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Ninth session, 23 - 27 May 2005
Item 5.5 of the provisional agenda

**UNITED NATIONS CENTRE
FOR TRADE FACILITATION AND ELECTRONIC BUSINESS
(UN/CEFACT)**

Summary of main activities and developments

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DOCUMENT FOR INFORMATION AND DISCUSSION

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This document provides an overview of UN/CEFACT's principal achievements during 2004-2005.

UN/CEFACT supports activities dedicated to improving the ability of business, trade and administrative organizations, from developed, developing and transitional economies, to exchange products and relevant services effectively. Its principal focus is to facilitate international transactions, through the simplification and harmonization of processes, procedures and information flows, and so contribute to the growth of global commerce with a vision to providing "simple, transparent and effective processes for global commerce".

Delegates are reminded that the 11th UN/CEFACT Plenary takes place only <u>after</u> the 9th session of the UNECE Committee for Trade, Industry and Enterprise Development. Consequently, any decisions to be made at the 11th UN/CEFACT Plenary that require the approval of the Committee will be submitted for intersessional approval.

<u>Items for decision:</u>
- UN/CEFACT requests a temporary extension of the mandates for its five Groups until after the 11th UN/CEFACT Plenary that will take place from 22 to 23 June 2005.
- The Committee is requested to <u>endorse</u> the report of UN/CEFACT's 2004 session (TRADE/CEFACT/2004/38).

Additional information about the Centre and its work is available at the following website address: http://www.unece.org/cefact

GE.05-30631

Item for decision-making

1.   The 8th UN/CEFACT Plenary in 2002 adopted a new organizational structure for UN/CEFACT and created five Groups to manage the programme of work: the Applied Technologies Group (ATG), the Information Content Management Group (ICG), the Legal Group (LG), the International Trade and Business Processes Group (TBG) and the Techniques and Methodologies Group (TMG). The mandates and terms of reference were also approved by the Committee in 2002.

2.   UN/CEFACT will have before it, at its 11th session on 22 and 23 June 2005, a revised mandate and terms of reference (TRADE/R.650/Rev.4) where it is suggested that the status of the five groups be changed. The 11th UN/CEFACT Plenary is expected to finalize this revision to the mandate and terms of reference. Since the mandates of the five UN/CEFACT Groups are an integral part of the mandate of UN/CEFACT, it is suggested that the mandates of the Groups be submitted to the Committee for renewal only after the UN/CEFACT Plenary.

3.   Consequently, the Bureau of UN/CEFACT **proposes to the Committee to extend the mandates of the five UN/CEFACT Groups until after the 11th UN/CEFACT Plenary.**

Items for information

4.   At its 10th session, 17-19 May 2004, UN/CEFACT adopted the programmes of work of its five Groups: the Applied Technologies Group (ATG), the Information Content Management Group (ICG), the Legal Group (LG), the International Trade and Business Processes Group (TBG) and the Techniques and Methodologies Group (TMG).

5.   Since the 10th session, the work undertaken in the Groups has resulted in the following outcomes:
- ATG released the "UN/CEFACT XML Naming and Design Rules (NDR)" specification for public review;
- The "UN/CEFACT – Uniform Modelling Language (UML) to UN/EDIFACT Transformation Rules" (U2E) were released;
- The UN/CEFACT recommendation on a Single Window for export and import clearance was formally approved by an intersessional process in October 2004
- The Techniques and Methodologies Group (TMG) launched the development of the next version of the Core Component Technical Specification (CCTS) in November 2004;
- The Information Content Management Group (ICG) finished an update of the Codes for Units of Measure (Recommendation 20) and the 3rd edition of Recommendation 20 was formally approved at the 6th UN/CEFACT Forum in Kuala Lumpur.

6.   In addition, two UN/EDIFACT (UN Electronic Data Interchange for Administration), Commerce and Transport) and two UN/LOCODE (UN Code for Trade and Transport Locations) editions were issued:

- D.04A UN/EDIFACT directory was approved by the Directory Audit Team and published don UNECE website on 27 May 2004;

- D.04B UN/EDIFACT directory was approved by the Directory Audit Team and published on UNECE website on 20 November 2004;
- Two UN/LOCODE editions were released in 2004 and the first of the two 2005 editions in January 2005.

7.   The 6th UN/CEFACT Forum will be held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia from 14 to 18 March 2005 and a report presented to the UN/CEFACT Plenary meeting on 22 and 23 June 2005. Present proposal for new work include:

- Revision of Recommendation 6 on the Aligned Invoice Layout Key for International Trade;
- New work programme for the International Trade and Business Processes Group (TBG) to develop parts of the UN electronic Trade Documents (UNeDocs) project as standards.

8.   The 3rd International Forum on Trade Facilitation "Paperless Trade in International Supply Chains: Enhancing Efficiency and Security" will be organized as part of the UN/CEFACT Trade Facilitation week in conjunction with the Plenary. The Forum will take place at the Palais des Nations on 20 and 21 June 2005.

9.   Technical assistance and support to implantation has been provided through:

- The Project for Technical Assistance in Trade Facilitation implemented jointly by UNECE and the Czech Republic;
- Capacity-building in Trade Facilitation and Electronic Business in the Mediterranean supported by the United Nations Development Account;
- The implementation project for United Nations electronic Trade Documents (UneDocs);
- Capacity-building workshops were organized in Geneva (October 2004 and March 2005), Kuala Lumpur (March 2005).
- Activities of the Regional Advisor on Trade Facilitation included, among other events and projects:
  - A capacity-building workshop on transit corridors and integrated management of information flows in the South Caucasus with the World Bank in Tbilisi Georgia, 18 and 19 May 2004 where he presented a project that would integrate most UNECE Trade facilitation and electronic document tools in these countries;
  - A workshop on Managing Globalization, Trade Facilitation, and WTO Accession in Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina, 3 and 4 June 2004 in cooperation with AITIC;
  - A workshop on Trade Facilitation, Moscow, Russian Federation, 22 and 23 November 2004 in collaboration with the Russian Chamber of Commerce, Ministry of Economic Development and Trade and Federal Customs Service of the Russian Federation, as well as the joint Czech and UNECE project.

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