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**ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE**

COMMITTEE ON TRADE

Working Party on Regulatory Cooperation and  
Standardization Policies

Sixteenth Session,  
Geneva, 19-21 June 2006  
Item 4 of the provisional agenda

COORDINATION: REVISION OF ECE RECOMMENDATIONS

Draft revision of Recommendation "J" "Definitions"

Submitted by the secretariat

At its fifteenth session, the Working Party decided (see document TRADE/WP.6/2005/15, paragraph 40) to revise its recommendation "J" on definitions as contained in the UNECE publication "Recommendations on Standardization Policies" (ECE/STAND/17/REV.4).

This document contains the revised recommendation "J" for discussion and approval by the Working Party.

## **J. DEFINITIONS**

**Recognizing** that internationally agreed general terms and their definitions are indispensable for developing international cooperation in standardization and related activities;

**Recalling** that the international work on definitions has been initiated at the ECE<sup>1</sup>;

**Noting** that the latest ISO/IEC guides/standards on definitions, namely ISO/IEC Guide 2:2004 “Standardization and related activities -- General vocabulary” and ISO/IEC international standard 17000:2004 “Conformity assessment -- Vocabulary and general principles” meet requests presented by the governmental officials and standardization community participating at the Working Party on Regulatory Cooperation and Standardization Policies;

**Noting** also that ISO/IEC Guide 2:2004 and ISO/IEC standard 17000:2004 “ were prepared in close cooperation and with contribution from standards-setting bodies of the UNECE member States;

**Emphasising** that the WTO Agreement on Technical Barriers to Trade makes an explicit reference to the ISO Guide 2:1991 as a basis for definitions to be used by governments, thus necessitating regular updating of legal and other documents making reference to international documents on definitions;

**Considering** that the said Guide and standard well meet the requirements of the UNECE Governments and other UN Governments for an international terminology for standardization and related activities;

### **Has agreed to recommend that:**

**J.1** UNECE Governments and other UN Governments should endorse ISO/IEC Guide 2:2004 “Standardization and related activities - General vocabulary” and ISO/IEC international standard ISO/IEC 17000:2004 “Conformity assessment-Vocabulary and general principles”

**J.2** UNECE Governments and other UN Governments should encourage their national standards bodies to publish ISO/IEC Guide 2:2004 and standard ISO/IEC 17000:2004 as national guides or standards translated into their national languages.

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<sup>1</sup> The work on definitions started at the beginning of 70s under the auspices of the ECE Group of experts (“Government Officials Responsible for Standardization” – a predecessor body of the Working Party on Regulatory Cooperation and Standardization Policies (WP.6)). It continued later on as a joint activity with ISO (and then it was finally transferred to ISO) to be published in 1976 as the first guide on definitions - ISO Guide 2 "General terms and their definitions concerning standardization and related activities".

**J.3** UNECE Governments and other UN Governments should promote the use of the terms in ISO/IEC Guide 2:2004 and in and standard ISO/IEC 17000 and as defined therein in national legislation, standardization and related activities as well as in relevant international cooperation.

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