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UN/CEFACT Prospective Directions

Ongoing and planned project work in the area of message development

Statement submitted by the delegation of Germany

1. It is one year since the UN/CEFACT Plenary announced that one focus of the further work within UN/CEFACT is the development of contextualized reference models, from which ebXML compliant message standards will be derived and published. Germany welcomes this decision to combine the continuation of the CCTS 2.01 based ebXML core component reference library with the Business Message Assembly Methodology Standard CCBDA. The two sister projects Multi Modal Transport & Logistic Model and Supply Chain Reference Data Model are both based on the UN/CEFACT ebXML Core Component Library and seem to progress very well.
2. The same seems to apply to the proof of concept project to develop procedures and formats how to publish CCBDA message structures. Germany, as many other countries has been putting a lot of effort into this new, innovative direction of UN/CEFACT particularly, as the process orientation instead of the document orientation of this approach allows to streamline and facilitate trade along international supply chains. Hence we expect that there will be two outcome streams from the same Business Requirement Specification (BRS). The new deliverables including XML schemas shall be published in parallel with the document focused ones. The precedence for that is the longstanding and stable publication of both the Batch and the Interactive UN/EDIFACT directories.
3. Now Germany is looking forward to the next steps during next week's UN/CEFACT Forum which include the discussion and approval of two new projects which will lead to the publication of a new UN/CEFACT Cross Industry Invoice (CII). This CII shall conform to the new strategic direction to strengthen UN/CEFACT's role as the semantic hub for electronic messages, being usable globally for administration, commerce and transport. This will open the path for similar activities in other key areas such as the Agriculture Domain.
4. Germany is looking forward to collaborate with as many as possible other interested member nations in this endeavour. We suggest to put this topic in the form of a progress report on the agenda of next year's Plenary.