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COMMITTEE FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND
ENTERPRISE DEVELOPMENT
Eighth session, 10, 13 and 14 May 2004
Item 5 of the provisional agenda

DRAFT PROGRAMME OF WORK, 2004-2007
Trade Development Subprogramme
Work Items

DOCUMENT FOR APPROVAL

The Bureau of the Committee is submitting this draft 2004 - 2007 programme of work to the Committee for approval. The draft programme is set out in three parts. The first part (document TRADE/2004/4) introduces the programme of work and the strategic directions for the two subprogrammes under the Committee's responsibility: namely Trade Development, and Industrial Restructuring and Enterprise Development. The second part can be found in this document, document TRADE/2004/4/Add.2 and document TRADE/2004/4/Add.3, which describe, in detail, the specific activities to be undertaken. The third part consists of summary tables of these specific activities and can be found in documents TRADE/2004/4/Add.4 and TRADE/2004/4/Add.5.

Because the 2004 session of the Centre for Trade Facilitation and Electronic Business (UN/CEFACT) will be held after the Committee session, the parts of this work programme that relate to the work of UN/CEFACT are presented for **information only** and will be re-submitted to the Committee, with any subsequent changes, through the intersessional approval process.

Information on the work under the Committee can be found on its website: http://www.unece.org/trade.

Previous, related documentation: TRADE/2003/11/Add.1 (Draft Programme of Work 2003-2005: Work Items)

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INTRODUCTION

The 2004 – 2007 programme of work for the Committee for Trade, Industry and Enterprise Development of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) is set out in three parts. The first part, contained in document TRADE/2004/4, introduces the programme of work and the strategic directions for the two subprogrammes under the Committee's responsibility: namely Trade Development, and Industrial Restructuring and Enterprise Development. The second part describes the specific activities to be undertaken and can be found in this document and TRADE/2004/4/Add.2 (for the Trade Development Subprogramme) and document TRADE/2004/4/Add.3 (for the Industrial Restructuring and Enterprise Development Subprogramme). The third part consists of summary tables of these specific activities and can be found in documents TRADE/2004/4/Add.5 (for the Trade Development Subprogramme) and TRADE/2004/4/Add.4 (for the Industrial Restructuring and Enterprise Development Subprogramme).

1.1   STANDARDS DEVELOPMENT AND MAINTENANCE
Developing and maintaining effective international trade-related instruments, norms, standards and recommendations, in response to the needs of the global economy

Developing and maintaining trade-related instruments, norms and standards is one of the core activities of UNECE. In order to further this work, UNECE will undertake the following activities:

1.1.1   Development of Trade Facilitation Standards and Recommendations under UN/CEFACT

1.1.1.1 Development of a Guide and formal Recommendation on Trade Facilitation Benchmarking

Trade Facilitation Benchmarking relates to the measurement of specific trade facilitation procedures and activities, usually against an agreed standard. Benchmarking allows countries to measure their performance developments over time and against other countries and is an important tool in identifying areas needing attention and improvement. Through the work of the UN/CEFACT, UNECE will develop a "Guide to Trade Facilitation Benchmarking" and will follow this up with a formal Recommendation. Work already undertaken by organizations such as the World Bank, the World Customs Organization (WCO), the International Chamber of Commerce (ICC), the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) will be utilized in developing both the Guide and the Recommendation.

Target Audience: Governments and international trade organizations
Target Date for Completion: Completion of the Guide: June 2004
                        Completion and approval of the Recommendation: May 2005

1.1.1.2 Implementation of Trade Facilitation Benchmarking

The secretariat, working together with the UN/CEFACT, national trade facilitation promotion organizations and other organizations such as the World Bank and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), will assist selected member States to implement the Guide and Recommendation on Trade Facilitation Benchmarking.

Target Audience: Governments and national trade facilitation promotion organizations
Target Date for Completion: Ongoing 2005-07

1.1.1.3 Enhancement of Trade Facilitation and Security

Security is playing an increasingly important role in international trade. However, there is a danger in the current environment that unilateral and uncoordinated measures on trade security could emerge. Such measures could impede trade flows and could become a new non-technical barrier to trade, particularly for developing economies and small and medium enterprises.

