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Steering Committee on Trade Capacity and Standards

Working Party on Regulatory Cooperation and Standardization Policies (WP.6)

Twenty-ninth session

Geneva, 20 (pm) – 22 November 2019

Report of Working Party on Regulatory Cooperation and Standardization Policies on its twenty-ninth session

I. Introduction

1. The Working Party on Regulatory Cooperation and Standardization Policies held its twenty-ninth session from the afternoon of 20 to 22 November 2019.
2. The following ECE member States were represented: Belarus, Canada, the Czech Republic, France, Germany, Italy, Lithuania, the Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, the Russian Federation, Slovakia, Sweden, Turkey, Ukraine, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.
3. The following non-ECE member States were also present: the Bahamas, Brazil, China, India, Japan, New Zealand, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, and Observer State of Palestine.
4. The meeting was attended by representatives of the European Commission.
5. The following United Nations bodies and international organizations participated: International Telecommunication Union (ITU), International Trade Centre (ITC), World Trade Organization and UN Women.
6. The following inter- and non-governmental organizations participated: CEN-CENELEC, Eurasian Economic Commission, International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC), International Organization of Legal Metrology, International Organization for Standardization (ISO), EUROCHAMBERS and BCCI and IDEA SOCIETY-AUSTRIA, amfori, ASTM International, European Chamber of Economics, Switzerland (ECES), European Environmental Citizens' Organization for Standardization (ECOS), Global Trade Professionals Alliance, Ingénieurs du Monde, International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (ILAC) & the International Accreditation Forum, Responsible Jewellery Council, Russian Union of Industrialists and Entrepreneurs (RSPP).

7. Observers present at the invitation of the secretariat included representatives of private-sector companies, associations, universities and civil-society organizations from various United Nations regions.
8. The Chair of the Working Party opened the meeting.

II. Adoption of the agenda (Agenda Item 1)

<i>Title of document</i>	<i>Document symbol</i>	<i>For information/decision</i>
Annotated provisional agenda	ECE/CTCS/WP.6/2019/1	Decision

9. **The Working Party adopted its agenda without modification. (Decision 1)**

III. Election of officers (Agenda Item 2)

10. **The Working Party in accordance with the Commission's rules of procedure and established practice, elected Ms. Marion Stoldt (Germany) Chairperson and Mr. Valentin Tataritsky (Belarus) Vice-Chairperson of the Working party for the period of 2019-2021. (Decision 2)**

IV. Matters arising (Agenda Item 3)

<i>Title of document</i>	<i>Document symbol</i>	<i>For information/decision</i>
Report of the Working Party on Regulatory Cooperation and Standardization Policies on its twenty-eighth session	ECE/TRADE/C/WP.6/2018/2	Information

(a) Report of the past session and intersessional developments

11. The Secretary of the Working Party presented the highlights of the intersessional period. She reported on the opening for signature of the Declaration on Gender Responsive Standards and Standards Development Declaration (14 May 2019), which brought together 55 organizations, including international, regional and national standards bodies from across the world. She showcased the portal on "Standards for the SDGs". Launched on 14 October 2019, the platform allows users to identify more than 1000 standards according to the Goals and Targets of 4 SDGs. She underscored the numerous awareness-raising activities carried out by the Secretariat, including the development of videos and brochures and the organization and co-organizations of events as well as participation in events by partners. She concluded by presenting the Secretariat's research work, including the publication "Gender Responsive Standards" and the normative work that had been developed inter-sessionally and would be presented for approval in subsequent sessions of the meeting.

12. **The Working Party adopted the report of its last session and noted the presentation by the Secretary of WP.6 on developments under the main areas of work since the last session. It notes with appreciation the development of the portal on "Standards for the SDGs". (Decision 3)**

(b) Reports by other United Nations Commission for Europe bodies of potential interest to the Working Party

13. The Officer in Charge of the Economic Cooperation and Trade Division provided information about the United Nations Centre for Trade Facilitation and Electronic Business (UN/CEFACT), a subsidiary intergovernmental body of the UNECE. She detailed their work as a focal point within the United Nations Economic and Social Council for trade facilitation recommendations and informed the meeting about how their work in standards supports the achievement of the SDGs.

14. The UNECE Market Access section introduced a series of UNECE national studies on regulatory and procedural barriers to trade. Nine studies had been completed since 2010, each featuring a dedicated chapter on quality infrastructure. Drawing on these studies, the secretariat is preparing a framework of indicators for bolstering the contribution of trade as a means for implementing the 2030 Agenda, with a focus on quality infrastructure. The framework will include all WP 6 recommendations as well as best practice from OIML and IEC. The secretariat invited participants to a regional multi-stakeholder workshop (26-27 March 2020, Geneva) at which the framework will be launched for pilot testing.

15. The UNECE's Sustainable Energy Division reported on the activities of the division related to standardization and presented the work of the Joint Task Force on Energy Efficiency (EE) Standards in Buildings and the related Framework Guidelines. He also presented the UNECE Group of Experts on Renewable Energy, which works to share good practice, identify areas of needs and opportunities for synergies and investment. Solid biofuels were an area, where the Group may start to develop standards and certification.

16. The Head of the Housing and Land Management Unit of UNECE reported on the UNECE Nexus approach for sustainable smart cities and its goals, structure, and activities. She presented the Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) for Smart Sustainable Cities by the UNECE and ITU and explained that its objective is to standardize methods of collecting data and measuring performance towards achieving the SDGs. Further outlining the Nexus approach, she presented examples of specific KPIs and projects, which are underway to implement them.

