of Kyrgyzstan" and "Enhancing usage and uptake of the standards for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals", including:
  - The database on "Standards for the SDGs",
  - The collection of case studies of countries having used standards to advance towards the implementation of one of the goals,
  - The Standards for the SDGs event, co-organized with the International Organization for Standardization,
- Normative activities – specifically development of four new recommendations:
  - Recommendation S (Applying Predictive Risk Management Tools for Targeted Market Surveillance)
  - Recommendation T (Standards and Regulations for Sustainable Development) and
  - Recommendation U (Gender-Responsive Standards) and
  - Two revised Recommendations: Recommendation G (Acceptance of Conformity Assessment Results) and F (Creation and Promotion of International Agreements on Conformity Assessment).

(c) Background

The United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) was set up in 1947 by the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC). It is one of five regional commissions of the United Nations. UNECE's major aim is to promote pan-European economic integration.[15]

The Steering Committee on Trade Capacity and Standards is an intergovernmental body of the UNECE which oversees and guides the development of international norms and standards, procedures and best practices for reducing transaction costs associated with export and import processes and increasing the efficiency, predictability and transparency of trade regulations and procedures.[16]

The Working Party on Regulatory Cooperation and Standardisation Policies (Working Party 6) is a subsidiary body of the Steering Committee on Trade Capacity and Standards. Working Party 6 encourages increased regulatory coherence in specific sectors that have a critical impact on sustainable development and promotes greater resilience to natural and man-made hazards.[17] The Steering Committee on Trade Capacity and Standards has a second subsidiary body, the Working Party on Agricultural Quality Standards (Working Party 7).

Since around 1970, the UNECE Working Party on Regulatory Cooperation and Standardization Policies has constituted a forum for collaboration between the standards community and policymakers.[18] UNECE's mandate in the field of standardization was first formulated in 1969. It

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ICES (the International Cooperation for Education about Standardization) (Belgrade, October 2019, ttps://www.worldstandardscooperation.org/2019/07/04/wsc-academic-day-2019/ . g) was also implemented and reported on as part of the GRM reports, http://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/trade/wp6/documents/2019/ECE_CTCS_WP.6_2019_7E.pdf . h) had to be dropped due to the freeze in travel funds which made it impossible to travel. k) was fully implemented and resulted in a publication which was also made available as a UNECE parliamentary document, http://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/trade/wp6/documents/2015/WP6_2015_07E.pdf

[15] https://www.unece.org/mission.html
[16] https://www.unece.org/tradewelcome/steering-committee-on-trade-capacity-and-standards/about-us.html
[17] http://www.unece.org/trade/wp6/welcome.html.
[18] The Working Party on Regulatory Cooperation and Standardization Policies had several predecessor bodies: the Group of Government Officials Responsible for Standardization Policies (1970 ; Working Party on Technical Harmonization and Standardization Policies. In particular, during the initial years, the UNECE activities on standardization were pursued by a Group

originates in Decision J(XXIV) taken by the Commission in its 24th session in April 1969 (Part II,C. of 2.d) of E/ECE/747.[19] Subsequent to this decision, a report was prepared annually and an item called "Activities of the Commission in the field of standardization" was included in the Annual Report of the Commission. In the 25th session of April 1970, through Decision H (XXV), the Commission decided *inter alia*,[20] to endorse the request of the First Meeting that, in order to promote standardization on a worldwide basis, the Executive Secretary should communicate the results of that Meeting as soon as possible to the Executive Secretaries of the other regional economic commissions. To prepare for these annual meetings of Government Officials Responsible for Standardisation Policies, a Group of Experts on Standardisation Policies was convened as early as for the Second Meeting of 1971. In its 44th session (1989), the Commission decided to hold a first Meeting of Experts,[21] which confirmed the decision of the Tenth Meeting to hold a Meeting of Experts on Standardisation Policies from 10-12 May 1989 pursuant to the authority in that respect given by the Commission at its 43rd session. In 1991, a decision was taken to establish a Working Party reporting directly to the Commission.[22] In April 1997, a decision was taken that the Working Party report to the Committee for Trade, Industry and Enterprise Development (predecessor body to Steering Committee on Trade Capacity and Standards).[23] In summary, Commission decisions are endorsed by ECOSOC, but it calls for coordination with other regional economic commissions, and does not give UNECE a unique mandate to deal with Standards.

Today, Working Party 6 is part of the Economic Cooperation and Trade Division and its Market Access Section, and is governed by the parent body, the Steering Committee on Trade Capacity and Standards.[24] Working Party 6 has advisory groups, including the Advisory Group on Market

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called "Government Officials Responsible for Standardization Policies", which held its very first meeting from 19 to 23 January 1970, a little more than 40 years ago. The work on standardization, however, was by that time well underway. Indeed, already in 1962, the Commission had adopted Resolution 4, which requested: (i) the Commission's subsidiary bodies to participate in standardization work at national and international level; and (ii) the Member States to continue to promote further development of standardization in their own countries. They also expressed hope, unfortunately to this day not realized, that similar efforts would get underway in other regional commissions. A few years passed and in 1967, the Commission returned to this topical subject. It expressed its satisfaction of the work undertaken by subsidiary bodies, and adopted a new Resolution. This second document reflects a very modern view of how work in this field can be organized in practice: on the one hand, it praised the activities of international non-governmental organizations in this domain, with particular reference to the IEC and ISO. At the same time, and "without wanting to take over their work", it called the attention of Governments to the problems of standardization at the international level, and encouraged them to take action to facilitate further harmonization of standards. The first meeting of the "Government Officials Responsible for Standardization Policies" was scheduled for 1968/9 but had to be postponed to 1970.

[19] As the outcome of the discussion, the Commission decided; (a) to take note of the progress report of the Executive Secretary contained in document E/ECE/734; (b) to ask the Executive Secretaryto convene the Meeting of Government Officials Responsible for Standardisation Policies prior to the Commission's 25th session; and (c) to submit the report of this Meeting to the 25th session of the Commission together with his suggestions on appropriate ways in which the work of the Commission in the field of standardisation could most usefully be pursued.

[20] See Part II, C. of 2.d. of E/ECE/776.

[21] Decision O (44) in Chapter IV of E/ECE/1196.

[22] Documentation E/ECE/1240, ECE/STAND/32. Standardisation and related activities (agenda item 4(i)), paras 226-227. Satisfaction was expressed with the results achieved by the Eleventh Meeting of Government Officials and the Commission decision to restructure this body into a Working Party reporting directly to the Commission was welcomed. The delegation of the Byelorussian SSR suggested that it might be appropriate for the Working Party to review its terms of reference in order to take into account developments taking place at international level and to coordinate policy among the various regional commissions. The Commission endorsed the report of the Eleventh Meeting of Government Officials, including the programme of work.

[23] Decision A (52) in April 1997 (first reform): WP6 reports to Trade Committee: Endorsement of the Declaration on the Strengthening of Economic Cooperation in Europe and the Plan of Action. The Commission having adopted on 22 April 1997 the Declaration on the Strengthening of Economic Cooperation in Europe and the Plan of Action, as contained in documents E/ECE/1346 and E/ECE/1347 and Corr. 1, respectively, Recommends that the Economic and Social Council endorse these documents. See Document E/ECE/1347: It was decided that, in line with the directions of work, the Working Party on Standardisation of Perishable Produce and Quality Development and the Working Party on Technical Harmonisation and Standardisation Policies will, from now on, report to the Committee for Trade, Industry and Enterprise Development.

[24] https://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/Intergovernmental_Structure_FINAL_for_Website__28_June__2019_.pdf

Surveillance (MARS), the Group on Education and Standardisation (START-Ed), the Group of Experts on Risk Management and Regulatory Systems (GRM), Standardisation and Regulatory Techniques (START), and the Gender Responsive Standards Initiative (GRSI). Working Party 6 has a small secretariat staff of one full time P4 and P3 staff members in Geneva, and part time assistance from a P2 professional staff member and a G staff member.[25] Please see Efficiency Section below for additional information.
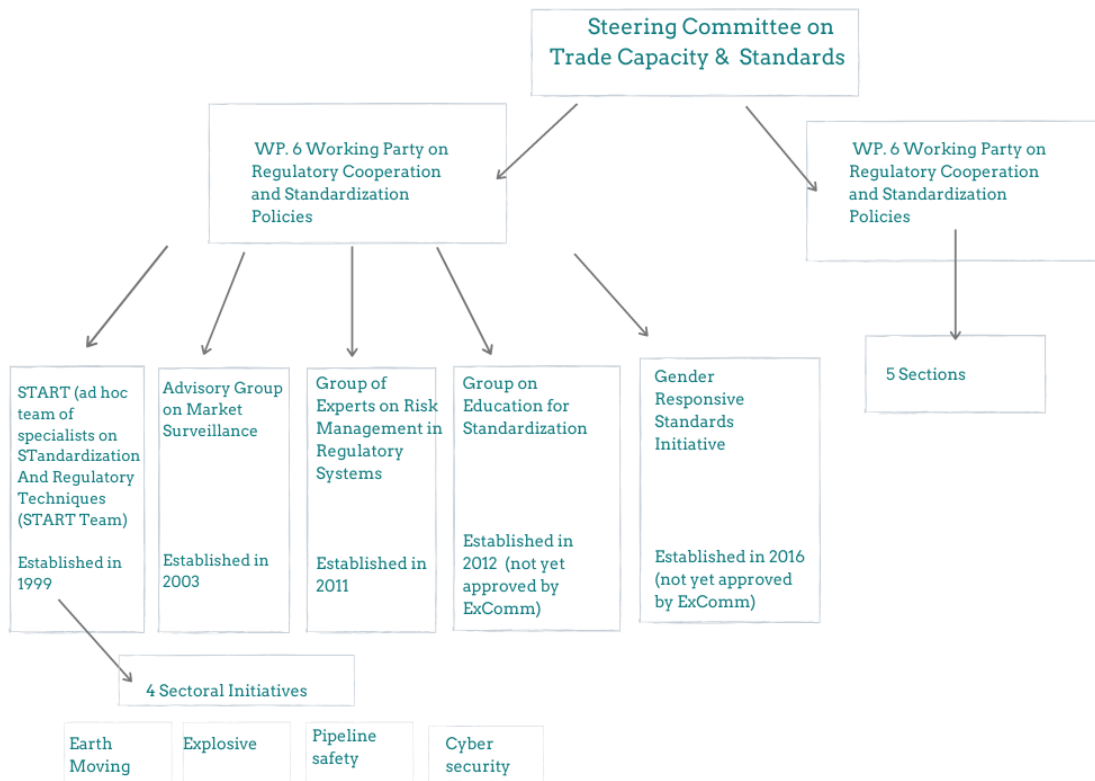
With the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development by all UN Member States in 2015, the Steering Committee on Trade Capacity and Standards has mandated Working Party 6 to increase its focus on the contribution of standards and the supporting quality infrastructure to sustainability and resilience, including Agenda 2030 and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction.

In its convening capacity, Working Party 6 strengthens partnerships between regulatory authorities and standardization bodies and supports policymakers in accessing expertise (i.e. training materials, case study examples), which helps to enhance the quality and effectiveness of regulatory cooperation and standardization policies. Please see Terms of Reference for

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[25] The Working Party operates with financial and human resources comparable to Working Party 7, also reporting to the Steering Committee on Trade.

Working Party 6 (Annex to document TRADE/2004/11) for more detail regarding its scope of work.[26]

Additionally, the work of WP. 6 has supported countries of the UNECE and beyond in their efforts to achieve several of the SDG goals, including; "achieve higher levels of economic productivity through diversification, technological upgrading and innovation" (SDG 8.2). Furthermore, it encourages "companies, especially large and transnational companies, to adopt sustainable practices" (SDG 12.6), supports collaboration between Governments as well as in country public-private consultations (SDG 17.10) and furthers the achievement of gender equality, empowering all women and girls' (SDG 5).

The Recommendations developed and adopted by the Working Party help to address standardization and regulatory issues for sustainable development (SDG 12) and identify capacity gaps in countries of the UNECE region, which supports the creation of quality infrastructure (SDG 9, SDG 11).

The ongoing technical cooperation project on "Standards for the SDGs" (first phase: July 2018-July 2019; second phase December 2019-December 2021) supports policy-makers in their uptake of standards as a tool for sustainable development, resulting in important new deliverables such as a standards mapping tool, a collection of case studies and high level events, including the "Standards for the SDGs" event held on 26th September 2018 in Geneva.[27]

4.   Methodology

A.   Key evaluation questions

The evaluation has addressed UN Evaluation Group evaluation criteria, including:

- **Relevance**: Appropriateness of outcomes of the project in terms of the Commissions' priorities, governments' development strategies and priorities, and requirements of the target groups.
- **Effectiveness**: extent to which the expected outcomes of a project have been achieved, and have resulted in changes and effects, positive and negative, planned and unforeseen, with respect to the target groups and other affected stakeholders;
- **Efficiency**: the extent to which human and financial resources were used in the best possible way to deliver activities and outputs, in coordination with other stakeholders;
- **Sustainability**: the likelihood that the benefits of the project will continue in the future.
- **Impact:** The positive and negative changes produced by a development intervention, directly or indirectly, intended or unintended. This involves the main impacts and effects resulting from the activity on the local social, economic, environmental and other development indicators.

The following are key evaluation questions, grouped according to the above evaluation criteria.

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[26] https://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/trade/wp6/documents/ref-docs/ToR_eng.pdf
[27] See detailed project report ECE_CTCS_WP.6_2019_3E available online at
http://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/trade/wp6/documents/2019/ECE_CTCS_WP.6_2019_3E.pdf.

1. Relevance
- Has the work met needs that its targets/beneficiaries have expressed and agreed to?
- Is the work consistent with the mandate of the Trade sub-programme and its global priorities?
- How relevant is the collaboration with other entities in the UN system and other international organizations?
- How relevant are Working Party 6 activities with regards to gender equality and empowerment of women?
- Does the programme incorporate the perspective of vulnerable groups in the design of the recommendations?

2. Effectiveness
- What outcomes have been achieved, both expected and unexpected, positive and negative?
- What value has UNECE's efforts added?
- What were the challenges/ obstacles to achieving the activities objective and expected accomplishments?

3. Efficiency
- Is the relationship between cost (funds, time) and results reasonable?
- Are there sufficient resources to achieve the intended outcomes?

4. Sustainability
- What is the likelihood that benefits of the normative work will continue after completion and without overburdening partner institutions?
- To what extent do partners and beneficiaries participate in and "own" the outcomes of the work?

5. Impact
- To what extent has the work contributed to impact at the UNECE level?
- What negative impact has the normative work produced, directly or indirectly, intended or unintended?
- Have the outcomes of Working Party 6 led to new policies or policy changes in the member States?
- Have the standards produced been used by other countries outside of the region?
- Have the standards developed helped to strengthen the application of gender mainstreaming principles and contribute to substantial and meaningful changes in the situation of the most vulnerable groups?

B.   Evaluation methods and data collection instruments

The evaluation has employed a mixed method approach, including a combination of desk review, use of electronic questionnaires, selected interviews, and direct observation. Data collection has collected gender-disaggregated data, quantitative and qualitative data, primary and secondary data. The evaluator carried out 18 key informant interviews with 9 women and 9 men. Stakeholders were from UNECE; members of various Working Party 6's advisory groups: international and regional organisations; national government bodies; international, regional and national standards bodies; academia; and civil society. The

survey sample size was 28 stakeholders – 26 English speaking respondents and 2 Russian speaking respondents. The survey was sent to 2468 recipients with 1558 successful deliveries. This low response rate is in part explained by the fact that the survey link initially malfunctioned, which may have discouraged some of the audience. Other limitations are discussed in sub-section C below.

Data analysis has used triangulation where possible. Triangulation facilitates validation of data through cross verification from more than two sources. It tests the consistency of findings obtained through different instruments and increases the chance to control or assess some of the threats or multiple causes influencing the results.

The evaluation is gender responsive and analyses the gender dimension in line with UNECE's Support Guide for Conducting Evaluation 2014, and the Report of the UN Economic and Social Council, "*Mainstreaming a Gender Perspective into all Policies and Programmes in the UN System*". Gender analysis has been used to analyse data through a gender perspective, collection of gender disaggregated data, use of gender sensitive indicators, and consultation of a wide range of different stakeholders involving a gender expert/evaluator. Data collection activities and protocols are gender sensitive and have ensured equitable participation regardless of gender, status, and other social identities. The evaluator has used a human rights based approach, as required by UN evaluation guiding policies.

The evaluation has been carried out in line with the norms, standards and ethical safeguards as elaborated upon in the document "Standards for Evaluation in the UN System", United Nations Evaluation Group, 2016. The evaluation has been conducted in accordance with the UNECE Evaluation Policy.

C.   Limitations

The evaluation is potentially limited by the following factors:
- Difficulties in translation of technical terms into several working languages for stakeholders
- Low response rate to surveys (28/2468)[28] – please see note above in sub-section B.
- Limited interest from stakeholders to provide responses to survey or in-depth interviews
    - Already limited engagement of some stakeholders with Working Party 6 work.

Possible consequences of shortcomings resulting from these risks include:
- Non-English speakers do not adequately understand certain technical terms due to translation challenges
- Small sample size for survey
- Limited engagement by stakeholders with the Working Party 6 evaluation process.

5.   Evaluation findings

These are the findings based on results of the desk study, survey data, and qualitative data from in-depth interviews, which have been triangulated where possible.

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[28] The low response rate was due to the fact that the survey and interviews were carried out during the summer period, and additionally, as explained below, the survey initially malfunctioned. Overall, the response rates are not dissimilar to those typical of exercises of this nature. For example, see UNECE programme level gender evaluation 2019.

5.1   Relevance

Relevance: Appropriateness of the outcomes of a project in terms of Governments'
development strategies and priorities, and requirements of the target groups.

