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**Economic Commission for Europe**

Steering Committee on Trade Capacity and Standards

**Working Party on Agricultural Quality Standards**

**Specialized Section on Standardization**

**of Seed Potatoes**

**Forty-fourth session**

Geneva, 29-31 March 2017

Item 13 of the provisional agenda

**Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)**

**and the work of the Specialized Section**

POST SESSION DOCUMENT

 SDGs and the work of the Specialized Section

 The following text was drafted by the Specialized Section during its forty-fourth session in March 2017. The text will be reviewed at the Rapporteurs meeting. Delegates are invited to send their comments to the working group (Australia, Finland, France and United Kingdom).

**Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the UNECE Standard for Seed Potatoes**

**SDG 2: End Hunger**

Provides a set of guiding principles that can be used to minimise the impact of yield limiting potato diseases, pests and other disorders. Thereby reducing the potential for crop failure and enhancing sustainable food security.

* Reliable food supply of a nutritious staple
* Maintenance of genetic diversity
* Protect the environment
* Help small farmers
* Eliminate technical barriers to trade
* Common terminology

**SDG 12: Responsible Consumption and Production**

High quality planting material is a cornerstone for sustainable agriculture by providing the greatest yield potential. Maintaining high quality seed potatoes provides job opportunities, wealth creation, and increased buying power for rural communities.

* Increased resource use efficiency
* Less waste throughout the supply chain
* Profitable farmer
* Knowledge sharing
* Sustainable trade
* Protect consumer interests
* Integrated pest management
* Reduced reliance on chemical pesticides

**SDG: 17 Partnerships for the Goals**

UNECE is an open forum for all UN member states including developing countries and provides equal access to the development, training and implementation of the standard for seed potatoes. In this forum, countries from across the world share best practices, discuss new technologies, science and share expertise to enhance cooperation, build capacity and facilitate fair trade.

* Collaboration and cooperation across organizations
* Common reference and terminology
* A standard that is internationally recognized
* Facilitates exchange of knowledge
* Provides equal access
* Builds on local capacity
* Captures new technology