17. **The Working Party took note of the information provided by other UNECE subprogrammes. It requested the Secretariat to continue to explore options for cooperation with other ECE intergovernmental groups and programmes (Decision 4).**

V. Facilitated discussion on future direction of work on “Standards and sustainable development” (Agenda Item 4)

<i>Title of document</i>	<i>Document symbol</i>	<i>For information/decision</i>
Report on the Standards for the SDGs project	ECE/TRADE/C/WP.6/2019/3	Information
Draft report on the evaluation of UNECE's support to the advancement of Regulatory Cooperation and Standardization Policies	ECE/TRADE/C/WP.6/2019/4	Information
Standards for the SDGs	ECE/TRADE/444	Information

18. The Chairman of the State Committee for Standardization of the Republic of Belarus expressed appreciation for the UNECE portal on Standards for the SDGs. He reported that his country was fully committed to the implementation of the SDGs, and a National Coordinator had been appointed to manage the process. The national government of Belarus had also established an informational portal

(<http://tnpa.by/#!/SustainableDevelopmentGoals>), which listed compulsory standards that were applicable to the SDGs. Additionally, based on a broad survey, a long-term standardization plan had been drawn up to ensure the development of standards necessary for implementing the SDGs. As needed, the plan would be updated, and supported by the development of conformity assessment systems. The participation of the business community, scientific schools, associations, non-governmental organizations in international standardization was key for the achievement of the long-term plan.

19. The Chief of the Study Groups Department of the ITU Standardization Bureau provided information on the implementation of smart sustainable city standards through the Key Performance Indicators (KPIs). The KPI had been developed to provide cities with a consistent and standardized method to collect data and measure performance and progress to: achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs); becoming a smarter city; and becoming a more sustainable city. He also referred to case studies that ITU had published on the implementation of KPIs in various cities including Moscow and Singapore. He explained the ongoing effort of his organization to map the four thousand ITU standards against the SDGs, based on a machine-learning process. He added that he was open to collaborating with UNECE and sharing this approach for the future development of the UNECE portal.

20. The Head of Membership and External Relations at the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) provided an overview of ISO's integration of sustainability, and of the SDGs, into the ISO standards development process from project initiation to publication and ongoing maintenance. He referred to the ISO Guidelines for addressing sustainability in standards (ISO Guide 82) which is due to be published in December 2019. The Guide helps standards developers take account of sustainability in the drafting, revision and updating, primarily of ISO standards, but offers insights suitable to any standards development activities. Furthermore, the Guide outlines a methodology that standards developers can use to develop their own approach to addressing sustainability on a subject-specific basis.

21. The Director of the State Administration for Market Regulation (SAMR) of China presented a project on "Standardization on Sustainable Development in Rural Areas: Beautiful Village Standardization", based on more than 100 indicators. The project demonstrated the considerable social, political and economic impacts of standardization on rural villages. The standard had been tested in two pilot projects, and it was anticipated that more than 90% of the villages in the province would meet the requirements of the standard by the end of 2022.

22. The Global Head, Public Affairs and Advocacy of the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) gave an overview of the organization's cooperation with UNECE referring to standards and case studies that had been included in the UNECE portal. She presented activities that IEC is pursuing in support of the SDGs, including: the nomination of a "IEC Ambassador for the SDGs" and the organization of workshop for IEC Young Professionals and for Industrializing countries. Some of the IEC standards have an inherently technical nature, are made by experts for experts and while they are foundational for sustainability, they are not immediately applicable by policymakers.

23. The Chairperson opened the floor for discussion, and the following points were raised:

- The Professor from Adapt Research of Dublin City University stated that the benefits of standards for society far outweigh their costs for sustainability and that a greater cost is incurred by not implementing standards.
- The Coordinator of the Group of Experts on Risk Management in Regulatory Systems pointed out that it is quite difficult to map a standard to only one of the SDGs, and necessarily it is subject to interpretation.
- The Minister of Technical Regulations of the Eurasian Economic Commission discussed the emphasis on standards for SDGs which should not overrule the

inherent value of standards as a language between people and producers to build society. The ISO representative responded that standards are not being specific for SDGs but emphasis on SDGs is all encompassing.

- The Secretary of the Working Party asked national standards bodies how they could raise awareness on their work for the SDGs. The representative of Dublin City University replied that his country pursued a participatory approach based on a wide consultation among Government agencies, educational institutions, non-governmental organizations and other stakeholders.
- The representative from Netherlands commented that policymakers should seek the support of standards to implement any policy goal, including the SDGs
- The representative of IEC added that the most important thing was that policymakers participate actively in standards development.

24. **The Working Party thanked the representatives of Belstandart, IEC, ISO, ITU, the State Administration for Market Regulation (SAMR) of China for their presentations. It requested the Secretariat to explore options for cooperation with these organizations and other partners for the further development of the portal on “Standards for the SDGs”. (Decision 5)**

25. **The Working Party requested the Secretariat to continue to raise awareness by policy makers about the use of standards for sustainable development. In this regard, it requested the Secretariat to develop and publish case studies on how standards support specific SDG goals. These publications will replace previously mandated publications on “Risk based inspections” and “Disaster and Sustainable Development”. (Decision 6)**

VI. Capacity-building (Agenda Item 5)

<i>Title of document</i>	<i>Document symbol</i>	<i>For information/decision</i>
Training Guide on Regulatory Frameworks and Market Surveillance	ECE/TRADE/441	Information

26. The Secretariat briefly presented its awareness raising activities and the highlights of the report on the extra-budgetary project on “Standards for the SDGs” (ECE/TRADE/C/WP.6/2019/3). The Chairperson presented capacity building activities of her organization, highlighting work in the countries of the UNECE region.

