Study Report on UN/LOCODE

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Outline

■ 1. Background
■ 2. Observations
■ 3. The key problem
■ 4. A further analysis
■ 5. A possible solution
1. Background

- The assignment from the third annual meeting of the UN/LOCODE Advisory Group in 2019
- This study aims to analyse the problems that have arisen in the UN/LOCODE maintenance and propose a possible solution to guide the UN/LOCODE Maintenance Team to improve the UN/LOCODE data quality.
- NOTE: Not the consensus of the UN/LOCODE Maintenance Team.
2. Observations

- Concept: Point or Area
  - Discussed for a long time
  - Definition of “Location” in Rec. 16
  - UN/LOCODE: a virtual area or a specific location?
    - Use cases for both
  - Rec.16 2020 version is correct
    - Since “Area” + “point” = “Area”
2. Observations

- Dispute: to identify different ports in the same city because that these ports are
  - in distinct areas
  - independently managed and administered
  - perceived by the users as distinct ports

Proposal:
Distinction between the area and the point concept continues to be problematic and that practical solutions may be needed on a case-by-case basis.
2. Observations

- Geographical coordinates
  - For a point location
  - Which point should be selected in an area?
    - An official center
    - A specific facility

Proposals:
- An official center for the area with multiple functions
- A specific facility within an area with a single function
  (Except Function 3)
2. Observations

- Country code for offshore terminal
  - The issue was raised in January 2020
  - There types of offshore locations
    - Within the continental shelf of a country
    - Within the exclusive economic zone of a country
    - In international waters

- Proposals
  - Rules should be clarified
  - Investigate the issue from UN convention on the Law of the sea
2. Observations

- **Scope of UN/LOCODEs**
  - UN/LOCODEs have been intended to use for trade and transport locations
  - Other application areas have expressed their interest to use
    - Banking industry
    - Food and Agriculture Organization
    - World Food Programme

- **Proposals**
  - Experts shall be aware of the need of IS for identifying all world areas.
2. Observations

- Unbalanced assignment of UN/LOCODEs
  - Possibility of sharing the UN/LOCODE already assigned to the nearby area.
  - Prefer a new code due to the different shipping rates.
2. Observations

- Statistics of DMR submitters
- DMR submitters from 2019 to first half of 2020
3. The key issue

- Function 3 is very different from other Functions
  - Definition of Function 3: A location that is connected to other ones by means of roads.
  - By this definition, based on the assumption that all areas are road connected, isn’t it safe to say that all areas are qualified to be assigned a UN/LOCODE?

- Other function codes are point locations
  - Limited size
  - Clear boundary
  - Well understood facilities
  - Identified precisely by coordinates

- Function 3 codes far outnumber other function codes
4. A further analysis

- Two types of objects that are identified
  - The identification of Function 3 locations as areas
    - Areas are structured hierarchically in the world, and with different levels among countries
    - ISO 3166-2 is not enough to identify areas
    - There is a need for an international standard to identify areas of higher granularity
    - Geo-coordinates: not practical to identify an area
4. A further analysis

- Two types of objects that are identified
  - The identification of other function code locations as points
    - A group of interconnected terminals/facilities.
      - Child codes applies
    - A pair of geographical coordinates is very useful
  - Much more connected and consistent with industries
5. A possible solution

- In application of the Rec.16
  - Separate the code list into two code lists.
    - function 3 UN/LOCODES
    - other function UN/LOCODES
  - 100% transformation both directions
- Expected benefit
  - Lower consumption of maintenance resources
  - Higher data quality
  - Addressing the wider world need of a location identification standard
Thank you!