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COMMITTEE FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND ENTERPRISE DEVELOPMENT

TERMS OF REFERENCE POLICY OBJECTIVES AND SUPPORTING STRATEGIC GOALS

This document contains the Terms of Reference, Policy Objectives and Supporting Strategic Goals of the Committee for Trade, Industry and Enterprise Development as approved at its fifth session in June 2001 and is **for information** only.

**TERMS OF REFERENCE
OF THE
COMMITTEE FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND ENTERPRISE DEVELOPMENT
(15 June 2001)**

The Committee shall serve as a forum for discussion and a platform for multilateral assistance in the form of recommendations, norms and standards, and legal instruments in the areas of: trade facilitation, trade related norms and standards and the re-structuring and development of industry and enterprise.

The Committee shall study, consult on and submit recommendations on practical measures that will:

- (a) result in the facilitation, expansion and diversification of trade for countries in the UNECE region (taking into consideration that, to be effective, these practical measures may need to involve the larger international and global communities with whom this trade takes place);
- (b) promote trade facilitation on a regional and international level;
- (c) promote the further integration of all UNECE member States into the European and global economy;
- (d) result in the creation of a clear, predictable and supportive environment for the sustainable development of industry and new enterprises in the countries of the UNECE region and, particularly, in those countries with transition economies;

The Committee shall, as appropriate, coordinate with, actively involve, and develop joint activities with other principal subsidiary bodies of the UNECE in its work.

In the region, the Committee shall endeavour to contribute to the transition of countries which formerly had planned economies to market economy principles and methods and their integration into the European and global economy.

In its work, the Committee will involve representatives of civil society, including the business community, and will seek to develop ongoing dialogues between the public and private sectors in its member countries.

The Committee shall provide input to global United Nations' programmes and take its cross-sectoral themes (such as gender mainstreaming, sustainable development, and involvement of the business community) into consideration when developing its work programme and that of its subsidiary bodies.

The Committee shall, whenever necessary, approach other United Nations organizations and agencies with requests for assistance in achieving its tasks, in accordance with any agreements between United Nations organizations and agencies;

The Committee shall review regularly the current and future activities of its subsidiary bodies and shall keep informed of the relevant work done and planned by other United Nations bodies and by other institutions and international organizations. It shall take appropriate steps to coordinate its activities with respect to these bodies in order to avoid duplication and to ensure the maximum effectiveness of its work.

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**POLICY OBJECTIVES
AND SUPPORTING STRATEGIC GOALS
OF THE COMMITTEE FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND ENTERPRISE DEVELOPMENT**

(as set out in the 1997 Plan of Action)

The overall objectives for the work of the Committee, which were set out in the UNECE 1997 Plan of Action, are the following:

- a) “to support the UNECE objective of “facilitating and strengthening the involvement of all member countries in harmonious economic relations”
- b) “to assist in the integration of all countries, in particular countries in transition, into the European and global economy, and to work to prevent the development of new barriers to trade within the region”.
- c) “to contribute to the creation of a clear, predictable and supportive environment for industrial and enterprise development activities”.

Short to Medium-Term Policy Objectives and Supporting Strategic Goals

Given the very broad and ambitious nature of its longer-term policy objectives, the Committee must determine narrower policy objectives for the short to medium-term. In addition, the Committee needs to make strategic decisions with regard to how to use its available resources in support of these short to medium-term policy objectives. It needs to set strategic goals in terms of the specific areas where it will undertake work.

In this context, the Bureau of the Committee would like to make the following proposals for policy objectives and strategic goals. These have been developed taking into consideration the programme of work for 2001 to 2002. The policy objectives are set out in bold italics and the supporting strategic goals in normal text.

1. To improve the environment for regional and world trade by:

(a) Assisting in reducing technical barriers to trade and market access

Supporting Strategic Goals:

- To develop trade facilitation recommendations
- To develop a close partnership with the World Trade Organization and other international bodies in the area of trade facilitation
- To develop an international agreement on technical harmonization and develop sectoral protocols in selected trade areas
- To develop a recommended process for the harmonization of technical regulations affecting trade
- To support the development of Information and Communications Technologies (ICT) based upon open, interoperable standards for use in trade, and particularly in transition economies

(b) Developing and promoting standards, common procedures and best practices for trade*Supporting Strategic Goals:*

- To develop, maintain and update standards and tools used to support international trade and e-business
- To develop, maintain and update commercial standards pertaining to selected agricultural produce moving in international trade
- To identify areas where standardization work needs to be done by international standardization organizations in order to support trade
- To promote access to international processes for harmonization and standardization on a transparent and equitable basis

(c) Developing regional/international contact networks for national ministries and business communities*Supporting Strategic Goals:*

- To establish and maintain a network of promotion points in transition economies
- To publish a directory of national contact points
- To develop guidelines and recommendations that assist government administrations to better understand the needs of the private sector both in their own countries and, in the context of trade, internationally.

2. To improve the investment and business environment within member States¹ by:**(a) Encouraging adoption of international and, if appropriate, regional standards and norms related to trade and business***Supporting Strategic Goals:*

To promote the implementation of:

- Recommendations and instruments to harmonize standards, technical regulations and conformity assessment procedures including quality control procedures in the region
- To develop a close partnership with UNCTAD and other international bodies in the area of improved business environments
- International standards and norms for data used in administration commerce and transport
- Commercial standards pertaining to selected agricultural produce moving in international trade and their harmonized implementation.

(b) Identifying ways of developing trade and investment finance possibilities*Supporting Strategic Goals:*

- To develop recommendations, guides, training and advice that contribute to improving the capacity of transition economies to negotiate and effectively use concession contracts in public-private partnership projects
- To monitor trends in trade finance in transition economies
- To organize, on a demand basis, seminars on export and trade financing
- To develop guidelines and/or recommendations for governments with regard to improving the ability of enterprises in the region to develop their trade and investment financing capacities

¹ This policy objective corresponds to the 1997 Action Plan objective of contributing to the “the creation of a clear, predictable and supportive environment for industrial and enterprise development activities”. This prompts a policy objective oriented towards

(c) *Improving commercial dispute resolution*

Supporting Strategic Goals:

- To provide recommendations to Governments as to the possible revision of the European Convention on International Commercial Arbitration
- To facilitate and promote the use of international commercial arbitration, and other alternative dispute resolution systems, in the region

3. *To assist member States to develop more robust, stable and diversified economies² via:*

(a) *Promoting the development of new economic sectors based upon innovation and new technologies*

Supporting Strategic Goals:

- To identify the impact of Internet and electronic commerce on the development of enterprises and recommend best practices in this area;
- To consult with member States and develop recommendations aimed at the sustainable enforcement of Intellectual Property Rights in the region and the development of knowledge-based industries

(b) *Facilitation of the restructuring and development of industry and enterprises*

Supporting Strategic Goals:

- To collect, process and disseminate information on best practices related to the restructuring and development of industry and enterprises
- To study economic, technical and regulatory issues related to industry and enterprise development and make recommendations for government action
- To study the competitiveness of basic industries in transition economies and promote measures to overcome barriers to industrial restructuring
- To provide advice and recommendations to Governments on the sustainable development of industry with emphasis on the steel and chemical industries
- To promote the implementation of all recommendations and guides developed under the Committee which are relevant to industry and enterprise development.

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assisting member States by improving their domestic environments for trade and investment.

2 This policy objective corresponds to the 1997 Action Plan objective of contributing to, “the integration of all countries, in particular countries in transition, into the European and global economy”. This could also be seen as a policy objective oriented toward assisting member States to take better advantage of the opportunities available to them within the regional and global environments for trade and investment.