The UNECE and UN/CEFACT will continue to work with key organisations such as WCO, IMO, ICC, the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE), the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) and other relevant agencies, to encourage a facilitative approach to trade security across the entire trade transaction chain.

Target Audience: Governments, international trade organizations and trade
Target Date for Completion: Ongoing, 2004-07

1.1.1.4 Development of a Recommendation on the establishment of a Single Window

The "Single Window" environment aims to expedite and simplify information flows between trade and government and bring meaningful gains to all parties involved in cross-border trade. Essentially, a "Single Window" is a system that allows traders to lodge information with a single body, or entry point, to fulfil all import- or export-related regulatory requirements. Through the work of UN/CEFACT, the UNECE will develop a formal Recommendation for establishing and operating a Single Window for Trade Information and Procedures. The Recommendation will consist of a short formal section containing the core elements of the Recommendation, followed by four annexes with a more elaborate description of the Single Window and operational examples from trade and business.

Target Audience: Governments and Trade in all countries, but with a special focus on
                              transition and developing countries
Target Date for Completion: May 2004

1.1.1.5 Implementation of Single Window

UNECE will work with key strategic partners (WB, WCO, ICC, etc) to assist selected member States in assessing their need for and approach to the implementation of a Single Window. The "Single Window" environment aims to expedite and simplify information flows between trade and government and bring meaningful gains to all parties involved in cross-border trade. Essentially, a "Single Window" is a system that allows traders to lodge information with a single body to fulfil all import- or export-related regulatory requirements.

Target Audience: Governments and Trade in all countries, but with a special focus on
                              transition and developing countries
Target Date for Completion: Ongoing, 2005-07

1.1.1.6 Review and Updating of Existing UNECE Recommendations

The secretariat will work together with UN/CEFACT to review and, where necessary, update existing UNECE recommendations on trade facilitation and electronic business.

Target Audience: Governments and Trade participants in all countries
Target Date for Completion: Ongoing, 2004-07

1.1.1.7 Development of a "Guide to Trade Facilitation Implementation"

The secretariat will work together with the UN/CEFACT to develop a, "Guide to Trade Facilitation Implementation"

Target Audience: Governments and Trade participants in all countries
Target Date for Completion: 2005

1.1.1.8 Legal Aspects of Trade Facilitation

The UNECE Trade Development and Timber Division and UN/CEFACT will work on preparing Recommendations to address problems and develop best practices and standards regarding the legal aspects of trade facilitation around the world. This work will be carried out in association with other relevant international bodies, including the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL).

Target audience: Governments (especially developing and least developed transition economies), the business community (especially SMEs)
Target Date for Completion: Ongoing, 2004-07

1.1.1.9 Revision of Recommendation 12, Measures to Facilitate Maritime Transport Document Procedures

UNECE Recommendation 12, Measures to Facilitate Maritime Transport Document Procedures, was first approved in March 1979 and sought a change in official and commercial practice to:

However, this Recommendation has to be updated to take account of changes in electronic commerce and document handling. UNECE, through UN/CEFACT, will prepare this update and will encourage the use of electronic documents.

Target Audience: Traders and the transport industry
Target Date for Completion: May 2004

1.1.2   Development and Maintenance of e-business Standards under UN/CEFACT

1.1.2.1 Development of the Business Collaboration Framework (BCF)

UN/CEFACT is currently developing the next generation of e-business standards, the Business Collaboration Framework (BCF). This is a modular suite of specifications that will enable enterprises of any size and in any geographical location to conduct business over the Internet using open standards. The BCF is intended to develop and promote a technology-neutral and implementation-neutral approach enabling the global use of electronic business requirements in an interoperable, secure and consistent manner by all parties.

Target Audience: Business and Governments worldwide
Target Date for Completion: Ongoing, 2004-07

1.1.2.2 Development and Subsequent Maintenance of ebXML

Development of the ebXML (Electronic Business using eXtensible Markup Language) specifications is an ongoing effort sponsored by the Organization for the Advancement of Structured Information Standards (OASIS) and UN/CEFACT. Technical committees for the ebXML Registry, Messaging, Collaborative Partner, and Implementation are hosted by OASIS, and Business Process and Core Component work continues at UN/CEFACT.