27. **The Working Party took note of the project report contained in document ECE/TRADE/C/WP.6/2019/3 and thanked the German Government, the Physikalisch-Technische Bundesanstalt (PTB) and the other donors for their generous contributions. The Working Party commended the continuation of the project for another biennium and requested the Secretariat to continue to report on the technical activities carried out on an annual basis. (Decision 7)**

28. **The Working Party thanked the Secretariat, and the PTB for their reports on capacity-building activities in the area of standards and standards-related issues. It requested the Secretariat to continue to seek extra-budgetary funds for awareness-raising and capacity-building activities, in cooperation with partners. (Decision 8)**

VII. Adoption of the programme of work for 2019–2020 (Agenda Item 6)

<i>Title of document</i>	<i>Document symbol</i>	<i>For information/decision</i>
Programme of work of the Working Party on Regulatory	ECE/TRADE/C/WP.6/2019/5	Decision

<i>Title of document</i>	<i>Document symbol</i>	<i>For information/decision</i>
Cooperation and Standardization Policies		
Trade subprogramme's draft programme of work for 2020	ECE/CTCS/2019/10	Information

29. The Secretariat introduced the programme of the Working Party as contained in documents ECE/TRADE/C/WP.6/2019/5. She drew the attention of delegations to the new approach of budgeting in the United Nations system that is now based on annual (rather than biennial) planning and reporting cycle. The mandates of the three subsidiary groups of the WP. 6 had run their course and presented a proposal for the extension of the same for another two-year period, as per established practice.

30. The Independent Evaluator of the Working Party presented her evaluation of the Working Party's activities covering all activities undertaken under the auspices of Working Party 6 from January 2015 to December 2018. She detailed the methodology of the evaluation and presented preliminary draft recommendations. The final recommendations and complete evaluation report would be made available after the session.

31. **The Working Party adopted the Programme of Work of the Working Party on Regulatory Cooperation and Standardization Policies for 2020 (ECE/TRADE/C/WP.6/2019/5). It additionally recommends the extension of the mandates of the START Team, of the MARS Group and of the GRM Group and requests the Secretariat to seek, as appropriate, the approval of the Committee on Trade and of the UNECE Executive Committee for the extension. (Decision 9)**

32. **The Working Party took note of the presentation by the consultant on the report on the evaluation of UNECE's support to the advancement of Regulatory Cooperation and Standardization Policies. It requested the Secretariat to make it available as document ECE/TRADE/C/WP.6/2019/4. It further requested the Secretariat to work in cooperation with delegations, with the Programme Management Unit (PMU) and with UNECE senior management in preparing a Management Response and in implementing the Recommendations. (Decision 10)**

VIII. Gender responsive standards initiative (Agenda Item 7)

<i>Title of document</i>	<i>Document symbol</i>	<i>For information/decision</i>
Progress report on the Gender-Responsive Standards Initiative	ECE/CTCS/WP.6/2019/6	Decision
Gender-responsive standards	ECE/TRADE/445	Information

33. The Chief Operating Officer at South Africa's Department of Trade and Industry made a keynote address on the intersection between trade, gender, and standards. Female economic participation in South Africa has been a large barrier for the realization of gender equality and human rights in the country. She emphasized that trade policies and standards are not gender neutral and trade liberalization may have potentially negative effects on women's empowerment. Gender responsive standards and the greater participation of women in standardization were key to ensuring that the outcomes of trade liberalization would support a more gender equal South Africa. She highlighted South Africa's gender action plan: bringing more women into the field of standardization, creating capacity building programs to create more gender equal participation, and promoting gender equal hiring practices. A number of standards, including in the mining sector, had been revised to ensure that they were suitable to women's morphology

34. The Chairperson opened the floor for discussion, and the following points were raised:

- In answer to a question regarding the most efficient way to contact a standards bodies in the African continent, in view of them signing the Declaration, it was considered important to involve the African Union in the context of the African Free Trade Continental Agreement.
- Lessons learned in eliciting change in male dominated industries i.e. mining included collaborating with the industry, the relevant ministries and labour unions towards the goal of gender inclusivity.

35. The Secretary of the Working Party introduced the Gender Responsive Standards Initiative recalling its goals, working modalities and achievements, in particular the Declaration of the Gender Responsive Initiatives signed on 14 May 2019 by 55 organizations worldwide.

36. The representative of CEN-CENELEC noted that 21 of the organization's national members are individual signatories of the Declaration. The organization's gender action plan had just been approved based on the results of a survey of their membership. The Gender Action Plan included targeted actions, spread over a 3-year period. CEN-CENELEC will continue to actively participate in European initiatives gathering women professionals of sectors of interests for CEN-CENELEC and in the activities of UNECE WP.6 contributing to the development of training materials. She thanked the Secretary of the WP. 6 for her contribution to the CEN-CENELEC campaign "Standards build Trust" with an interview on "Trade Best Practice" available online: https://6633e5ef-b15d-44e2-89b6-6ea43d17a310.filesusr.com/ugd/0956be_e1b7da9442e44a8b94198244f2c521c0.pdf

37. The Chair of the Task Force on Gender Responsive Standards Declaration for the Bureau of Indian Standards explained that the Task Force was initiating a number of actions under the following priorities: fostering inclusive environment by creating inclusive committees and connecting with external organizations to promote inclusivity; creating gender responsive standards by developing methodology to assess gender blindness of existing standards and new proposals; and imparting training/ awareness for standard makers and stakeholders. Priority areas for developing gender inclusive standards were: farming, mining, manufacturing, automotive and domestic appliances. She illustrated several agricultural tools that with some simple modifications would significantly reduce drudgery making it easier for women to carry out agricultural labor.

