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**Inter-regional Expert Group Meeting
on the United Nations Development Accounts Project 1213AA -
Strengthening the capacities of developing countries
and countries with economies in transition
to facilitate legitimate border crossing,
regional cooperation and integration**

First session

Geneva, 8 December 2014

Item 1 of the provisional agenda

Adoption of the agenda

Annotated provisional agenda for the first session^{1 2}

to be held in salle VIII, Palais de Nations, Geneva, starting at 9.00 hours³

I. Provisional agenda

<i>Informal segments - consultations among Regional Commissions (9:00-10:00, 13:00-14:00 and 18:00-19:30)</i>

1. Adoption of the agenda.
2. Meeting objectives and overall project status.
3. Example of C2C electronic information exchange
4. Regional developments:
 - (a) Economic Commission for Europe;
 - (b) Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia;
 - (c) Economic Commission for Africa;
 - (d) Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific;
 - (e) Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean.
5. Conclusions and recommendations.
6. Next steps.

¹ For reasons of economy, delegates are requested to bring copies of all relevant documents to the session. There will be no documentation available in the conference room. Before the session, documents may be downloaded from the project website (http://www.unece.org/trans/themes/unda_customs-to-customs.html).

² Delegates are requested to complete the registration form available for download on the UNECE Transport Division's website <<http://live.unece.org/trans/registfr.html>>. It should be transmitted to the UNECE secretariat no later than one week prior to the session by email (andre.sceia@unece.org) or by fax (+41 22 917 0039).

³ It is recommended to be at the reception of the building at the least 30 minutes earlier to allow for sufficient time to go through security.

I. Time table

<i>Informal segment 1 - consultations among Regional Commissions</i>		60'	9:00-10:00
Welcome speech by ...		15'	10:00-10:15
1.	Adoption of the agenda.	15'	10:15-10:30
2.	Meeting objectives and overall project status.	40'	10:30-11:10
<i>Coffee break</i>		20'	11:10-11:30
3.	Example of C2C electronic information exchange		11:30-12:00
	Presentation	20'	
	Q&A	10'	
4.	Regional developments:		
(a)	Economic Commission for Europe;		12:00-12:30
	Presentation	20'	
	Q&A	10'	
(b)	Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia;		12:30-13:00
	Presentation	20'	
	Q&A	10'	
<i>Lunch Break</i>			13:00-15:00
<i>Informal segment 2 - consultations among Regional Commissions</i>		60'	14:00-15:00
(c)	Economic Commission for Africa;		15:00-15:30
	Presentation	20'	
	Q&A	10'	
(d)	Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific;		15:30-16:00
	Presentation	20'	
	Q&A	10'	
(e)	Economic Commission for and Latin America and the Caribbean.		16:00-16:30
	Presentation	20'	
	Q&A	10'	
<i>Coffee break</i>		20'	16:30-16:50
5.	Conclusions and recommendations.	40'	16:50-17:30
6.	Next steps.	20'	17:40-18:00
<i>Informal segment 3 - consultations among Regional Commissions</i>		90'	18:00-19:30

III. Annotations

Informal segment - consultations among Regional Commissions

Representatives of each UN Regional Commission (RC) may wish to attend the informal segment of the meeting to consult with other regional commissions on various matters of interest to the project.

1. Adoption of the agenda

The Inter-regional Expert Group on the United Nations Development Accounts UNDA project 1213AA - "*Strengthening the capacities of developing countries and countries with economies in transition to facilitate legitimate border crossing, regional cooperation and integration*", further referred to as the "Expert Group", may wish to adopt the provision agenda contained in Informal document UNDA1213AA/No. 1 (2014).

Documentation

Informal document UNDA1213AA/No. 1 (2014)

2. Meeting objectives and overall project status

The UNDA project 1213AA -*Strengthening the capacities of developing countries and countries with economies in transition to facilitate legitimate border crossing, regional cooperation and integration*- is a global project involving the five RC, i.e. the Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE), the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA), the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) and the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC). Each RC, is responsible for a sub-regional project aimed at increasing the use of Customs to Customs (C2C) electronic data exchange to further secure and accelerate international transport of goods.

This first session of the Expert Group is aimed at coordinating the five sub-regional projects and at sharing information on topics relevant to the project, e.g. international standards, relevant expert for capacity building, etc. Furthermore, for each regional case, the Expert Group will recommend one of the two possible options for the second phase of the project: (a) provision of technical assistance to national or regional customs authorities to interconnect customs IT systems through a C2C exchange platform or (b) development of an Action Plan setting out the steps needed to enable the exchange of transit information via a C2C platform.

3. Example of C2C electronic information exchange

The Expert Group may wish to be informed and discuss a practical example of C2C electronic information exchange, including technical, procedural and legal aspects.

4. Regional sub-projects

(a) Economic Commission for Europe

The Expert Group may wish to be informed of and discuss the status of the UNECE sub-project as well as consider and discuss Informal document UNDA1213AA/No. 2 (2014), containing the gap-analysis for Georgia.

Documentation

Informal document UNDA1213AA/No. 2 (2014)

(b) Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia

The Expert Group may wish to be informed and discuss of the status of the ESCWA sub-project as well as consider and discuss Informal document UNDA1213AA/No. 3 (2014), containing the gap-analysis for Jordan, Morocco and Tunisia.

Documentation

Informal document UNDA1213AA/No. 3 (2014)

(c) Economic Commission for Africa

The Expert Group may wish to be informed and discuss of the status of the ECA sub-project as well as consider and discuss Informal document UNDA1213AA/No. 4 (2014), containing the gap-analysis for Morocco and Tunisia.

Documentation

Informal document UNDA1213AA/No. 4 (2014)

(d) Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

The Expert Group may wish to be informed and discuss of the status of the ESCAP sub-project as well as consider and discuss Informal document UNDA1213AA/No. 5 (2014), containing the gap-analysis for Kyrgyzstan.

Documentation

Informal document UNDA1213AA/No. 5 (2014)

(e) Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean

The Expert Group may wish to be informed and discuss of the status of the ECLAC sub-project as well as consider and discuss Informal document UNDA1213AA/No. 6 (2014), containing the gap-analysis for Costa-Rica.

Documentation

Informal document UNDA1213AA/No. 6 (2014)

5. Recommendations and conclusions

On the basis of available “gap” analyses, which are aimed at assessing the legal and technical needs of candidate countries to enable or extend C2C electronic exchange of transit information, and of the experience of the experts present, the Expert Group will identify pilot countries which would most benefit from the project resources. The Expert Group will also determine for each RC if the resources available for the project would be best used for technical assistance aimed at implementing C2C electronic data exchange, for the development of an action plan and/or for capacity building.

The Expert Group may also wish to exchange view on the existing relevant standards and international agreements in the field of Customs and consider which should be promoted in the framework of this project.

6. Next steps

The Expert Group may wish to review the remaining project activities and their schedule, as proposed in Informal document UNDA1213AA/No. 7 (2014), and start considering the best venue and timing for the second Expert Group meeting, which will revise the project outcome, as well as the Seminar that will be organized back to back.

UNECE secretariat will prepare a summary report of the session and circulate it among all participants within 2 weeks after the meeting.

Documentation

Informal document UNDA1213AA/No. 7 (2014)