Target Audience: Business and Governments worldwide
Target Date for Completion: Ongoing, 2004-07

1.1.2.3 Development and alignment of Web Services

Web services are a recent concept for the next generation of infrastructure technology, providing an internet-based set of specifications, which does not yet include business content specifications. The Business Collaboration Framework (BCF) can be used to define the business content for web services consistent with the UN/CEFACT e-Business vision. UN/CEFACT is working with and aligning the Business Collaboration Framework with the global web services community.

Target Audience: Business and Governments worldwide
Target Date for Completion: Ongoing, 2004-07

1.1.2.4 Maintenance of UN/EDIFACT

UN/EDIFACT comprises a set of internationally agreed standards, directories and guidelines for electronic data interchange (EDI), and in particular interchange related to trade in goods and services between independent, computerized information systems. The UN/EDIFACT directories, or the Trade Data Interchange Directory (TDID), currently comprise a set of over 200 message structures that are used in such diverse sectors as transport, administration, finance, health care and architecture. UN/EDIFACT messages enable enterprises worldwide to exchange vital business information and to coordinate and optimise their supply chain processes. Today, UN/EDIFACT remains the sole internationally accepted standard for the electronic interchange of business information.

Target Audience: Business and Governments worldwide
Target Date for Completion: Ongoing, 2004-07

1.1.2.5 Maintenance and extension of UN/LOCODE (UN Codes for trade and transport locations)

UN/LOCODE defines in a precise and unambiguous way locations used in international trade. It is a five-character code system that is used throughout international trade to designate locations whenever there is a need for a coded representation for the names of ports, airports, inland clearance depots, inland freight terminals and other transport related locations, such as places of receipt and delivery, which are used for goods movements associated with trade (for example, locations where Customs clearance of goods can take place), or otherwise proposed by Governments. UNECE maintains this code set and database on an ongoing basis (7000-8000 requests for updates and other changes . UN/LOCODE integrates other important location lists such as IATA Airport codes, the Lloyds Register for ports or codes of the Universal Postal Union.

Maintenance and extension of the UN/LOCODE system will include: update and extension of the list of locations as required by UN/LOCODE users and development of an Internet-based registration and dissemination system for UN/LOCODE

Target Audience: Business and Governments worldwide
Target Date for Completion: Ongoing, 2004-07

1.1.2.6 Revision and Maintenance of Codes for Units of Measure used in International Trade

UNECE Recommendation 20, Codes for Units of Measure used in International Trade, establishes a single list of code elements to represent units of measure for length, mass (weight), volume and other quantities (including units of count). The code elements provided for in this recommendation are intended for use in manual and/or automated systems for the exchange of information between participants in international trade and of other economic, scientific and technological activities, at three levels

UN/CEFACT is currently preparing a substantive revision to this Recommendation covering:

➢ Rationalising of specific units of measure that have questionable usage
➢ Update and extension of the list of units of measure
➢ Enhancements to the contents, format and presentation of Recommendation 20.

Target Audience: Business and Governments worldwide
Target Date for Completion: 2004

1.1.2.7 Maintenance of other code related UNECE Recommendations

UN/CEFACT maintains and periodically updates a number of Recommendations related to codes. These include:

➢ UNECE Recommendation No. 3 - ISO Country Code for Representation of Names of Countries;
➢ UNECE Recommendation No. 5 - Abbreviations of INCOTERMS;
➢ UNECE Recommendation No. 7 - Numerical Representation of Dates, Time, and Periods of Time;
➢ UNECE Recommendation No. 8 - Unique Identification Code Methodology - UNIC;
➢ UNECE Recommendation No. 9 - Alphabetical Code for the Representation of Currencies;
➢ UNECE Recommendation No. 10 - Codes for the Identification of Ships;
➢ UNECE Recommendation No. 15 - Simpler Shipping Marks;
➢ UNECE Recommendation No. 17 - PAYTERMS – Abbreviations for Terms of Payment;
➢ UNECE Recommendation No. 19 - Codes for Modes of Transport;
➢ UNECE Recommendation No. 21 - Codes for Passengers, Types of Cargo, Packages and Packaging Materials;
➢ UNECE Recommendation No. 23 - Freight Cost Code - FCC;
➢ UNECE Recommendation No. 24 - Trade and Transport Status Codes;
➢ UNECE Recommendation No. 28 - Codes for Types of Means of Transport.