5.1.1   Has the work met needs that its targets/beneficiaries have expressed and agreed to?

The programme of work of Working Party 6, which is a subsidiary body of the UNECE Steering
Committee on Trade Capacity and Standards, is contained in the Programme Plan of Programme
17 "Economic Development in Europe".[29] The Biennial Strategic Framework[30] is the principal
policy directive of UNECE. Its objectives and strategies are derived from the policy orientations
and goals set by the intergovernmental organs. The Programme Budget translates member
States' priorities as set out in legislation adopted by the General Assembly, ECOSOC and UNECE
intergovernmental bodies into sub-programmes financed from the regular budget and extra-
budgetary resources.[31] The Programme of Work of Working Party 6 is adopted by the Steering
Committee on Trade Capacity and Standards, which is the parent committee of Working Party
6.[32]

The objective of sub-programme 6 – Trade is to strengthen trade facilitation and trade related
economic cooperation in the UNECE region and beyond. Expected accomplishments of the
programme of work include **increased consensus on the development of UNECE
recommendations and guidelines for regulatory cooperation**, as evidenced by the number of
new and/or revised recommendations or guidelines for regulatory cooperation adopted by
UNECE intergovernmental bodies.[33] Working Party 6 developed or revised five
recommendations during the period under review, as well as ten guidelines/publications.[34]
Therefore, its work has exceeded the needs that its targets, i.e. member States, expressed and
agreed to as contained in Proposed Programme Budgets for bienniums 2014-2015, 2016-2017,
2018-2019.[35]

Survey respondents thought that the collaboration of Working Party 6 is highly relevant (54%) or
moderately relevant (32%) for their organization, supporting the finding that its work has met
the needs that its targets expressed and agreed to. Key informants noted that participants keep

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[29] Please see https://undocs.org/a/71/6/Rev.1. Previously It was set according to the biennial UNECE Strategic Framework and the
annual Programme Budget. However, 2018-2019 is the last biennial programme budget, with the programme plan (or strategic
framework) adopted by the General Assembly one year before the budget (Dec 2016 and Dec 2017 in this case).
[30] Until January 2020 where replaced by Programme Budget (annual).
[31] http://www.unece.org/info/open-unece/programme-planning-and-reporting.html
[32] Please see for example http://www.unece.org/index.php?id=50609. Additionally, please see
http://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/OPEN_UNECE/02_Programme_Planning_and_reporting/SF_Prog17_2016-
17_ECE_FINAL_Issued_HQ.pdf and
http://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/OPEN_UNECE/02_Programme_Planning_and_reporting/SF_2018-2019_-_reissued.pdf
[33] https://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/OPEN_UNECE/02_Programme_Planning_and_reporting/SF_2018-2019_-_reissued.pdf
[34] Please see findings under "sustainability" for specific recommendations and publications.
[35] United Nations General Assembly, Proposed Programme Budget for the Biennium 2014-2015, A/68/6 (Sect. 20); United Nations
General Assembly, Proposed Programme Budget for the Biennium 2016-2017, A/70/6 (Sect. 20); United Nations General Assembly,
Proposed Programme Budget for the Biennium 2018-2019, A/72/6 (Sect. 20). Please see
https://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/OPEN_UNECE/02_Programme_Planning_and_reporting/SF_Prog17_2016-
17_ECE_FINAL_Issued_HQ.pdf;
https://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/OPEN_UNECE/02_Programme_Planning_and_reporting/SF_Prog17_2016-
17_ECE_FINAL_Issued_HQ.pdf and
http://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/OPEN_UNECE/02_Programme_Planning_and_reporting/SF_2018-2019_-_reissued.pdf

returning to meetings (please see Section 5.4.2 for more detail regarding participation[36]), even in the face of national government budget cuts, which was not always the case previously. In particular, there is good participation from Central Asian countries, transition countries, and developing countries beyond the UNECE region, reflecting the **value placed upon standards for guiding knowledge upon entry into developed markets**,[37] **as well as their intrinsic value for sustainable development, gender equality, and environmental conservation**.

In addition to its Regular Budget work, Working Party 6 implemented a number of extra-budgetary projects[38] during the period under review:

1. The Gender Responsive Standards Initiative, which began in 2016[39]
2. Strengthening the national capacity of trade support institutions of Kyrgyzstan, which began in 2016 [40]
3. Enhancing usage and uptake of the Standards for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, which began in 2018.[41]

These extra-budgetary activities were implemented in order to enhance the efforts of Working Party 6 as contained in the Programme Budget. The goals of all three projects have been met:

1. The *Gender Responsive Standards Initiative[42]* drafted the innovative Declaration for Gender Responsive Standards and Standards Development, which was embedded into Recommendation U in 2018, and opened for signature in 2019. This was a huge success, with 56 national and regional standards organisations signing the Declaration on the day of the opening itself.[43]
2. The *Strengthening the national capacity of trade support institutions of Kyrgyzstan* project (implemented 2016-2018 with a budget of US$190,000) achieved its goals, namely development of training materials, and organisation of training workshops for beneficiaries in Kyrgyzstan, including women entrepreneurs.[44]
3. The *Standards for the SDGs* project (implemented 2018-2019 with a budget of US$177,500) successfully implemented the mapping tool to identify the standards that support implementation of four focus SDGs, developed a publication of case studies to showcase how implementing standards advances the implementation of these SDGs by national policy makers, developed awareness raising materials, and held a high-level event on "Standards for the SDGs", which was a tremendous

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[36] Noting that participation in meetings is low, participation in the meeting – eg in Nov 2018 only 14 out of 56 UNECE countries was present, with 3 countries beyond UNECE. In 2019, only 11 UNECE countries attended, with 0 from beyond UNECE.

[37] It should be noted that the countries benefit from UNECE activities in various ways, including by participating in web-meeting, attending events co-organized by UNECE and partners (i.e. the ISO-UNECE Event on Standards for the SDGs in September 2018) and being signatories to the UNECE Gender Responsive Standards Declaration.

[38] The following three initiatives are part of WP6 mandate but were supported by XB resources.

[39] http://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/trade/wp6/documents/2016/Report_of_the_WP._6_on_its_26th_Session.pdf

[40] UNECE, Technical Cooperation Project Document, Strengthening the National Capacity of Trade Support Institutions of Kyrgyzstan, July 2016-June 2018.

[41] UNECE, Technical Cooperation Project Document, Enhancing Usage and Uptake of the Standards for the Sustainable Development Goals, July 2018-July 2019.

[42] This Initiative was fully funded from the XB Project *Enhancing usage and uptake of the standards for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals*(http://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/commission/EXCOM/Agenda/2018/99_EXCOM-4-July_2018/item_8_2018_22_XB_8_SDG_Rev_1.pdf) approved by EXCOM on 4 July 2018. A follow-up project was approved by EXCOM on 29 May 2019 with a more explicit title: *Enhancing usage and uptake of standards for sustainable development, gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls*(http://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/commission/EXCOM/Agenda/2019/EXCOM_105_29_May_2019/Item_9_ECE_EX_24_XB_project_10_SDG_standards.pdf). The second project was presented as a follow-up of the first one.

[43] http://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/trade/wp6/documents/2019/ECE_CTCS_WP.6_2019_6E.pdf , para 13.

[44] http://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/trade/wp6/documents/2018/ECE_CTCS_WP.6_2018_02E_Report.pdf

success.[45] Moreover, the project developed a database mapping over 1000 voluntary standards against these four SDGs. [46]

With respect to women, there is evidence that Working Party 6 has sought the perspectives of some beneficiaries throughout the programme cycle, i.e. women (see below in Section 5.1.5). Wide ranging consultations for the **Gender Responsive Standards Initiative did seek the perspectives of representatives of women's associations, including vulnerable women, who expressed the need for standards that have a positive impact on women's lives**.[47] Since this Initiative developed a recommendation on mainstreaming gender into standards and regulatory policies nationally and internationally, this is a good first step towards meeting the needs that its beneficiaries expressed and agreed to. Although the Gender Responsive Standards Initiative is relatively nascent in terms of impact, it has already met some needs that women identified, i.e. **raising awareness of the gender blind nature of standards, putting gender on the agenda of standards bodies worldwide**. Please see Sections 5.5.3, 5.5.4, and 5.5.5 for more detailed discussion.

The Secretariat supported efforts to promote standards as a tool for sustainable development through raising awareness of the relevance of standards for achievement of Working Party 6's four focus SDGs, namely SDG 6 on clean water, SDG 7 on clean energy, SDG 11 on sustainable cities, and SDG 13 on climate action, and illustrating how standards help achieve the global goals in these areas. This was through the Standards for the SDGs high-level event, and the publication which mapped standards at national and local levels in countries worldwide and illustrated their application in the four SDG areas. These activities contributed to increasing the knowledge and capacity of stakeholders in the different thematic areas by raising awareness about the issues, and by seeking contributions from member States and national, regional and global standards bodies in these areas for the case studies.[48] Therefore, the work of Working

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[45] http://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/trade/wp6/documents/2018/ECE_CTCS_WP.6_2018_02E_Report.pdf . This is measured in terms of the number of participants, the answers to the evaluation questionnaires, the outcomes (i.e. case studies shared by participants now made available on the Standards for the SDGs portal, providing useful reference for other policymakers wanting to implement similar approach).

[46] Economic Commission for Europe, Steering Committee on Trade Capacity and Standards, Working Party on Regulatory Cooperation and Standardisation Policies, "Annotated Provisional Agenda for the 29th Session", 27 August 2019, ECE/CTCS/WP.6/2019/1.

[47] UNECE, Gender Informed Standards and Technical Regulations, 19 September 2017, ECE/CTCS/WP.6/2017/4.

[48] This is measured in terms of the number of participants, the answers to the evaluation questionnaires, the outcomes (i.e. case studies shared by participants now made available on the Standards for the SDGs portal, providing useful reference for other policymakers wanting to implement similar approach). Please also consider the following: This is supported by several indicators of impact including the following: (i) DIN (the standards body of Germany) replicated in both form and substance the work of UNECE on standards for the SDGs in its own work as leader of the Joint Initiative on Standardisation (JIS). More specifically, DIN has taken leadership JIS Action 4 "Raising awareness on standardization by public authorities". As explained in the letter they addressed to the Executive Secretary of UNECE, they raised awareness of all EU member states about the case studies collected by UNECE (and made available on the Standards for the SDGs portal https://standards4sdgs.unece.org/case-studies) and they also used the template developed by UNECE to collect more case studies in the European Member States. This has led to awareness raising in the whole of the EU as to the value of standards for public policy and the SDGs (ii) CEN/CENELEC, the standards body of Europe has made the UNECE portal a pillar of its "Standards build Trust" Work Programme. More specifically the CEN/CENELEC work programme 2019-2024 has five pillars, one of them being increasing the uptake of standards as tools for implementing the SDGs. CEN/CENELEC has taken inspiration from the work of UNECE in this area as explained in its own website – www.standardsbuildtrust.eu/sdg-goals-of-un2030agenda; (iii) The Parliament of Germany has invited UNECE to make an official presentation to its Parliamentary Commission on Sustainable Development (Parlamentarischer Beirat für nachhaltige Entwicklung) about the Standards for the SDGs project which has led to a better understanding by Parliamentarians on how to use standards in legislation. Since Working Party 6's intervention, DIN was able to work closely with the German Parliament to ensure follow up. (iv) As regards NGOs, UNECE was invited to an event organized by AsVIS (Alleanza Italiana per lo Sviluppo Sostenibile) to deliver a lecture for journalists to sensitize them and train them in better understanding standards as tools for sustainable development; (v) UNECE was invited by the WTO to report on the project in the context of the WTO TBT event on 'Reference to Standards' in November 2019; (vi) Finally, UNECE was invited by a large number of global, regional, national standards bodies and other institutions that support quality infrastructure to present the

Party 6 has supported member States in addressing their needs because **each member State is working towards achievement of the 2030 Agenda and now has access to information that enables an appreciation for the difference that integrating attention to voluntary standards can make in achieving that goal**.

Moreover, Working Party 6 also sought the perspectives of beneficiaries, namely public and private sector stakeholders, for the Kyrgyzstan project (see Section 5.1.5), during the participatory national review mechanism of the Study on Regulatory and Procedural Barriers to Trade, which preceded the project and recommended training and capacity building as the basis for risk-based policy making and regulatory policies. Therefore, the same conclusion can be drawn with respect to the needs of its beneficiaries.

A significant finding of this evaluation is that both the START-ed and the Gender Responsive Standards Initiative have never been formally established. A request in this direction was included in the Progress Report on the Gender-Responsive Standards Initiative,[49] submitted to Working Party 6 during the 29th session. There is no evidence of anything similar for START-ed. To clarify, Working Party 6 can make a proposal but this must be approved by the UNECE Steering Committee on Trade Capacity and Standards.

The Executive Committee (EXCOM) is entrusted with the implementation of the overall guidance set by the UNECE.[50] Attached in Annex F is the guidance for establishment of Team of Specialists (ToS) (ECE/EX/2/Rev.1), as approved by EXCOM on 31 March 2010. A ToS (also named "advisory groups", "ad hoc groups", "task forces") is established, normally for a two-year duration, through a procedure set by a Sectoral Committee and supervised either directly by the Committee or by one of its Working Parties. The EXCOM must approve the establishment/discontinuation/extension of a ToS based on a recommendation of the parent body. Teams of specialists are comprised of governmental experts but can also include eminent specialists or representatives of international organisations, NGOs and the private sector, in compliance with the UN rules and practices in this respect. Currently, UNECE has around 60 such expert bodies. Provided that a ToS was established /extended in line with the annexed guidelines (particularly, paras 1 (a), 2, 3 (a), (f), and (g)), it can be serviced by UNECE and UNOG provides interpretation during its meetings and translates parliamentary documents.

Since 2018, work undertaken on START-Ed and Gender responsive standards have been funded from the regular budget, without proper mandate, as reflected in WP.6 Programme of work for 2019 (ECE/CTCS/WP.6/2019/5)[51], and WP.6 session reports for 2018 (ECE/CTCS/WP.6/2018/2)[52] and 2019 (ECE/CTCS/WP.6/2019/2)[53]. Until START-Ed and Gender responsive standards are

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highlights of the project. These include: the Meetings of the SADC TBT Cooperation Structures (March 2019, Windhoek) the Small Business Standards' Annual Conference (May, 2019 Brussels) , the ISO/CASCO Workshop on Market Surveillance (May, 2019 Kenya) the ISO/TC 207 Plenary Meeting (German Ministry for the Environment, Berlin, June), the ISEAL symposium (June 2019, the Hague), the International Cooperation on Education about Standardization (ICES) Workshop (10 October 2019) and the World Standards Cooperation (WSC) Academic Day (11 October) , both held in Belgrade among others. These invitations are proof of the pervasive impact and recognition that the project has had in the standardization community

[49] ECE/CTCS/WP.6/2019/6, part VI.

[50] https://www.unece.org/commission/excom/welcome.html

[51] http://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/trade/wp6/documents/2019/ECE_CTCS_WP.6_2019_5E.pdf Reference to Sections VI List of planned activities and outputs of WP.6 in 2020.

[52] http://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/trade/wp6/documents/2018/ECE_CTCS_WP.6_2018_02E_Report.pdf Reference to Sections VIII and IX.

[53] To be released, reference is made to items 8 and 10, as well as Decisions 10 and 16.

formally established, in line with the EXCOM approved procedure described above, regular budget resources cannot be used to service the work of these groups.

In light of the disconnect between the current situation of START-ed and the Gender Responsive Standards Initiative and the EXCOM guidance, please see recommendation to formally establish START-ed and Gender Responsive Standards Initiative, in line with the agreed procedure.

5.1.2   Is the work consistent with the mandate of the Trade sub-programme and its global priorities?

The Steering Committee on Trade Capacity and Standards is the parent body to Working Party 6 on Regulatory Cooperation and Standardisation Policies.[54] The Steering Committee on Trade Capacity and Standards is an intergovernmental body that oversees and guides the development of international norms and standards, procedures and best practices that reduce the costs associated with export and import processes and increase the efficiency, predictability and transparency of trade regulations and procedures and the movement of goods and services. The Steering Committee on Trade Capacity and Standards reviews and endorses recommendations developed by Working Party 6, drafts the programme of work on trade capacity and standards, and reviews and endorses the work plans of Working Party 6.[55]

The mandate of Working Party 6 on Regulatory Cooperation and Standardisation Policies (Working Party 6) is set out in the Terms of Reference:
- Forum for exchange of information on developments and experiences in areas of technical regulations and standards
- Determines priorities for international standardization activities
- Prepares recommendations aimed at facilitating international trade through harmonization of national policies and promotion of best practices.[56]

UNECE is driven by support to member States for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and has identified 11 focus Sustainable Development Goals. UNECE supports countries in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda thanks to its role as a **platform for governments to cooperate and engage with stakeholders on norms, standards and conventions**; its unique convening power of member States across the region; its multi-sectoral approach to tackle the interconnected challenges of sustainable development in an integrated manner; and its transboundary focus, which helps devise solutions to shared challenges. Working Party 6's priority SDGs include SDG 5 (gender equality), SDG 6 (clean water), SDG 7 (clean energy), SDG 11 (sustainable cities and communities), and SDG 13 (climate action), among others.[57]

The programme of work of Working Party 6 has three main priorities: (i) enhancing regulatory coherence in specific sectors that have a critical impact on sustainable development; (ii) promoting

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[54] http://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/Intergovernmental_Structure_FINAL_for_Website__28_June__2019_.pdf
[55] UNECE, Steering Committee on Trade Capacity and Standards, Terms of Reference of the Steering Committee on Trade Capacity and Standards, ECE/CTCS/2018/4, 19 February 2018.
[56] Annex to document TRADE/2004/11 Revised TOR for WP on Regulatory Cooperation and Standardisation Policies, adopted at the 13th session of the Working Party in November 2003.
[57] https://www.unece.org/sustainable-development/sdg-priorities.html . Working Party 6 selected these focus SDGs to illustrate how standards both help secure immediate and basic needs and aspects of materiality (water, energy) and help build inspirational action (livable and smart cities and climate action). As this was supported by donors and was executed in broad support with a large number of partners, it was an organic decision. The number of goals covered by the portal will be expanded in future, as this served as a pilot.

the use of standards by policy-makers and business as a tool for sustainable development, increased resilience to disasters, innovation and good governance; and (iii) the elimination of barriers to international trade. It acts as an **advocate for the use of standards in the implementation of UN-wide goals, including Agenda 2030, gender mainstreaming, and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction**.[58]

Overall, 93% of survey respondents thought that the work of Working Party 6 is relevant with regard to the Sustainable Development Goals, with 70% of respondents rating it highly relevant and 21% moderately relevant. Moreover, 89% of survey respondents thought that the work of Working Party 6 has been useful for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, noting the usefulness of the **awareness raising about the link between standards and achievement of the SDGs, and with UNECE's focus SDGs, including SDG 5 on gender equality**. 71% of survey respondents thought that the activities of Working Party 6 with regard to gender equality and women's empowerment were relevant, with 36% stating highly relevant and 36% stating moderately relevant. These results support the finding that the **work of the Working Party is consistent with UNECE's mandate to support countries to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals and Gender Mainstreaming and Empowerment of Women**.

