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Economic Commission for Europe

Steering Committee on Trade Capacity and Standards

Working Party on Regulatory Cooperation and Standardization Policies (WP.6)

Twenty-ninth session

Geneva, 20-22 November 2019

Item 1 of the provisional agenda

Adoption of the agenda

Annotated provisional agenda for the twenty-ninth session*

To be held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva, starting at 3 p.m. on 20 November 2019 and concluding at 6 p.m. on 22 November 2019. A high level segment on “Gender Responsive Standards” will be held from 11:00 am to 1 pm on 20th November to discuss how standards help progress gender equality and women empowerment.

I. Provisional agenda

1. Adoption of the agenda.
2. Election of officers and opening remarks.
3. Matters arising:
 - (a) Report of the past session and intersessional developments;
 - (b) Reports of other United Nations Economic Commission for Europe bodies of interest to the Working Party.

* Delegates attending meetings at the Palais des Nations should register online at: <https://uncdb.unece.org/app/ext/meeting-registration?id=JK1Jq5>.

Prior to the session, delegates are requested to present themselves with a valid identification card/passport at the Pass and Identification Unit of the UNOG Security and Safety Section, located at the Pregny Gate, Avenue de la Paix 8-14 for the issuance of an identification badge.

There will not be hard copies of the meeting documents. Delegates are requested to bring their own documents to the meeting; these will be available in English, French and Russian on: <http://www.unece.org/trade/wp6/wp6-29th-2019.html>. Additional information for delegates, including a map of the premises, is available on <http://www.unece.org/meetings/practical.html>.



4. Facilitated discussion on future direction of work on “Standards and sustainable development”.
5. Capacity-building.
6. Adoption of the programme of work for 2019–2020.
7. Gender-responsive standards initiative.
8. Risk Management in regulatory systems:
 - (a) Report of activities under the Group of Experts on Managing Risks in Regulatory Systems;
 - (b) Discussion on draft Recommendation V on “Addressing product non-compliance risk in international trade”;
 - (c) Discussion on integrating risk management in trade facilitation.
9. Review of recent developments in standardization:
 - (a) Updates from intergovernmental organizations, and international and regional standardization bodies;
 - (b) High-level panel on “Education on standards-related issues”.
10. International regulatory cooperation:
 - (a) International and regional developments;
 - (b) Sectoral projects;
 - (c) Proposals for new regulatory dialogues.
11. Review of recent developments in conformity assessment and accreditation.
12. Metrology.
13. Market surveillance:
 - (a) Update from the Advisory Group on Market Surveillance;
 - (b) Common definitions and terminology in market surveillance;
 - (c) High-level panel discussion on challenges in market surveillance.
14. Other business.
15. Adoption of the report.

II. Annotations

1. Adoption of the agenda

| <i>Title of document</i> | <i>Document symbol</i> | <i>For information/decision</i> |
|------------------------------|------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Annotated provisional agenda | ECE/CTCS/WP.6/2019/1 | Decision |

1. The provisional agenda and timetable were agreed upon by the Bureau of the Working Party and are presented here for adoption by the Working Party.

2. Election of officers and opening remarks

2. It is recalled that in accordance with the ECE's rules of procedure, the Working Party at its twenty-seventh session, had re-elected Ms. M. Stoldt (Germany) as the Chairperson and Mr V. Koreshkov (Belarus) as the Vice-Chairperson for the period of 2017–2019. The two-year term having come to an end, an election will take place to fill these positions. The candidates will be introduced formally by their respective delegations.
3. It is also recalled that Mr. Miroslav Chloupek (Czech Republic) had been elected as Vice-Chairperson in 2018 for a two-year term expiring in 2020.
4. Elected officers and other invitees will deliver opening remarks.

3. Matters arising

| <i>Title of document</i> | <i>Document symbol</i> | <i>For information/decision</i> |
|--|-------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Report of the Working Party on Regulatory Cooperation and Standardization Policies on its twenty-eighth session | ECE/TRADE/C/WP.6/2018/2 | Information |

5. The secretariat will provide an update on matters arising from meetings within the United Nations, including the Executive Committee of ECE and the Steering Committee on Trade Capacity and Standards.
6. Delegations will be informed of the overall strategic orientation for ECE to support its member States in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

(a) Report of the past session and intersessional developments

7. The secretariat will introduce the report of the twenty-eighth session of the Working Party (ECE/CTCS/WP.6/2018/2) for information and report on developments under the main areas of work since the last session.