38. The representative of Standards Council Canada presented her organization's Gender Action Plan in the context of her country's engagement for women's empowerment at all levels. The priorities of the Gender Action Plan were: improving gender representation in standards development, building gender expertise into the standardization system by developing guidance on how to mainstream gender in the development of a standard; and contributing sound research to this area.

39. The representative of the ISO Central Secretariat shared that the ISO Portal on "Standards for the SDGs" included 51 standards that contribute to the achievement of SDG 5. She added that some of the ISO members, in Iceland, Chile, and South Africa had developed standards for specific aspects of gender inclusivity. During the 2019 ISO Week, the Council approved a gender action plan. It focused on five priority areas including the collection and analysis of data, case studies and best practices, and assessing the gender responsiveness of ISO standards. She concluded by presenting several initiatives planned for 2020 including awareness events and workshops.

40. The Director of Communications of ASTM International presented on leadership aspects for women in the global standards field. He spoke on the importance of not only having women's voices at the table but also ensuring that they were heard. ASTM International fosters women's leadership through training and mentoring. The majority of ASTM International's Board of Directors is now women and the organization has adopted

gender-neutral language for all its committees. He emphasized the importance of gender diversity for improved leadership and decision making for all organizations. A video was shown presenting women in standards.

41. During the questions and answers session, a participant emphasized that the focus should be not on having women attending the meetings but actively participating. The representative from the Technical University of Berlin shared how his university conducted a survey on gender balance, which he could share with WP. 6.

Presentation of Gender-Responsive Standards

42. The Public Affairs Manager of AFNOR Certification presented the “Label Grand Evenement” which could be used to certify high level events for gender inclusivity and had been used to certify the G7 summit and the Ministerial Summits leading up to the event. He shared several initiatives that had been taken at all levels during the summit, such as gender equality in support staff, the naming of the meeting rooms after female leaders, and exhibits emphasizing women’s role in the economy.

43. The Senior Advisor at SheTrades presented ITC's work to develop a standard definition of "women owned business" and how this could facilitate their access to international markets. This would be developed as an International Workshop Agreement in cooperation with ISO and the Swedish Institute for Standardization. Answering a question from the floor, he clarified this would not be a certification standard.

44. **The Working Party thanked the speakers from the South African Department on Trade and Industry, AFNOR, ASTM International, the Bureau of Indian Standards, CEN-CENELEC, ISO, ITC and Standards Canada. It adopted the report on the Gender Responsive Standards Initiative (ECE/TRADE/C/WP.6/2019/6). (Decision 11)**

45. **It commended the opening of the Declaration on Gender Responsive Standards for signature. It encouraged Member States to engage in dialogue with standards bodies in their jurisdiction, so they also become signatories. It stressed the need for applied research on gender bias in standardization and encouraged academic institutions and the Secretariat to seek resources for this priority. It further requested the Secretariat to continue to seek extra-budgetary funds to support its awareness-raising and capacity-building efforts and report on activities at the next session. (Decision 12)**

IX. Risk management in regulatory systems (Agenda Item 8)

<i>Title of document</i>	<i>Document symbol</i>	<i>For information/decision</i>
Risk Management in Regulatory Frameworks	ECE/TRADE/390	Information
Report on the activities of the Group of Experts on Managing Risks in Regulatory Systems	ECE/CTCS/WP.6/2019/7	Decision
Recommendation V “Addressing product non-compliance risk in international trade”	ECE/CTCS/WP.6/2019/8	Information

(a) Report on the activities of the Group of Experts on Managing Risks in Regulatory Systems

46. The Co-Coordinator of the Group of Experts on Risk Management in Regulatory Systems introduced the GRM and explained that it had been active for almost 10 years functioning on the basis of bi-monthly webinars. The outputs of the GRM include

recommendations, field projects and external cooperation with other organizations. As presented in the ECE/CTCS/WP.6/2019/7, the main activities in 2019 were the development of a CRO on cybersecurity, collaboration with ITC on a guide on Integrated Risk Management, and the elaboration of the draft Recommendation V.

47. The Secretary of the Working Party, answering a question from the floor, said that e-learning courses on risk management in regulatory frameworks had been made available on the UNECE “Standards for SDGs” portal.

48. The Working Party adopted the report of the Group of Experts on Managing Risks in Regulatory Systems as contained in document ECE/TRADE/C/WP.6/2019/7. It mandated the Secretariat and the coordinators to continue to report on an annual basis on its activities. (Decision 13)

(b) Discussion on draft Recommendation V on “Addressing product non-compliance risk in international trade”

49. A preliminary proposal for a new Recommendation on “Addressing product non-compliance risk in international trade” was presented to the Working Party for discussion (ECE/CTCS/WP.6/2019/5). The Recommendation presented a practical approach to balance the large number and variety of non-compliance risks with the need to expedite trade consignments in compliance with WTO agreements. The approach was based on regulatory cooperation, data integration, and IT infrastructure.

50. The Principal Technical Advisor of Worksafe New Zealand talked about the evaluation of non-compliance risks of products and businesses and their regulations through the “New Zealand Electrical Safety Regulatory Risk Engine”. The risk engine acts as a predictive tool to measure both probability factors and consequential factors of specific product risks that are in non-compliance scenarios. It then ensures that regulators can enable an adequate level of regulation to mitigate risks while preventing excessive commercial stifling. This development has resulted in the improvement of safety equipment. A risk engine is also being proposed to assess the risks of gender bias and standardization activities.