Target Audience: Business and Governments worldwide
Target Date for Completion: Ongoing, 2004-07

1.1.2.8 Maintenance of UNTDED (ISO 7372)

The international standard ISO 7372 was developed by UNECE as the UNTDED (United Nations Trade Data Elements Directory) and adopted by Technical Committee, ISO TC/154. The UNTDED defines data elements for administration, commerce, and industry and is maintained by a joint ISO-UNECE maintenance agency. Under this joint maintenance agency, UN/CEFACT will complete a revision of ISO 7372 through ISO TC/154.

Target Audience: Business and Governments worldwide
Target Date for Completion: 2004

1.1.3 Development of agricultural quality standards

In all areas described below more tasks may be added/amended or deleted in accordance with the clients needs. All lists of standards to be worked on may be changed because of changing requirements of member states.

1.1.3.1 Management and coordination of the technical work: Working Party on Agricultural Quality Standards (WP.7)

The Working Party will:
  ➢ Review the recommendations made by its specialized sections and define the directions for their future work; (2004-07)
  ➢ Review the general texts, which form the framework of the standardization activities (Geneva Protocol, Working Procedures and Standard Layout) to adapt them to its present work structure. (2004-07)
  ➢ Monitor the implementation of standards and coordinate implementation activities (workshops, seminars, training courses) (see also 1.2.2) (2004-07)

Target Audience: Governments, intergovernmental organizations, international/regional trade organizations, quality inspection services, producers' organizations, consumer organizations
Target Date for Completion: Ongoing, 2004-07

1.1.3.2 Development and Maintenance of UNECE Standards for Fresh Fruit and Vegetables (GE.1)

The Specialized Section on Standardization of Fresh Fruit and Vegetables (GE.1) will:

  ➢ Revise UNECE Standards for Kiwi fruit, Peaches and Nectarines, Table grapes, Early and Ware Potatoes, Apples, Citrus fruit, Plums; (2004-05)
  ➢ Develop new UNECE Standards for Shallots, Truffles and Ceps; (2004-06)
  ➢ Develop objective criteria for inner quality/ maturity of fruit in the standards to achieve: Better quality for the consumer; Deletion of external quality criteria, which are difficult to reach by certain production methods (e.g. organic) or production regions and might be perceived as technical barriers to trade. (2004-07)
  ➢ Update the standard layout for Fresh Fruit and Vegetables and align all existing standards with the new text. (2004-06)
  ➢ Check the compatibility of the control certificate and the UNECE layout key for trade documents. (2004)
  ➢ Develop templates for inclusion of varieties in the standards for Pears, Plums and Table Grapes. (2004-05)
  ➢ Review the use of code marks, possibility for internationally harmonized marks.(2004-05)
  ➢ Codify the provisions of several UNECE Standards. To harmonize the main parameters used in international trade (commodity, variety and grade/class) for use in electronic business and electronic export certification. (2004-06)
  ➢ Cooperate with WHO on a strategy on diet, physical activity and health. (2004-05)
  ➢ Cooperate with the OECD Scheme on the development of explanatory material and internal quality. (2004-07)
  ➢ Contribute to workshops, seminars, training courses and other activities concerning capacity building for the application of quality standards in accordance with needs of clients and available funds. (2004-07)
  ➢ Review the General conditions of sale for fresh fruit and vegetables. (2004)

Target Audience: Governments, intergovernmental organizations, international/regional trade organizations, quality inspection services, producers' organizations, consumer organizations
Target Date for Completion: Ongoing, See above for specific dates

1.1.3.3 Development and Maintenance of UNECE Standards for Dry and Dried Produce (GE.2)

The Specialized Section on Standardization of Dry and Dried Produce (Fruit) (GE.2) will:

> ➢ Finalise the revision of the standards for Almonds and Pistachios; (2004)
> ➢ Revise the standard for Dates; (2004-06)
> ➢ Develop new UNECE Standards for:
>   - Blanched Almonds, (2004-06)
>   - Inshell Macademia Nuts and Macademia Kernels, (2004-06)
>   - Inshell Peanuts and Peanut Kernels, (2004-06)
>   - Inshell Pecans and Pecan Kernels, (2005-07)
>   - Dried Peaches, (2004-06)
>   - Dried Peppers, (2005-07)
>   - Dried Tomatoes; (2005-07)
> ➢ Cooperate with OECD in the elaboration of a sampling plan;
> ➢ Review of the UNECE General conditions of sale for dry (shelled and unshelled and dried fruit).
> ➢ Review work on pulses. (2004)
> ➢ Contribute to workshops, seminars, training courses and other activities concerning capacity building for the application of quality standards in accordance with needs of clients and available funds. (2004-07)

