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COOPERATION WITH OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

DOCUMENT FOR INFORMATION

Note by the secretariat

The objective of this document is to:

- Highlight new developments in cooperation with other organizations
- Assist delegations in better understanding the general and ongoing framework within which the Committee and its subsidiary bodies cooperate with other organizations.

INTRODUCTION

1. The United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) enjoys well-structured cooperation and coordination with United Nations Headquarters and with other organizations within and outside the UN system.
2. In the 2003 to 2005 planning period, UNECE will pay particular attention to strengthening cooperation with the other regional commissions of the United Nations, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) and the World Trade Organization (WTO), to maintain an environment that fosters intergovernmental policy dialogue.
3. At the regional level, UNECE will promote further economic integration through studies and capacity-building activities, including seminars, workshops and advisory services. In addition, UNECE will work to strengthen the policies and institutions of transition economies to implement sustainable development.
4. UNECE will encourage the business community and non-governmental organizations to take part in all aspects of its programme of work.

NEW DEVELOPMENTS

Memorandum of Understanding with the International Chamber of Commerce

5. In July 2002, the Secretary General of the International Chamber of Commerce (ICC), Mrs. Maria Livanos Cattai, and the Executive Secretary of UNECE, Mrs. Brigita Schmögnerová, signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) in which they agreed to establish mechanisms of effective consultation, cooperation, and exchange of information, these being outline below:
 - The Legal Working Group of the United Nations Centre for Trade Facilitation and Electronic Business (UN/CEFACT), the Working Party on Industry and Enterprise Development, the Working Party on International Commercial and Legal Practice and the relevant bodies of ICC will exchange information and together promote their products in fields such as the development of small and medium enterprises, the development of e-commerce, trading partner agreements, online dispute resolution and self-regulatory instruments in e-commerce.
 - UNECE and ICC will continue to promote each others' products and tools, such as trade facilitation recommendations and electronic business standards.
 - The two organizations will promote cooperation among top officials from Governments, the business community, national committees of ICC and national trade and transport facilitation committees working with UNECE in support of trade facilitation, industrial restructuring and enterprise development, and the promotion of standards and best practice, business incubators and Internet enterprise development in transition economies.
 - The two organizations agreed to consult on objectives and policies in their contacts with other international institutions, and to hold regular meetings to facilitate the exchange of views. The MoU may be modified to cover specific projects, if necessary.

Cooperation between the Working Party on Technical Harmonization and Standardization Policies (WP.6) and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)

6. In February 2002, an international conference on harmonization and equivalence in organic agriculture was held in Nuremberg, Germany. It was organized by the International Federation of Organic Agriculture Movements (IFOAM) and UNCTAD. At UNCTAD's invitation, the Chairman of the Working Party on Technical Harmonization and Standardization Policies (WP.6) made a presentation on the relevant activities of the Working Party.

7. As a follow-up to this conference, a decision was made to create a task force to prepare proposals for such harmonization. UNECE, UNCTAD, the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), IFOAM and other interested agencies attended an organizational meeting held in Geneva in December 2002 to discuss the creation of the task force.

8. At present WP.6 cooperates with this task force on its possible future activities.

Cooperation between the UNECE and Other International Organizations

9. The two charts below describe current cooperation between UNECE and other UN and international bodies under the Trade Development subprogramme and the Industrial Restructuring and Enterprise Development subprogramme. A list of the abbreviations use in the text can be found on page 12.

