



**Economic and Social
Council**

Distr.
GENERAL

ECE/TRADE/C/CEFACT/2007/29
26 September 2007

Original: ENGLISH

ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

COMMITTEE ON TRADE

Centre for Trade Facilitation and Electronic Business

Thirteenth session
Geneva, 14 - 16 May 2007

**REPORT OF THE CENTRE FOR TRADE FACILITATION AND
ELECTRONIC BUSINESS ON ITS THIRTEENTH SESSION**

Summary

The United Nations Centre for Trade Facilitation and Electronic Business (UN/CEFACT) held its thirteenth session from 14 to 16 May 2007 in Geneva. In accordance with the stipulations of Chapter VI of the Terms of Reference and Rules of Procedure of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (E/ECE/778/Rev.4) and the Rules of Procedure of the UNECE Committee on Trade (TRADE/2001/2) according to which "the Committee shall review regularly the current and future activities of its subsidiary bodies and shall keep itself informed of the relevant work done and planned by other United Nations bodies and by other institutions and international organizations", UN/CEFACT is submitting the report of its thirteenth session for review by the Committee on Trade and subsequent for approval by the UNECE Executive Committee.

The thirteenth session reviewed the needs and priorities of the UN/CEFACT main stakeholders - governments, standard-setting organizations and the business community - and approved the revised recommendations and new standards and instruments developed in 2006 - 2007. The Plenary mandated the Centre to make further progress on the proposed electronic Business, Government and Trade (eBGT) initiative and to prepare the necessary documentation for approval.

CONTENTS

	<i>Page</i>
I. Attendance	3
II. Opening.....	3
III. Adoption of the agenda.....	3
IV. Matters arising from the sixty-second session of UNECE (Agenda item 2).....	3
V. Overview of stakeholder priorities (Agenda item 3)	3
VI. Report on UN/CEFACT Forum activities since the twelfth plenary session and developments by expert groups on deliverables and priorities (Agenda items 4 and 5) .	4
A. Applied Technologies Group.....	5
B. Information Content Management Group.....	5
C. Legal Group	6
D. Techniques and Methodologies Group	6
E. International Trade and Business Processes Group.....	6
VII. Open Development Process (Agenda item 6).....	8
VIII. Secretariat support (Agenda item 7)	8
IX. Report of the Rapporteurs (Agenda item 8)	8
X. Going forward (Agenda item 9)	9
A. Registry.....	10
B. Core Components	10
C. Electronic Business for Government and Trade (eBGT) Initiative	10
XI. Organizational matters (Agenda item 10).....	11
XII. Election of officers (Agenda item 11)	12
XIII. Adoption of decisions (Agenda item 12).....	12

1. The United Nations Centre for Trade Facilitation and Electronic Business (UN/CEFACT) held its thirteenth session in Geneva from 14 to 16 May 2007, under the chairmanship of Mr. Stuart Feder.

I. Attendance

2. The participants at the meeting included the representatives of Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, the Czech Republic, Finland, France, Germany, Iceland, India, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Mongolia, the Netherlands, Norway, Korea (Republic of), Republic of Moldova, Pakistan, Senegal, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Ukraine, the United Kingdom and the United States of America.

3. The following intergovernmental organizations participated: Bank for International Settlements (BIS), European Free Trade Association (EFTA), European Organization for Nuclear Research (CERN), International Telecommunication Union (ITU) and United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO).

4. The following non-governmental organizations participated: International Association of Ports and Harbours (IAPH), the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) and the Society for Worldwide Interbank Financial Telecommunication (SWIFT).

5. Observers at the invitation of the secretariat included representatives of the Association for Cooperative Operations Research & Development (ACORD) for the insurance, reinsurance and related financial services industries, the Asia Pacific Council for Trade Facilitation and Electronic Business (AFACT) and Global Standards 1 (GS1).

II. Opening

6. The Chairman opened the session and the Director of the UNECE Trade and Timber Division welcomed the delegations on behalf of the Executive Secretary.

III. Adoption of the agenda

7. The Chief of Section presented the draft agenda, where some procedural and sequential changes were proposed.

Decision 07-01: The agenda was approved with the changes suggested.

IV. Matters arising from the sixty-second session of UNECE (Agenda item 2)

8. There were no matters arising from the UNECE session that were relevant to UN/CEFACT.

V. Overview of stakeholder priorities (Agenda item 3)

9. The Chairman made a short introduction to open a discussion on follow-up activities undertaken to implement the recommendations for countries, sectors and standards development organizations made during the stakeholder sessions held at the twelfth plenary session in May 2006. The Director gave an overview of the outcomes of the country session; the Chairperson of

the Forum Management Group (FMG) gave an overview of the outcomes of the session on sectors, and a vice-chairperson gave an overview of the outcomes related to cooperation with other standards development organizations.

