

**Economic and Social Council**Distr.: General
22 June 2015

Original: English

Economic Commission for Europe**Steering Committee on Trade Capacity and Standards****First session**

31 August-1 September 2015

Item 3 of the provisional agenda

Matters rising from the 66th session**of the UNECE Commission and EXCOM meetings****Steering Committee on Trade Capacity and Standards:
Terms of Reference****Submitted by the secretariat for information***Summary*

This document provides the mandate and terms of reference of the Steering Committee on Trade Capacity and Standards established by the Executive Committee (EXCOM) of UNECE on 10 February 2015 pursuant to its decision on the establishment of the UNECE Steering Committee on Trade Capacity and Standards (ECE/EX/22).

Documents for the newly formed Steering Committee on Trade Capacity and Standards will be issued with the symbol ECE/CTCS. Documents for the predecessor Committee on Trade were issued with the symbol ECE/TRADE/C.

Delegates are invited to consider the Trade Subprogramme entities to revise their document symbols accordingly.

The Steering Committee on Trade Capacity and Standards (hereinafter referred to as the “Steering Committee”) is an intergovernmental body that oversees and guides the development of international norms and standards, procedures and best practices that reduce the costs associated with export and import processes and increase the efficiency, predictability and transparency of trade regulations and procedures and the movement of goods and services.

The Steering Committee shall:

1. Review and endorse standards and recommendations developed by the Working Party on Regulatory Cooperation and Standardization Policies (WP.6) and the Working Party on Agricultural Quality Standards (WP.7).
2. Draft the programme of work on trade capacity and standards and review and endorse the work plans of WP.6 and WP.7, and recommend these to the Executive Committee for approval.
3. Review the results of demand-driven studies (financed by extra-budgetary resources) that identify procedural and regulatory barriers to trade in member States in coordination and cooperation with other relevant international organizations. Capacity building and technical assistance activities to help countries in the region to implement standards developed under the subprogramme may be decided in accordance with point 18(a) of Commission Decision A(65).
4. Liaise and coordinate its work with other UNECE committees and relevant subsidiary bodies, in particular the Committee on Innovation, Competitiveness and Public-Private Partnerships and coordinate its work with other relevant United Nations programmes and agencies, as well as other relevant organizations and stakeholders and international standards-setting organizations in order to achieve synergies and to avoid possible overlap and duplication.
5. Meet once a year for a maximum of 1½ days in a session that is open to all relevant international organizations and other stakeholders and that shall be held back-to-back with the Committee on Innovation, Competitiveness and Public-Private Partnerships and, as feasible, with the annual session of either WP.6 or WP.7.
6. Elect its own Bureau, which includes the Chairs of WP.6 and WP.7 as *ex officio* members.
7. Report to the Executive Committee.
8. Operate under the ECE Rules of Procedure and the Guidelines on procedures and practices for ECE bodies, as agreed in Commission Decision A(65).