I. Cooperation on Trade Activities

Organization	Mechanisms for Cooperation	Current Cooperation
FAO Codex Alimentarius (Joint FAO/WHO Food Standards Programme)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Meeting schedules are set up in coordination between secretariats. - Secretariats actively participate in relevant meetings. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - UNECE standards are circulated to the members of the Codex Committee for Fresh Fruit and Vegetables whenever a Codex Standard for the same or similar produce is developed.
ICC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Memorandum of Understanding between the UNECE and the ICC - Participation in meetings and seminars - Participation in Groups of Experts - Exchange of information - Memorandum of Understanding 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Participation in the UN/CEFACT ITPWG and Legal Working Group (where they offered their Guidelines on Online Dispute Resolution as the basis for work in this area); - Many Chambers of Commerce host UNECE Multiplier Points; - The Secretary General of the ICC opened the 2002 International Forum on Trade Facilitation and chaired one session - Joint organization of the elections of the special committee under the 1961 European Convention on International Commercial Arbitration; - Discussions on standardization of the documentary credit form
IEC, ITU and ISO (see also ISO and ISO Technical Committee 154)	-Memorandum of Understanding between UNECE, IEC, ISO and ITU.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Cooperation and coordination between the secretariats; - Each organization acts as secretary to the MoU Management Group on a rotating basis; - Management meetings twice a year between the secretariats, the expert groups and international user groups; Summit meetings by the Memorandum of Understanding Management group on coordination and standardization issues.
ISO (see also ISO Technical Committee 154 and IEC, ITU and ISO)	-Memorandum of Understanding between UNECE, IEC, ISO and ITU.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - ISO attends all WP.6 meetings and annual seminars; - Participation in the MoU.
ISO Technical Committee 154 (see also ISO and IEC, ITU and ISO)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Regular Working Group meetings; - Plenary meetings once a year. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - UNECE is the Secretary to Technical Committee 154; - UNECE is the maintenance agency of the ISO 7372 Standard (Trade Data Element Directory); - The MoU for UNECE to be the secretary of an ISO Technical Committee is unique and demonstrates the excellent cooperation between the two organizations.

Cooperation on Trade Activities

Organization	Mechanisms for Cooperation	Current Concrete
ITC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Active participation in and contribution to each other's programmes; - Member of the informal inter-agency group for trade facilitation (ITC, WTO, UNCTAD, UNECE). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - An informal agency group on trade facilitation meets regularly; - Presentations on trade facilitation to ITC seminars; - ITC has arranged parallel workshops during CTIED Forums; - Exploring ITC's participation in the Mediterranean project on supply chain management; - Exploring ITC's contribution to training on trade facilitation, especially for transition countries.
ITU (WSIS)	UNECE is the Focal point for WSIS in region	Organized a joint side event on e-Business Standards for the Information Society at the WSIS Regional Conference, Bucharest, November 2002
OECD Scheme for the application of international standards for fruit and vegetables	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Meeting schedules are set up in coordination between secretaries and secretariats actively participate in each other's relevant meetings. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - UNECE Standards are adopted by the OECD; - The UNECE meetings, the OECD Plenary meeting and both secretariats work closely on updating and interpreting the standards.
Regional Commissions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Meetings; - Joint projects. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mediterranean project (ESCWA and ECA). - A coordination meeting with all four regional commissions on trade facilitation will take place in May 2003. - Upcoming Trade and Environment project for 2004-2005 (all regional commissions)
UNCTAD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Participation in each other's meetings, seminars and forums; - Mutual contribution to projects: experts, publications; - Member of the informal inter-agency group for trade facilitation (ITC, WTO, UNCTAD, UNECE). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Joint publications: Compendium of Trade Facilitation Recommendations and the Brochure on Trade Facilitation for the Forum on Trade Facilitation in May 2002; - UNCTAD participates actively in the UN/CEFACT Trade Procedures Working Group; - UNECE supports the Czech technical assistance cooperation managed by UNCTAD; - UNCTAD provides assistance to the UNECE Russian timber project: - UNECE provided support to the UNCTAD secretariat for relevant work with the Trade Point programme - UNECE participated in the 2002 UNCTAD Expert meeting on Trade Facilitation and Transport - UNCTAD participated in the UNECE e-Mediterranean seminar