51. Member States expressed overall support for the draft Recommendation V on “Addressing product non-compliance risk in international trade” as contained in document ECE/TRADE/C/WP.6/2019/8. They mandated the GRM group to integrate comments received in the Recommendation and present it for adoption at the thirtieth session in 2020. (Decision 14)

(c) Discussion on integrating risk management in trade facilitation

52. A Senior Trade Facilitation Advisor from the ITC said that compliance challenges are arising because the nature of shipments are changing. Risk management systems must be integrated among the different authorities and agencies to help the private sector come into compliance. Active communication between businesses and standards makers about trading practices was also of key importance. He concluded by highlighting the importance of ICTs in mitigating risks throughout the supply chain.

53. The Economic Cooperation and Trade Division presented findings from the UN global survey on digital and sustainable trade facilitation. The survey found that many agencies are reporting positive results on the implementation of risk management systems. Risk-based customs processing has made significant progress and it is now important to mainstream this approach throughout the supply chain and strengthen cooperation with the business community.

54. The Member States thanked the Co-coordinator of the GRM Group and speakers from ITC and UNECE. They requested the Secretariat to explore the possibility of issuing a double logo ITC-UNECE publication on the topic of risk management in trade facilitation and seek extra-budgetary funds in support of future capacity-building activities. (Decision 15)

X. Review of recent developments in standardization (Agenda Item 9)

<i>Title of document</i>	<i>Document symbol</i>	<i>For information/decision</i>
Bringing standardization in University Curricula: Making the case	ECE/TRADE/440	Information

(a) Updates from intergovernmental organizations, and international and regional standardization bodies

55. The representative of the European Commission highlighted recent developments in the EU standardisation system, which is grounded in the WTO principles and is the foundation of the EU Single Market. She introduced the Joint Initiative in Standardization (JIS), its objectives, activities and achievements. She referred to the achievements in the area of procurement (such as the European guide for referencing standards in public procurement) and emphasized how the JIS had resulted in important achievements by several member states and the EU Commission, helping generate a variety of results. She referred participants to the Joint Initiative website and brochure, (<https://ec.europa.eu/docsroom/documents/35781/attachments/1/translations/en/rendition/s/native>).

56. The presentation delivered by the Deputy Dean of Jiliang University examined how standardization can improve social service and public governance effectiveness. She highlighted the issue of an aging population and the Chinese government's pilot program on creating standards to provide various aspect of adequate care. Through technological infrastructure, the standards could be developed and implemented based upon the relevant data and its analysis and created a baseline for good practices for further endeavours. By introducing the process and good practices of standardization in the province of Zhejiang, China, she hoped to shed some light on the functions of standards in public service and governance domain.

57. The Senior Manager of Stakeholder Engagement for amfori presented his organization which helps firms monitor and improve social and environmental performance throughout their supply chains, through amongst others social auditing, capacity building, stakeholder engagement and environmental self-assessments. Prior to adopting the UNECE Gender Responsive Standards Declaration amfori had already begun to integrate gender related criteria in its system manual for its code of conduct for social performance – BSCI. Following the signing of the Declaration, amfori has drafted a Gender Action Plan with several concrete initiatives, including a gender awareness training of its staff, the training of female social auditors, making its codes and schemes more gender responsive and ensuring all that policy positions have a gender lens.

58. The Honorary Secretary of the Responsible Jewellery Council outlined the activities of his organization, which aims to ensure that jewellery is produced responsibly and sustainably throughout the supply chain. His organization would become a signatory of the Declaration on Gender Responsive Standards and Standards Development.

59. The Working Party thanked speakers from the European Commission, China Jiliang University, amfori and Responsible Jewellery Council for their presentations.

(b) High-level panel on “Education on standards-related issues”

60. The Chair of the Working Party recalled the history of the project on Education and the WP's Recommendation “I”.

(i) Teaching a new Generation of Standards Setters: Innovative Approaches

61. The Professor of Innovation Economics at the Berlin University of Technology presented a supply-demand analysis of standards education in Europe. There is little awareness of standardization (low demand), and only a small number of educational

programs (supply). Many individuals working in standards are both teachers and researchers in some capacity, which means they are self-motivated for standards work. His study concluded that the impulse for more education on standardization should come from governments or institutions. In addition, there should be more outreach by standards bodies to convey the demand for people to be involved in the work. He provided recommendations for governments, universities, standards organizations, and other entities to support greater education in standardization.

62. The Deputy Head of Unit for the Standards for Growth of the European Commission reminded participants that the Commission did not have a competence on education, which was devolved to Member States. The organization had competence in standardization, and it recognized that more needed to be done to develop competencies in this field. The EU Commission had conducted a survey on the proficiencies of standards professionals, which concluded that there was a noticeable dearth of such competences. He discussed the creation of job profiles in standards and gave an example of standards education, which would promote the sharing of technology/services/goods instead of the protection of them i.e. property rights laws. Standardization education creates a larger diversity of standards experts, which helps to create standards that are market relevant.

63. The Professor from the Moscow Aviation Institute explained that the Russian educational system is mainstreaming the three dimensions of sustainable development in teaching standardization in high schools, in Universities and in vocational institutions. At present compliance is more focussed on performance rather than the governance and environmental dimension. In order to develop the competency of staff in technical regulatory institutions, it is necessary to use a variety of approaches, including: vocational training of staff; setting requirements in standardization documents; assessment of professional qualifications and certification of staff of the certification bodies, including compliance assessment bodies

64. The Czech Delegation reported on a recent meeting of the “Working Group on Cooperation in the field of Standardization, Metrology and Conformity Assessment”, working under the umbrella of the Intergovernmental Commission on Economic, Scientific and Technical Cooperation between the Russian Federation and the Czech Republic. The bilateral meeting took stock of the lack of awareness by the general public of the role of standards for safety, quality, assurance, globalization, innovation and efficiency of products and/or services and had expressed interest in organizing a panel session on education on standards.