Decision 07-02: The Plenary took note of the reports on the outcomes related to the stakeholder sessions for countries, sectors and standards development organizations.

VI. Report on UN/CEFACT Forum activities since the twelfth plenary session and developments by expert groups on deliverables and priorities (Agenda items 4 and 5)

10. Agenda items 4 and 5 were discussed jointly. The FMG Chairperson reported on activities undertaken since the twelfth plenary session. Two Forum meetings had been organized. The 9th Forum in New Delhi in October 2006 had 250 participants. The Government of India supported the Forum in a significant manner. The 10th Forum was in Dublin in March 2007, with 230 experts in attendance. In addition, a Trade Facilitation Open Session was held, during which the Government of Ireland announced that a Single Window to fulfil all import, export and transit-related documentation would be developed in the country. The 11th Forum will be held in Stockholm on 24 to 28 September 2007.

11. The FMG Chairperson explained the need to revise the mandates and terms of reference of the permanent groups. Under United Nations rules, working groups are established and extended for two years at a time. In 2007, UN/CEFACT needed to seek renewal of the five Permanent Groups (PGs) by its parent body, the UNECE Committee on Trade, and subsequently by the UNECE Executive Committee. He suggested completing the revision after the plenary session so that the final versions could be approved in an intersessional process as additions to the report of the plenary session. These would be presented to the UNECE Committee on Trade and subsequently to the UNECE Executive Committee for approval, together with the Programme of Work (ECE/TRADE/C/CEFACT/2007/20).

12. The Head of Delegation of France asked for additional information regarding the convergence of work with the Organization for the Advancement of Structured Information Standards (OASIS). In this context, he inquired about how agreements were to be promoted, so in order to facilitate further developments and implementation of standards.

13. The Vice-chairperson in charge of standards liaison stated that information about the cooperation agreement between UNECE and OASIS was available on the UN/CEFACT website (http://www.unece.org/cefact/cf_plenary/plenary05/cf_05_misc2.pdf). Moreover, documentation explaining the details of the cooperation on technical work had also been made available at the FMG and Permanent Group levels.

14. The Permanent Group chairpersons and vice-chairpersons made extensive presentations¹ on work undertaken in the Groups. They also highlighted current issues and challenges for the future. The Plenary had before it revised recommendations and specifications for endorsement.

¹ Available at http://www.unece.org/cefact/cf_plenary/plenary07/list_doc_07.htm

The code lists are available at www.unece.org/cefact/recommendations/rec_index.htm and the Business Requirements Specifications at http://www.unece.org/cefact/umm/umm_index.htm

15. The Head of Delegation of Switzerland enquired how UN/CEFACT would ensure that the Trade Facilitation Implementation Guide, which was under way thanks to financing from the Government of Sweden, would not duplicate efforts of other organizations. The Chair of TBG15 explained the practical nature of the guidelines, as opposed to some of the conceptual guidelines that had been issued by other organizations. The FMG Chair further explained that the reference groups being planned would be as inclusive as possible. Tools and techniques from other organizations, such as the World Bank, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), the World Customs Organization (WCO), would be referenced. In addition, the country reference group would ensure that the guide would meet the needs of a range of different groups of countries, such as developing, transitional, landlocked and island economies.

A. Applied Technologies Group

16. The Applied Technologies Group (ATG) met at the Forums in New Delhi and Dublin and held additional meetings in September 2006 in Waldorf, Germany and in January 2007 in Washington, D.C. The Group had approved 174 EDIFACT Data Maintenance Requests (DMR) and had continued work on the “UML-to-EDIFACT” technical specification which was in ODP Step 6 “Implementation Verification”. The Group had also completed 48 XML schemas with “release candidate” status. Work on the XML NDR V3.0 project and the Data Type Library had continued and both of these were in ODP step 3. ATG had also worked on XML Representation of Core Components, which aim at defining an XML-based format for the representation of Core Components that will facilitate the definition, exchange, submission and storage of all CCTS artefacts in XML.

