

Draft resolution recommended by the Economic Commission for Europe, as contained in the addendum to the report of the Secretary- General on regional cooperation in the economic, social and related fields (E/2019/15/Add.2 and ECOSOC decision 2019/253)

Draft resolution II
Revised terms of reference of the Steering Committee on Trade Capacity and Standards

The Economic and Social Council,

Taking note of Economic Commission for Europe decision D (68) of 10 April 2019, by which the Commission approved the revised terms of reference of the Steering Committee on Trade Capacity and Standards,

Endorses the revised terms of reference of the Steering Committee on Trade Capacity and Standards of the Economic Commission for Europe, as set out in the annex to the present resolution.

Annex

Revised terms of reference of the Steering Committee on Trade Capacity and Standards

The Steering Committee on Trade Capacity and Standards is an intergovernmental body that oversees and guides the development of international norms and standards, procedures and best practices that reduce the costs associated with export and import processes and increase the efficiency, predictability and transparency of trade regulations and procedures and the movement of goods and services.

The Steering Committee shall:

1. Review and endorse standards and recommendations developed by the Working Party on Regulatory Cooperation and Standardization Policies (Working Party 6) and the Working Party on Agricultural Quality Standards (Working Party 7).
2. Draft the programme of work on trade capacity and standards and review and endorse the workplans of Working Party 6 and Working Party 7, and recommend these to the Executive Committee of the Economic Commission for Europe for approval.
3. Review the results of demand-driven studies (financed by extrabudgetary resources) that identify procedural and regulatory barriers to trade in member States in coordination and cooperation with other relevant international organizations. Capacity-building and technical assistance activities to help countries in the region to implement standards developed under the subprogramme may be decided in accordance with paragraph 18 (a) of Commission decision A (65) of 11 April 2013. Support the achievement of Sustainable Development Goals 8 and 9¹ by reviewing the systemic issues emerging from the studies and the regulatory work of Working Party 6 and Working Party 7.

¹ See General Assembly resolution [70/1](#).

4. Liaise and coordinate its work with other committees and relevant subsidiary bodies of the Commission, in particular the Committee on Innovation, Competitiveness and Public-Private Partnerships, and coordinate its work with other relevant United Nations programmes and agencies, as well as other relevant organizations and stakeholders and international standards-setting organizations in order to achieve synergies and to avoid possible overlap and duplication.
5. Meet once a year for a maximum of one and a half days in a session that is open to all relevant international organizations and other stakeholders and held, as feasible, back-to-back with the annual session of either Working Party 6 or Working Party 7.
6. Elect its own Bureau, which includes the Chairs of Working Party 6 and Working Party 7 as ex officio members.
7. Report to the Executive Committee.
8. Operate under the rules of procedure of the Commission and the guidelines on procedures and practices for Commission bodies, as agreed in Commission decision A (65).