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**Economic Commission for Europe****Steering Committee on Trade Capacity and Standards****Working Party on Agricultural Quality Standards****Informal virtual consultations**

Geneva (online), 16—17 November 2020

Item 1 of the provisional agenda

**Adoption of the agenda****Informal virtual consultations****Provisional agenda**

The informal consultations will be held as a virtual Webex meeting; connection information will be provided separately. The meeting will start at 14:00 CET (Geneva-time) on 16 November 2020 with a Public-Private Roundtable on 16 November 2020.

**I. Provisional agenda**

1. Adoption of the agenda.
2. Matters arising since the last session:
  - (a) United Nations, United Nations Economic Commission for Europe and subsidiary bodies;
  - (b) Recent developments in other organizations.
3. Sustainable development, food systems and circular economy.
4. Capacity-building and promotional activities.
5. Electronic quality certificates for fresh fruit and vegetables.
6. Other business.
7. Election of officers.
8. Closing.

## **II. Annotations**

### **1. Adoption of the agenda**

The meeting will adopt the agenda.

*Documentation:* Annotated provisional agenda (ECE/CTCS/WP.7/2020/INF.1)

### **2. Matters arising since the last session**

#### **(a) United Nations, United Nations Economic Commission for Europe and subsidiary bodies**

The secretariat will present developments at the United Nations, the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) and the Steering Committee on Trade Capacity and Standards having an impact on the work of the Working Party on Agricultural Quality Standards (WP.7).

#### **(b) Recent developments in other organizations**

Other organizations active in the area of agricultural quality standards will provide information about their activities.

### **3. Sustainable development, food systems and circular economy**

Under this agenda item, delegations are invited to review progress and current/future work on:

- Re-imagining and re-building more resilient sustainable food systems: The delegates are invited to exchange information on the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic in their countries and on initiatives to strengthening recovery and resilience and the rebuild of more sustainable food systems.
- Sustainable Development Goal 12 – Target 12.3 (“halving food loss and waste by 2030”): The delegates are invited to discuss the possible development of recommendations or criteria for determination of operators’ food loss performance at national levels (scope to be defined). Delegations are also welcomed to provide information on their countries’ initiatives and good practices in this area. Updates will also be given on discussions that have taken place at Specialized Section sessions in 2020 and on the IT enhanced food loss management approach developed under the UNDA 11th tranche project.
- Food loss and its impact on natural resources: delegations are invited to take note of the work drafted by the ECE’s nexus group on natural resources in the region and containing chapters on food loss and waste of relevance to the Working Party. The report, together with 3 more nexus reports, will be presented at the 2021 session of the Economic Commission for Europe.
- Circular economy – In view of the 2021 session of the Economic Commission for Europe and its dedicated theme of circular economy, delegations are invited to discuss the potential for circularity approaches to food loss and waste.

*Documentation:* Natural Resource Nexuses in the ECE region – Executive Summary (secretariat report)

### **4. Capacity-building and promotional activities**

The secretariat will provide an update on the capacity-building and other activities under the ongoing United Nations Development Account tranche 11 project.

Delegations will also exchange information on the status of capacity-building, training and promotional activities since the last session of WP.7.

## **5. Electronic quality certificates for fresh fruit and vegetables**

The delegates will be updated on recent development related to the electronic quality certificate for fresh fruit and vegetables.

## **6. Other business**

Delegations will be invited to take up other issues not previously addressed during the session.

## **7. Election of officers**

The delegations will elect a Chair and Vice-Chair. At its 2019 session, the Working Party elected Ms. Agnieszka Sudol (Poland) as Chair and Mr. Guy Lambrechts (Belgium) as Vice-Chair. The result of the election will be submitted to adoption in a UNECE silence procedure with Geneva based missions immediately after the session.

## **8. Closing**

### **III. Tentative timetable**

Monday, 16 November	15:00 – 18:00	Public-Private Roundtable
Tuesday, 17 November	15:00 – 18:00	Items 1 to 8