Key informants **commended the proactive approach of the Secretariat**, particularly with regard to the Gender in Standards Initiative, and the Standards for the SDGs project, with project participants and donors noting the success of both projects and their innovative perspectives within the world of standards.[59] 25% of key informants thought these two initiatives helped to address (i) the lack of understanding of the linkages between standards and gender equality;[60] (ii) the lack of awareness amongst policymakers of the value of standards as a tool for sustainable development; and (iii) the lack of awareness amongst all standards bodies of Agenda 2030 and the importance of voluntary standards to its realization.

5.1.3   How relevant is the collaboration with other entities in the UN system and other international organizations?

Working Party 6 on Regulatory Cooperation and Standardisation Policies **collaborates with a variety of highly relevant partners**. Overall, 86% of survey respondents thought that the collaboration of Working Party 6 was relevant for their organization, with 54% of respondents stating it was highly relevant and 32% moderately relevant. Partners have included UN system entities, international and regional organisations, standardization organisations, quality infrastructure organisations, and academia. The following sections illustrate their relevance for Working Party 6 outcomes.

(a)   Cooperation with UN system entities

Through Working Party 6, UNECE is a permanent observer at the **World Trade Organisation** (WTO) Committee on Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT). The WP. 6 Secretariat submits written statements at each of the three yearly meetings of the WTO TBT. It additionally has been invited on occasion to participate in thematic sessions or technical assistance activities[61]. The

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[58] https://www.unece.org/trade/wp6/welcome.html

[59] It should be noted that these are very small boutique projects, at US$190,000 and $177,500 respectively. Caution to be noted in expressing large scale of success of these activities in the global context of the world of standards.

[60] The Gender responsive initiative led to transformational change worldwide, as evidenced by the number of signatories (55). The portal on standards for the SDGs also received praise and was promoted by key players such as the standards body of Europe (CEN/CENELEC) the Standards body of Canada and others.

[61] https://docs.wto.org/dol2fe/Pages/SS/directdoc.aspx?filename=q:/G/TBT/GEN271.pdf

WTO Secretariat also takes part in several of the annual sessions and events of Working Party 6,[62] resulting in the sharing of the best practice developed by the UNECE with a broader community, and also in integrating the insight of the WTO members in the development of UNECE recommendations.

UNECE also cooperates with **United Nations Conference on Trade and Development** (UNCTAD), in addition to mutual participation in meetings, by contributing to the activities of the United Nations Forum on Sustainability Standards (UNFSS), which UNCTAD coordinates. This results in enhanced participation by voluntary sustainability standards bodies in the activities of UNECE, such as for example several of these bodies becoming signatories of the Gender Responsive Standards Initiative.

The UNECE partnered with the Fisheries department of the **Food and Agricultural Organisation** and the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES) for the organization of the ICES/UNECE Working Meeting on "Tools and standards in support of Sustainable Development Goal 14 ''Life below water'', held in October 2018, in Reykjavik, Iceland,[64] and at the thematic meeting of the GRM Group (February 2017, Geesthacht, Germany) on Risk management in regulatory frameworks in support of Sustainable Development Goals".[65] This collaboration resulted not only in the elaboration of Recommendations on how risk management tools can in practice facilitate the achievement of the SDG 14, as contained in the report of the two meetings, but also in the registration of a voluntary commitment under the UN Ocean Conference.[66]

Working Party 6 collaborated with **International Trade Centre** (ITC) on several initiatives. ITC has given important contributions in the development and promotion of the UNECE Gender Responsive Standards Recommendation. UNECE has also contributed to the integration of a gender perspective in the ITC portal on voluntary sustainability standards.[67] Collaboration started in 2018 in the area of risk management will result in a dual logo ITC-UNECE publication on the topic of risk management in trade facilitation. The possibility of joint capacity-building activities in future is also being explored.[68]

UNECE works closely with the **United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction** (UNISDR) to promote the implementation of international standards for supporting the reduction of disaster risks. A volume presenting practical guidance on how authorities can use voluntary standards for increasing preparedness for and resilience to disasters was published as a concrete contribution to the implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction[70] The **secretary of**

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[62] Economic Commission for Europe, Steering Committee on Trade Capacity and Standards, ECE/CTCS/2019/8, 28-29 May 2019, Geneva.

[64] Economic Commission for Europe, Steering Committee on Trade Capacity and Standards, ECE/CTCS/2019/8, 28-29 May 2019, Geneva.

[65] Economic Commission for Europe, Steering Committee on Trade Capacity and Standards, ECE/CTCS/2019/8, 28-29 May 2019, Geneva. https://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/trade/wp6/documents/2017/GRMF2F/GRM_Germany_meeting_report_final.pdf https://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/trade/wp6/documents/2018/ECE_CTCS_WP.6_2018_08_Reykjavik_report_final.pdf

[66] https://oceanconference.un.org/commitments/?id=23807

[67] https://www.sustainabilitymap.org/home

[68] Economic Commission for Europe, Steering Committee on Trade Capacity and Standards, ECE/CTCS/2019/8, 28-29 May 2019, Geneva.

70 https://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/trade/Publications/ECE_TRADE_424_Standards_and_DRR.pdf

Working Party 6 acted as the focal point for Disaster Risk Reduction until 2018,[71] and advocated the use of UNECE best practice as well as standards developed by UNECE and other organizations as tools to support the implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction.[72] It should be noted that Working Party 6 continues to support the use of standards as tools for resilience to disasters.

UN/WOMEN is another key partner in the activities of the Gender Responsive Standards Declaration contributing important expertise that allows identifying areas of particular needs, and putting the initiative in a broader context.

Finally, the United Nations Industrial Development Organisation (UNIDO) and UNECE have also closely cooperated in the area of risk management. For example, UNIDO organized technical activities on risk management in regulatory systems in Nigeria and Malawi sharing best practice developed by the Working Party 6.[73]

(b)   Cooperation with international and regional organisations

Working Party 6 partners with international organisations, including regional organisations, such as the European Commission (EC), the Eurasian Economic Commission, and the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD).

The **European Commission** participates quite actively in Working Party 6 meetings and activities, particularly by updating other members on recent initiatives and best practice related to standardization and market surveillance as well as other areas. Members are very appreciative of the expertise shared by the European Commission representatives which allows them to better understand the EU common market.

The Eurasian Economic Commission is also an important partner of UNECE WP. 6 which regularly shares progress in the development of a common regulatory system among the countries of the Eurasian Economic Union. The EEC is particularly supportive of the UNECE work in Market Surveillance and Risk Management in Regulatory Framework. As one example, in April 2018, the Eurasian Economic Commission adopted a decision requesting its members to use a risk-based approach for enforcement activities which is broadly based on the approach of the UNECE Recommendation S [75].

It should be appreciated that the WP. 6 is not only a forum for the development of best practice, but also an important platform for mutual learning by members about one another's regulatory and standardization practice, in a way that is not available in other organizations.[76]

UNECE, through Working Party 6, has participated in the activities of the OECD "Partnership for effective international rule-making". In particular the Secretary of Working Party 6 has authored

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[71] Until the focal point voluntarily withdrew focal point responsibilities for UNECE. As no other staff took the responsibility up the Secretary of Working Party 6 still continues to function as focal point, albeit with less resources due to cuts. For example, the Secretary updated the booklet on activities of UNECE in support to DRR
http://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/trade/wp6/AreasOfWork/RiskManagement/DRR/ECE_INF_NONE_2015_2_Rev1.pdf
[72] Economic Commission for Europe, Steering Committee on Trade Capacity and Standards, ECE/CTCS/2019/8, 28-29 May 2019, Geneva.
[73] https://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/trade/wp6/documents/2015/WP6_2015_05E.pdf paragraph 11 and 13
[75] http://www.unece.org/info/media/news/trade/2018/unece-supports-the-adoption-of-effective-risk-based-regulations-in-kyrgyzstan/doc.html
[76] Please also see footnote 41 above regarding Joint Initiative on Standardisation (JIS) launched by the European Commission.

the joint UNECE-OECD publication "International Regulatory Cooperation: the Case of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe", which presents the rule-making and standards-setting activities of UNECE. It has additionally co-hosted - together with ISO and IEC - the 5th Meeting of International Organisations under the aegis of the OECD "Partnership for effective international rule-making" at the Palais des Nations in Geneva, Switzerland. The meeting discussed the variety of international instruments of regulatory cooperation developed by international rulemaking institutions; the practices to promote evidence-based, inclusive international norms and standards; and the opportunities and challenges of greater coordination across international organisations. [78]

(c)   Cooperation with standard setting and quality infrastructure organizations
(i) Standardization policies
A number of standardization organizations take part in the activities of Working Party 6 and in its Annual Session, including among others, the **American National Standards Institute (ANSI), ASTM International, European Committee for Standardization (CEN), European Committee for Electrotechnical Standardization (CENELEC), Standards Council Canada, Global Standards One (GS1), International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC), International Organisation for Standardisation (ISO), International Social and Environmental Accreditation and Labelling Alliance (ISEAL), ITU, the Standardization Administration of China, and World Wildlife Fund (WWF)**. [79]

For example, UNECE co-organised the following high-level events in cooperation with standards bodies and quality infrastructure institutions during the period under review:
-   "Standards for DRR session" held as part of the World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction (March 2015, Sendai, Japan), then incorporated in the UNECE best practice guide on how to use standards to increase preparedness for and resilience to disasters
-   IEC-ISO-UNECE event on "Using and referencing International Standards to support public policy" (November 2015, Geneva) – led to best practice that was incorporated in the revision of Recommendation D on Reference to standards
-   WSC Workshop on Conformity Assessment organized by the World Standards Cooperation (WSC) (December 2105, Geneva) in conjunction with the 2015 meeting of the WP. 6 shared best practice that was incorporated in the revision of Recommendation F and G
-   International conference on 'Standards for the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)', (Geneva, 28-29 November 2017) leading to the development of best practice that would result in the adoption of Recommendation T on Standards and Regulations for Sustainable Development [80]
-   High-Level Event on Standards for the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) (September 2018, Geneva) featured in a video https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qsZlg75bzyo
-   Opening of the Gender Responsive Standards Declaration for signature (May 2019, also featured in an animation video https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4I-PKQOAGxM&list=PL4iZR0KyjSQ9qBPejBhcflke_HcF9M6r3&index=2&t=0s and a celebratory video https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=L4Cu5V6pbSQ)

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[78] Economic Commission for Europe, Steering Committee on Trade Capacity and Standards, ECE/CTCS/2019/8, 28-29 May 2019, Geneva.
[79] Economic Commission for Europe, Steering Committee on Trade Capacity and Standards, ECE/CTCS/2019/8, 28-29 May 2019, Geneva.
80 https://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/trade/wp6/documents/2017/Conference_Report.pdf

The Working Party 6 Group of Experts on Risk Management in Regulatory Systems (GRM) also benefits from the expertise of standard-setting bodies including the **ISO Technical Committee (TC) 262 on Risk Management**.[81] **IEC and ISO** are also close partners for the Working Party's activities in conformity assessment and accreditation, specifically, through the IEC Conformity Assessment Board, the IEC Conformity Assessment Systems and the ISO Committee on Conformity Assessment (ISO/CASCO).[82]

(ii) Metrology and other areas of the national and international system of quality infrastructure

The International Network of Quality Infrastructure (INetQI) – formed of 12 leading international organizations including UNECE[83] – defines the system comprising the organizations (public and private) together with the policies, relevant legal and regulatory framework, and practices needed to support and enhance the quality, safety and environmental soundness of goods, services and processes. Quality infrastructure is required for the effective operation of domestic markets, and its international recognition is important to enable access to foreign markets. It is a critical element in promoting and sustaining economic development, as well as environmental and social wellbeing.[84] Metrology is the scientific study of measurement, and its institutions form part of the quality infrastructure system.[85]

In addition to being a founding member of INETQI, Working Party 6 works in partnership with national, regional and international metrology and quality infrastructure institutions to promote quality infrastructure and metrology, including: the **Bureau International des Poids et Mesures (BIPM), International Committee of Weights and Measures (CIPM), International Accreditation Forum (IAF), International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC), International Laboratory Accreditation Co-operation (ILAC), International Organization of Legal Metrology (OIML), International Committee for Legal Metrology (CIML), ISO, ITU and the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO).**[86]

The objective of the UNECE partnership with these institutions is to leverage their expertise in the development and implementation of best practice in all the areas of mandate of the UNECE Working Party 6.

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[81] https://www.unece.org/info/media/presscurrent-press-h/trade/2018/12-international-organizations-renew-their-commitment-to-promote-quality-infrastructure-through-a-global-network/doc.html

[82] Economic Commission for Europe, Steering Committee on Trade Capacity and Standards, ECE/CTCS/2019/8, 28-29 May 2019, Geneva.

[83] The Bureau International des Poids et Mesures (BIPM), International Accreditation Forum (IAF), International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC), International Laboratory Accreditation Co-operation (ILAC), International Standards Organisation (ISO), International Trade Centre (ITC), International Telecommunication Union (ITU), International Organization of Legal Metrology (OIML), United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE), World Bank Group, World Trade Organisation (WTO), and the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO).

[84] This definition was developed by the INETQI a network 12 international organizations are part of INetQI: the International Bureau of Weights and Measures (BIPM), International Accreditation Forum (IAF), International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC), International Laboratory Accreditation Forum (ILAC), International Standards Organization (ISO), International Trade Centre (ITC), International Telecommunication Union (ITU), International Organizations of Legal Metrology (OIML), United Nations Economic Cooperation for Europe (UNECE), World Bank Group (WBG), World Trade Organization (WTO) and UNIDO. INETQI partners exchange information and best practice and where possible, collaborate in supporting the development of quality infrastructure via awareness raising and capacity building.

[85] United Nations Industrial Development Organisation (undated), Quality Infrastructure: Building Trust for Trade, Department of Trade, Investment and Innovation.

[86] Economic Commission for Europe, Steering Committee on Trade Capacity and Standards, ECE/CTCS/2019/8, 28-29 May 2019, Geneva.

(d) Cooperation with Academia

Working Party 6 maintains a close partnership with several academic partners in the context of the UNECE "STARTed" initiative on Education on Standards and standards related issues.[88] This includes 15 academic institutions from 20 member States plus two from outside the UNECE region. The START-Ed Group aims to support efforts by schools, universities, vocational training institutions, and other training and research establishments to integrate standards and standard related issues in their curricula. It does this through promotion of standards-awareness in the educational establishments including elaboration of module programme on standardization, assisting in sharing best practices in teaching standards to different audiences. [89] These academic partners include **Russia's Academy for Standardization, Metrology and Certification, the Centre for Technical Regulation, Standardization and Metrology, the Higher School of Economics in Moscow**, and the **Jiliang University of China** all of which participate in the Working Party 6 Annual Sessions and report on activities aimed at enhancing awareness of the role of standards in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.[90]

Overall, key informants noted the beneficial partnerships that are fostered by the Secretariat of Working Party 6, expressed their **appreciation in working together on issues of common concern**, and the mutual benefits that flow from that. Several interviewees noted their appreciation of access for their organisations to UN audiences and mechanisms. Key informants also noted that Working Party 6 promotes partnerships at national, regional and global levels to support the adoption of sustainable practices, and that Working Party 6 leverages these partnerships to address challenges in accessing expertise. Notwithstanding these positive key informant observations, low participation rates should be noted with respect to annual meetings and meetings of advisory groups (see section 5.4.2), and the limited interest from stakeholders to provide responses to this evaluation survey or key informant interviews (see section 4.C).

5.1.4   How relevant are Working Party 6 activities with regard to gender equality and empowerment of women?

In 2016, Working Party 6 created the *Gender Responsive Standards Initiative* with the aim of improving gender balance in standards development, and ensuring that the content and impact of standards, when implemented, are gender-responsive. During the 26th Plenary Session of Working Party 6, member States agreed to give a mandate to initiate consultations on developing a roadmap and a recommendation on mainstreaming gender into standards and regulatory policies at national and international levels, with particular reference to:

- Enhance the use of standards and technical regulations as tools for implementation of the Sustainable Development Goal 5;
- Mainstream a gender perspective in the development and implementation of standards;
- Mainstream a gender perspective in the development and enforcement of technical regulations. [91]

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[88] Economic Commission for Europe, Steering Committee on Trade Capacity and Standards, ECE/CTCS/2019/8, 28-29 May 2019, Geneva.

[89] https://www.unece.org/tradewelcome/steering-committee-on-trade-capacity-and-standards/tradewp6/groups/start-ed-group-on-education-and-standardization.html

[90] Economic Commission for Europe, Steering Committee on Trade Capacity and Standards, ECE/CTCS/2019/8, 28-29 May 2019, Geneva.

[91] Economic Commission for Europe, Steering Committee on Trade Capacity and Standards, Working Party on Regulatory Cooperation and Standardisation Policies session, Progress Report on Gender Responsive Standards Initiative, 2 November 2018, ECE/CTCS/WP.6/2018/3/Rev.1.

The Gender Responsive Standards Initiative is extremely relevant to gender equality and empowerment of women, as these are amongst the Initiative's central aims. Moreover, survey respondents and key informants thought that Working Party 6 activities were highly relevant with respect to gender equality and empowerment of women. Overall 71% of survey respondents thought that activities of Working Party 6 with regard to gender equality and women's empowerment were relevant, with half of those rating it highly relevant and the other half moderately relevant. Key informants noted that the extra-budgetary funded **Gender Responsive Standards Initiative is providing uniquely helpful policy guidance to UN Member States[92] that has not been undertaken by any other institution**.

The relevance for gender equality is also underscored by several strategic and policy guidance documents. For instance, this Initiative was undertaken within the context of the UNECE Programme Budget for the period 2018–2019. Further, the project is in line with the mandate for the entire UN system on Gender Equality and Empowerment of Women.[93] The Initiative was also relevant for UNECE's Gender Action Plans (e.g. 2018-2019), particularly for the Trade Sub-programme's Objective 4 – **promote participation of women in standard setting processes related to the development of technical regulations** and identify and undertake actions to ensure that standards contribute to gender equality. All measurable actions and outputs of the Gender Responsive Standards Initiative were achieved, namely at least one physical meeting per year, regular webinar meetings, and at least 6 signatories to the Declaration. Finally, the UN system wide policy on "Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women" commits all UN bodies to mainstream gender equality throughout their operations. Other evidence which supports the Initiative's relevance for gender equality includes the background as set out in the Progress Report on the Initiative. [95] This is discussed in some detail in Section 5.5.5.

