

II. Ad Hoc Team of Specialists on Standardization and Regulatory Techniques

1. In 1999, the Working Party created an ad hoc Team of Specialists on Standardization and Regulatory Techniques (“START” Team). The Team was to examine how non-tariff barriers to trade could be reduced by (a) limiting the content of related regulations to the essential requirements for meeting regulatory objectives, and (b) referring to international standards as the preferred means of setting out detailed requirements, including for conformity-assessment.

2. Since its creation, the Team has held consultations with Governments, international organizations and private companies to explore their concerns in regulatory convergence areas. It has created, revised and updated the “International Model for Technical Harmonization”, Recommendation L, which comprises a set of voluntary mechanisms and principles for good regulatory practices. The International Model can be used by countries wishing to align their regulatory regimes in specific sectors or product areas.

3. Currently, there are four “sectoral initiatives” under way, each following the International Model”:

- (a) Telecom (SIT)
- (b) Equipment for Explosive Environments (SIEEE)
- (c) Pipeline Safety (SIPS)
- (d) Earth-moving Machinery (SIEMM)

A. Membership

4. The START Team membership includes representatives from the following:

- (a) Governmental experts from UN member States
- (b) Standards-setting organizations
- (c) Certification bodies
- (d) Test houses
- (e) International schemes for conformity assessment
- (f) Business
- (g) Civil society
- (h) Consumer organizations
- (i) International organizations

B. Activities

5. Reports and plans for future activities of these sectoral initiatives can be found in documents:

- (a) “Progress report on the sectoral initiative on Telecom” (ECE/CTCS/WP.6/2015/8);
- (b) “Progress report on the sectoral initiative on Earth-Moving Machinery (EMM)” (ECE/CTCS/WP.6/2015/9);
- (c) “Progress report on the sectoral initiative on Equipment for Explosive Environments (SIEEE)” (ECE/CTCS/WP.6/2015/10); and
- (d) “Progress report on the sectoral initiative on the Safety of Pipelines” (ECE/CTCS/WP.6/2015/11). Since the last renewal of its mandate, in 2005, the Team has held four meetings. The meetings dealt primarily with supervising the

implementation of the three sectoral initiatives: on telecom, earth-moving machinery and equipment for explosive environments.

C. Request for extension of Mandate

6. Following its review of the work of the Team, the Working Party, at its twenty sixth session, decided to request the extension of the Team's mandate (see annex II). It hereby requests the Steering Committee on Trade Capacity and Standards to endorse the extension of the mandate for two years and to submit this to the UNECE Executive Committee. No additional resource requirements are foreseen for the continuation of this work and no changes to the scope of the work are being requested.