Cooperation on Trade Activities

Organization	Mechanisms for Cooperation	Current Cooperation
UN ICT Task Force	Focal point for UNECE and coordinating point for all Regional Commissions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Participate in regional meetings on ICT for Development in transition countries - Web sites are linked.
WCO	Memorandum of Understanding between UNECE and WCO.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Participates actively in UN/CEFACT meetings and expert groups; - Possible participation with UNECE in an e-learning project; -- Participation by UNECE in work on the G7 Customs dataset. - UNECE participates in the WCO Task Force on Trade Facilitation and Security as well as in related follow-up activities - WCO is contributing to UNECE work on the Supply Chain Model - WCO is contributing to UNECE work on the Single Window Recommendation - UNECE will present the UneDocs project to WCO in May as a possible tool for advance information - Will contribute training to the UNECE e-Mediterranean project.
WTO	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Member of the informal inter-agency group for trade facilitation (ITC, WTO, UNCTAD, UNECE); - Trade Division & WTO staff meet regularly beyond the inter-agency group. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - WTO was a partner in organizing the first and second UNECE Forums on Trade Facilitation (2002 and 2003); - WTO representatives regularly attend meetings of CTIED subsidiary bodies; - UNECE Trade Division attends some WTO committee sessions (on the part of the UN regional commissions) - UNECE will assist WTO with training seminars and conferences in transition economies - UNECE has agreed to work with WTO on the implementation of Trade Facilitation
World Bank		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Participates actively in UN/CEFACT ITPWG meetings; - Participation with UNECE in the Mediterranean project; - Supports International Forum on Trade Facilitation; - Supports SECI project.

II. Cooperation on Industry and Enterprise Development Activities

Organization and Field	Role and Division of Labour		Mechanisms for cooperation
	Related activity of the partner organization	Relevant UNECE activity	
BDT/ITU and WSIS	Expertise on telecommunications regulations	UNECE expert meeting on e-regulations analyses and disseminates information on best practice in regulation of e-business and related issues	The cooperating organizations contributed to the organization of UNECE side event at the WSIS. UNECE has signed an MoU on e-policy and e-regulations issues with ITU
BSEC	Development of entrepreneurship and strengthening of cooperation among SMEs in the BSEC countries	Assistance to countries in transition in developing their national SME policies	UNECE has drafted Terms of Reference for the new BSEC Working Group on SMEs and assisted BSEC in developing its programme of work; UNECE assists BSEC in compiling internationally comparable statistics on SMEs in the BSEC countries; UNECE has contributed to the development of recommendations to Governments on the development of Entrepreneurship and sustainable SME sector in the BSEC countries
CEI Secretariat	Working Group on SMEs	Assistance to countries in transition in developing their national SME policies	UNECE assisted in establishing CEI Working Group on SMEs and in developing its new Terms of References and a programme of work; UNECE experts participate in the relevant CEI meetings
CIS	Consultative Committee on Support and Development of Small Entrepreneurship in CIS Member States	Creation of favourable policy and regulatory environment for SME development in CIS countries	UNECE assisted in drafting the CIS Declaration "On SMEs at the dawn of the 21st Century" to be approved at a future high-level ministerial Meeting

Cooperation on Industry and Enterprise Development Activities (continued)

Organization and Field	Role and Division of Labour		Mechanisms for cooperation
	Related activities of the partner organization	Relevant UNECE activity	
European Organization of Quality (EOQ) and European Foundation for Quality Management (EFQM)	Development of European quality standards (European Vision on Quality and European Business Excellence)	Implementation of international quality management systems in transition economies	Cooperation in development of quality management systems for SMEs and benchmarking of national quality award schemes.
EC, DG Information Society	6th Framework Programme, eEurope+, and other relevant programme elements aimed at developing the Information Society	Team of Specialists on Internet Enterprise Development produces Surveys and analytical reports raising member States' awareness of the benefits and challenges of the emerging knowledge-based economy	Joint data collection and information exchange, joint meetings and expert panels, joint publications on e-economy and related issues
EBRD	Promotes Public Private Partnerships in financing and mitigating risk	UNECE Programme on PPP provides legal and regulatory advice; trains civil servants in negotiating projects and advises on pilot projects	Organization of joint meetings. EBRD participates in the UNECE training seminars and capacity building
ESCAP	Monitors the development of women's entrepreneurship and ICT in ESCAP region	UNECE has developed a network focal points on women's entrepreneurship and ICT in central Asia	Joint project on "Equipping women for the digital economy"
ICC	Data protection issues	UNECE develops methods of online dispute resolution and data protection	ICC consults UNECE on issues relating to the safe harbour agreement for data protection and participates in UNECE meetings on e-regulation
ILO Women's Entrepreneurship Development and Gender Equality (WEDGE)	Delivers publications on women's entrepreneurship worldwide and organizes training for new companies and SMEs managed by women entrepreneurs	UNECE analyses the gender-related data and economic trends and contributes the results of this analysis as an input to joint activities (meetings and publications)	ILO -WEDGE participates in Team of Specialists on women's entrepreneurship and the relevant UNECE meetings. Exchange of relevant information Linked WWW sites