65. The Head of Research and Innovation of ISO discussed the creation of her unit and the fact that its aim of furthering research on the impacts of international standards is well aligned with the goal of creating more visibility and demand for education on standardization. Although ISO has produced content and learning materials that can be integrated into curricula, it was the uptake of these materials that was lacking. As mentioned by the panellists, there is a real need to uncover the barriers to inclusion of these materials and to work on increasing demand from students and, in general, on raising awareness about standardization amongst younger people. ISO is considering its strategy related to standards education and attracting the next generation.

66. The representative of the Knowledge Innovation Centre of the Portuguese Standardization Body focussed her intervention on the need to foster standardization education, even when teachers are not experts in the field themselves. Before students can be taught, there is a need to adequately train teachers first. She also referred to her work to create an array of educational materials in the field of standardization.

67. The Rector of the Belarusian State Institute for Qualification Improvement and Retraining of Staff for Standardization presented the international standard ISO 21001:2018 "Educational organizations — Management systems for educational organizations — Requirements with guidance for use" as one of the tools to achieve the 4th UN Sustainable Development Goal. The speaker underscored how affordable education contributes to the achievement of gender equality and expands opportunities for

people throughout the world to live healthier, more stable lives. Additionally, only an educated society can solve problems related to the achievement of all the Goals.

68. The Chairperson opened the floor for questions, and the following points were raised:

- The representative from the Dublin City University shared the experience of his country where an Advisory Group on Education for Sustainable Development had been created;
- The representative from Moscow State Regional University provided information on the project initiated with WP.6 that worked towards standards in education for bachelor's students in economics.

(ii) Education on Standards for Sustainable Development

69. The Professor of Standardisation Management at the Rotterdam School of Management, Erasmus University, and President of EURAS presented his University's approach to education on standardization. Courses on the topic were made available both at graduate and undergraduate levels and aimed to improve understanding and build skills. Courses employed a rich format with games, case studies, company visits, etc. Thanks to a systematic design of his curriculum on education about standardisation, he addresses all UN Sustainable Development Goals. He provided some examples of how each one of the SDGs is supported by standards, and how he integrates that in his teaching.

70. The Professor from Matej Bel University in Banska Bystrica, Slovakia highlighted the role of universities in multidisciplinary education on standards for sustainable development with focus on SDGs 9, 12 and 13. She highlighted the need for different streams in standards education for sustainable development: providing the human capital of the future; building skills for the different components of the quality infrastructure (standardization, accreditation, conformity assessment, metrology and market surveillance); supporting multidisciplinary approaches to education (i.e. joint degree options and distance learning). She referred to a case study about attitudes towards robots and how standards affect societal attitudes towards technological progress, which would be further promoted through standardization education. She concluded by stressing the importance of academic and non-academic partnerships, citing the collaboration between her institution and the Slovak Office of Standards, Metrology and Testing.

71. The presentation from the Russian Ecological University provided an overview about various programs pertaining to environmental education. Courses were offered to Russian students, workers, and executives. A number of universities and centres offer specialized environmental education and provide specific training on standards like ISO 140001 and on eco-auditing. Students receive certificates of technical standard expertise which are useful at all levels of a company from CEO to administrative services. A suggestion was made regarding the elaboration of a model programme on environmental education.

72. The senior researcher of DIRoS, Netherlands presented her research on the complex interaction between innovation and standards and regulations. She placed this analysis within the context of the EU 'Better Regulation' policy. Standards and regulations addressed different problems and offered different solutions, so it was important to keep them distinct in analysing their impact on innovation, also taking into account the specificities of different societal stakeholders.

73. The Deputy Chairman of the Union of Entrepreneurs and Industrialists of the Russian Federation (RSPP) examined problems in Russian standardization during the transition from a Soviet economic system to a market system. He discussed the Russian initiatives to provide standards and regulations in support of the market system where standards are created by business instead of being state controlled. The RSPP contributed to a better understanding of standardization developments in foreign markets and their adaptation to the Russian system. The RSPP developed recommendations that were used

to guide Russian standards-making processes. In addition, RSPP had organized several training conferences for students and academics on standardization.

74. The Executive Director of ECOS discussed an educational program for various graduate students to apply standards and sustainability practices to their fields. The program showed that students were greatly unaware of sustainability methodologies, and general tools for sustainable practices. Sustainability needs to be mainstreamed in education for standard makers, students, and those in the private sector. He commended Italy for incorporating SDGs into their school curriculums.

75. The Chairperson opened the floor for discussion, and the following points were raised:

- A private sector representative expressed her support for education on sustainable development and the importance of standards for sustainability and accountable decision-making: it was key to start this education at university level.
- The representative from Porto Polytechnic reported on a workshop on ISO 21001 that had been held in September 2019 which was an important tool for as a tool to implement the European Policy for Vocational Education and Training,
- The representative from the European Commission made a proposal to establish a physical repository for teaching material for standardization. UNECE might use its website to host the repository. He called for the establishment of a network - a “Coalition of the willing” – for standardization education. The European Commission would organize a workshop with academic partners in the spring of 2020. He added that a new strategy for education on standardization was needed.