Target Audience: Governments, intergovernmental organizations, international/regional trade organizations, quality inspection services, producer's organizations, consumer organizations
Target Date for Completion: Ongoing, See above for specific dates

1.1.3.4 Development and Maintenance of UNECE Standards for Meat

The Specialized Section on Standardization of Meat (GE.11) will:

> ➢ Develop new UNECE Standards for Veal, Turkey, Goat, and Llama; (2004-07)
> ➢ Publish paper and electronic versions of the UNECE Standards for Ovine meat, Bovine meat (beef) and Chicken meat; (2004)
> ➢ Revise the Standard for Porcine meat (pork) and publish the new version; (2004-05)
> ➢ Develop colour chips/ marketing cards with the goal of achieving a harmonized standard in the future. (2004-05)
> ➢ Work on a pilot study on implementation of the bovine standard; evaluation of possibilities to facilitate conformity assessment. (2004-05)
> ➢ Evaluate the possibility to include products with added ingredients and size reduction in the standards. (2004-05)
> ➢ Evaluate the possibility to create UNECE standards for fish.(2004)
> ➢ Contribute to workshops, seminars, training courses and other activities concerning capacity building for the application of quality standards in accordance with needs of clients and available funds. (2004-07)
> ➢ Maintenance work on existing standards. (2004-07)

Target Audience: Governments, intergovernmental organizations, international/regional trade organizations, quality inspection services, producers' organizations, consumer organizations
Target Date for Completion: Ongoing, See above for specific dates

1.1.3.5 Development and Maintenance of the UNECE Standard for Seed Potatoes

The Specialized Section on Standardization of Seed Potatoes (GE.6) will:

➢ Include destination tolerances in the standard; (2004)
➢ Consider inclusion of a global list of varieties; (2004-05)
➢ Refine the concept of variety in the standard; (2004)
➢ Further develop the graphic assessment key for percentage tuber surface area coverage of blemish diseases; (2004)
➢ Review the relationship between the UNECE, EPPO and NAPPO standards (2004-07)
➢ Discuss sizing issues; (2004)
➢ Recommend best handling practices and quality assurance methods; (2004-05)
➢ Evaluate the impact of GMO's on the Standard; (2004-07)
➢ Discuss methods to avoid superficial necrosis caused by virus; (2004-06)
➢ Develop of the list of diseases and pests list and standard test methods; (2004-07)
➢ Develop a prototype training course for seed potato certification; (2004-05)
➢ Develop a UNECE label; (2004-05)
➢ Discuss grading equipment; (2004-05)
➢ Discuss methods to avoid tuber rots (destination tolerances, quality assurance) (2004-05)
➢ Discuss dispute settlement procedures; (2004-05)
➢ Separate of quality and quarantine pests; (2004-05)
➢ Include test methods/ referencing methods; (2004-05)
➢ Discuss concerns of seed buyers; (2004-07)
➢ Define the complete control procedure for the certification of seed potatoes. (2004-05)

Target Audience: Governments, intergovernmental organizations, international/regional trade organizations, quality inspection services, producers' organizations, consumer organizations
Target Date for Completion: Ongoing, 2004-07

1.1.3.6 Development and Maintenance of the UNECE Standard for Eggs and Egg products

The secretariat will:
➢ Identify national experts; (2004)
➢ Define an agenda for the revision of the standards (2004)
➢ Organize a workshop on the revision of the standards (2004-05)

Target Audience: Governments, intergovernmental organizations, international/regional trade organizations, quality inspection services, producers' organizations, consumer organizations
Target Date for Completion: Ongoing, 2004-07

1.1.3.7 Standardization of cut flowers

The secretariat will review current use of these standards. (2004-05)

1.1.4   Development of recommendations under the Working Party on Technical Harmonization and Standardization Policies (WP.6)

1.1.4.1 Development and Maintenance of Recommendations on Standardization and Regulatory Policies

The Working Party on Technical Harmonization and Standardization Policies (WP.6) will revise and prepare new recommendations to Governments concerning the establishment of business-friendly standardization and regulatory environments that also ensure the necessary protection of the health of the

population and the environment. Such recommendations and their implementation are expected to contribute to eliminating technical barriers to trade.