5.1.5 Does the programme incorporate the perspective of vulnerable groups in the design of the recommendations?

Working Party 6 has adopted 19 UNECE recommendations since 1970 to address standardization and regulatory issues. These recommendations set out good practice regarding regulatory cooperation, standards and norms, conformity assessment, market surveillance, and metrology. **Through these recommendations, the Working Party encourages rule makers to base their regulations on international standards to provide a common denominator to the norms that apply in different markets**. It also seeks to promote agreements that enhance cooperation and mutual confidence in the technical competence, reliability and impartiality of other national bodies and institutions.[97]

Working Party 6 has developed or updated five recommendations from 2015-2018 to address standardization and regulatory issues:
- Recommendation F - Creation and Promotion of International Agreements on Conformity Assessment

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[92] The Declaration on Gender Responsive Standards has been signed by numerous countries beyond the UNECE region. The Gender Responsive Standards Initiative is aimed at public administrations, encouraging them to bring the Declaration on Gender Responsive Standards to the attention of standards bodies in their jurisdiction and to encourage them to sign.

[93] United Nations Economic and Social Council resolutions no. 2011/5 and no. 2013/16.

[95] Economic Commission for Europe, Steering Committee on Trade Capacity and Standards, Working Party on Regulatory Cooperation and Standardisation Policies session, Progress Report on Gender Responsive Standards Initiative, 2 November 2018, ECE/CTCS/WP.6/2018/3/Rev.1.

[97] https://www.unece.org/tradewelcome/tradewp6/recommendations.html

- Recommendation G – Acceptance of Conformity Assessment Results
- Recommendation S – Applying Predictive Risk Management Tools for Targeted Market Surveillance
- Recommendation T – Standards and Regulations for Sustainable Development
- Recommendation U – Gender Responsive Standards.

93 % of survey respondents thought that the perspective of the following vulnerable groups was incorporated in the design of the recommendations. **Survey respondents cited the following vulnerable groups: women, girls, children, people with disabilities, elderly, ethnic minorities, and people affected by natural disasters**.

A majority of survey respondents thought that the perspective of vulnerable groups was incorporated in the design of Recommendation U – Gender Responsive Standards (64%) and Recommendation T – Standards and Regulations for Sustainable Development (61%). Key informants thought that the perspective of vulnerable groups of women were considered in the design of Recommendation U on Gender Responsive Standards. This is supported by the fact that **representatives of women's organisations, including vulnerable groups of women, were consulted and their perspectives sought in the development and drafting of Recommendation U and the accompanying Declaration**. The Recommendation is ultimately about adapting products and their standards to the needs of women.

Which recommendations incorporated the perspective of vulnerable groups (women, children, elderly, people with disabilities, others)?
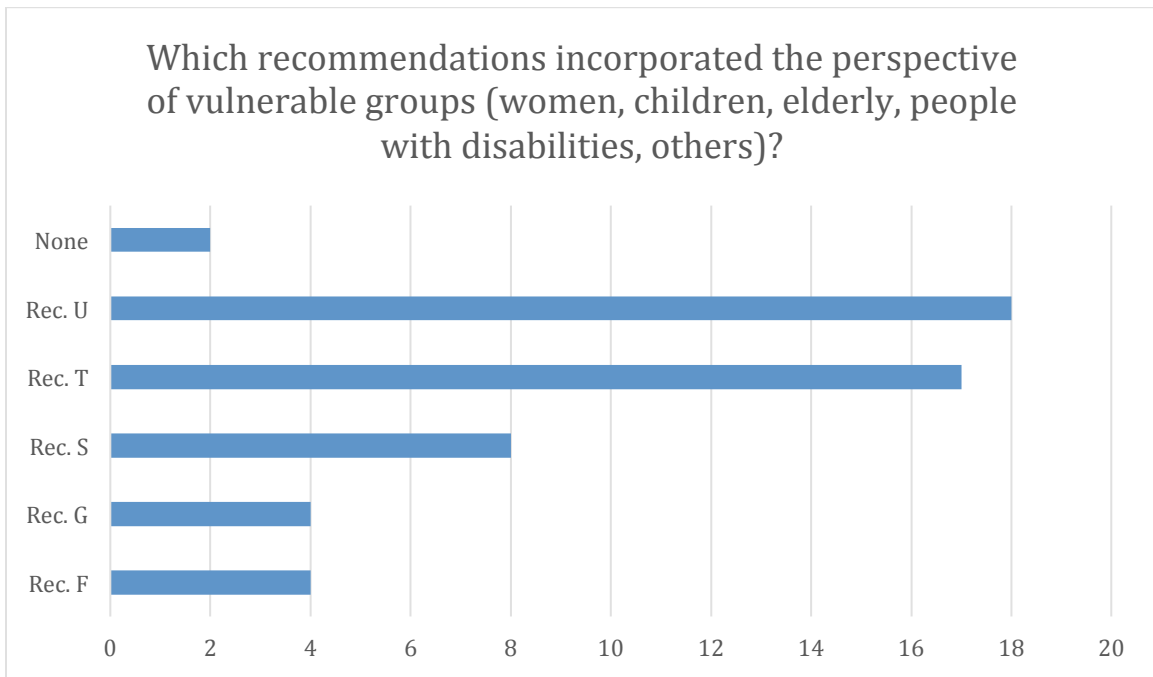
A minority of survey respondents thought that the perspective of vulnerable groups was incorporated in the design of Recommendation S – Applying Predictive Risk Management Tools for Targeted Market Surveillance (29%), Recommendation F - Creation and Promotion of International Agreements on Conformity Assessment (14%), and Recommendation G – Acceptance of Conformity Assessment Results (14%). Key informants thought that the perspective of people with disabilities was considered in the design of Recommendation S on Applying Predictive Risk Management Tools for Targeted Market Surveillance. This is because it

seeks to prevent and minimize risk of injuries and other accidents that may cause death or disabilities related to the use of non-compliant products.

5.2   Effectiveness

Effectiveness: Extent to which the expected outcomes of a project have been achieved, and have resulted in changes and effects, positive and negative, planned and unforeseen, with respect to the target groups and other affected stakeholders.

5.2.1   What outcomes have been achieved, both expected and unexpected, positive and negative?

Positive outcomes have been achieved in all thematic areas of Working Party 6 interventions. Examples from the following areas illustrate this: Standards for the SDGs; Gender Responsive Standards; Conformity Assessment; Market Surveillance; Risk Management; Standards and Education; and Disaster risk reduction.

(a)   *Standards for the SDGs*

A positive highlight was the high-profile UNECE /International Organisation for Standardisation (ISO) event as part of the ISO General Assembly to raise awareness about how standards contribute to the realization of the SDGs. The event brought together over 800 representatives of the standards community, UN agencies, corporate entities, diplomats and national policymakers.[98] The **event enhanced the usage and uptake by policymakers of standards as a vital tool to support the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development**.[99] Key informants noted that this event exposed standardization to new audiences, brought key messages to different constituencies, and showcased the potential value of standardization for making a positive sustainable impact. The donor was especially pleased with the achievements of the project and has approved an extension of the project for another two years and doubled the funding for the next phase. This project is renamed "Enhancing usage and uptake of standards for sustainable development, gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls" (August 2019-August 2021).[100]

(b)   *Gender responsive standards*

Positive outcomes achieved in the Gender Responsive Standards Initiative have been discussed in Sections 5.1.1-5.1.5. The Gender Responsive Standards Initiative drafted the innovative Declaration for Gender Responsive Standards and Standards Development, which was embedded into Recommendation U in 2018, and opened for signature in 2019. An event to highlight is the **innovative virtual Opening of the Declaration for Signature event**, which was broadcast live on UN TV and actively promoted on Twitter and Facebook. Pictures and videos were shared by standards organisations and other stakeholders upon signing the Declaration, which are posted to the UNECE website and a dedicated UNECE YouTube channel.[101] Engagement was high, with 56 national and regional standards organisations signing the

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[98] Economic Commission for Europe, Steering Committee on Trade Capacity and Standards, ECE/CTCS/2019/8, 28-29 May 2019, Geneva.

[99] Economic Commission for Europe, Steering Committee on Trade Capacity and Standards, ECE/CTCS/2019/8, 28-29 May 2019, Geneva.

[100] Economic Commission for Europe, Steering Committee on Trade Capacity and Standards, Working Party on Regulatory Cooperation and Standardisation Policies, "Annotated Provisional Agenda for the 29th Session", 27 August 2019, ECE/CTCS/WP.6/2019/1.

[101] This was estimated to have reached 3 million by traditional and 2 million by social media (376 posts on Twitter, Facebook, Youtube & Blogs).

Declaration on the day, which was a huge success.[102] The wide take up of the Declaration had been made possible by an intense awareness-raising campaign including: direct emails and phone calls by the UNECE Secretariat and a large-scale campaign on social and traditional media including by means of sharing a video and an animation video.[103] **Virtual events are good for carbon miles and climate change, and are an efficient use of resources.**

(c)   Conformity assessment

Conformity assessment involves a set of processes that show a product, service or system meets the requirements of a standard. Undergoing the conformity assessment process has a number of benefits: (i) It provides consumers and other stakeholders with added confidence; (ii) It gives companies a competitive edge; and (iii) It helps regulators ensure that health, safety or environmental conditions are met.[104] Certification is the provision by an independent body of written assurance (a certificate) that the product, service or system in question meets specific requirements. Certification is also known as third party conformity assessment.[105]

In 2015, Working Party 6 requested that the Bureau initiate a revision of Recommendations F and G on conformity assessment taking into consideration developments in this area, in consultations with all interested UN member States, the conformity assessment community and relevant stakeholders.[106] In 2016, the Working Party adopted a revised version of the Recommendation F on "Creation and Promotion of International Agreements on Conformity Assessment" and revised Recommendation G on "Acceptance of Conformity Assessment Results".[107] . The recommendations **support Governments' efforts to establish, promote and implement conformity assessment procedures and to foster a culture of prevention of accidents on the basis of a structured assessment of risks**, which will help Governments to avoid establishing procedures that are not justified on grounds of safety and public health.[108]

These are the only Recommendations in the area of Conformity Assessment developed and adopted by a United Nations intergovernmental body granting them particular legitimacy and credit. These recommendations, and more generally the best practice developed in this area by Working Party 6, are foundational and quoted in training and awareness raising materials used worldwide, as well as nationally. For example, the ISO portal " Conformity Assessment tools to support public policy" widely references UNECE best practice in the area of conformity assessment, which is also referenced by United Kingdom Accreditation Service (UKAS).[109] The Recommendations were particularly well accepted by the Conformity

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[102] 60 signatories to date. Please see
https://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/trade/wp6/AreasOfWork/GenderInitiative/Signatories_list_19092019.pdf
[103] Draft minutes of the 1st physical meeting of signatories of Gender Responsive Standards Declaration - Cape Town, South Africa – 17 September 2019.
[104] https://www.iso.org/conformity-assessment.htm`l
[105] https://www.iso.org/conformity-assessment.html
[106] Economic Commission for Europe, Steering Committee on Trade Capacity and Standards, Working Party on Regulatory Cooperation and Standardisation Policies, Report of Working Party on Regulatory Cooperation and Standardisation Policies on its twenty fifth session, 25 December 2015, ECE/CTCS/WP.6/2015/2.
[107] Economic Commission for Europe, Steering Committee on Trade Capacity and Standards, Working Party on Regulatory Cooperation and Standardisation Policies, Report of Working Party on Regulatory Cooperation and Standardisation Policies on its twenty sixth session, 27 December 2016, ECE/CTCS/WP.6/2016/2.
[108] Programme performance report of the United Nations for the biennium 2016–2017, Report of the Secretary-General, 23 March, 2018, A/73/77.
[109] https://www.iso.org/sites/cascoregulators/03_considerations.html#practice and in more detail: https://www.iso.org/sites/cascoregulators/documents/Annex%208%20-%20Conformity%20assessment%20-%20Risk%20assessment.pdf : https://www.ukas.com/news/unece-trade-recommendations-reference-accreditation/ and in the brochure "Accreditation: Facilitating world trade" jointly published by ILAC and IAF (https://ilac.org/?ddownload=888

Assessment Community because they were based on the best practice shared at the Conformity Assessment Workshop of the World Standards Cooperation held in conjunction with the with the annual meeting of Working Party 6 in 2015.[110] These co-organized events galvanized participation by conformity assessment experts in the elaboration of the Recommendations.

(d)   Market surveillance

Market surveillance is a set of activities carried out and measures taken by designated authorities to ensure that products comply with mandatory requirements and do not endanger any aspect of public interest protection. Despite efforts made by public authorities, **sub-standard products represent a permanent threat to public safety, and counterfeit goods increasingly infringe intellectual property rights**. The Working Party 6 and its Advisory Group for Market Surveillance (MARS Group) actively promote an approach of market surveillance based on best practice and international standards, by encouraging member States to coordinate their efforts to ensure that products on the markets are safe and comply with regulations in force.[111]

In the period under review, UNECE held four meetings of the MARS Group which resulted in the following main achievements:
-   Mapping of other market surveillance networks resulting in the invitation of new partners to the annual meetings
-   Exchange of best practice on how to deal with the challenge of online sales
-   The development, jointly with the GRM group, of the Recommendation S on Applying Predictive Risk Management Tools for Targeted Market Surveillance.[112]

Regarding the implementation of the best practice through capacity building, Kyrgyzstan, in response to the recommendation of the UNECE study on Regulatory and Procedural Barriers to Trade in Kyrgyzstan, asked the UNECE to develop a project for "Strengthening the national capacity of trade-support institutions" in the country, with a focus on market surveillance, risk management in business and regulation, and conformity assessment. The project developed a training guide on regulatory frameworks and market surveillance and organized a series of workshops and a train the trainers' course in May 2018 in the capital and regions of Kyrgyzstan.[113]

The Group of Experts on Managing Risks in Regulatory Systems developed Recommendation S "Applying Predictive Risk Management Tools for Targeted Market Surveillance" in 2016. It aims to provide **guidance to market surveillance authorities in planning surveillance activities on the basis of a predictive risk-based assessment of products/businesses within their**

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[110]https://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/trade/wp6/SectoralInitiatives/MARS/Geneva_Sept2016/WSCCAWorkshop-Outcomes-final.pdf see last paragraph, as well as the "IEC-ISO-UNECE event on "Using and referencing International Standards to support public policy" (November 2015).

[111] http://www.unece.org/tradewelcome/steering-committee-on-trade-capacity-and-standards/working-party-on-regulatory-cooperation-and-standardization-policies-wp6/groups/advisory-group-on-market-surveillance-mars.html

[112] As evidence of the results achieved in this area of work, please see http://www.eurasiancommission.org/en/nae/news/Pages/11-07-2019-1.aspx

[113] Economic Commission for Europe, Steering Committee on Trade Capacity and Standards, Working Party on Regulatory Cooperation and Standardisation Policies session, Report of the Advisory Group on Market Surveillance on its activities, 7 September 2017, ECE/CTCS/WP.6/2018/13.

jurisdiction.[115] The Advisory Group on Market Surveillance (MARS Group) gave feedback on the proposed recommendation.[116]

(e)   Risk management

Policymakers and technical regulation authorities work to identify and address public risks. Working Party 6 develops guidance for regulatory authorities to effectively manage risks that confront consumers, citizens and communities. Standards and technical regulations are – among other things - risk mitigation tools. Authorities and standardization bodies develop these with the goal of changing the behaviour of consumers, communities, economic operators, and so on. Taken collectively, they make products safe, organizations' processes stable and consumers better protected from hazards. Building regulatory frameworks based on a consistent risk management process allows countries to protect their citizens, without unnecessary obstacles to international trade and unwanted impact on the industry's competitiveness.[117]

Working Party 6 established the Group of Experts on Risk Management in Regulatory Systems in 2010. The Group of Experts aims at an **improved management of hazards that have the potential to affect the quality of products and services, and/or cause harm or damage to people, the environment, property and immaterial assets**. The Group develops and shares best practice regarding the use of risk management tools in regulatory and managerial activities. [118]

The Group of Experts on Managing Risks in Regulatory Systems developed Recommendation T on "Standards and Regulations for Sustainable Development", which is a recommendation aimed at providing guidance to regulatory systems stakeholders on the use of risk management tools in regulatory frameworks in support of the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).[119] The **Recommendation enhances the contribution of voluntary standards and regulatory frameworks to realizing Agenda 2030**.[120]

More broadly the Recommendations on Risk Management in regulatory systems are widely regarded as foundational. As one example, they are featured in the UN/DESA publication "World Public Sector Report" of 2019.[121]

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[115] Economic Commission for Europe, Steering Committee on Trade Capacity and Standards, Working Party on Regulatory Cooperation and Standardisation Policies session, Progress report on the activities of the Group of Experts on "Managing Risks in Regulatory Systems", 11 September 2019, ECE/CTCS/WP.6/2019/7.

[116] Economic Commission for Europe, Steering Committee on Trade Capacity and Standards, Working Party on Regulatory Cooperation and Standardisation Policies session, Report of the Advisory Group on Market Surveillance on its activities, 1 November 2016, ECE/CTCS/WP.6/2016/12.

[117] http://www.unece.org/tradewelcome/steering-committee-on-trade-capacity-and-standards/tradewp6/thematic-areas/risk-management.html

[118] Economic Commission for Europe, Steering Committee on Trade Capacity and Standards, Working Party on Regulatory Cooperation and Standardisation Policies session, Progress report on the activities of the Group of Experts on "Managing Risks in Regulatory Systems", 11 September 2019, ECE/CTCS/WP.6/2019/7.

[119] Economic Commission for Europe, Steering Committee on Trade Capacity and Standards, Working Party on Regulatory Cooperation and Standardisation Policies session, Progress report on the activities of the Group of Experts on "Managing Risks in Regulatory Systems", 11 September 2019, ECE/CTCS/WP.6/2019/7.