76. **The Working Party took note of the panel discussions and conclusions and thanked all the participants for their valuable contributions. It requested the Secretariat to pursue the issues raised at the panel and formal establishment of a Group of Experts on Education on Standards-Related issues; strengthen cooperation with education institutions including by means of a student exchange network; request a liaison status for UNECE at ISO TC 232 and explore the possibility of co-organizing a meeting with the European Commission network of scholars active in research/teaching related to standardisation. (Decision 16)**

XI. International regulatory cooperation (Agenda Item 10)

<i>Title of document</i>	<i>Document symbol</i>	<i>For information/decision</i>
Report on the sectoral initiative on cyber security	ECE/CTCS/WP.6/2019/9	Decision
Report on the sectoral initiative on Earth-Moving Machinery	ECE/CTCS/WP.6/2019/10	Decision
Report on the sectoral initiative on Equipment for Explosive Environments	ECE/CTCS/WP.6/2019/11	Decision
Report on the sectoral initiative on the Safety of Pipelines	ECE/CTCS/WP.6/2019/12	Decision

(a) International and regional developments

77. There were no reports presented under this item.

(b) Sectoral projects

78. According to the ex-chairman of the ISO Technical Committee of Earth-moving machinery, the UNECE sectoral initiative on Earth-Moving Machinery had helped promote a standards-based approach in regulating the sector worldwide, enhancing safety and reducing barriers to trade. The project expanded to address: new challenges for developing countries, risk assessment etc. The earth-moving industry had measured ergonomics data in the early 2000 and had updated the ISO standards to be gender responsive.

79. The Convener of the Sectoral initiative on Equipment for Explosive Environments (SIEEE) explained that the SIEEE was based on a whole life cycle approach and covered placing on the market, installation, repair, and maintenance. Presenting the activities carried out in 2019, he referred to two workshops held in Singapore (May 2019) and Dubai (September 2019). The workshops had expressed their full support for the 2nd edition of the CRO and recommended that market surveillance be integrated into the document and a communication channel for regulators be developed. This led to the publication of an “Informative Guideline for national officials for regulation” and the establishment of an official e-mail address (Officials-contact(at)ieccex.com). The new Common Regulatory Arrangements (CRA) will be published together with the Informative Guideline in 2020.

80. The representative from ECOS posed a question on the integration of environmental aspects but was informed that these fell outside the scope of the initiative, which exclusively focused on safety.

81. A representative of the private sector presented a proposal for ensuring that manufacturers bear a fair share of the costs of ensuring compliance, which often fall disproportionately upon public authorities. After discussion, it was agreed that the proposal should be further developed.

82. The Secretary of Conformity Assessment Board for the IEC presented an updated version of the common regulatory objectives (CROs) for the sector of cybersecurity. The CROs propose a systematic approach to the analysis and the understanding of technical systems that need to be cyber-protected. It is based on the recognition that most technical systems are very similar, from a cybersecurity perspective, and that similar protective actions can be taken. It is a risk-based methodology, which recommends the use of international standards but does not prescribe their use. It also goes further than other cybersecurity frameworks in that it requires a determination of the type and level of conformity assessment that should be used to ensure that the requirements are met.

83. The Secretary of the Working Party on Automated/Autonomous and Connected Vehicles (GRVA) for the UNECE presented on cybersecurity activities at GRVA, which are guided by the SDGs. He presented the UNECE Guidelines on Cyber Security and Data Protection that had been adopted in 2016 and implemented by the Task Force on Cyber Security, which addressed requirements regarding security, privacy, secure software updates, and the integrity of internal communication capacities. The guidelines had led to successful regulatory outcomes.

84. A representative of the National Board of Trade Sweden presented a recent study on the Implications of IT security regulation on international trade. Cyber vulnerabilities in society result in an increasing number of national regulatory initiatives which have an impact on International trade of ICT. Commercial ICT equipment are also used within critical infrastructure and workplaces and disturbances in these environments can not only disrupt economic activity but also result in major societal vulnerabilities if not protected. As a result, governments use their right to regulate this area e.g. in some cases by using national standards or conformity assessment procedures (CAPs) for cybersecurity, referring to national security (which is a legitimate regulatory objective according to WTO TBT Agreement).

85. The questions and answers session discussed how to cover the costs of market surveillance and the role of ICT in creating reliable systems also based on systems thinking and the precautionary principle, which should be factored in at the onset of a product’s development.

86. A representative of the RSPP presented progress on the Sectoral Initiative on Pipeline Safety, on behalf of the coordinator. She updated participants on progress on the initiative since the last session and highlighting a survey that had been carried out and had collected data which would assist in the creation of safety standards.

87. **The Working Party adopted the proposal for a common regulatory framework in this sector as contained in document (ECE/TRADE/C/WP.6/2019/9). It requested that the proposal be published. It also requested the Secretariat to continue to report on the progress of the initiative. (Decision 17)**

88. **The Working Party thanked the rapporteurs of the four initiatives for their reports and their efforts. It adopted the report on the sectoral initiatives on: Cybersecurity as contained in document (ECE/TRADE/C/WP.6/2019/9); on Earth Moving Machinery as contained in document (ECE/TRADE/C/WP.6/2019/10); on Equipment for Explosive Environments as contained in document (ECE/TRADE/C/WP.6/2019/11) and on Pipelines Safety as contained in document (ECE/TRADE/C/WP.6/2019/12). It requested the Secretariat to continue to report on the development and implementation of all the sectoral initiatives. It further requested the Secretariat, depending upon availability of extrabudgetary resources, to assist in maintaining and developing contacts with Governments to promote the sectoral initiatives. (Decision 18)**

(c) **Proposals for new regulatory dialogues**

89. There were no proposals under this item

XII. Review of recent developments in conformity assessment and accreditation (Agenda Item 11)

90. A Lead Assessor of Accredia, the Italian accreditation authority, highlighted the role of accreditation in ensuring that processes, products, and services provided by organizations support the achievement of the SDGs, and gave a detailed example related to SDG 7. He addressed the problem of the proliferation of voluntary sustainability standards and presented a Sustainable Development Management System (SDMS) that was being developed by the Italian National Standard Body (UNI) in cooperation with Accredia. It would assist organizations in carrying out a comprehensive sustainability analysis and in the process of progressively accompanying the implementation of an integrated sustainability system.