(b) Reports by other United Nations Economic Commission for Europe bodies of interest to the Working Party

8. Other ECE bodies will be asked to report on their activities of potential interest to the Working Party.

4. Facilitated discussion on future direction of work on “Standards and sustainable development”

| <i>Title of document</i> | <i>Document symbol</i> | <i>For information/decision</i> |
|---|-------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Report on the Standards for the SDGs project | ECE/TRADE/C/WP.6/2019/3 | Information |
| Draft report on the evaluation of UNECE's support to the advancement of Regulatory Cooperation and Standardization Policies | ECE/TRADE/C/WP.6/2019/4 | Information |
| Standards for the SDGs | ECE/TRADE/444 | Information |

9. The secretariat will report on the project “Increasing the use of voluntary standards for the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)” which was successfully concluded in July 2019, followed by presentations of actual experience of members implementing standards for sustainable development. The secretariat will introduce plans for the implementation of a follow-up project on “Enhancing usage and uptake of standards for sustainable development, gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls” that started activities in August 2019 for a duration of two years.

10. An independent consultant will present – through online connection - a draft report on the periodic evaluation of the activities UNECE in support to the advancement of Regulatory Cooperation and Standardization Policies, with a special focus on how they contribute to achieving the 2030 Agenda, gender equality and women’s empowerment.

11. A facilitated discussion with delegations will result in agreed directions for the Working Party’s further engagement in sustainable development and gender equality.

5. Capacity-building

| <i>Title of document</i> | <i>Document symbol</i> | <i>For information/decision</i> |
|---|------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Training Guide on Regulatory Frameworks and Market Surveillance | ECE/TRADE/441 | Information |

12. The Working Party will review capacity-building activities in the area of standards and standards-related issues.

13. The secretary of the Steering Committee on Trade Capacity and Standards will present the results of the needs assessment studies undertaken by the secretariat on regulatory and procedural barriers to trade. Delegates will be briefed about capacity-building projects being developed on the basis of the recommendations contained in the studies. They will have an opportunity to highlight further potential activities and areas of need.

6. Adoption of the programme of work for 2019–2020

| <i>Title of document</i> | <i>Document symbol</i> | <i>For information/decision</i> |
|---|-------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Programme of work of the Working Party on Regulatory Cooperation and Standardization Policies | ECE/TRADE/C/WP.6/2019/5 | Decision |
| Trade subprogramme’s draft programme of work for 2020 | ECE/CTCS/2019/10 | Information |

14. The Secretariat will present the proposed work plan for 2019–2020 (ECE/CTCS/WP.6/2019/6), which is based on the Trade subprogramme’s programme of work for 2020 (ECE/CTCS/2019/10) as approved by the Steering Committee on Trade Capacity and Standards at its fifth session.

7. Gender-responsive standards initiative

| <i>Title of document</i> | <i>Document symbol</i> | <i>For information/decision</i> |
|---|------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Progress report on the Gender-Responsive Standards Initiative | ECE/CTCS/WP.6/2019/6 | Decision |
| Gender-responsive standards | ECE/TRADE/445 | Information |

15. The secretariat will present the progress in the implementation of the initiative “Mainstreaming a gender perspective in standards and technical regulations” (ECE/CTCS/WP.6/2019/5), and in particular report on the signing of the Declaration on “Gender Responsive Standards” and on the first physical meeting of the initiative held in Cape Town, South Africa.

16. The authors will present a publication on “Gender Responsive Standards” prepared for the occasion of the opening of the Declaration to signature in May 2019 for comments and discussion by delegations.