Target Audience: Government regulatory authorities
Target Date for Completion: 2004-06

1.1.4.2 Drawing up of Proposals on Conformity Assessment and Metrology Matters

The Working Party will draw up proposals aimed at harmonizing conformity assessment procedures in the region with a view to finding agreed objective criteria for metrology and conformity assessment procedures so as to achieve mutual confidence between partners. It will also study ways of extending the use in trade of agreements on mutual recognition of tests and certificates.

Target Audience: Certifiers, accreditators, companies
Target Date for Completion: 2004-07

1.2   IMPLEMENTATION/CAPACITY BUILDING:
Reducing barriers to trade in goods and services in all countries, and UNECE member States in particular, through greater implementation of international and UNECE norms, standards, instruments and recommendations, especially in trade facilitation

Despite considerable advances over the past decade, greater implementation of existing trade facilitation recommendations, norms and standards has emerged as one of the pressing needs of many countries, especially transition and developing countries. In order to address this need, UNECE will undertake the following initiatives:

1.2.1   Implementation/Capacity Building in Trade Facilitation and e-business

1.2.1.1 Capacity Building in Trade Facilitation and Electronic Business in the Mediterranean

The objective of this project is to increase the competitiveness of companies in the Mediterranean region in regional and global markets. It aims to simplify and harmonize trade procedures throughout the transaction chain; implement automated processes and information technology for administration and commerce; and facilitate the participation of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) in electronic business. It focuses on trade among the non-EU Mediterranean countries that are members of UNECE, the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia or the Economic Commission for Africa.

Under the project, UNECE developed e-learning tools for trade facilitation based on Recommendation 18 (in support of the Mediterranean project). These tools will also be available for training in other areas and projects.

Target Audience: Non-European Union Mediterranean countries, members of UNECE, ESCWA or ECA. Policy makers in Governments and trade in transition and developing economies
Target Date for Completion: 2004

1.2.1.2 UNeDocs

The facilitation of international documentary procedures is a core competency of UNECE. Already in the 1970s UNECE developed the UN Layout Key (UNLK), a standard for paper documents, which harmonizes the layout and content of trade documents and simplifies their use. Today all modern international trade documents such as the Single Administrative Document, the TIR carnet or the International Air Traffic Association (IATA) Airway Bill, are based on the UNLK. Most advanced trading countries have built, over the years, national trade document systems that are aligned to the UN Layout Key.

In recent years the need for a new focus on the UN Layout Key has become apparent. Indeed, the increased use of advanced logistical concepts in global trade requires that developing countries and transition economies align their trade documentation to international standards if they wish to participate in global trade. In addition it has become necessary to integrate paper trade documents into the electronic information interchange capabilities that are now available to trade, such as UN/EDIFACT, XML and the Internet. To this end UNECE launched the United Nations electronic Trade Documents (UNeDocs) project.

Specifically, UNeDocs aims to:

➢ Provide an integrated set of international trade documents in paper and electronic format
➢ Provide tools and technical assistance to support the alignment of national trade documentation to international standards
➢ Provide capacity building and tools on document-related trade facilitation instruments
➢ Provide open software platforms for the implementation of electronic trade documents
➢ Provide support in the implementation of electronic window concepts
➢ Encourage the development of national policies in support of the use and implementation of electronic documents, such as legislation for electronic signatures, security and confidentiality, and harmonization of cross-border trade requirements.

Target Audience: Cross-sector, including administrations; focus on transition economies and developing countries
Target Date for Completion: Ongoing

1.2.1.3 Capacity Building for Trade Facilitation Organizations (PRO Organizations) in Transition Economies

The UNECE will carry out an assessment study of established trade facilitation organizations (PRO organizations) in transition economies in order to determine their current operational status, activity level, resources, funding arrangements. The main purpose of the study will be to identify the lessons learned from current operations and determine future capacity building requirements. Based on the findings, follow-up activities will be implemented to support capacity-building, beginning with a workshop for national trade facilitation organizations that will be held in September 2004.