[120] Programme performance report of the United Nations for the biennium 2016–2017, Report of the Secretary-General, 23 March, 2018, A/73/77. It is difficult to provide more specifics regarding how many countries have adopted the voluntary Recommendation, because it is both the product of and the basis for the engagement of standards bodies in the area of sustainable development. In other words, because the Recommendations are developed in broad consultation, they reflect existing policy orientations by Member States and help crystallize it.

[121] Please see Chapter 9 https://publicadministration.un.org/en/Research/World-Public-Sector-Reports
http://workspace.unpan.org/sites/Internet/Documents/UNPAN99288.pdf

(f)   Standards and education

Working Party 6 established the taskforce on Education on Standards and Standards-related issues (START-Ed group) in 2012 to promote standards-awareness in education establishments, including elaboration of a model programme on standardization, and to assist in sharing best practices in teaching standards to different audiences.[122] In 2018, it published "*Bringing standardization in University Curricula: Making the case*", which **advocates for integration of education about standardization into the curricula of educational establishments**. It presents evidence of the relevance of standards for policy makers and business executives as well as professionals. It reviews UNECE efforts since 2012 to improve education about standardization, as well as activities underway by universities, standards bodies and independent associations. The conclusions present priorities and directions for future work.[123] Standardisation has been integrated into university curricula in Belarus, Bulgaria, France, Germany, Japan, Kazakhstan, Portugal, Russia, Switzerland, the United Kingdom, Ukraine, and the United States.[124] However, this review indicates that education on standardization is currently insufficient, due to both a lack of demand and a lack of availability of relevant programmes, leading to a shortage of talent in quality infrastructure, both within the UNECE region and globally. This impacts negatively on the implementation of the Agenda 2030, as standards implementation is critical to all three dimensions of sustainable development.

(g)   Disaster risk reduction

The Group of Experts on Managing Risks in Regulatory Systems applied its Recommendations to the specifics of Disaster Risk Reduction, including through (i) publishing a background paper on "Standards and Normative Mechanisms for Disaster Risk Reduction" for the 2015 edition of the Global Assessment Report on Disaster Risk Reduction;[125] and (ii) participating in the **World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction in Sendai, Japan in March 2015, and organizing an event on Standards for Disaster Risk Reduction, including building codes**.[126]

The above examples have illustrated many activities of Working Party 6 across all its areas of work. Overall, 25% of survey respondents noted unexpected outcomes and these were all positive, namely the signing of the Declaration for Gender Responsive Standards and Standards Development; connection to a broader global standards community; and the sharing of best practice across different sectors.

Only 7% of survey respondents thought that negative outcomes have been achieved as a result of Working Party 6 activities, explaining that some groups or stakeholders may dominate discussions and work, i.e. authorities. One key informant noted that there could have been more visibility regarding the materials developed, noting the resource challenges that impede

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[122] http://www.unece.org/tradewelcome/steering-committee-on-trade-capacity-and-standards/tradewp6/groups/start-ed-group-on-education-and-standardization.html

[123] Economic Commission for Europe, Steering Committee on Trade Capacity and Standards, Working Party on Regulatory Cooperation and Standardisation Policies, Report of Working Party on Regulatory Cooperation and Standardisation Policies on its twenty eighth session, 6 December 2018, ECE/CTCS/WP.6/2018/2.

[124] https://www.unece.org/tradewelcome/steering-committee-on-trade-capacity-and-standards/tradewp6/thematic-areas/education.html

[125] Economic Commission for Europe, Steering Committee on Trade Capacity and Standards, Working Party on Regulatory Cooperation and Standardisation Policies session, Progress report on the activities of the Group of Experts on "Managing Risks in Regulatory Systems", 11 September 2019, ECE/CTCS/WP.6/2019/7. https://www.unisdr.org/we/inform/publications/49540

[126] Economic Commission for Europe, Steering Committee on Trade Capacity and Standards, Working Party on Regulatory Cooperation and Standardisation Policies session, Progress report on the activities of the Group of Experts on "Managing Risks in Regulatory Systems", 11 September 2019, ECE/CTCS/WP.6/2019/7. http://www.wcdrr.org/conference/events/885

this.

5.2.2   What value has UNECE's efforts added?

Key informants spoke of the value of UNECE's efforts through Working Party 6, including provision of an **impartial platform for engagement**. This is key because it has the ability to bring different countries together that may be in conflict with one another on neutral ground. It gathers together important international standardization stakeholders at annual sessions to find common solutions to shared problems. It helps to connect beneficiaries with standards setting bodies, since Working Party 6 is a platform where a large variety of stakeholders interact, by identifying common challenges and developing best practice to overcome these challenges.[127] Also, Working Party 6 provides a **forum for exchange of best practices** in all its thematic areas through its advisory groups. It is the only international forum where all the main parts of technical regulation are covered. Several key informants noted the **multi-disciplinary nature of the advisory groups**, observing that this is a creative way to see how solutions in various sectors may help in others, and such groups tend to provide a better spectrum of results. One key informant noted helpful insights gained from other countries in different regulatory sectors regarding suspension of certain aspects of regulation in the event of a major disaster.

The Working Party on Regulatory Cooperation and Standardisation Policies has also helped to advocate for **making standards available in the "least restrictive manner possible"**,[128] in compliance with intellectual property rights of standardization bodies who develop such standards. It has done so by:

1) Showcasing how standards help reach policy objectives (for example, through the Standards for the SDGs portal);
2) Enhancing the understanding by policymakers of standards as tools to manage societal risks (through its work on Risk management in regulatory frameworks);
3) Advocating that standards are developed in a way that is inclusive, so that they include the perspective of the most vulnerable (through its work on gender responsive standards);
4) Supporting standards implementation by:
    a. Conducting capacity-building activities (i.e. the project on "Strengthening the national capacity of trade-support institutions of Kyrgyzstan");
    b. Supporting the work carried out in the Steering Committee on Trade Capacity and Standards and related to the identification of areas of needs for quality infrastructure institutions in countries of the UNECE region;
    c. Supporting educational institution in teaching standardization in universities and as part of vocational training.

Several key informants noted the Working Party's **engagement in new and innovative areas**. For example, risk management was new in 2009 around the time the Working Party began to engage in this topic, and had to convince stakeholders that it was an area ripe for development. In recent years, the Working Party has been engaging in more new and innovative areas in regulation and standardization, namely using standards for achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals and gender responsive standards. Again, the Working Party has had to work hard to convince stakeholders that these are areas worth developing, and this is paying off, as

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[127] http://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/trade/wp6/documents/2019/List_of_participants.pdf
[128] http://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/trade/wp6/Recommendations/Recommendation_D_en.pdf

demonstrated by funding of these projects (combined now into one project) for another two years. Now policy makers and standards bodies are beginning to appreciate the value of using standards as a tool for achievement of Agenda 2030, including Sustainable Development Goal 5 on gender equality, as discussed elsewhere in this report.

5.2.3   What were the challenges/ obstacles to achieving the activities' objective and expected accomplishments?

43% of survey respondents thought there were challenges in achieving the objective and expected accomplishments of Working Party 6's work, namely the **lack of funds and other resources available for its work, the fact that working group members have to personally invest their time and travel costs**, that timing/location of meetings is only suitable for Europe and North America which limits participation of people outside of those regions,[129] and implementation is a challenge, especially with respect to gender and standards. Moreover, Working Party 6 advisory group reports refer to insufficient funding for the organization of work and for field work,[130] and insufficient involvement by member States.[131] It should be noted that this is generally the case for the Working Parties and Committees administered by UNECE.[132]

Key informants agreed with challenges regarding *pro bono* participation, **timing/location of sessions**, and implementation. Regarding implementation, key informants noted **difficulties with implementation and enforcement, since the Recommendations developed by the Working Party operate as a voluntary system**. They commented that countries with economies in transition lack resources to implement Working Party 6 Recommendations. Limited participation and engagement between meetings is another obstacle to achieving objectives, discussed further in Section 5.4.2. Please see further discussion regarding resources and mitigation strategies under Sections 5.3.1 and 5.3.2.

Other challenges identified included the **lack of awareness amongst policy makers of the value of standards as a tool for sustainable development**, the lack of awareness amongst standards bodies of Agenda 2030 and the importance of voluntary standards to its realization, and the **lack of understanding of the linkages between standards and gender equality**. Key informants noted the frequent turnover of government and standards bodies personnel and the continual process of educating regulators and policy makers on the value of standards for achieving the sustainable development goals and gender equality.

Working Party 6 addressed these challenges by designing and implementing two extra-budgetary funded projects, namely the Gender Responsive Standards Initiative and the Standards for the SDGs project, whose achievements – including awareness raising on the above topics - are discussed elsewhere in this report. By way of illustration, the publication "Standards

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[129] Noting comments above regarding the UNECE mandate.

[130] Field work is an important way of ensuring that the recommendations and best practice developed by Working Party 6 can be implemented. Working Party 6 is trying to address this through the second phase of the extra-budgetary project on "Standards for the SDGs", which is about to start. Activities planned under the project include the organization of 4 high-level events on the topic of "Standards for the SDGs" as well as support to local and national stakeholders in the development, dissemination and implementation of best practice for gender responsive standards (four national/regional workshops, two advisory missions). The identification of countries and regions in which these workshop will be carried out will be decided as the activites get under way.

[131] See for example Economic Commission for Europe, Steering Committee on Trade Capacity and Standards, Working Party on Regulatory Cooperation and Standardisation Policies session, Progress report on the activities of the Group of Experts on "Managing Risks in Regulatory Systems", 11 September 2019, ECE/CTCS/WP.6/2019/7.

[132] Key informant interviews. Only a minority of UNECE Committees and Working Parties have been able to raise funds and pay for expenses of their members and contribute to the costs of those working pro bono.

for the SDGs" offers policy makers and standards stakeholders an opportunity to consider the potential of standards as powerful tools for achieving sustainable development. With examples ranging from the subnational, national and global levels, and from all regions, it offers inspiration to consider other local contexts and how standards may be applied to best realize the global goals in different constituencies.[133] Moreover, Working Party 6 sought to ensure that the knowledge is passed on through providing training through a wide variety of means:

- physical workshops (such as those organized in Kyrgyzstan)
- online modules (such as those that are provided on the Portal on Standards for the SDGs)[134]
- manuals and ready to use training materials (such as Training Guide on Regulatory Frameworks and Market Surveillance).[135]

5.3   Efficiency

Efficiency: Extent to which human and financial resources were used in the best possible way to deliver activities and outputs, in coordination with other stakeholders.

5.3.1   Is the relationship between cost (funds, time) and results reasonable?

Working Party 6 operates a broad mandate with very limited human and financial resources for the significant outcomes it achieves.

The Working Party on Regulatory Cooperation and Standardisation Policies is a forum for dialogue among regulators and policy makers. Participants discuss, make recommendations, and develop best practice on a wide range of issues. Its **broad mandate covers many thematic areas** including: regulatory cooperation, market surveillance, risk management, conformity assessment, education on standards, use of standards, quality infrastructure, standards and the SDGs, disaster risk reduction, and gender responsive standards.[136] Furthermore, as part of the UN system, Working Party 6 as part of the UNECE intergovernmental body structure has a **mandate to respond to internationally agreed development goals** such as the 2030 Agenda,[139] the UN System Wide Policy on Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women,[140] and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction.[141]

The Working Party **operates with financial and human resources comparable to Working Party 7,[142] also reporting to the Steering Committee on Trade Capacity and Standards**. Regular budget resources consist of one P-4 and one P-3 staff members, with part time support from a P-2 staff member,[143], and part time support from one post in the General Support category.

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[133] UNECE, Standards for the Sustainable Development Goals, 2018.

[134] https://standards4sdgs.unece.org/trainings

[135] (ECE/TRADE/441) http://www.unece.org/index.php?id=47846

[136] http://www.unece.org/tradewelcome/steering-committee-on-trade-capacity-and-standards/tradewp6/about-us.html

[139] http://www.unece.org/unece-and-the-sdgs/unece-and-the-sdgs.html

[140] https://www.unwomen.org/en/docs/2006/12/un-policy-on-gender-equality-and-empowerment-of-women-ceb-2006-2

[141] http://www.unece.org/sustainable-development/disaster-risk-reduction.html

[142] The human resources allocation has been like this since 2012.

- WP.6 – 1 P4, + P3, share of G4
- WP.6 1 P4, + P3, 1 G5
- Steering Committee 1 P5, 1 P3, share of G4, share of G6

Since 2017 the human resources allocation has been:

o WP.6 – 1 P4, 1P2, share of G6 (the G 4 post was abolished)

o WP.7 – 1 P4, 1 P2, I G5

o Steering Committee 1 P5, 1 P3, share of G6 (after the abolishment of the G4, the G6 was assigned fully to this section, sharing time between WP.6, Steering Committee and budget reporting)

[143] The P-2 staff member is shared within the Trade Division. The allocation of time of this resource to Working Party 6 varies depending on needs of trade facilitation section, market access section, and budget and communications.

There is a small amount of annual budget for consultancies (around $4,000) and travel (around $4,000).[144] These limited resources reflect a similar situation in other UNECE Trade Working Parties.[145]

Working Party 6 has good capacity to mobilise extra-budgetary resources. During the period under review, extra-budgetary resources have been through project funding for the following:

- "Strengthening the National Capacity of Trade Support Institutions of Kyrgyzstan" project - $95,000 over two years, July 2016-June 2018. This included full time P-2 staff member for six months; and 1 G staff for three months.
- Gender in Standards Initiative - $25,000 (including some budget from SDGs project for gender consultants $10,000) and some budget from Kyrgyzstan project to pay for UN Women Gender Expert guidance $3,000).
- Standards for the SDGs project - $177,500 for one year, July 2018-2019. This included full time P-2 support for the final six months of the period under review and three consultants for around four months total. Fortunately, the donor for the Standards for the SDGs project has confirmed continued funding of $400,000 over a period of two years starting in July 2019. The Gender in Standards Initiative will now come under this budget too.

The positive support of the ability to attract and implement useful products through XB resources is strongly noted.

Regarding the Working Party 6 advisory groups, the UNECE secretariat does not service them formally. Working Party 6 has one annual session, normally in late November. The groups reporting to Working Party 6 meet online (regular Webex calls, email listservers etc) and occasionally, some countries that have a strong interest in any particular area, call for a meeting in the member State in question. These meetings are organized by the host organization, with little input (other than support to the agenda and minutes, if necessary) and in situ participation, if financing can be secured.

In addition to its human and financial resources, Working Party 6 **effectively leverages a broad range of strategic partnerships to diversify its access to technical expertise** in its various thematic areas of intervention. This has been discussed in more detail at section 5.1.3.

Further efficiencies have been sought by **leveraging existing meetings to save on travel budgets**

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[144] Working Party.6, Working Party 7 and the Steering Committee have an equal share of the travel and consultancy budgets. When the Market Access Section gets the Steering Committee share, normally in January-February, it divides travel funds by 6 (i.e. the same amount for each Professional post in the Section: 2 in the Steering Committee, 2, in WP.6 and 2 in WP.7) and the consultancies by three (3 units in the section). The annual travel budget has been about USD 2000 per P post. Consequently, as there are 2 P posts in this unit, the budget is approximately USD 4000 per year. This shows that the secretariat can afford one single trip per P post per year.

[145] Under the Trade Sub-programme all areas have the same constraints. The Steering Committee, Working Party.6 and Working Party.7 are all serviced by 2 P posts and a share of a G post. In each Working Party, some resources have not been fully available for a number of reasons. WP.7 has managed to drastically cut non-essential work, focusing on servicing the WP.7 meetings (compulsory RB work) and limited other activities, the Steering Committee has cut off all non-essential work focusing explicitly on delivering the EXCOM approved very narrow mandate. Further adjustment is still necessary. WP.7 has 5 annual intergovernmental meetings in Geneva (the WP.7 itself, and each of the four specialized sections have one [fresh fruit and vegetables; dry and dried produce; meat; seed potatoes]. The Steering Committee has one annual session and WP.6 has one annual session. As there has not been a P3 officer in WP.6 for almost 2 years, this has been topped up with a share of the P2 officer, shared by the market access section and the trade facilitation section (40 % trade facilitation, 40 % market access section, 20 % budget and communications).

for Secretariat staff as well as meeting participants, and by **conducting virtual meetings and webinars**, which significantly reduces travel and meeting facility costs. For instance, the in-person Gender Responsive Standards Initiative meetings are held before or after other meetings where many participants would already be present. In 2019, it held the Meeting of Signatories of the Declaration on Gender Responsive Standards and Standards Development in South Africa in parallel to the International Organisation for Standardization (ISO) annual general meeting, to capitalize on the fact that many participants would already be there. In November 2019, the high level segment on Gender Responsive Standards was held on the morning before the Annual Working Party meeting begins in Geneva.[146] In addition, the Gender Responsive Standards Initiative holds four webinars per year. Likewise, the Group of Experts on Managing Risks in Regulatory Systems" functions on the basis of bi-monthly webinars organized by use of an email list server and an interactive website, in addition to an annual physical meeting in 2017 and 2018.[147] The MARS group holds one physical meeting per year, and holds online webex meetings to confer regarding topics for discussion at the physical meeting.

The results achieved in each thematic area have been discussed in Section 5.2.1 and elsewhere. Therefore, it would seem that Working Party 6 is achieving results for relatively little funds and staff time,[148] and efficient use of strategic partnerships, webinars, virtual events, and leveraging existing in-person meetings.

5.3.2 Are there sufficient resources to achieve the intended outcomes?

A perceived **lack of sufficient funds and human resources** was a strong theme which emerged from the key informant interviews, with several interviewees recommending an increase in the number of staff working at the Secretariat servicing Working Party 6. Many key informants noted that apart from the Secretariat, there are no funds available for participation in Working Party 6 advisory bodies (also see comments elsewhere regarding this similar situation for other UNECE Working Party advisory bodies), such as the Group of Experts on Market Surveillance (MARS Group), the Group of Experts on Risk Management, the START team (Standardisation and Regulatory Techniques), or the START initiative on Education on Standardisation. They observed that all members, apart from Secretariat staff, are essentially volunteer staff who do the work of these bodies *pro bono* and meet any out of pocket expenses from their own resources, with many members receiving no support from any other organization. They noted that this limits the variety of experts willing or able to participate in the activities of the Working Party. This should be viewed against the background that this is also how most UNECE bodies work. Whilst it is true that some UNECE bodies have extra-budgetary resources (i) to finance participation by some member States and (ii) that are dedicated to hiring consultants for preparations of drafts for discussion, Working Party 6 does not have such resources, but could mobilise resources.