91. The representative of Erasmus University supported the development of management systems but questioned whether certification systems provide certifications to organizations that address SDGs adequately. The Lead Assessor of Accredia added that certification organizations should act as an independent party to review businesses' claims.

92. **The Working Party thanked Accredia for their presentation on their work related to the social dimension of sustainability. (Decision 19)**

XIII. Metrology (Agenda Item 12)

93. There were no reports presented under this item.

XIV. Market surveillance (Agenda Item 13)

<i>Title of document</i>	<i>Document symbol</i>	<i>For information/decision</i>
Report of the Advisory Group on Market Surveillance, its activities and its meetings	ECE/CTCS/WP.6/2019/13	Decision

(a) Update from the Advisory Group on Market Surveillance

94. The representative of the Eurasian Economic Commission reported on the results of the 17th meeting of the MARS Group, which was held on July 8-9, 2019 in Moscow in the premises of the Commission. The event was successful and suggested to make the meetings of the MARS group in the future more practical, in particular regarding the implementation of state control mechanisms and the practical application of the approved EU acts in this area.

95. The Secretary of the WP. 6, on behalf of the MARS Group Chairperson, presented the Report of the Advisory Group's meeting in Moscow

96. **The Working Party adopted the report of the MARS Group. It requested the Working Party to adopt its plan of work as detailed in the document (ECE/TRADE/C/WP.6/2019/13). The Working Party mandated the Secretariat to continue to report on an annual basis on the activities of the MARS Group. (Decision 20).**

(b) Common definitions and terminology in market surveillance

<i>Title of document</i>	<i>Document symbol</i>	<i>For information/decision</i>
Glossary of Market Surveillance Terms	ECE/TRADE/389	Information

97. **The Working Party mandated the Secretariat to convene a working group for the revision of the Glossary on Market Surveillance and to publish it electronically, and in print if resources are available. (Decision 21)**

(c) High-level panel discussion on challenges and recent initiatives in market surveillance

98. The Director of the Department for Technical Regulation and Accreditation in the Eurasian Economic Commission (EEC) updated the audience on the latest achievements in the formation of the system of technical regulation within the Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU) and presented the system of state control (market surveillance) over compliance with the requirements of the EAEU technical regulations. This included the current legislation and the agreements in this area being developed and finalized among the EEC Member States on common rules and procedures on the release for circulation of products. Further, he put forth information on the development of an alerting system for dangerous products being tested as a pilot project.

99. The International Relations Officer of the European Commission presented the new horizontal framework for market surveillance and compliance of products (Regulation (EU) 2019/1020) adopted in June 2019. The new Regulation will apply as from July 2021 and the European Product Compliance Network will start operating in January 2021. This framework applies to a wide range of products regulated by common EU rules laid down in 70 directives and regulations. Its aim is to improve market surveillance across the European Union, in particular by:

- Improving information on EU rules and ensuring compliance by economic operators;
- Strengthening cooperation between enforcement authorities, including through the creation of a European Product Compliance Network;
- Addressing the new challenges of e-commerce.

100. The representative of the Czech Office for Standards, Metrology and Testing reported on a new proposed internet application to coordinate the planning of controls among all Czech MSAs and inspection authorities. The advantages of the proposed system were that the scheduling of controls would be improved, with a minimum of 2 months in between controls and a maximum of 5 controls per year for each firm. This would reduce the pressure on entrepreneurs and economic operators, ensure a better preparation of controls with more efficiencies, and allow for information sharing among MSAs. Coordination would be costly and constraining for MSAs. He would further discuss the developments and the eventual approval of the proposed system at a later occasion.

101. A representative of the ISO/CASCO Secretariat presented the ISO/CASCO toolkit and how it supports Market Surveillance, also presenting tools that were made freely available on the ISO website. ISO/CASCO had organized a workshop on Market Surveillance, which had resulted in a better understanding of the main challenges that market surveillance authorities face. These included the complexity of detecting instances of market abuse, capacity and resources limitations, the difficulty of striking a balance between costs, risks and benefits, coping with corruption and counterfeit products and the fragmentation of regulatory systems compounded by a lack of cooperation between the different players. These challenges could be mitigated with a risk-based approach to market surveillance, both at the pre-market and post-market levels, coupled with rapid communication, information sharing and the use of standards.

102. The Working Party thanked its Vice-Chairperson, the speaker from ISO and the speakers from the European Commission and from the Eurasian Economic Commission for their reports.

XV. Other business (Agenda Item 14)

103. **The Working Party decided to hold its 30th session from 2nd November 2020 (afternoon session only) to 3rd November 2020 (all day). It noted that the duration of the WP.6 annual session will be reduced to one and a half days, preceded by a half day meeting without interpretation of the Gender Responsive Standards Initiative. (Decision 22)**

XVI. Adoption of the report (Agenda Item 15)

104. **The Working Party adopted the decisions and the report of its 29th session. It requested the Secretariat to edit it as necessary and finalize it for distribution. (Decision 23)**