B. Information Content Management Group

17. The Information Content Management Group (ICG) met at the Forums in New Delhi and Dublin. The ICG had completed regular UN/EDIFACT audits and maintenance for the United Nations code recommendations. The Group had completed the first audit of the UN/CEFACT Core Component Libraries (CCL), which included both Aggregate Core Components and Aggregate Business Information Entities. A preliminary audit of both the e-Tendering and the Cross-Industry Invoice (CII) XML schemas had been undertaken and “release candidate” schemas had been issued for trial in the field. Two revisions of the UN/CEFACT Registry Implementation Requirements Specification had been issued. ICG had also further pursued its proof of concept testing with members of the Government of Ontario, Canada; National Taiwan Normal University, Taiwan Province of China; France Telecom, France, and the Korea Institute for Electronic Commerce, Republic of Korea. As part of regular updates, ICG had completed a formal audit of the D.06A and D.06B UN/EDIFACT Directories and the public review and publication of the code lists for four key United Nations Recommendations: Recommendation 20 (Units of Measure), Recommendation 23 (Freight Cost Codes), Recommendation 24 (Transport Status Codes) and Recommendation 28 (Types of Means of Transport Codes).

C. Legal Group

18. The Legal Group (LG) met at the Forums in New Delhi and Dublin and, in addition to monthly conference calls, had held additional face-to-face meetings in Helsinki and Vienna. The Group had completed ODP Step 2 “requirements gathering” of the Business Process Working Group (BPWG) for the Unified Business Agreement and Contracts (UBAC) project, which aims at developing a UN/CEFACT deliverable of an enforceable e-Business relationship description for a common understanding of the potential legal implications of commitments, expectations and transactions, both business and technical. The Group had, in cooperation with TBG15, completed a new Recommendation 35 on the legal aspects of international trade Single Window. The goal of the Recommendation was to raise awareness of legal issues involved in creating and operating a Single Window for international trade.

D. Techniques and Methodologies Group

19. The Techniques and Methodologies Group (TMG) met at the Forums in New Delhi and Dublin. It had also held interim meetings in June 2006 in Brussels and in December 2006 in Redwood City, United States. It had completed new technical specifications for the UN/CEFACT Modeling Methodology (UMM) base and foundation modules. It had launched a new project to develop the next version of the foundation module for UMM V2.0 to include the UMM concepts with the UML 2.0 profiles and had approved a requirements specification for the Resources-Events-Agents Economic Ontology (REA) Specialization Module for the UN/CEFACT Modeling Methodology project. The Core Component Technical Specification (CCTS) 3.0 had been released for public review in ODP Step 5. ODP Step 2 had been completed and Step 3 initiated for the Core Component Message Assembly (CCMA) project.

E. International Trade and Business Processes Group

20. The International Trade and Business Processes Group (TBG) had met at the forums in New Delhi and Dublin and several of its 20 working groups held interim meetings in the course of the year. The Group elected a Chair and one Vice-Chair in New Delhi. Detailed reports of TBG’s working groups and all other permanent groups can be found in document ECE/TRADE/C/CEFACT/2007/4.

21. The Head of Delegation of France informed the delegations that the French title of document ECE/TRADE/C/CEFACT/2007/27 “The UN/CEFACT Business Requirement Specification Material Safety Data Sheet Business Requirements Specification” was not correct. The English term “material safety” had been translated as “safety” in general. The Section Chief explained that the BRS had been revised in the secretariat after the Standards Liaison Rapporteur had drawn the secretariat’s attention to some issues in the document when it was first being approved. The secretariat of the “European Agreement concerning the International Carriage of Dangerous Goods” had revised the document and the comments were taken into account. The title of the document had been translated without consideration of the formal United Nations terminology in use in the Dangerous Goods Convention but this could be clarified in a corrigendum to the French version.

22. The Standards Liaison Rapporteur reminded the delegations that the document in question was a project of the Government of the United States and, consequently, the vocabulary

reflected the terminology in use in the United States. Moreover, the document has already been approved intersessionally. It was suggested that the secretariat and the United Nations translations service might be able to propose a suitable term in French for the “Material Safety Data Sheet”.

Decision 07-03: The Plenary took note of the report of the Forum Management Group (FMG) and reports from the permanent groups, and requested the FMG to update the mandates and terms of reference of the permanent groups immediately after the Plenary, so that they could be submitted for intersessional approval as an addendum to the report of the thirteenth Plenary.

Decision 07-04: The Plenary requested the secretariat to submit the reports, mandates and terms of reference of the permanent groups to the Committee on Trade for approval and subsequent submission to the UNECE Executive Committee.