Cooperation on Industry and Enterprise Development Activities (continued)

Organization and Field	Role and Division of Labour		Mechanisms for cooperation
	Related activities of the partner organization	Relevant UNECE activity	
ITC	E-Trade Programme Technical Assistance	Regional Network of E-Trade initiatives in transition economies	Input to the E-Trade programme; sharing of data and information on the status of ICT in transition economies
ITU	Collects and analyses information on gender-specific aspects of ICT. It contributes to the organization of gender activities for WSIS 2003 and 2005. It also conducts technical assistance projects on e-learning and telecentres for women	UNECE contributes to the mainstreaming of the gender issues into the WSIS regional reparatory process	Organization of joint events during WSIS meetings and exchange of relevant information. They have linked their respective websites on ICT and gender
OECD (1)	Develops recommendations on regulations governing online dispute resolution	UNECE organizes meetings on online dispute resolution and e-government	OECD takes part in the relevant UNECE meetings
OECD (2)	Promotes international investment standards and codes of conduct. It runs the Investment Compact under the Stability Pact for Southeast Europe, which promotes the creation of an attractive environment for FDI.	UNECE Programme on Public-Private Partnerships (PPP) provides legal and regulatory advice; trains civil servants in negotiating projects and advises on pilot projects	UNECE organizes under the Investment Compact a Regional flagship initiative; it also participates in the relevant IC and joint meetings and provides inputs to the relevant meeting document
OSCE	Contributes to improving the economic dimension of OSCE.	The Working Party on International Legal and Commercial Practice promotes the rule of law and deals with the implications of new security challenges affecting public and private sectors	Co-organization of conferences and seminars on economic and environmental matters and participation in each other's events

Cooperation on Industry and Enterprise Development Activities (continued)

Organization and Field	Role and Division of Labour		Mechanisms for cooperation
	Related activities of the partner organization	Relevant UNECE activity	
UNCTAD	Research in the area of the developmental role of e-commerce and organization of relevant meetings	Team of Specialists on Internet Enterprise Development analyses the e-commerce development in European transition economies and compares its status with that in developing countries	Mutual participation in meetings
UNCITRAL	Develops an e-contract model law	UNECE develops methods of online dispute resolution as an input for E-Contract	Development of cyber-contract terms and interface elements for econtract model law
UN ICT Task Force	Information Society; regional nodes, Geneva and Moscow.	UNECE facilitates the exchange of data, information and recommendations on ICT development aimed at mainstreaming policy issues in the government policy agenda	UNECE provides technical expertise on e-strategy, e-government, knowledge-based economy and e-regulations for UN ICT task force and the regional nodes
UNDP	Organization of a regional project on e-governance	UNECE contributes to mainstreaming gender issues into the decision-making pertaining to the emerging knowledge based economy	UNECE develops a gender component of the project on e-governance for the region
UNIDO	Analyses and gives recommendations regarding the use of new technologies in industrial restructuring	UNECE TSIED work on mainstreaming ICT into industrial restructuring	Joint work on e-productivity and e-quality issues in the context of industrial restructuring in transition economies.
UNIFEM	Provides financial support to transition countries' participation in ECE work and meetings; it also organizes meetings and training workshops on gender issues	UNECE analyses the gender-related data and economic trends and contributes the results of this analysis as an input to joint activities (meetings and publications)	MoU has been signed between the two organizations. They coordinate activities pertaining to economic aspects of gender equality and cooperate in preparing the WSIS. Joint meetings and training seminars