Target Audience: Organizations and policy makers in Governments in both transition and developing economies
Target Date for Completion: Study (June 2004), first Workshop (September 2004), additional capacity building activities (ongoing 2005-07)

1.2.1.4 Tools for Trade

On the basis of demand and available technology, UNECE will develop tools and techniques that support the implementation of trade facilitation, including web publication of standards, provision of standards as downloadable databases and XML integration of code lists.

Target Audience: Transition and developing economies, but not exclusively
Target Date for Completion: Ongoing, dependent on available resources, 2004-07

1.2.1.5 Capacity Building to Improve Trade Finance and Investment Prospects for the Sustainable Development of the Russian Timber Sector

The Trade Development and Timber Division is currently implementing the project "Capacity Building to Improve Trade Finance and Investment Prospects for the Russian Timber Sector". The project,

initiated at the request of the Russian Federation, seeks to strengthen the trade performance of the Russian forest sector by contributing specific trade facilitation expertise from the Division.

The focus is on sustainable development; direct cooperation at the enterprise level; regional cooperation at the level of the North-Western regions of the Russian Federation; trade, timber and environment issues; and cross-sectoral work.

The project partners are from the public and private sectors in the Russian Federation and in Europe. They include a wide range of private enterprises, local and regional governments, and major forest sector institutions.

The principal activities include: sustainable management practices for the timber enterprises; improved trade procedures in the timber industry; innovative trade finance techniques; capacity building for improved foreign investment; sustainable use of biomass; and timber port operations

Target Audience: Russian Forest Sector
Target Date for Completion: Ongoing 2004-07 (dependent upon available extrabudgetary funds)

1.2.1.6 Participation in WTO Seminars and Workshops

The task of assisting developing and transition economies in implementing standards and trade facilitation measures is considerable. The WTO has embarked on a programme of capacity-building seminars and training workshops to assist these countries in understanding and planning for trade facilitation implementation. The Trade Development branches will, subject to the availability of travel funding, assist the WTO in these initiatives, especially in relation to transition economies. Where appropriate, the Regional Advisor on Trade Facilitation will also integrate WTO and WTO accession issues into capacity building seminars that he organizes on a country and sub-regional basis.

Target Audience: Transition and developing economies
Target Date for Completion: Ongoing, 2004-07

1.2.1.7 Development of an Interregional Partnership for Promoting Trade as an Engine of Growth Through Knowledge Management and Taking Advantage of Information and Communication Technology

UNECE will work with the other regional commissions, through a UN development account project, in collaboration with relevant UN agencies, to develop a common project proposal for capacity building in trade facilitation and e-business for sustainable development that would include the following components in an incremental approach, and would make the best use of the existing infrastructure: trade facilitation policy and implementation issues; technical assistance to Governments; capacity-building for SMEs in electronic business; and support to countries, sub-regions and regions in formulating negotiating objectives and strategies on trade facilitation

Target Audience: Developing and transition economies throughout the world
Target Date for Completion: Project implementation 2004-05

1.2.1.8 Support of Trade Facilitation Measures and UN/EDIFACT Implementation in Selected Eastern European Countries

Through the joint UNECE – Czech Republic project, "Support of trade facilitation measures and UN/EDIFACT implementation in selected Eastern European Countries," cooperation has been established with several CIS countries that have contributed to the implementation of UNECE's Recommendations. As an example, the work of the national trade facilitation body in Ukraine recently resulted in the adoption by the Parliament of a law on the "Strategy for Ukraine as a transit country." To speed up the movement of documents and ensure equivalency between paper and electronic documents, the trade facilitation body

has also prepared laws on electronic documents and electronic signature. The former has already been adopted by the Parliament. Activities under the project also included a mission to Uzbekistan to explore the feasibility of establishing a national trade facilitation body.

Target Audience: Governments and trade in selected Eastern European countries
Target Date for Completion: 2004-07

1.2.1.9 Support for Trade and Transport Facilitation in the transition economies and sub-regional initiatives, such as SECI, the Stability Pact for South Eastern Europe, SPECA, and others

Through the office of the Regional Adviser for Trade Facilitation, the Trade Development and Timber Division provides advice to UNECE Member States on trade, trade facilitation and e-business issues, works closely with and actively supports initiatives undertaken by SECI, and the Stability Pact for South Eastern Europe (SP), TTFSE, SPECA, and other organizations/institutions/initiatives.

