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Working Party on Regulatory Cooperation and
Standardization Policies

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Item 6(b) of the provisional agenda

REGULATORY COOPERATION

SECTORAL PROJECTS

**Progress report on the activities of the Sectoral Initiative
on Explosive Environments Equipment**

Note by the secretariat

Addendum

Terms of Reference for the Sectoral Project on Equipment for Explosive Environments

I. OBJECTIVES OF THE SECTORAL PROJECT

1. The Equipment used in Explosive Environments must have a high level of safety to protect the workers against explosions and to preserve the natural environment. The overall goal of the Sectoral Initiative is to promote and enhance safety, while at the same time eliminating barriers against the free trade and use of the equipment.

2. Specifically, the purpose of the Sectoral Project is to develop common regulatory objectives (CROs) for the regulations of placing Equipment for Explosive Environments on the market and for the repair and overhaul of this equipment. The CROs may include one or more of the following: verification of the equipment, assessment of production, accreditation of test institutes and accreditation of repair shops. The CROs may be developed for one or more of the following environments: offshore facilities and vessels, onshore facilities such as refineries and chemical plants, the mining sectors and other environments where explosions are likely to occur.

3. The Task Force of the Sectoral Project will work closely with the “START” Team. The “START” Team will provide assistance and guidance, when required, on policy matters for the work according to the “International Model for technical harmonization based on good regulatory practice for the preparation, adoption and application of technical regulations via the use of international standards”.

II. COMPOSITION OF THE SECTORAL PROJECT: MEMBERSHIP AND PARTICIPATION IN ITS MEETINGS

4. The Sectoral Project will offer a platform for regulators of the participating countries to discuss their concerns and approaches with experts of the producing industries and the different users of this equipment.

5. The Sectoral Project Task Force should include experts and representatives not only from countries in the UNECE region, but also from other interested United Nations Member States. It will work with international organizations, in particular the International Labour Organization (ILO) as well as representatives of the private sector and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and in particular standards-setting organizations.

6. The UNECE secretariat will provide the necessary support and guidance to the Task Force and its teams within available resources.

III. REPORTING

7. The Sectoral Project Task Force shall report to the Working Party on Technical Harmonization and Standardization Policies (WP.6) and regularly inform the “START” Team of its work.

8. The terms of reference and duration of work of the Sectoral Project will be reviewed every two years by the Working Party 6, its parent body, in accordance with UNECE rules and procedures (see ECE/EX/2 - Guidelines for the Establishment and Functioning of Teams of Specialists within UNECE).

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