8. Risk management in regulatory systems

| <i>Title of document</i> | <i>Document symbol</i> | <i>For information/decision</i> |
|--|------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Risk Management in Regulatory Frameworks | ECE/TRADE/390 | Information |
| Report on the activities of the Group of Experts on Managing Risks in Regulatory Systems | ECE/CTCS/WP.6/2019/7 | Decision |
| Recommendation V “Addressing product non-compliance risk in international trade” | ECE/CTCS/WP.6/2019/8 | Information |

(a) Report of activities under the Group of Experts on Managing Risks in Regulatory Systems

17. The Group of Experts on Managing Risks in Regulatory Systems (GRM) will report on the work undertaken since the last session and present for approval the report on its activities (ECE/CTCS/WP.6/2018/4). Delegations will be invited to discuss priorities for the work of the Group going forward and decide on activities to take place until the end of 2019.

18. Since the mandate of the GRM came to an end in December 2018, the Working Party will be invited to approve a request for extending its activities for a further two-year period.

(b) Discussion on draft Recommendation V on “Addressing product non-compliance risk in international trade”

19. A preliminary proposal for a new Recommendation on “Addressing product non-compliance risk in international trade” will be presented to the Working Party for discussion (ECE/CTCS/WP.6/2019/5).

(c) Discussion on integrating risk management in trade facilitation

20. A panel will discuss practical experience of countries integrating risk management in trade facilitation.

9. Review of recent developments in standardization

| <i>Title of document</i> | <i>Document symbol</i> | <i>For information/decision</i> |
|---|------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Bringing standardization in University Curricula: Making the case | ECE/TRADE/440 | Information |

(a) Updates from intergovernmental organizations, and international and regional standardization bodies

21. International and regional standardization bodies will be invited to present recent developments in standardization and regulatory activities.
22. The Working Party will discuss current developments in the field of standardization in regional groupings and countries and how they might affect the delivery of the programme of work.

(b) High-level panel on “Education on standards-related issues”.

23. Intergovernmental organizations, international, regional and national authorities as well as universities and research centres will be invited to submit information on progress in the implementation of Recommendation I on “Education on Standards-related issues”.
24. A high-level panel of academics and research institutions will present current priorities in the research and teaching on standardization

10. International regulatory cooperation

(a) International and regional developments

25. The Working Party will be informed about the status of projects for reinforcing regulatory cooperation, especially at the bilateral and regional levels. Delegations will be invited to present recent developments in regulatory cooperation.

(b) Sectoral projects

| <i>Title of document</i> | <i>Document symbol</i> | <i>For information/decision</i> |
|---|------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Report on the sectoral initiative on cyber security | ECE/CTCS/WP.6/2019/9 | Decision |
| Report on the sectoral initiative on Earth-Moving Machinery | ECE/CTCS/WP.6/2019/10 | Decision |
| Report on the sectoral initiative on Equipment for Explosive Environments | ECE/CTCS/WP.6/2019/11 | Decision |
| Report on the sectoral initiative on the Safety of Pipelines | ECE/CTCS/WP.6/2019/12 | Decision |

26. The Team of Specialists on Standardization and Regulatory Techniques (START group) will report on its activities and those of its sectoral initiatives.

27. The conveners of the ongoing sectoral initiatives will present for approval the reports on their respective activities and recent achievements, as follows: the sectoral initiative on cyber security (ECE/CTCS/WP.6/2019/9), the sectoral initiative on Earth-Moving

Machinery (ECE/CTCS/WP.6/2019/10), the sectoral initiative on Equipment for Explosive Environments (ECE/CTCS/WP.6/2019/11) and on the Safety of Pipelines (ECE/CTCS/WP.6/2019/12).

28. Delegations will be invited to discuss priorities for the work of the Sectoral Initiatives going forward and take decisions on any further activities. Since the mandate of the START Group came to an end in December 2018, the Working Party will be invited to approve a request for extending its activities for a further two-year period.

(c) Proposals for new regulatory dialogues

29. The Working Party will consider proposals from delegations for new regulatory convergence dialogues.

11. Review of recent developments in conformity assessment and accreditation

30. Delegations will be invited to report on recent activities in the area of conformity assessment and accreditation.

12. Metrology

31. National delegations and international and regional organizations will be invited to report on developments in metrology.

32. The Working Party will select tentative dates for its twenty-ninth session in 2020.

13. Market surveillance

33. National delegations and international and regional organizations will be invited to report on developments in market surveillance.