The document review also supports the finding that there are insufficient financial resources. For example, a participant to the Annual Meeting of Working Party 6 in 2018 called attention to

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[146] https://www.unece.org/index.php?id=50934

[147] Economic Commission for Europe, Steering Committee on Trade Capacity and Standards, Working Party on Regulatory Cooperation and Standardisation Policies session, Progress report on the activities of the Group of Experts on "Managing Risks in Regulatory Systems", 11 September 2019, ECE/CTCS/WP.6/2019/7.

[148] By way of comparison, Working Party 7 has 5 annual intergovernmental meetings in Geneva (the Working Party 7 itself, and each of the four specialized sections have one. The Steering Committee has one annual session and Working Party 6 has one annual session. As there has not been a P3 officer in Working Party 6 for almost 2 years, this has been topped up with a share of the P2 officer, shared by the market access section and the trade facilitation section (40 % trade facilitation, 40 % market access section, 20 % budget and communications.

the lack of financial resources, limiting the ability of Latin American countries to engage in standards development processes.[149] The survey found that 33% survey respondents thought that there were insufficient resources to achieve the intended outcomes. A discussion regarding the expensive nature of participation in standards processes may be found at Section 5.5.2.

Additional regular budget resources could only derive from a new United Nations General Assembly mandate, which is unlikely, or from internal redeployments within UNECE (such as the reallocation of resources within the Section), which may also be unlikely given the budgetary constraints affecting all of its subprogrammes.

5.4   Sustainability

Sustainability: Likelihood that the benefits of the project will continue in the future.

5.4.1   What is the likelihood that benefits of the normative work will continue after completion and without overburdening partner institutions?

There are ten publications produced through the work of Working Party 6 during the period under review which will contribute benefits of the normative work without overburdening partner institutions:

1. Standards for the SDGs 2018
2. Declaration for Gender Responsive Standards and Standards Development 2018
3. Bringing Standardisation in University Curricula 2018
4. Training Guide on Regulatory Frameworks and Market Surveillance 2018
5. UNECE Work on Risk Management in Regulatory Systems and Public Administrations
6. International Regulatory Cooperation: the case of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe 2016
7. Standards for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015
8. Standards and Normative Mechanisms for Disaster Risk Reduction
9. Resilience to Disasters for Sustainable Development 2015
10 Recommendations on Regulatory Cooperation and Standardisation Policies 2015.[150]

Key informants reported **widespread use of several publications**, in particular, Standards for the SDGs, Declaration for Gender Responsive Standards and Standards Development, and Training Guide on Regulatory Frameworks and Market Surveillance. One key informant noted that whilst the publications are available for use, some are not easy to use without assistance, as they are technical publications not meant for just reading but for actual implementation, which is often difficult if this is not integrated in a workshop or capacity building activity. Working Party 6 has been trying to raise funds to engage in technical assistance activities.[151] However, the aim of publications is to inspire policy makers in how standards can be used in regulation in different jurisdictions. This provides guidance on how standards are used, how to use standards in

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[149] Economic Commission for Europe, Steering Committee on Trade Capacity and Standards, Working Party on Regulatory Cooperation and Standardisation Policies, Report of Working Party on Regulatory Cooperation and Standardisation Policies on its twenty eighth session, 6 December 2018, ECE/CTCS/WP.6/2018/2.

[150] http://www.unece.org/tradewelcome/tradepublications/wp6.html

[151] Although some fund raising efforts have been successful, as discussed elsewhere in this report, not all have been successful. For example, taking 2018 as an example of a typical year, the Secretariat prepared the following proposals in 2018: (i) UNDA – not successful; (ii) Proposal for the private company "Tableau" on support for the Standards for the SDGs Portal - – not successful; (iii) Proposal on Gender Responsive Standards (different versions prepared for Israel and representatives of the private sector) – not successful; (iv) Proposal on standards for SDGs (phase 1) successful; (v) Proposal on Kyrgyzstan – phase 2 (not successful).

practice in a given country or region, and an explicit set of tools for doing so, which can be referenced in regulations or read by regulators. The publications showcase unique research which straddle both policy making on the one side and more in depth analytical work on the other.

Moreover, five Recommendations were either developed or amended by Working Party 6 from 2015-2018, as discussed elsewhere in this report. Key informants noted that **regulators worldwide refer to these Recommendations, and regulatory actions are inspired by such Recommendations**.[152] Working Party 6 has **developed a body of best practice – recommendations, publications, guidelines, common regulatory objectives - in all its thematic areas**,[153] and this is referenced by regulatory practice.[154]

The vast majority of survey respondents (93%) said that it was either likely or highly likely that the benefits of the normative work would continue, with 89% stating that this would not overburden their organization. Some key informants agreed that the **benefits of normative work would continue**, with one key informant pointing out that international standardization activities have been successfully embedded as solutions in regulatory frameworks, and that the notion of citing standards in regulatory instruments in a long established practice. However, other key informants thought that beneficiaries need further support to implement Working Party 6 best practice and recommendations. Extra-budgetary fundraising undertaken by the Secretariat to address these gaps is discussed above under "Efficiency". Others noted that it would be challenging to involve women in standards work, as expert groups are largely male and it takes time to change attitudes. Others spoke of the gradual nature of change, giving the example of a female miner needing to have her protective equipment adjusted for her as a woman. This process would not be overburdening though as it is an endemic part of the process. However, they pointed to indicators of implementation of the normative work, including Gender Action Plans, and the Joint Initiative for Standardisation in the EU, whose signatories included at least 33% women's organisations.

5.4.2   To what extent do partners and beneficiaries participate in and "own" the outcomes of the work?

There was **low participation of partners and beneficiaries at annual meetings and at regular meetings of Working Party 6 groups**. For instance, each annual meeting of the Working Party was attended by a low percentage of stakeholders including UNECE member States,[155] Non-UNECE member States,[156] representatives of the European Commission, UN bodies,[157]

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[152] For examples of countries where this has happened, please see sections 5.5.3 and 5.5.4.

[153] Which is housed in a readily accessible electronic platform: The portal on Standards for SDGs https://standards4sdgs.unece.org/ launched on 14 October 2019.

[154] Please see section 5.1.1.

[155] Regular attendance by Belarus, Canada, the Czech Republic, Germany, Poland, the Russian Federation, Serbia, Slovakia, Sweden, Turkey, Ukraine, and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. 50% attendance by Croatia, Ireland, Israel, The Republic of Moldova, The Netherlands, Norway, Switzerland, and the United States of America.

[156] Regular attendance by China. 50% attendance by Cameroon, Kenya, Mexico, Republic of Korea. Attendance at one annual meeting by: Australia, Brazil, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, Ethiopia, Ghana, Islamic Republic of Iran, Malaysia, Mozambique, Paraguay, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Eswatini, Trinidad and Tobago, Uganda, and the United Arab Emirates.

[157] Regular attendance by the United Nations Conference for Trade and Development (UNCTAD), International Trade Centre (ITC), International Telecommunications Union (ITU), World Trade Organisation (WTO). Attendance at one annual meeting by Codex Alimentarius Commission, Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), International Sustainable Energy Organization (ISEO), United Nations Centre for Trade Facilitation and Electronic Business (UN/CEFACT), United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK), United Nations Industrial Organization (UNIDO), United Nations Institute for Training & Research (UNITAR), United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS), United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), United Nations

intergovernmental and non-governmental organisations, including standards organisations,[158] and observers, including representatives of private-sector companies, associations, universities and civil-society organisations from various regions of the world. Moreover, participation at the following advisory group meetings was low:

- **Group of Experts on "Managing Risks in Regulatory Systems"**

The Group of Experts has a Chairperson and two Coordinators and 20 active members. It has a broad and diversified membership, with representation of different geographical and economic regions, as well as of different areas of competence and end-users' interest.[159]

- **Advisory Group on Market Surveillance (MARS)**

The Advisory Group has a Chairperson and around 18 experts from seven UNECE member States. The European Commission and the secretariat of the Eurasian Economic Commission also attend. Individual experts also attend in their own capacity.[160] Average numbers of participants at MARS meetings during the period under review has been 34.

- **Gender Responsive Standards Initiative**

The Gender Responsive Standards initiative is serviced by the UNECE secretariat, in cooperation with two Coordinators.[161] In 2017, the initiative held a first physical meeting in April, followed by five online meetings, where participants exchanged information and best practice. [162] In 2018, the initiative held four meetings on 25 January, 26 March, 27 April and 8 June. [163] The first physical meeting had low attendance by representatives of 10 standards organizations,[164] three member States,[165] a non member State government agency,[166] and various UN bodies.[167] Participation at four online meetings was also low.[168] However, it should be noted that

participation to the signing of the Declaration in 2019 was good, with 56 signatories.[169]

Declaration signatories

October 2019

African Organisation for Standardisation (ARSO); AMFORI; ASTM International; European Committee for Standardization (CEN) & European Committee for Electrotechnical Standardization (CENELEC); International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC); International Organization for Standardization (ISO); International Telecommunication Union (ITU); Round Table on Responsible Soy (RTRS); The Gold Standard; Verra

Albania	General Directorate of Standardization	
Austria	Austrian Standards International – Standardisation and Innovation	
Bolivia	Instituto Boliviano de Normalización y Calidad	
Canada	Standards Council of Canada	
Colombia	Instituto Colombiano de Normas Técnicas y Certificación	
Congo (the Democratic Republic of the)	Office Congolais de Contrôle	
Cyprus	Cyprus Organisation for Standardisation	
Denmark	Danish Standards	
Dominican Republic	Instituto Dominicano para la Calidad	
Ecuador	Servicio Ecuatoriano de Normalización	
Gambia	The Gambia Standards Bureau	
Germany	Deutsches Institut für Normung	
Honduras	Organismo Hondureño de Normalización	
Iceland	Icelandic Standards	
India	Bureau of Indian Standards	
Ireland	National Standards Authority of Ireland	
Italy	Ente Italiano di Normazione / Comitato Elettrotecnico Italiano	
Latvia	Latvian Standard	
Lithuania	Lithuanian Standards Board	
Luxembourg	Institut Luxembourgeois de la Normalisation, de l'Accréditation, de la Sécurité et qualité des produits et services	
Malta	Malta Competition and Consumer Affairs Authority	

Mexico	Dirección General de Normas
Moldova	Institute for Standardization of Moldova
Morocco	Institut Marocain de Normalisation
Mozambique	Instituto Nacional de Normalização e Qualidade
Netherlands	Netherlands Standardization Institute
New Zealand	New Zealand Standards Organisation / New Zealand IEC National Committee / Standards Norway
Norway	
Portugal	Instituto Português da Qualidade
Saint Kitts and Nevis	Saint Kitts and Nevis Bureau of Standards
Saint Lucia	Saint Lucia Bureau of Standards
Senegal	Association Sénégalaise de Normalisation
South Africa	South African Bureau of Standards
Spain	Asociación Española de Normalización
Sweden	Swedish Institute for Standards
Switzerland	Swiss Association for Standardization
Thailand	Thai Industrial Standards Institute
Togo	Agence Togolaise de Normalisation
Trinidad and Tobago	Trinidad and Tobago Bureau of Standards
Turkey	Türk Standardları Enstitüsü
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	British Standards Institution
Uruguay	Instituto Uruguayo de Normas Técnicas

However, key informants thought that whilst participation was quite low at annual meetings and webinars, **engagement in between meetings is even more difficult**. They noted that participation may be limited by availability of time and financial resources of participants, who do things *pro bono* and invest own funds.[170] Also many countries face constraints in attendance due to limited travel resources. Participation also limited by working languages. It was noted that these are standard limitations for UNECE working parties and committees.

A notable exception is the high participation in the "Standards for the SDGs" event that was co-organized by Working Party 6 and ISO on 26 September 2018. The number of registered participants was 686.[171] There were 214 participants from UNECE countries, 310 participants from non-UNECE countries and 162 from international organizations. In terms of countries, 128

ECE/CTCS/WP.6/2017/4. Participants at the meetings were from Amsterdam Royal Institute (the Netherlands), Association Réseau Normalisation et Francophonie (RFN), ASTM International, British Standards Institution (BSI), DRR Dynamics (United Kingdom), EDGE Certified Foundation (Switzerland), the European Commission, Federation University (Australia), International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC), International Gender Champions & Woman@theTable (NGO in Geneva), International Organization for Standardization (ISO), the ISO/TC 68 dealing with financial services, NZ WorkSafe (New Zealand), OSCE Gender Section, Swedish Standards Institute, UNAIDS Secretariat, University of Manchester (United Kingdom) and UNWOMEN.

[169] The Gender Responsive Standards Initiative met incredible resistance in the beginning as most standards bodies were of the opinion that standards were by definition gender neutral (which they are not). The growth in participation has been increasing, with better attendance at the 2019 physical meeting, although this is outside the period of review.

[170] See above comments regarding similar situation in other UNECE Working Parties.

[171] The attendance was much higher, but a few days prior to the event, ISO closed registrations, and people were welcome on the go that day, since this much outnumbered expectations.

participated, with 48 UNECE countries and 80 non-UNECE countries.[172]

Overall, 67% of survey respondents thought there was **good ownership by partners and beneficiaries of the outcomes of the work**. 48% of survey respondents thought there was medium ownership by partners and beneficiaries of the outcomes of the work, and another 19% thought there was high ownership. Key informants agreed, stating that ownership is demonstrated by Working Party activities which are agreed to by the member States, participants and stakeholders. Recommendations are developed, presented at the annual Working Party meeting, presentations are made, comments solicited and debated, then every one votes on its adoption. **Overall, partners and beneficiaries participate to a low extent and member States own the outcomes of the work to a medium to high extent**.

5.5 Impact

Impact: The positive and negative changes produced by a development intervention, directly or indirectly, intended or unintended.

5.5.1 To what extent has the work contributed to impact at the UNECE level?

Working Party 6 has produced positive changes for UNECE. Over half the survey respondents (54%) thought that the work of Working Party 6 has contributed to a moderate extent to impact at the UNECE level. Nearly a third of survey respondents (31%) thought that the work contributed to a significant extent to impact at UNECE level. Taken together, a large majority (85%) of survey respondents agreed that Working Party 6 has made a positive contribution to impact at UNECE level.

Key informants thought that Working Party 6's work in Gender and Standards has made a positive impact in UNECE, contributing to **gender mainstreaming in areas of work that tend to be perceived as irrelevant for gender equality, such as standards development**.[173] The Declaration for Gender Responsive Standards and Standards Development has also served as a **best practice example for other sub-programmes of UNECE** and provides a helpful tool for use in all other UNECE standards bodies.

Key informants also noted that Working Party 6's work on Standards and the SDGs has made a positive impact in UNECE, in supporting achievement of five of UNECE's focus SDGs,[174] namely SDG 5 on gender equality, SDG 6 on clean water, SDG 7 on clean energy, SDG 11 on sustainable cities and communities, and SDG 13 on climate action. The work of Working Party 6 on gender equality has been explained above. Also, Working Party 6 published "Standards for the Sustainable Development Goals" in 2018, which provides an overview of how international standards are used by policy makers to support sustainability and the achievement of the SDGs. The case studies help to **illustrate to UNECE colleagues in other sub-programmes the value of standards in different areas of work, e.g. water, energy, climate change**.[175]

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[172] Some percentages: Africa: 36%; Asia: 34%; Caribbean/South America: 12%; Middle East: 11%; Oceania: 7%.

[173] For example, in the areas of water, energy, sustainable cities and communities, and climate action.

[174] http://www.unece.org/sustainable-development/sdg-priorities.html

[175] This is a key UNECE mandated area of work – to develop normative legal and standards instruments. The value is well known. UNECE hosts many standards bodies CEFACT, WP 7, WP 29. etc. WP. 6 is not itself a standards making body but develops best practice on the use of standards for policy making. The volume "Standards for the SDGs" provides evidence that national and local administrations are insufficiently aware of standards as a tool for policymaking and very ill-equipped to actually make use of them. In this situation a number of regulators develop home-grown regulatory frameworks that are sub-optimal as they do not take advantage of the expertise embodied in the standard. Additionally, regulatory measures that contradict those applied in a partner country inevitably generate technical barriers to trade.

Other key informants highlighted the positive impact for UNECE in terms of **increased visibility and relevance**. The work of Working Party 6 has effectively elevated UNECE to the level of big organisations that work in standardization, such as ISO and CEN-CENELEC, IEC and ITU. It is perceived as a key player in international standardization.[176] Moreover, the visibility of the Gender-Responsive Standards Initiative has been steadily increasing at the international level. [177] This is confirmed by: a) The International Gender Champions 2017 Annual Report featured the initiative to mainstream gender into its core activities and referred to the *Pledge for Action on Gender-Responsive Standards* as a document containing examples of commitments standard-setting bodies can make; b) In March 2018, the American Society for Testing and Materials published a special-themed issue of its magazine, *Standardization News*, devoted to Women in Standards, and featuring an interview of the Secretary of Working Party 6; c) In April 2018, a professor of the Politecnico of Porto made a poster presentation about the UNECE *Gender Responsive Standards Initiative* at the International Conference on Gender Research (ICGR 2018); d) At the June 2018 meeting of the World Trade Organization's Committee on Technical Barriers to Trade, the Canadian delegation, as part of their *Progressive Trade Agenda*, submitted a recommendation that the Eight Triennial Review include a workshop or thematic session on the role of gender in the development of standards and technical regulations, to encourage an exchange of experiences among standards development organizations, and to discuss ongoing initiatives to achieve gender equality in standard setting; and e) the Secretary of the Working Party made several presentations about the *Gender Responsive Standards Initiative*, including at the Annual General Assembly of the *Réseau Normalisation et Francophonie* and at an event organized by the International Centre for Trade and Sustainable Development on 2 November 2018 on *Gendering SPS and TBT rules for development*. [178]

5.5.2   What negative impact has the normative work produced, directly or indirectly, intended or unintended?

The vast majority (96%) of survey respondents thought that the **normative work of Working Party 6 has not produced any negative impact**, whether directly, indirectly, intended or unintended. Most key informants agreed.

One key informant noted that **one potential negative impact is driving up costs for compliance, such as for gender inclusive standards**. However, another key informant explained that standards from private standards organisations tend to be "user pays", meaning that countries have to pay to be part of a standardization organization, so if they want to participate in the creation of standards, or use the standards, you have to pay. The desk review also highlighted the "user pays" financing model of standards organisations. A representative of the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC), the international standards and conformity assessment body for all fields of electrotechnology, explained at the Annual Meeting of Working Party 6 in 2015 that standards organisations depend on the sales of standards to finance their

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[176] As evidenced by key informants from a range of organisations.

