



UNECE
UN/CEFACT

**Towards a Circular Economy –
Traceability and Transparency for
Sustainable Value Chains**
Use Cases and Examples of Implementation



17 October 2018, from 09:00
Deefly Zhejiang Hotel, Guiyu Room
Hangzhou, China

<http://www.unece.org/hangzhouforum-circulareconomy.html>

Background

Current patterns of production and consumption are fast exhausting the natural resources, degrading ecosystems, and generating hazardous substances, waste and pollution. Responding to these challenges involves moving from a linear to a more circular approach, achieving resource and energy efficiency along the whole supply chain and providing access to basic services, green jobs, and reaching a better and sustainable quality of life for all. Essentially, it is about doing more and better with less. This requires a systematic approach engaging all stakeholders, producers, manufacturers, intermediaries, traders and, retailers and the final consumer. In such a connection, transparency and traceability are identified as important tools to advance more responsible consumption and production, in line with SDG12 of the United Nations Agenda for Sustainable Development. At this Conference, UN/CEFACT proposes to discuss the following questions:

- How to move from a linear to a circular economic system? What are the challenges and opportunities in increasingly globalized and fragmented value chains?
- How can enhanced transparency, traceability of value chains and their environmental, social, and health risks contribute to advance sustainable production patterns?
- Which innovative practices can support information sharing among different stakeholders to ensure that consumers have the relevant information and awareness for sustainable lifestyle?
- How existing and new UN/CEFACT deliverables could be used in this context?

In April 2018, a conference/workshop was organized, with a special focus on the garment and footwear sector, which provided some guidance and recommendations. The presentations from this event are available on the event website and can serve as a starting point for the discussions during this conference.

Objective

The roundtable aims at:

1. providing a mutual learning space where experts can exchange experiences, propose solutions to identified problems and anticipate future developments to advance sustainable value chains for a circular economy;
2. identifying main lessons learned and compile a set of key action areas and good practices that can inform ongoing and new UN/CEFACT projects, specifically in the area of transparency and traceability for sustainable value chains.

Agenda 17 October 2018

9:00 – 9:15 – Welcome Address

- Ms. Ivonne HIGUERO, Director UNECE Economic Cooperation and Trade Division

9:15 – 10:30 Session 1 – Managing sustainable value chains for a circular economy

- Ms. Maria Teresa Pisani, Economic Affairs Officer, UNECE Economic Cooperation and Trade Division
- Prof. Ding Xuemei, Institute of Fashion, Donghua University Shanghai
- Ms. Merel Krebbers, Material integrity Specialist, H&M (*tbc*)
- Mr. Steve Capell, Director at GoSource Pty, Australia
- Mr. Bryan Mortensen, Global IDFL Audit and Inspection Manager

10:30 – 10:45 - Q&A and Discussion

10:45 – 11:00 - Coffee Break

11:00 – 12:15 – Session 2 – Approaches and solutions for enhancing transparency and traceability of value chains

- Mr. Frans Van Diepen, UN/CEFACT Domain Coordinator and Policy Advisor Ministry of Economy The Netherlands
- Mr. David Ho, Senior Director, Intertek China
- Mr. Du Han, Assistant Director of Promotion, GS1 China
- Ms. Sun Xiaoyun, Technical Research and Standardization, GS1 China
- Mr. Xiaoping Jiang, Director, Trade Security and Facilitation Research Centre

12:15 – 12:30 – Q&A and Discussion

12:30 Concluding Remarks

What is UN/CEFACT?

UN/CEFACT, the United Nations Centre for Trade Facilitation and Electronic Business, supports activities dedicated to improving the ability of business, trade and administrative organizations, from developed, developing and transition economies, to **exchange products and relevant services effectively**. Its principal focus is on facilitating national and international transactions, through **the simplification and harmonization of processes, procedures and information flows**, and so contributing to the growth of global commerce.

UN/CEFACT has a global mandate. Participation in the UN/CEFACT Forum is open to all. There are some 300 experts representing every region in the world.

Within the framework of the United Nations Economic and Social Council, the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) serves as the focal point for **trade facilitation recommendations and electronic business standards**, covering both commercial and government business processes that can foster growth in international trade and related services. In this context UN/CEFACT was established, as a subsidiary, intergovernmental body of the UNECE.

For more information:
<http://www.unece.org/cefact>
See also: <http://tfig.unece.org/>

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This conference takes place during the Forum in Hangzhou.

Participation is free of charge, but all participants must register as participants to the Forum.

Detailed agendas and registration available at:
<http://www.unece.org/hangzhouforum.html>