Cooperation on Industry and Enterprise Development Activities (continued)

Organization and Field	Role and Division of Labour		Mechanism for cooperation
	Related activities of the partner organization	Relevant UNECE activity	
World Association for Small and Medium Enterprises (WASME)	Raising awareness with regard to the societal role of entrepreneurship and SMEs	Strengthening the civil society initiatives in support of SMEs	Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed between UNECE and WASME.
WIPO (1)	Administers international treaties for the protection of intellectual property. It assists transition economies to utilize intellectual property in a market oriented framework	UNECE Advisory Group on the Protection of Intellectual Property Rights for Investment helps entrepreneurs and SMEs to use intellectual assets through valuation seminars and support materials. It also brings together the business community and government officials to improve enforcement of IP rights	WIPO participates in the relevant UNECE workshops and conferences in CIS. Collaboration in sensitizing regional economic commissions on IP issues
WIPO (2)	Expertise on Digital Rights Management issues Management of WCT and WPPT	Team of Specialists on Internet Enterprise Development contributes to implementation of Digital Rights Management in transition economies	WIPO has assisted UNECE in designing programmes for the relevant forums
World Bank	Contributes to the UNECE Land for Development programme	UNECE advises Governments and the private sector on the regulatory and institutional issues related to land property valuation and management (through REAG Programme on Land for Development)	Sharing of relevant information. The World Bank participates in the Annual Forums of Land for Development and in LFD missions
WTO	Development of e-Commerce in the context of the Doha development agenda	UNECE e-Strategy and e-Policy Development initiative	UNECE holds observer status at WTO/CTD, and contributes to the e-commerce programme in conjunction with the Doha development agenda.

Abbreviations

BDT/ITU	Telecommunication Development Bureau of the International Telecommunication Union
BSEC	(Organization of the) Black Sea Economic Cooperation
CEI	Central European Initiative
CIS	Commonwealth of Independent States
CTIED	[UNECE] Committee for Trade, Industry and Enterprise Development
DG Information Society	European Commission, Directorate-General Information Society
ECA	Economic Commission for Asia
EFQM	European Foundation for Quality Management
EOQ	European Organization of Quality
ESCAP	Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific
ESCWA	Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization
G7	Group of Seven
ICC	International Chamber of Commerce
ICT	Information and Communication Technologies
IEC	International Electro-technical Commission
ITPWG	International Trade Procedures Working Group
IFOAM	International Federation of Organic Agriculture Movements
ISO	International Organization for Standardization
ILO	International Labour Organization
ILO WEDGE	ILO Women's Entrepreneurship Development and Gender Equality
ISO Technical Committee 154	ISO Technical Committee on Process, Data Elements and Documents in Commerce, Industry and Administrator
ITC	International Trade Centre (UNCTAD/WTO)
ITU	International Telecommunication Union
ITU (WSIS)	ITU World Summit on the Information Society
MoU	Memorandum of Understanding
OECD	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
SECI	Southeast European Cooperative Initiative
SME	small and medium-sized enterprise
TSIED	[UNECE] Team of Specialists on Internet Enterprise Development
UN/CEFACT	United Nations Centre for Trade Facilitation and Electronic Business
UNCITRAL	United Nations Commission on International Trade Law
UNCTAD	United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
UNECE	United Nations Economic Commission for Europe
UNIDO	United Nations Industrial Development Organization
UN ICT Task Force	United Nations Information and Communication Technologies Task Force
WASME	World Association for Small and Medium Enterprises
WCO	World Customs Organization
WCT	WIPO Copyright Treaty
WHO	World Health Organization
WIPO	World Intellectual Property Organization
WP.6	[UNECE Trade Development and Timber Division] Working Party on Technical Harmonization and Standardization Policies
WPPT	WIPO Performances and Phonograms Treaty
WSIS	World Summit on the Information Society
WTO	World Trade Organization
WTO/CTD	WTO Committee on Trade and Development

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