Decision 07-05: The Plenary took note of document ECE/TRADE/C/CEFACT/2007/7 (Developments by expert groups: deliverables and priorities of the Information Content Management Group, ICG) and endorsed the updates of the following code lists approved by the ICG:

- (a) Revision 4 of Recommendation 20 “Units of Measure” in document CEFACT/ICG/2006/IC001 with a code annex
- (b) Revision 3 of Recommendation 23 “Freight Cost Code – FCC Harmonization of the Description of Freight Costs and Other Charges” in document CEFACT/ICG/2007/IC001 with a code annex
- (c) Revision 4 of Recommendation 24 “Trade and Transport Status Codes” in document CEFACT/ICG/2007/IC002 with a code annex.
- (d) Revision 2 of Recommendation 28 “Codes of Types of Means of Transport” in document CEFACT/ICG/2007/IC003 with a code annex.

The Plenary also took note of the following ICG releases:

- (a) Two UN/EDIFACT Directory releases D06A and D06B
- (b) Two UN/CEFACT Core Component Library (CCL) releases D06A and D06B
- (c) UN/CEFACT e-Tendering Candidate XML Schema release
- (d) UN/CEFACT Cross Industry Invoice (CII) Candidate XML Schema release

Decision 07-06: The Plenary noted the intersessional approval of the following Business Requirements Specifications:

- (a) ECE/TRADE/C/CEFACT/2007/8 Business Requirements Specification Cross-Border Supply Chain (UNeDocs)
- (b) ECE/TRADE/C/CEFACT/2007/10 Project Schedule and Cost Performance Management Business Requirements Specification
- (c) ECE/TRADE/C/CEFACT/2007/11 Small-Scale Lodging House Information Process Business Requirements Specification

- (d) ECE/TRADE/C/CEFACT/2007/28 UN/CEFACT Material Safety Data Sheet Business Requirements Specification

Decision 07-07: In response to concerns about the translation of document ECE/TRADE/C/CEFACT/2007/28 and its terminology, the Plenary decided that corrigenda would be issued in French and Russian correcting translation of the term “material safety” (which may be related to “dangerous goods” and “hazardous waste”). The Plenary also requested a further corrigendum to be issued in English, so that international readers who are searching for information on dangerous goods and hazardous waste data will be able to identify this relevant document. The English corrigendum will be prepared based on consultations between the secretariat, the delegation of France and the team leader for this project within the Forum. In addition, the digital version of the original English document will include a reference to this corrigendum.

VII. Open Development Process (Agenda item 6)

23. The Vice-Chair of the Forum Management Group (FMG) presented the updated Open Development Process (ODP) in document TRADE/R.650/Rev.4/Add.1/Rev.1. The FMG, in cooperation with the Bureau, had revised the ODP based on guidance received from the heads of delegation at the twelfth plenary session and consultations with member States and the Permanent Groups. The revised ODP contained eight steps, providing a sequential procedure and rules on developing and maintaining UN/CEFACT standards, specifications and recommendations and managing transparent approval of outputs.

Decision 07-08: The Plenary approved the UN/CEFACT Open Development Process (ODP) as contained in document TRADE/R.650/Rev.4/Add.1/Rev.1. It requested the secretariat to inform the UN/CEFACT community and all stakeholders accordingly, and to place the new ODP on the UN/CEFACT website.

VIII. Secretariat support (Agenda item 7)

24. The Director of the Trade and Timber Division made a presentation on the support that the secretariat could provide. The amount of work being done under UN/CEFACT has increased significantly, and the previous assignment of secretariat support is no longer sufficient. The secretariat and the Bureau have analysed the resources available vis-à-vis priorities set by the plenary and the Bureau. Based on this analysis, the secretariat prepared a new resource allocation, where institutional support would be assigned to the plenary, the Bureau, the FMG and the TBG Steering Group, while all other resources would be allocated to time-limited projects. Individual working groups would no longer be provided with support by the secretariat.

Decision 07-09: The Plenary took note of the allocation of secretariat support to UN/CEFACT.

IX. Report of the Rapporteurs (Agenda item 8)

25. The Rapporteur for Africa presented his report contained in document ECE/TRADE/C/CEFACT/2007/18. The Rapporteur had worked with the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) to launch a pan-African initiative for “New Information and Communication Technologies (NICT), Trade and Economic Growth” in Addis Ababa in 2006. In the past year, he also contributed to several sub-regional initiatives, such as

studies by the Commission of the West African Economic and Monetary Union (WAEMU), supported by International Lawyers and Economists Against Poverty (ILEAP) and the OECD regional forum on “Maximizing the Developmental Benefits of Trade Facilitation” in Yaoundé.

