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**THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE UNECE REFORM
AND FOLLOW-UP TO THE 2006 SESSION OF THE COMMISSION**

2008 – 2009 Strategic Framework for Subprogramme 6 – Trade

Note by the secretariat for information and discussion

1. The Strategic Framework is the key planning document for the United Nations results-based budget. For each subprogramme, the following components are defined for planning and budgeting purposes: (a) the objective, (b) the expected accomplishments and (c) the indicators of achievement. All programme outputs must be related to one of the expected accomplishments, and the indicators of achievement are used to measure the implementation of the subprogramme.
2. The 2008-2009 trade subprogramme has been reviewed by the Bureau of the Committee and approved by the Commission. It will be submitted to Headquarters for final approval.
3. The Strategic Framework for 2006-2007 is reproduced in the annex for comparison.

2008-2009 STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK FOR SUBPROGRAMME 6 – TRADE

Objective of the Organization: To facilitate trade and trade-related economic cooperation among countries of the UNECE region and with the rest of the world.	
Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat	
	Indicators of achievement
(a) Adoption by member States of new/revised UNECE recommendations, norms, standards, guidelines and tools, for trade facilitation, electronic business, regulatory cooperation and agricultural produce.	(a) Number of new and/or updated UNECE recommendations, norms, standards, guidelines and tools for trade facilitation, electronic business, regulatory cooperation and agricultural produce agreed upon by member States.
(b) Increased implementation of UNECE recommendations, norms, standards, guidelines and tools, for trade facilitation, electronic business, regulatory cooperation and agricultural produce.	(b) (i) Number of key trade facilitation and electronic business recommendations, norms, standards, guidelines and tools implemented by UNECE member States and other countries. (ii) Number of downloads of key recommendations, norms, standards, guidelines and tools from the UNECE Internet site, as a proxy for their use. (iii) Number of requests for assistance received from member States and other international organizations to assist in the promotion and implementation of UNECE trade related instruments.

Strategy

4. The responsibility for this subprogramme is vested in the Trade and Timber Division. Taking into account the United Nations Millennium Declaration Goal 8 of, “an open, rule-based, predictable and non-discriminatory trading system” and the importance given to trade as a key vehicle for economic growth, elimination of poverty, and greater regional cooperation and stability in other major United Nations documents such as the Monterrey Consensus and the Almaty Programme of Action for Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries, the Trade subprogramme works to *reduce barriers to trade in goods and services caused by differences in regulatory approaches and differences in the procedures, standards and documents used by governments and business for trade*. It does so by developing and promoting:

5. *Simple, transparent and effective processes for global commerce* through the development and maintenance of international trade facilitation instruments, especially to

support international supply chains and the integration of countries into the global economy. These instruments include global standards and best practices for the simplification and automation of information flows and business practices used in international trade.

6. *A predictable, transparent and harmonized regulatory environment for commerce and business* through the development of frameworks for regulatory convergence, the promotion of international standards within the regulatory environment, and the identification of best practices for regulatory enforcement.

7. *Trade in agricultural produce supported by agreed upon, clear and easy to use commercial quality standards* through the development of up-to-date agricultural quality standards that are used by governments for regulatory purposes as well as by the private sector.

8. The subprogramme will also support governments, with a special emphasis on the less economically developed countries in the region, in the national and regional adaptation and implementation of UNECE trade related standards and recommendations including their integration into national and regional trade facilitation strategies, trade policy and regulatory regimes.

9. To deliver this programme of work the UNECE will work through its intergovernmental bodies and expert groups and will reinforce cooperation with principal partners which include: the World Trade Organization, the Organisation for International Standardization (ISO) the World Customs Organization, the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, the Food and Agriculture Organization, the Bank for International Settlements, the World Bank, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, other United Nations regional commissions and a wide variety of private sector organizations.

ANNEX¹**2006-2007 STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK FOR SUBPROGRAMME 6– TRADE**

Objective of the Organization: To facilitate trade and trade-related economic cooperation among countries of the UNECE region and with the rest of the world.

Expected accomplishments**of the Secretariat****Indicators of achievement**

(a) Adoption by member States of new/revised trade facilitation recommendations, norms, standards, guidelines and tools, including for agricultural produce.	(a) (i) The number of new and/or updated UNECE recommendations, norms, standards, guidelines and tools for trade facilitation and electronic business agreed upon by member States. (ii) The number of agreed new or revised international standards and recommendations on agricultural produce.
(b) Increased implementation of trade facilitation recommendations, norms, standards, guidelines and tools, including for agricultural produce.	(b) (i) Increase in the number of recommendations, norms, standards, guidelines and tools implemented by member States. (ii) Number of downloads of key recommendations, norms, standards, guidelines and tools from the UNECE Internet site, as a proxy for their use. (iii) The cumulative total number of implementations of UNECE agricultural quality standards in member States (total number of standards multiplied by total number of countries implementing them).
(c) Enhanced policy dialogue on trade practices and regulatory framework.	(c) Percentage of participants in policy discussions who evaluate them as being useful for decision-making.

Strategy

1. The responsibility for this subprogramme is vested in the Trade Development and Timber Division. The strategy will promote five key work areas. First, developing and maintaining international trade facilitation instruments in response to the needs of international business, especially to support international supply chains and the integration of countries into the global

¹ Reproduced from document A/59/6 (Prog. 16).

economy, and to provide a platform for discussion among all actors (Governments, business and other organizations) in this regard. This will entail maintaining electronic data interchange standards (United Nations Directories for Electronic Data Interchange for Administration, Commerce and Transport (UN/EDIFACT)), extending the work of the Organization on electronic codes and developing new e-business standards. Second, the strategy will focus on reducing barriers to trade in goods and services, especially non-tariff barriers, through greater implementation of UNECE norms, standards and recommendations in trade facilitation, international harmonization and standardization and regulatory compatibility. Third, efforts will be made to facilitate trade policy development, especially in the context of the implications of the enlargement of the European Union, the new challenges stemming from trade and security and measures to promote sustainable trade. Fourth, the strategy will seek to add value to UNECE's well-established work in agricultural quality standards and to encourage the participation of more countries throughout the UNECE region in the standards-making process. Fifth, the UNECE will encourage implementation of the trade-related norms and standards, in particular for the benefit of countries with economies in transition. Overall, efforts will be made to support the mainstreaming of information and communication technologies and gender issues into all aspects of the subprogramme.