Target Audience: Governments and trade in South-east Europe
Target Date for Completion: 2004-07

1.2.1.10 Capacity Development for Women in Trade

UNECE will cooperate with NGOs and other intergovernmental organizations to prepare and deliver capacity-building workshops to enhance the participation of women in international trade in transition economies.

Target Audience: Women in trade in transition economies
Target Date for Completion: Project implementation 2004-07

1.2.2   Capacity Building for the implementation of Agricultural Quality Standards

From 2004 to 2007 the Working Party on Agricultural Quality Standards (WP.7) and its specialized sections will develop and coordinate different capacity building activities tailored to different audiences either on the country to sub-regional level.

1.2.2.1 Workshop on International Harmonization of Commercial Quality Standards for Agricultural Produce

Introductory workshop to: inform about the organization of international standardization of agricultural produce and the possibilities for participation; importance of internationally harmonized quality standards, their application and their role in trade facilitation; structure of the public and private sector standards; and implementation of standards in international trade – electronic export certification.

Target Audience: (High level – policy management) Governments, export companies,
                            representatives of wholesale markets and trade organizations
Target Date for Completion: Different seminars in 2004-07 according to financing available.

1.2.2.2 Implementation of standardization policy

Joint UNECE/ OECD/ EAN workshop on implementation of quality control and electronic export certification on:
  ➢ Quality standards for agricultural products
  ➢ Public and private standards complementing each other
  ➢ Harmonized interpretation of standards
  ➢ Strategies for setting up a quality control system
  ➢ Strategies for electronic export control

Target Audience: (Mid level management) Governments, export companies, representatives of wholesale markets and trade organizations

Target Date for Completion: Different seminars in 2004-07 according to financing available.

1.2.2.3 Inspector training programme (train the trainers)

Organization of both in-country and international training programmes for trainers of quality inspectors.

Target Audience: (implementation level)Governments, export companies, representatives of wholesale markets and trade organizations

Target Date for Completion: Different seminars in 2004-07 according to financing available.

1.2.2.4 Managing the global food supply chain

Preparing interregional seminars on managing the global food supply chain in cooperation with other Regional Commissions, FAO/WHO Codex Alimentarius, OECD, WTO and EAN International.

Seminars will address all relevant subjects influencing the global food supply chain: public and private standards and initiatives for safety and quality, market access and trade facilitation

Target Audience: (high level) Governments, export companies, representatives of wholesale markets and trade organizations

Target Date for Completion: Different seminars in 2004-07 according to financing available.

1.2.3   Implementation/Capacity Building in Standardization and Quality

1.2.3.1 Implementation/Capacity-Building in Standardization and Harmonization issues

This project is aimed at a better understanding and wider implementation of principles of the WTO Agreement on Technical Barriers to Trade in the region, in particular in countries acceding to the WTO. It is intended to strengthen cooperation between the national standards-setting bodies in the UNECE region and to contribute to capacity building in countries implementing reforms to meet WTO requirements. A number of workshops will be organized at the invitation of interested Governments.

Target Audience: Regulatory and trade authorities in transition economies

Target Date for Completion: Ongoing, 2004-07

1.2.3.2 Implementation of the UNECE Recommendation "International Model for Technical Harmonization"

The Team of Specialists on Standardization and Regulatory Techniques ("START" Team) will develop new proposals for the practical implementation of the "International Model" in sectors where there is an interest from Governments in regulatory convergence. The Team works closely with business associations and companies as well as Governments and will assist, as requested, in implementation of the regulatory convergence regional and sectoral projects.

Target Audience: Regulators and companies

Target Date for Completion: Ongoing, 2004-07

1.2.3.3 Seminars/Fora on Regulatory issues, Quality and Environmental Management

Working Party 6 will organize seminars on regulatory and standardization issues, as well as on quality and environmental management standards in the transition economies to raise awareness of good regulatory practices and about quality/environmental systems and provide guidance on how to implement

them. These seminars should help to enhance the capacity of small and medium-sized enterprises in the region to compete successfully on both national and international levels. The WP will study and promote good practices in national policies regarding quality and environmental matters and in regulatory areas.

Target Audience: Regulators and companies
Target Date for Completion: 2005-06

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