26. Participation of African countries in UNECE events such as the Single Window workshop has increased significantly, and the Rapporteur expected that more policy-makers would be brought together in the future to consider the benefits of trade facilitation in the African region. For this, however, a number of concrete projects in the field would be necessary for decision-makers to gain understanding of the stakes and potential benefits.

27. The Rapporteur for Asia reported on his activities since the last plenary session, highlighting cooperation with regional standards development organizations in the Asia – Pacific Region and current issues in trade facilitation and e-business standards. He also explained the activities undertaken by the Asia-Pacific Council for Trade Facilitation and Electronic Business (AFACT). All the activities presented by the Rapporteur are detailed in document ECE/TRADE/C/CEFACT/2007/19.

28. The Standards Liaison Rapporteur made a short verbal report on his work. ISO Technical Committee 154 remained the most important partner, although the volume of cooperation with other international standard-setting organizations, groupings and consortia is growing each year. After extensive consultations in the course of the year, the Bureau has transferred the responsibility for standards liaison to one of the vice-chairpersons, who will coordinate UN/CEFACT liaison with other international standard-setting organizations.

Decision 07-10: The Plenary took note of the reports of the regional rapporteurs and congratulated them on their work to further improve UN/CEFACT outreach in the Asia-Pacific and African regions.

Decision 07-11: The Plenary confirmed the transfer of tasks related to standards liaison work to a vice-chairperson and congratulated Mr. François Vuilleumier for his outstanding work as Standards Liaison Rapporteur over the years.

X. Going forward (Agenda item 9)

29. The Chairman highlighted the preparatory work done since the twelfth plenary by the Bureau and the FMG to streamline internal coordination and management and improve reporting and communications. Following the 2006 plenary decision to focus on an integrated UN/CEFACT strategy for trade facilitation and e-business based on the "buy-ship-pay" model and end-to-end interoperability, the Bureau and the FMG have updated the programme of work for the 2008 – 2009 biennium.

30. To respond to the stakeholders need for simple, effective and transparent processes for international trade, the UN/CEFACT programme of work for 2008-2009 will concentrate on the following key areas: (a) facilitating national and international trading and business transactions working towards the elimination of constraints; (b) engaging in open dialogue to improve coordination and cooperation; and (c) improving the ability of business, trade and administrative organizations to exchange products and relevant services effectively.

31. The Co-chairperson of the Cross-Border Reference Data Model project presented a Single Window application established in Sweden, where 98 per cent of Customs declarations were being submitted through a Single Window. Thanks to automatic clearance of these declarations, the release time in trade had been reduced to 90 seconds and only one interface was required for all international trade information. It was also possible to reassign a significant number of personnel to other areas where personal inspections were still justified and where collection of duties could thus be improved. The system was based on the WCO Data Model, the UNECE Trade Data Element Directory (TDED), UNeDOCS, the European Union's eCustoms initiative and an increased use of information and communications technology.

32. The Techniques and Methodologies Group (TMG) Chairperson made a presentation on the Information Technology for Adoption and Intelligent Design for e-Government (ITAIDE) project, funded by the 6th Framework Information Society Technology (IST) programme of the European Union. Its total budget is € 7 million for a project cycle from January 2006 through June 2010. The UNECE is in charge of the annual report on the State of Art in Information Technologies. The presentation can be found under agenda item 9 at the following website: http://www.unece.org/cefact/cf_plenary/plenary07/list_doc_07.htm .

A. Registry

33. The Vice-chairperson of the Information Content Management Group (ICG) made a presentation on a repository for the registration, storage and publication of UN/CEFACT deliverables, such as directories, library components and technical specifications. The draft proposal would be based on ebXML registry standards and could be linked to other relevant and compatible registries. At this stage, preliminary costs for installation were estimated at € 650,000 and the annual operating costs at € 270,000. Further details can be found under agenda item 9 on the following website: http://www.unece.org/cefact/cf_plenary/plenary07/list_doc_07.htm .

B. Core Components

34. The Chairperson of the International Trade and Business Processes Group (TBG) responsible for the harmonization and delivery of core components provided an introductory presentation on basic concepts to provide a consistent set of core components, harmonized across business domains and sectors, contributing to a concise and well-defined glossary of business terms, business data semantic definitions and structuring of data exchanges.