(a) Update from the Advisory Group on Market Surveillance

| <i>Title of document</i> | <i>Document symbol</i> | <i>For information/decision</i> |
|--|------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Report of the Advisory Group on Market Surveillance, its activities and its meetings | ECE/CTCS/WP.6/2019/13 | Decision |

34. The Advisory Group on Market Surveillance (MARS group) will present for approval the report (ECE/CTCS/WP.6/2019/13) on its activities and on its meeting in Moscow on 8 and 9 July 2019, and decide on activities to take place until the end of 2020.

35. Since the mandate of the MARS Group came to an end in December 2018, the Working Party will be invited to approve a request for extending its activities for a further two-year period.

(b) Common definitions and terminology in market surveillance

| <i>Title of document</i> | <i>Document symbol</i> | <i>For information/decision</i> |
|---------------------------------------|------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Glossary of Market Surveillance Terms | ECE/TRADE/389 | Information |

36. The delegates will be invited to comment and propose revisions to the Glossary of Market Surveillance Terms.

(c) High-level panel discussion on challenges in market surveillance

37. A high-level panel will discuss challenges for market surveillance authorities including: the planning of inspections, e-commerce, cybersecurity and cooperation with customs.

14. Other business

38. The Working Party will decide on the dates of its 2020 meeting. The proposed dates are 2-3 November 2020. Delegations will be informed that, in view of the upcoming renovations work in the Palais des Nations, and the reduced availability of meeting rooms, the 2020 Annual Session would need to be shortened.

15. Adoption of the report

39. Delegates will adopt the final report containing the decisions adopted by the Working Party. (ECE/CTCS/WP.6/2019/2)

III. Tentative timetable

| <i>Date</i> | <i>Time</i> | <i>Item</i> | <i>Description</i> |
|-------------|---------------|-------------|---|
| 20.11 | 15:00 – 15:10 | 1 | Adoption of the agenda |
| | 15:10 – 15:20 | 2 | Election of officers and opening remarks |
| | 15:20 – 15:45 | 3 | Matters arising |
| | | 3 (a) | Report of the past session and intersessional developments |
| | | 3 (b) | Reports by other United Nations Economic Commission for Europe bodies of interest to the Working Party |
| | 15:45 – 17:15 | 4 | Facilitated discussion on the direction of UNECE work on “Standards for the SDGs” |
| | 17:15 – 17:30 | 5 | Capacity-building |
| | 17:30 – 18:00 | 6 | Adoption of the programme of work for 2019–2020 |
| 21.11 | 10:00 – 11:00 | 7 | Gender-responsive standards initiative |
| | 11:00 – 12:00 | 8 | Risk Management in regulatory systems |
| | | 8 (a) | Report on the activities from the Group of Experts on Managing Risks in Regulatory Systems |
| | | 8 (b) | Discussion on draft Recommendation V on “Addressing product non-compliance risk in international trade” |
| | | 8 (c) | Panel discussion on integrating risk management in trade facilitation |
| | 12:00 – 13:00 | 9 | Review of recent developments in standardization |
| | | 9 (a) | Updates from intergovernmental organizations, and international and regional standardization bodies |
| | 15:00 – 15:30 | 9 (a) | Continued |
| | 15:30 – 18:00 | 9 (b) | High level segment on “Education on standards-related issues” |
| 22.11 | 10:00 -12:00 | 10 | International Regulatory Cooperation |

| <i>Date</i> | <i>Time</i> | <i>Item</i> | <i>Description</i> |
|-------------|---------------|-------------|---|
| | | 10 (a) | National, regional and international developments |
| | | 10(b) | Sectoral projects |
| | | 10 (c) | Proposals for new regulatory dialogues |
| | 12:00 – 12:30 | 11 | Review of recent developments in conformity assessment and accreditation |
| | 12:30 – 13:00 | 12 | Metrology |
| | 15:00 – 17:00 | 13 | Market surveillance |
| | | 13 (a) | Update from the Advisory Group on Market Surveillance |
| | | 13(b) | Common definitions and terminology in market surveillance |
| | | 13 (c) | High level panel on challenges for market surveillance authorities including: the planning of inspections, e-commerce, cybersecurity and cooperation with customs |
| | 17:00 – 17:30 | 14 | Other business |
| | 17:30 – 18:00 | 15 | Adoption of the report |