[177] Economic Commission for Europe, Steering Committee on Trade Capacity and Standards, Working Party on Regulatory Cooperation and Standardisation Policies Session, "Progress Report on the Gender Responsive Standards Initiative", 14-16 November 2018, ECE/CTCS/WP.6/2018/3/Rev.1.

[178] Economic Commission for Europe, Steering Committee on Trade Capacity and Standards, Working Party on Regulatory Cooperation and Standardisation Policies Session, "Progress Report on the Gender Responsive Standards Initiative", 14-16 November 2018, ECE/CTCS/WP.6/2018/3/Rev.1.

activities. [179] Representatives of IEC and ISO explained at the Annual Meeting of Working Party 6 in 2017 that the funding of their organisations is partially based on royalties from standards, and that this model of financing is a sustainable model to ensure the development of high quality standards. [180] The "user pays" funding model puts poorer countries at a disadvantage to compete in international trade. This key informant noted that UNECE's normative work (i.e. Recommendations) is free of charge.

5.5.3   Have the outcomes of WP 6 led to new policies or policy changes in the member States?

The desk review, key informant interviews, and survey all found that the outcomes of Working Party 6 have led to new policies or policy changes in UNECE member States.

The survey found that 37% of survey respondents thought that the outcomes of Working Party 6 have led to new policies or policy changes in their country or organization. Examples cited include gender equality policies, promotion of gender balanced technical committees, a new market surveillance approach, new laws in field of standardization and conformity assessment, use of risk management approaches in climate change work, revision of legislation, application of Working Party 6 policies in regional organisations, changes in approaches in own organization and partner institutions. The survey also found that 52% of respondents thought that best practice developed by Working Party 6 led to a new initiative being launched; 30% thought that it had led to a reference in a legislative or administrative act; 0.4% thought that it had led to organizational changes in a department; and 0.9% thought that it had led to other outcomes. Respondents gave examples in standardization, gender responsive standards, market surveillance, risk management, SDG 14 on life below water,[181] and SDG 13 on climate change.

The desk review, and key informant interviews illustrated that outcomes of Working Party 6 have led to new policies or policy changes in member States in the following thematic areas: market surveillance, regulatory cooperation, gender responsive standards, and equipment for explosive environments.

(a)   Market surveillance

Recommendation S on Applying Predictive Risk Management Tools for Targeted Market Surveillance, adopted in 2016, emphasises the importance of applying predictive risk assessment tools for planning the activities of market surveillance and compliance authorities.[182] The risk based approach to enforcement based on Recommendation S has been adopted by at least eight UNECE member States.[183] For example, the National Serbian Market Surveillance Plan includes the application of predictive management tools, and applies Recommendation S at the national level. Moreover, the Serbian Market Surveillance Authority has updated its procedures

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[179] Economic Commission for Europe, Steering Committee on Trade Capacity and Standards, Working Party on Regulatory Cooperation and Standardisation Policies, Report of Working Party on Regulatory Cooperation and Standardisation Policies on its twenty fifth session, 24 December 2015, ECE/CTCS/WP.6/2015/2.

[180] Economic Commission for Europe, Steering Committee on Trade Capacity and Standards, Working Party on Regulatory Cooperation and Standardisation Policies, Report of Working Party on Regulatory Cooperation and Standardisation Policies on its twenty seventh session, 15 December 2017, ECE/CTCS/WP.6/2017/2.

[181] Note that this is not one of the 11 SDG focus goals for UNECE.

[182] Recommendation S, Applying Predictive Risk Management Tools for Targeted Market Surveillance, UNECE, 2016.

[183] Including member States of the UNECE (Armenia, Belarus, Israel, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russian Federation, Serbia, United States of America), and beyond (Brazil).

based on Recommendation S.[184] **Serbia** has found Recommendation S so useful, its Ministry of Trade has shared this positive experience with other member States including the Czech Republic, Latvia, Sweden and Turkey. Additionally, the **Eurasian Economic Commission** built its approach to risk-based inspections on "Recommendation S" on "Applying Predictive Risk Management Tools for Targeted Market Surveillance.[185]

(b)   Regulatory cooperation

Recommendation L – International Model for Transnational Regulatory Cooperation Based on Good Regulatory Practice - provides a voluntary framework for regulatory cooperation that facilitates market access through the use of good regulatory practice and options for establishment of sectoral arrangements between interested UN member countries.[186] Recommendation L was revised in 2015 to ease barriers to trade through the harmonization of trade regulations and standards.[187] The International Model on Regulatory Harmonization, as contained in the UNECE Working Party 6 Recommendation L, is used by the **Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS)** Interstate Council for Standardization, Metrology and Certification (EASC) as a basis for regulatory harmonization.[188] Moreover, the deliverables of the work of the UNECE Working Party on Regulatory Cooperation and Standardization Policies continue to be referenced worldwide by government authorities, international organizations and the business community.[189] In particular, the **Customs Union of Belarus, Kazakhstan and the Russian Federation** has explicitly referred to the use of Recommendation L (International Model for Transnational Regulatory Cooperation Based on Good Regulatory Practice).[190]

(c)   Gender responsive standards

Recommendation U on Gender Responsive Standards, adopted in 2018, aims at improving gender balance in standards development and seeks to ensure that the content and impact of standards when implemented are gender responsive. One of the ways in which it seeks to make the standards development process gender responsive is by creating and proactively implementing a gender action plan for organisations.[191] In response to this,[192] the Standards Council of **Canada** has developed and published its Gender and Standardisation Strategy 2019-2025, together with an Action Plan for Gender Responsive Standards and Gender Balance in Standards Development.[193] Moreover, in 2019 Sweden's Ministry of Foreign Affairs issued its

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[184] Economic Commission for Europe, Steering Committee on Trade Capacity and Standards, Working Party on Regulatory Cooperation and Standardisation Policies, "Report of the Advisory Group on Market Surveillance, its activities and its meetings, 6 September 2019, ECE/CTCS/WP.6/2019/13.

[185] Economic Commission for Europe, Steering Committee on Trade Capacity and Standards, ECE/CTCS/2019/8, 28-29 May 2019, Geneva.

[186] Recommendation L – International Model for Transnational Regulatory Cooperation Based on Good Regulatory Practice, UNECE, adopted in 2001, reviewed in 2015.

[187] Programme performance report of the United Nations for the biennium 2014-2015, Report of the Secretary-General, 22 March 2016, A/71/75.

[188] Economic Commission for Europe, Steering Committee on Trade Capacity and Standards, ECE/CTCS/2019/8, 28-29 May 2019, Geneva.

[189] As shown by examples cited throughout this document.

[190] Programme performance report of the United Nations for the biennium 2014-2015, Report of the Secretary-General, 22 March 2016, A/71/75.

[191] Recommendation U, Gender Responsive Standards, UNECE, 2018.

[192] Please see https://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/trade/wp6/documents/2019/ECE_CTCS_WP.6_2019_6E.pdf; https://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/trade/wp6/documents/2019/PPTs_AnnualSession/21am_4_Gabrielle_White_SCC_Gender-strategy.pdf; https://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/trade/wp6/documents/2019/PPTs_AnnualSession/21am_2_Deborah_Wautier_CEN_CLC_Gender_Action_Plan_-_Survey_results_and_analysis.pdf; https://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/trade/wp6/documents/2019/21am_5_Noelia_Garcia_Nebra.pdf

[193] https://www.scc.ca/en/about-scc/publications/other-publications/gender-and-standardization-strategy

"Feminist Trade Policy", explaining that **Sweden** has the first feminist government in the world, meaning that gender equality is central to the Government's priorities. In response to the fact that trade policy today benefits men more than women, the Swedish Government's Feminist Trade Policy includes six focus areas to ensure that trade policy benefits men and women equally. One of Sweden's focus areas is gender-responsive standards, with the policy noting that a US study has found that women in the US were 47% more likely than men to suffer severe injuries in car crashes because safety features are designed for men.[194]

(d)   Equipment for Explosive Environments

Facilities such as mines, refineries, chemical plants and mills expose their workers and the surrounding environment to high risks. To minimize these risks and contain their potential consequences, all equipment used in these environments needs to be designed, installed, maintained and repaired in such a way as to avoid the risk of explosions. The goal of the Working Party 6 sectoral initiative on Equipment for Explosive Environments is to promote and increase safety, while at the same time eliminating barriers to the free trade and use of the equipment. Working Party 6 revised the Common Regulatory Arrangements in 2018 to incorporate the updated UNECE International Model, the requirement that conformity assessment should demonstrate their competence by participation in proficiency testing programmes and the recommendation that independent certification bodies support market surveillance. The work resulted in detailed guidelines for market surveillance authorities responsible for equipment used in Explosive Environments (Hazardous Locations). Since the sectoral initiative was first established, it has worked in close cooperation with the IEC System for Certification to Standards Relating to Equipment for Use in Explosive Atmospheres (IECEx) to promote the best practice developed by the UNECE sectoral initiative to regulators around the world.[195] This international benchmark is used in more than 30 countries including UNECE member States **Canada, some European countries, UK, and the USA**.[196]

5.5.4   Have the standards produced been used by other countries outside of the region?

This section will analyse whether countries outside of the Europe region have used the Recommendations and other deliverables of Working Party 6. Working Party 6 does not develop standards; this is the domain of international, regional and national standards bodies. Rather, Working Party 6 develops and adopts Recommendations to address standardization and regulatory issues. These Recommendations set out good practice regarding regulatory cooperation, risk management, market surveillance, conformity assessment, standards and norms, metrology, gender inclusive standards and other pertinent areas. The Recommendations are not binding and do not aim at rigidly aligning technical regulations across countries. Through these Recommendations, Working Party 6 encourages rule makers to base their regulations on international standards to provide a common denominator to the norms that apply in different markets. It also seeks to promote agreements that enhance cooperation and mutual confidence in the technical competence, reliability and impartiality of other national bodies and institutions.

The **deliverables of Working Party 6 continue to be referenced worldwide** by government

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[194] https://www.government.se/4a4f76/contentassets/34acefd857de4032ad103f932866e7bb/feminist-trade-policy.pdf

[195] Economic Commission for Europe, Steering Committee on Trade Capacity and Standards, Working Party on Regulatory Cooperation and Standardisation Policies, Report on the sectoral initiative on Equipment for ExplosiveEnvironments, 9 September 2019, ECE/CTCS/2019/11.

[196] https://www.taitradioacademy.com/topic/global-explosive-atmosphere-regulations-1/

authorities, international organizations and the business community. Some brief examples illustrate this.

(a)   *Regulatory Cooperation*

In regulatory cooperation, **New Zealand** has explicitly referred to the use of Recommendation L (International Model for Transnational Regulatory Cooperation Based on Good Regulatory Practice).[201] The Director-General for Metering at the National Hydrocarbons Commission of **Mexico** provided specific examples of standards uptake in regulatory systems, including the use of the United Nations Framework Classification for Resources, aimed at classifying oil and gas projects by considering their social, economic and environmental impact. Standards were a complement to compulsory regulations and allowed administrations to build on existing best practice and avoid duplication of activities.[202]

(b)   *Gender inclusive standards*

Working Party 6 deliverables regarding gender inclusive standards have been promoted by countries outside of the Europe region, such as New Zealand, and in Asian and African countries. For example, Worksafe **New Zealand**, the government's occupational safety and health agency, mitigates gender bias in standardization by screening for unintended gender impacts, including in energy safety.[203] New Zealand has several regulators working in the male dominated electrical sector who encouraged the national standards body, Standards New Zealand, to implement the Gender Pledge, and carried out gender training for the electro-technical committee members.[204] **APEC** (Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation) developed a tool to analyse gender implications of technical regulations in 2018. [205] *Réseau Normalisation et Francophonie* has been implementing a project aimed at ensuring better integration of women and girls into the formal economy through usage and uptake of standards in the following French-speaking countries in the Middle East, Africa and the Caribbean: **Benin, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Democratic Republic of Congo, Gabon, Guinea-Bissau, Haiti, Ivory Coast, Lebanon, Madagascar, Mali, Mauritius, Morocco, Niger, Senegal, Seychelles, Togo, and Tunisia**.[206] Several survey respondents from outside of Europe noted that best practice developed by Working Party 6 had led to a new initiative being launched in their region or country, including a Gender Responsive Standards Charter, and a gender mainstreaming policy. Others referred to policy change in their country, including several with a gender focus.

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[201] Programme performance report of the United Nations for the biennium 2014-2015, Report of the Secretary-General, 22 March 2016, A/71/75.

[202] Economic Commission for Europe, Steering Committee on Trade Capacity and Standards, Working Party on Regulatory Cooperation and Standardisation Policies Session, "Report of Working Party on Regulatory Cooperation and Standardisation Policies on its 28th session", 14-16 November 2018, ECE/CTCS/WP.6/2018/2.

[203] Worksafe New Zealand, 2017, Gender Bias in Standardisation, Lucy He. Economic Commission for Europe, Steering Committee on Trade Capacity and Standards, Working Party on Regulatory Cooperation and Standardisation Policies, Progress report on the Gender Responsive Standards Initiative, 11 September 2019, ECE/CTCS/2019/6.

[204] Key informant interviews.

[205] Economic Commission for Europe, Steering Committee on Trade Capacity and Standards, Working Party on Regulatory Cooperation and Standardisation Policies, Progress report on the Gender Responsive Standards Initiative, 11 September 2019, ECE/CTCS/2019/6. Key informant interview.
http://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/trade/wp6/AreasOfWork/GenderInitiative/presentations/APEC_Gender_Inclusion_Guidelines.pdf

[206] Economic Commission for Europe, Steering Committee on Trade Capacity and Standards, Working Party on Regulatory Cooperation and Standardisation Policies, Progress report on the Gender Responsive Standards Initiative, 11 September 2019, ECE/CTCS/2019/6.
http://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/trade/wp6/AreasOfWork/GenderInitiative/presentations/Projet_FJN_RNF_description_sommaire_19_cellules_EN.PDF

Another indicator of the global impact of the Gender in Standards Initiative is the sheer number of signatories to the Declaration from outside the Europe region in May 2019 – out of a total of 56, over a third of signatories to the Declaration. Some examples include signatories from standards bodies and related stakeholders in Africa, Asia Pacific, Latin America and the Caribbean, and North America: **Bolivia, Canada, Colombia, Congo, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Gambia, Honduras, India, Mexico, Morocco, Mozambique, New Zealand, Senegal, South Africa, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Thailand, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Uruguay**. The widespread geography of the signatories illustrates the wide-ranging impact of the awareness raising activities of the Gender in Standards Initiative, and many of these countries have developed gender action plans, which will generate even more impact going forward. This illustrates how **Working Party 6 has put gender on the agenda of the standardization community worldwide**.

(c)   Risk management

Working Party 6 recommendations on risk management and regulatory frameworks, and its guide explaining their use are used by at least 15 countries,[207] including the following countries outside of Europe: **Australia, Brazil, Malawi, New Zealand, and Nigeria**.[208] Moreover, there are examples of countries outside of Europe implementing Working Party 6 risk management recommendations and best practice at country level in cooperation with other organisations, such as in **Brazil, Malawi and Mongolia**.[209]

(d)   Standards for the SDGs

The publication "Standards for the SDGs" illustrates how international standards are used by local and national governments in various countries outside of UNECE's 56 member States, namely: (i) Clean Water – **Botswana, South Africa, Thailand**; (ii) Clean Energy – **Brazil, Egypt, Mexico, Peru**; (iii) Sustainable cities and communities – **Egypt, Indonesia, USA, Zambia**; (iv) Climate Action – **African continent, Chile, Colombia, Ghana, Tanzania**.

One survey respondent from outside of Europe noted that best practice developed by Working Party 6 led to a new initiative being launched in their region or country, including one on SDG 14 on Life Under Water. Key informants noted that the Standards for the SDGs deliverables have raised awareness amongst policy makers of the value of standards as a tool for sustainable development, and their relevance for achievement of the sustainable development goals. Likewise, this has also raised awareness amongst standards bodies of the 2030 Agenda and the importance of voluntary standards to its realization. This was seen for example when policy makers from **Africa and North America** attended a Working Party 6 meeting where ISO presented how they use standards, explained the potential impact of standards and standards making, and showed policy makers how this could be useful in their work.

In conclusion, the above examples illustrate the **global reach of Working Party 6's work** and the **broader impact of UNECE's work beyond the UNECE region**. One key informant noted that in the African continent many standards bodies are new, so the interest in gender responsive standards is a way to foster development at the policy level, and to take advantage of best practice and international guidelines in this area. Another key informant noted that China is a

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[207] With examples cited throughout this document.

[208] Key informant interview.

[209] http://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/trade/wp6/documents/2013/PPTs/Day03-_DonaldMacrae.pdf;
http://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/trade/wp6/documents/2014/D_Macrae_Mongolian_Experience_261114.pdf

major consumer of standards, and as a huge manufacturer China likes to be guided by international best practice and recommendations as it helps their access to other markets.

5.5.5 Have the standards developed helped to strengthen the application of gender mainstreaming principles and contribute to substantial and meaningful changes in the situation of the most vulnerable groups?

The mandate of the Gender Responsive Standards Initiative is to strengthen the application of gender mainstreaming principles, in particular to **mainstream a gender perspective in the development and implementation of standards, and in the development and enforcement of technical regulations**.[210] The positive impact of the Gender Responsive Standards Initiative has been discussed above.

Moreover, it has **helped to strengthen the application of gender mainstreaming principles by raising awareness** of (i) the lack of participation by women in standards setting activities, (ii) the gender bias inherent in many standards which can have a disproportionate effect on women, and (iii) the inadequate input of women to the standards development process.[211] This is important because previously it was not as well known that women make up a very small share of standard setting activities. UNECE preliminarily estimated that as little as 10 per cent of standards development experts are women. This affects the way in which standards are produced and the focus of standardization activities more broadly.[212] One key informant used the example of gender biased standards for seatbelts in cars, which are usually too tall for women, which can have safety ramifications. 43% of survey respondents agreed that the standards developed have helped to strengthen the application of gender mainstreaming principles. Reasons cited include the increased awareness of gender issues, and increased discussions on implementation of gender perspective.