C. Electronic Business for Government and Trade (eBGT) Initiative

35. The Division Director explained how trust funds in the United Nations are established and administered. As a rule, extra-budgetary funding is placed in trust funds where donors can specify how these funds should be used. The secretariat is preparing a short note describing the main features of trust funds and this will be sent to heads of delegations.

36. The Bureau introduced a new initiative on "Electronic Business, Governments and Trade (eBGT)". It encompasses the current programme of work as well as new challenges and topics such as those discussed under agenda items five and nine. Member States were invited to consider how they could contribute to this initiative, e.g., through allocations to the trust fund, participation in the Advisory Groups to the Plenary Chairperson and making experts available to

the initiative. The secretariat has already consulted with the UNECE Executive Committee, which expressed support for the initiative.

37. Some of the proposed funding for eBGT will be allocated to create a support team of three to five experts for the Forum Management Group. Moreover, efforts would also focus on development of a warehouse or registry for core components and business process models. Additional financing may be required for special projects, communications and specific projects in member States. Overall costs were initially estimated at USD 3 million for the envisaged 18 months on the initiative.

38. The Heads of Delegation of France and India expressed interest in eBGT and would discuss the initiative with their relevant authorities. The Head of Delegation of Sweden suggested that further discussion on the details of this important initiative could take place at the eleventh UN/CEFACT Forum in Stockholm, from 24 to 28 September 2007. The Head of Delegation of the United States encouraged full openness and transparency to maintain this initiative on track. Expressions of interest and support were also received from ACORD (insurance), GS1 (supply chains) and SWIFT (finances). In addition, the International Association of Ports and Harbours (IAPH) Head of Delegation favourably acknowledged the importance of the proposal.

Decision 07-12: The Plenary mandated the Bureau to continue progress on the proposed electronic Business, Government and Trade (eBGT) initiative and to prepare the necessary documentation for intersessional approval.

Decision 07-13: The Plenary approved the UN/CEFACT Programme of Work for 2008 – 2009 (document ECE/TRADE/C/CEFACT/2007/20) and requested the secretariat to submit the document to the Committee on Trade for approval and subsequent submission to the UNECE Executive Committee.

XI. Organizational matters (Agenda item 10)

39. The Section Chief presented a set of documents to the Plenary for noting and approval:

(a) A document concerning “Procedures for projects for developing standards and recommendations that are joint projects or are supported by extra-budgetary or in-kind contributions”, developed by the secretariat and the Bureau for UN/CEFACT.

(b) A document prepared by the UN/CEFACT International Trade Procedures Working Group (TBG15), at the request of member States, to help assess the current situation regarding trade facilitation and to provide a benchmark to measure future progress. This was particularly important in the context of the WTO negotiations on trade facilitation implementation.

(c) The final report of the “Capacity-building in Trade Facilitation and e-Business in the Mediterranean region” project, which was financed by the United Nations Development Fund project between 2003 and 2006. The UNECE, the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) and the United Nations Economic Commission for Western Asia (UNESCWA) carried out the project jointly to promote the use of UN/CEFACT standards and recommendations in the Mediterranean region. The Government of Australia supported the

findings of the document and recommended that Governments wishing to launch similar activities should read the document carefully.

Decision 07-14: The Plenary requested the Bureau and the secretariat to review and revise document ECE/TRADE/C/CEFACT/2007/24 on “Procedures for projects for developing standards and recommendations that are joint projects or are supported by extra-budgetary or in-kind contributions” in the light of the electronic Business, Government and Trade (eBGT) initiative.

Decision 07-15: The Plenary took note of document ECE/TRADE/C/CEFACT/2007/25 and corrigendum 1 containing “Guidelines to Trade Facilitation Benchmarking”.

Decision 07-16: The Plenary took note of document ECE/TRADE/C/CEFACT/2007/27 containing the final report of the United Nations Development Account project on “Capacity-building in trade facilitation and electronic business in the Mediterranean (e-Med Business)”.

XII. Election of officers (Agenda item 11)

Decision 07-17: The Plenary elected Mr. Stuart Feder as Chairman of UN/CEFACT and Mr. Sangwon Lim as Rapporteur for Asia for 2007 – 2009. The Plenary confirmed the elections of the Forum Management Group (FMG), which had been intersessionally approved after the October 2006 Forum in New Delhi.

XIII. Adoption of decisions (Agenda item 12)

Decision 07-18: The Plenary adopted the decisions made at the thirteenth session and requested the secretariat to include them in the final report, to be circulated for intersessional approval.

Decision 07-19: The Plenary decided tentatively to hold the fourteenth session from 1 to 5 September 2008.
