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**IMPLEMENTATION OF THE UNECE REFORM AND FOLLOW-UP
TO THE SIXTY-FIRST SESSION OF UNECE**

Document prepared by the secretariat for information and discussion

1. This document sets out the implications of the work plan on UNECE reform (E/ECE/1434/Rev.1) for the Committee on Trade. It also sets out the other decisions taken and conclusions reached by the Commission at its 2006 annual session which are relevant for the Committee.

I. WORK PLAN ON UNECE REFORM

2. The work plan on UNECE reform revised substantially the intergovernmental structure and the programme of work in trade. A Committee on Trade has replaced the Committee on Trade, Industry and Enterprise Development. It will take charge of the Trade Subprogramme and supervise three subsidiary bodies: the United Nations Centre for Trade Facilitation and Electronic Business (UN/CEFACT), the Working Party on Regulatory Cooperation and Standardization Policies (WP.6) and the Working Party on Agricultural Quality Standards (WP.7).

3. The new Committee has been requested to:
 - (a) Review the programme of work of WP.6;
 - (b) Initiate consultations with the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) with a view to concentrating the agricultural-quality-standards activities of both organizations within the UNECE;
 - (c) Strengthen activities related to border crossing and trade facilitation - in cooperation with the Committee on Inland Transport - and submit proposals to the Executive Committee;
 - (d) Generate resources to increase technical assistance activities;
 - (e) Strengthen cooperation with other international organizations.

4. Proposed actions to support the Committee's follow-up to those requests are set out in detail in the paper "Strengthening the UNECE Committee on Trade" (ECE/TRADE/C/2006/3).

5. Additionally, the Work Plan on UNECE reform has established a UNECE Executive Committee with the responsibility for implementation of the overall guidance set by the Commission. All sectoral committees were requested to work closely with the Executive Committee, as follows:
 - (a) The chairs of the Sectoral Committees – or the vice-chairs – are regularly invited to the meetings of the Executive Committee;
 - (b) The Sectoral Committees "report once a year and on request to the Executive Committee, through a meeting with their chair and vice-chairs" (para. 27);
 - (c) The Executive Committee "reviews, evaluates and approves in due time the Programmes of work of the Sectoral Committees, including intersectoral activities and relations with other international organizations, based on the criteria which the Executive Committee shall define and which will include the coherence with the overall objective of the ECE, coordination with other subprogrammes and resource implications" (para. 17);
 - (d) The Executive Committee "approves the set-up, renewal, discontinuance, terms of reference and work plans of groups under the Sectoral Committees, based on the criteria of their relevance to the subprogramme, resource implications, avoidance of duplication and overlap in the ECE activities" (para. 17);
 - (e) The Executive Committee examines with the chair and vice-chairs of the Sectoral Committees, their report on the implementation of their Programme of Work and other relevant issues.

6. The responsibility of the Executive Committee to ensure coherence between the UNECE subprogrammes may also have an impact on the Trade Committee's work.

II. OTHER DECISIONS OF THE COMMISSION RELEVANT TO THE COMMITTEE ON TRADE

5. At its sixty-first session, the Commission decided that UNECE should implement the adopted measures outlined in the Work Plan. The following decisions and conclusions, as set out in the report of the Commission session, are of specific relevance for the Committee:

- (a) [The Commission] “stressed the need for further strengthening the coherence and consistency in action and policy between the line Ministries engaged in technical areas of UNECE and the foreign ministries engaged in ECE work from an overall perspective” (para. 20c);
- (b) [The Commission] “stressed the importance of active dialogue between the Sectoral Committees and the Executive Committee” (para. 20d);
- (c) [The Commission] “expressed its appreciation for the work of the Regional Advisers”, urged the secretariat to reinforce technical cooperation being carried out with sub-regional country groupings and “welcomed the approval of concrete projects and project proposals by the special session of the SPECA advisory committee” (para. 24 c, d, and e).