The Gender Responsive Standards Initiative has also helped to strengthen the application of gender mainstreaming principles by **encouraging stakeholders to develop gender action plans for gender responsive standards in their regions and countries**, as discussed above. This is an improvement since before there were no gender strategies at all in the standardization field and none of the major standards setting bodies had either adopted an official gender strategy for the organization of their internal activities; or prioritized gender in the planning or adaptation of its standardization activities; or developed a tool for the analysis of existing standards through a gender lens.[213] Working Party 6 has noted that standards are not only valuable in informing management decisions in business, they are also key components in the development of compulsory instruments, such as regulations, and form the basis for a large range of social and economic policies. As such, the lack of a gender lens in the development of standards is poised to result in gender blind societal choices, which will result in their further exclusion of women

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[210] Economic Commission for Europe, Steering Committee on Trade Capacity and Standards, Working Party on Regulatory Cooperation and Standardisation Policies, Progress report on the Gender Responsive Standards Initiative, 2 November 2018, ECE/CTCS/2018/3/Rev.1.
[211] Please see the publication https://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/trade/Publications/ECE_TRADE_445E.pdf
[212] Economic Commission for Europe, Steering Committee on Trade Capacity and Standards, Working Party on Regulatory Cooperation and Standardisation Policies, Progress report on the Gender Responsive Standards Initiative, 2 November 2018, ECE/CTCS/2018/3/Rev.1.
[213] Economic Commission for Europe, Steering Committee on Trade Capacity and Standards, Working Party on Regulatory Cooperation and Standardisation Policies, Progress report on the Gender Responsive Standards Initiative, 2 November 2018, ECE/CTCS/2018/3/Rev.1.

and the further decrease in their participation in the workforce. [214]

In a number of fields, standards represent a subtle yet important barrier to the participation of women in economic sectors that have become de facto male-dominated. Additionally, as all products and services are designed to specifications contained in standards, a failure to explicitly analyze the needs of the different genders may result in reduced usability or an increased price of products that would otherwise contribute to freeing up women's time. Such adaptation, were it to be more systematic, would decrease the burden of domestic chores, enabling women who are traditionally responsible for these tasks to seek and retain paid positions in the formal sector or pursue a formal education. [215] In future, potential positive impacts of the Gender Responsive Standards Initiative could include: (i) increasing opportunities for women to work in male dominated sectors, (ii) **increasing women's voices in standard setting, thereby empowering women to influence decisions that are relevant for their economic empowerment**, and (iii) increasing women's access to education and employment through reduction of unpaid domestic responsibilities.

However, it is **too early to measure impact regarding substantial and meaningful changes in the situation of the most vulnerable groups**.[216] 61% of survey respondents thought that the standards developed have not yet contributed to substantial and meaningful changes in the situation of the most vulnerable groups, with many stakeholders noting that it is too early to tell. Of those who said yes, (39%), reasons cited include the positive impact on lowering poverty through employment and income, and increased awareness, consideration and understanding of situation of vulnerable groups. Some key informants spoke of the **potential impact on persons with disabilities, through prevention of accident and injury via Recommendations and standards for which safety is a central aim**.

The publication, "Standards for the SDGs" illustrates the **potential power of standards to make a positive impact on the situation of vulnerable groups**.[217] For example, for **people living in disaster prone areas**, such as in Indonesia, the implementation of ISO standard 22327 has strengthened community resilience to landslide disasters and was able to help save lives when a disaster did occur. In 2015 in Aceh Besar, a landslide occurred, but the implementation of this universal standard supported the community based early warning system for this type of disaster, ultimately saving 100 households in the area. Local stakeholders were able to conduct the evacuation in sufficient time once warned by the early warning system. This showed that the standard had a significant impact, saving human lives and reducing casualties. It has since become an important guideline for the national disaster management agency, and was incorporated as a reference into the National Medium-term Development Plan for Reducing Disaster Risk 2015-2019. [218] This illustrates how Working Party 6 Recommendations and best

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[214] Economic Commission for Europe, Steering Committee on Trade Capacity and Standards, Working Party on Regulatory Cooperation and Standardisation Policies, Progress report on the Gender Responsive Standards Initiative, 2 November 2018, ECE/CTCS/2018/3/Rev.1.

[215] Economic Commission for Europe, Steering Committee on Trade Capacity and Standards, Working Party on Regulatory Cooperation and Standardisation Policies, Progress report on the Gender Responsive Standards Initiative, 2 November 2018, ECE/CTCS/2018/3/Rev.1.

[216] Benchmark is zero or very low prior to gender and standards for SDGs initiatives. As regards the standards bodies based on the "one country one vote model" (that is apart from voluntary sustainability standards community), attention to gender was not mentioned as a priority. However, this does not mean that standards were necessarily gender blind because good standardization practice prescribes that standards need to be developed in an inclusive way.

[217] UNECE (2018), *Standards for the Sustainable Development Goals*, ECE/TRADE/444.

[218] UNECE (2018), *Standards for the Sustainable Development Goals*, ECE/TRADE/444.

practices (such as Recommendation T on Standards and Regulations for Sustainable Development, and the compilation of best practices in the publication "Standards for the SDGs" have led to opening up thinking in government on how to use standards in preventing and managing disasters, which leads to saving lives, particularly those most exposed, marginalized people impacted in a much stronger way by disasters.

6.   Conclusions

In conclusion, regarding **relevance** the evaluation found that the work of Working Party 6 (i) has met the needs that its targets and beneficiaries have expressed and agreed to; (ii) is consistent with the mandate of the Trade sub-programme and its established mandates; (iii) is highly relevant for the broad variety of partnerships it maintains; (iv) the Gender Responsive Standards Initiative is highly relevant with respect to gender equality and empowerment of women; and (v) incorporated the perspective of vulnerable groups in the design of recommendations well with respect to women and persons with disabilities.

Regarding **effectiveness**, the evaluation found that Working Party 6 has achieved positive outcomes in all its areas of intervention. Working Party 6's efforts have added value in respect of providing an impartial platform for engagement, a forum for best practices in its thematic areas, and increasing accessibility to standards for middle income countries and countries with economies in transition. Challenges to achieving the activities' objective and expected accomplishments included resource constraints, limited participation of member States and other stakeholders and limited engagement between meetings, implementation and the challenges of enforcement of voluntary standards, and the lack of understanding of various stakeholders of the linkages between standards, sustainable development, and gender equality.

In terms of **efficiency**, the evaluation found that the relationship between cost (in terms of funds and time) and results was reasonable, given the breadth of the mandate, and the nature and volume of accomplishments compared to the budget and human resources. However, mindful of the budgetary constraints, it found that there are insufficient resources to achieve the intended outcomes.

Concerning **sustainability**, the evaluation found that it was not likely that the benefits of the normative work would continue after completion and without overburdening partner institutions.[219] There was low participation of partners and beneficiaries at annual meetings of the Working Party and at regular meetings of advisory bodies by a broad range of stakeholders, including due to language and time zone barriers for some participants. Engagement between meetings was challenging due to time and financial resources of participants and experts, many of whom participate on a *pro bono* basis, noting this is similar to other UNECE Working Parties. There was medium to high ownership of the outcomes of the work.

With respect to **impact**, the evaluation found that Working Party 6 has made a positive contribution within UNECE, particularly through the Gender Responsive Standards Initiative, and the Standards for the SDGs project (funded by extra-budgetary resources), both of which illustrate for colleagues the wider relevance of standards for internationally agreed global goals for the 2030 Agenda and the UN Secretariat's policy of gender mainstreaming. There has been

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[219] With beneficiary countries needing support to implement Working Party 6 best practice and recommendations.

no significant negative impact of the normative work. The outcomes of the Working Party have led to new policies or policy changes in member States in key areas including market surveillance, regulatory cooperation, gender responsive standards, and equipment for explosive environments. Likewise, countries outside of the Europe region have used the Recommendations and other deliverables of Working Party 6, including in regulatory cooperation, gender inclusive standards, risk management, disaster risk resilience, and standards for the SDGs, illustrating the impact of Working Party 6 beyond the UNECE member States. The Gender Responsive Standards Initiative has strengthened the application of gender mainstreaming principles in the development of standards and technical regulations, through raising awareness, and by encouraging the development of gender action plans. However, it is too early to judge whether there have been substantial and meaningful changes in the situation of most vulnerable groups, although there have been positive steps forward and certainly great potential for influence regarding women, people with disabilities, and people living in disaster prone areas.

7.   Recommendations

Recommendations have been made based upon the evaluation findings and conclusions, and developed in consultation with stakeholders.

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 the Establishment and Functioning of Working Parties within UNECE (ECE/EX/1 paragraph 3(d) – see Annex) 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. Take steps to formally establish START-ed and the Gender Responsive Standards Initiative, in line with the agreed guidance and procedures in Annex F.
3. Find ways to address inclusion and participation in Working Party 6 advisory groups.[220] This could include (i) increasing representation of women in all Working Party 6 advisory 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 advisory group virtual meetings so that participants in time zones different to Europe may be more easily included.
4. Explore ways to address resource constraints, for example, by making full use of the resources assigned to Working Party 6, considering redistribution of resources within the Section, interns from Master's programmes on standardization, and extra-budgetary projects with project funded project managers.
5. Seek partnerships with a broad range of women's organisations, including those representing vulnerable groups of women, in each thematic area and advisory group to seek their perspectives, address their needs, and to reach those furthest behind.
6. 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

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[220] Advisory Group on Market Surveillance (MARS), Group on Education and Standardisation (START-Ed), Group of Experts on Risk Management in Regulatory Systems (GRM), Standardisation and Regulatory Techniques (START).

showcase how standards contribute to achievement of gender equality, gender mainstreaming, and achievement of the SDGs in the UNECE region.

8. Annexes

Annex A. Terms of Reference

To insert

Annex B. List of Documents Reviewed

- UNECE Gender Responsive Standards Declaration
- Recent Working Party 6 publications (i.e. Standards for the Sustainable Development Goals, Training Guide on Regulatory Frameworks and Market Surveillance and Bringing Standards in University Curricula: Making the Case),
- Recommendations (i.e. Recommendation T on Standards and Regulations for Sustainable Development and Recommendation U on Gender-Responsive Standards),
- Reports to the WP. 6's Annual Working Party session;
- Documents associated with the extra-budgetary project on Standards for the SDGs, including the related video and database;
- Event participant evaluation questionnaires;
- Capacity Building Workshops (Risk management) in Kyrgyzstan (May-June 2018);
- Workshop on Women Entrepreneurship (21st May 2018) Kyrgyzstan;
- Standards for the SDGs (September 2018) Geneva.
- The Strategic Framework;
- Strategic Framework 2018-2019 (ECE/CECI/2015/INF.1);
- Relevant decisions of UN & UNECE member states and other documents promoting the use of standards for sustainable development, gender equality and the empowerment of women (e.g. Commission and EXCOM decisions, previous relevant evaluations, etc.);
- Current policies/mechanisms for cooperation with partners;
- UNECE Gender Action Plan 2018-2019, United Nations (2017)
- Reports of high level events
- Cooperation with other organisations
- Normative activities
- Reports of annual sessions
- Gender Group online meeting reports
- Case studies on use of standards for the SDGs
- UNECE Regulatory Cooperation brochure
- Programme budget
- Strategic Frameworks
- Programme Performance Reports
    - Programme performance report of the United Nations for the biennium 2016–2017, Report of the Secretary-General, 23 March, 2018, A/73/77

Terms of Reference

- Annex to document TRADE/2004/11 - REVISED TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR THE WORKING PARTY ON REGULATORY COOPERATION AND STANDARDIZATION POLICIES (adopted at the 13th session of the Working Party in November 2003)
- Programme of Work
- Project document: Standards for the SDGs 2
- GRM reports
- Kyrgyz Project documents
- Standards for the SDGs documents
- MARS reports

Annex C.   List of Interviewees

Individual interviews – 9 Females (F), 9 Males (M)

Bureau and other responsibilities in Working Party 6 – 2 F, 4 M
1. Dr. Marion Stoldt, UNECE Chair and Head of International Cooperation Physikalisch-Technische Bundesanstalt PTB, Germany
2. Ing. Miroslav Chloupek, UNECE WP. 6 Vice Chair and Senior Counsellor, Director of External Relations and Economy Section, Czech Office for Standards, Metrology and Testing (ÚNMZ), Czech Republic
3. Ms. Vera Despotović, Chair of MARS Group and Senior Advisor for Coordination and Promotion of Inter-Section and Regional Cooperation in the field of Market Surveillance, Ministry of Trade, Tourism and Telecommunications, Republic of Serbia
4. Mr. Valentin Nikonov, Coordinator, UNECE Group of Experts on Risk Management in Regulatory Frameworks and Independent Consultant, Russia-Israel
5. Mr. Donald Macrae, Coordinator, UNECE Group of Experts on Risk Management in Regulatory Frameworks and Independent Consultant, UK
6. Mr. Kevin Knight, Chair, UNECE Group of Experts on Risk Management in Regulatory Frameworks and Independent Consultant, Australia

Governments and national standards bodies – 1 F, 1 M
7. Ms. Heidi Lund, Senior Adviser, Department for Trade and Technical Rules, Swedish National Board of Trade, Sweden
8. Mr. Peter Morphee, Principal Technical Advisor, Energy Safety, Worksafe, Government of New Zealand

Regional and international organisations – 2 F, 2 M
9. Mr. Henry Cuschieri , Head of Membership and External Relations, ISO, Geneva
10. Ms. Deborah WAUTIER, Project Manager - Policy & Stakeholders Engagement – Strategy & Governance, CEN/CENELEC, Brussels
11. Mr. David Hanlon, Conformity Assessment Strategy Manager and IEC Conformity Assessment Board (CAB) Secretary. IEC - International Electrotechnical Commission
12. Ms. Silvia Vaccaro, European Commission, Policy Officer Standardisation, DG Growth

UN and non-UN partner organisations – 1 F, 0 M
13. Ms. Teresa MOREIRA, Head, Competition and Consumer Policies Branch, UNCTAD, Geneva

Academia – 1 F, 0 M
14. Professor Marta Orviska, Department of Finance and Accounting, Faculty of Economics, Matej Bel University, Slovakia (F)

NGOs and private sector – 0 F, 1 M
15. Mr. Rakesh VAZIRANI, Director Product Traceability & Environmental Information Management, TUV Rheinland

UNECE – 2 F, 1 M
16. Ms. Maria Ceccarelli, OiC, Economic Cooperation and Trade Division and Gender Focal Point in Trade Division, UNECE
17. Ms. Lorenza Jachia, Secretary, Working Party 6, UNECE

18. Mr. Mika Vepsalainen, Chief, Market Access Section, Economic Cooperation and Trade Division, UNECE

Annex D.   Survey Questionnaires

- What is your gender? (Male, Female)
- What type of organisation do you represent?
  - International organization
  - Regional organisation
  - International standards body
  - Regional standards body
  - National standards body
  - Diplomatic mission
  - National government entity
  - Civil society organisation
  - Academia
  - Private sector
- In which area(s) have you engaged with WP6 work between January 2015-December 2018? (Please tick all that apply)
  - Gender Equality
  - Market surveillance
  - Regulatory assistance
  - Education
  - Standards for Sustainable Development Goals
  - Other
- Which region or country do you represent?
  - Global
  - Europe
  - Africa
  - Asia Pacific
  - Middle East
  - Latin America and Caribbean
  - North America
  - Other
- How relevant is the collaboration of WP6 with your organisation (UN, international organisations)?
  - Highly relevant
  - Moderately relevant
  - Slightly relevant
  - Not relevant
- How relevant are the activities of WP6 with regard to gender equality and women's empowerment?
  - Highly relevant
  - Moderately relevant
  - Slightly relevant
  - Not relevant
- How relevant is the work of WP.6 with regard to the Sustainable Development Goals?
  - Highly relevant
  - Moderately relevant
  - Slightly relevant
  - Not relevant

- Has the work of WP.6 been useful for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals? If so, how?
- WP6 designed or amended the following five recommendations. Did any of these incorporate the perspective of vulnerable groups eg women, children, elderly, people with disabilities, others? (please tick all that apply)
  - Recommendation F - Creation and Promotion of International Agreements on Conformity Assessment
  - Recommendation G – Acceptance of Conformity Assessment Results
  - Recommendation S – Applying Predictive Risk Management Tools for Targeted Market Surveillance
  - Recommendation T – Standards and Regulations for Sustainable Development
  - Recommendation U – Gender Responsive Standards
  - If yes, which vulnerable groups? (women, children, people with disabilities, other – please specify)
- Have any negative outcomes been achieved as a result of WP.6 activities? Yes/No. If so please explain
- Have any unexpected outcomes been achieved as a result of WP.6 activities? Yes/No. If so please explain
- Were there any challenges in WP.6 work? Yes/No. If so please explain
- Were there sufficient resources (human, financial, other) to achieve the intended outcomes?
- What is the likelihood that benefits of normative work (i.e. recommendations) will continue?
  - Highly likely
  - Likely
  - Not likely
  - Not at all.
  - Will this over burden your organisation? Yes/No. If so how?
- To what extent do partners participate in and 'own' the outcomes of WP6 work?
  - High
  - Moderate
  - Low
  - Not at all.
- To what extent has the work contributed to impact at the UNECE level?
  - To a significant extent
  - To a moderate extent
  - To a slight extent
  - Not at all
- Has the normative work of WP.6 produced any negative impact, directly or indirectly, intended or unintended?

(Long answer)
- Have the outcomes of WP.6 led to new policies or policy changes in the member States? Yes/No. If so please provide examples
- Have the standards produced been used by other countries outside of the region? Yes/No. If so please provide examples
- Have the standards developed helped to strengthen the application of gender mainstreaming principles? Yes/No. If so how?

- Have the standards developed contributed to substantial and meaningful changes in the situation of the most vulnerable groups? Eg women, children, people with disabilities? If so please explain
- How does your organisation make use of the WP.6 work? (Long answer)
- Do you share WP.6 work? With whom? (Long answer)
- What is useful about WP.6 meetings? (Long answer)
- What motivates your participation in WP.6 work? (Long answer)
- Are your needs and expectations of WP.6 fulfilled? (yes/no, if so how, if not why not?)

Annex E: Guidelines for the Establishment and Functioning of Working Parties within UNECE, Economic Commission for Europe, Executive Committee, ECE/EX/1, 9 October 2006

To insert

Annex F: Guidelines for Establishment of Team of Specialists

To insert: Guidelines (ECE/EX/2/Rev.1),