

UN/LOCODE Maintenance Group Meeting

UN/LOCODE Secretariat
28 April, 2016



UNECE

Agenda



- 1. Presentation**
- 2. Round-table discussion**
- 3. Warp-up**

In this presentation



1. **ToRs of Maintenance Group**
2. **Feasibility Study on UN/LOCODE Business Requirement Specification**
3. **UN/CEFACT Liaison Officer**
4. **Maintenance Issues**

UN/LOCODE Conference

24 April 2015, Geneva



VI. Decisions and way forward

61. The Deputy Director of the ECT Division summarised the main conclusions of the Conference as follows:

- There is a need to receive support for UN/LOCODE maintenance and development in a sustainable way;
- There is a need to significantly increase the number of NFPs, particularly for countries that submit the largest volume of new LOCODE DMRs, in order to improve data quality;
- A network of NFPs should be established;
- A UN/LOCODE “advisory group” should be established with membership from amongst key stakeholders;
- The UNECE secretariat should consult with users when major changes to UN/LOCODE are envisaged;
- The secretariat should give advance notice to users when changes to specific codes for major ports are anticipated;
- UNECE Recommendation No. 16 should be revised according to the official UN/CEFACT procedures; the Chair of UN/CEFACT recalled that most of the work could be done through conference calls, without travel expenses or other additional costs for the project team;
- A Guide for UN/LOCODE NFPs should be prepared;
- The deadline for comments on the draft ToRs for UN/LOCODE NFPs will be extended to 15 May 2015;
- Technical follow-up meetings should be held between UNECE and other organizations to improve the maintenance of UN/LOCODE;
- Cooperation and coordination with other international organizations should be strengthened;
- UNECE should act as a coordinator to standardize and harmonize location coding systems developed by UN agencies and other international organizations; and
- A plenary session of the UN/LOCODE Conference should be held on an annual basis.

Decision:

A UN/LOCODE “advisory group” should be established with membership from amongst key stakeholders

ToRs of UN/LOCODE Maintenance Group

First Draft of ToRs

Deadline for comments: 31 May 2016

ToRs

- I. Introduction
- II. Objectives
- III. Composition
- IV. Activities

ToRs of UN/LOCODE Maintenance Group

I. Introduction

The purpose: to ensure the maintenance and development of UN/LOCODE in a sustainable way.

‘ advisory group’ = the Maintenance Group

The Group will

- Advise
- Support

the secretariat and UN/CEFACT in the

- Maintenance
- Development

ToRs of UN/LOCODE Maintenance Group

II. Objectives

- Monitor new business needs on locations used in international trade and transport and new technology ;
- Support dialogue with key external stakeholders;
- Further enhance the UN/LOCODE Focal Point Network;
- Provide contribution / advises with expertise on important maintenance and development issues;
- Propose and maintain the polices;
- Provide support to activities/projects related to UN/LOCODE, especially re-engineering UN/LOCODE registration and production system using latest technologies

(Note: The Group may also be consulted on all relevant UN/LOCODE issues.)

ToRs of UN/LOCODE Maintenance Group

III. Composition

- Participation in the Group is on volunteer basis.
- All members of the group will register as experts of UN/CEFACT.
- The Chair of the Group is recommended by the UN/CEFACT Bureau and endorsed by the Secretariat.
- The Group will meet at least virtually once every two months and face-to-face during the UN/LOCODE Conference. The UN/LOCODE conference is preferably organised in conjunction with the UN/CEFACT Forum

ToRs of UN/LOCODE Maintenance Group

IV. Activities

- In order to reengineering UN/LOCODE system, a feasibility study on UN/LOCODE business requirement specification and maintenance workflow should be carried on by the Group.
- All UN/LOCODE maintenance and development issues should be discussed by the Group and policies should be recommended to the Secretariat.
- Review and comments to training materials and newsletters
- Support organization of training events

In this presentation



1. **ToRs of Maintenance Group**
2. **Feasibility Study on UN/LOCODE Business Requirement Specification**
3. **UN/CEFACT Liaison Officer**
4. **Maintenance Issues**

UN/LOCODE System

Reengineering UN/LOCODE System

- ❖ Submitted the project documents to UNECE ICT board for approval.
- ❖ To Conduct a feasibility study on UN/LOCODE system business requirement specification and UN/LOCODE maintenance workflow.

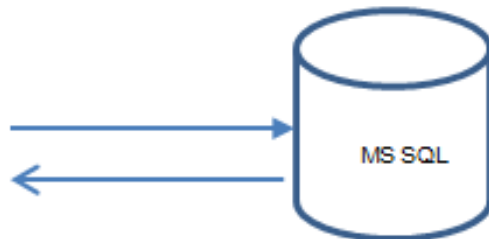
Current UN/LOCODE System Overview

- Developed in 2002
 - Back-end: MS- ACCESS
 - Front-end: .Net + MS SQL server

- Designed based on
 - 10,000 UN/LOCODE entries
 - Workflow only for production and publication, not including validation of Data Maintenance Request

Current UN/LOCODE System Overview

.Net application



New UN/LOCODE code list is imported to MS SQL



DMR List exported from MS SQL



Data cleaning and validation

Validated DMR List import to MS Access



UN/LOCODE directory is manually uploaded to UNECE Web-site HTML, TXT, CSV, MDB formats



Data Maintenance Request (DMR)



New UN/LOCODE code list exported from MS Access



Current UN/LOCODE System Weakness

- Changes
 - The Secretariat is responsible for validation of DMRs
 - Launch of web-based application to allow online submission of DMRs results in a big increase of UN/LOCODE entries (over 100,000 entries)
 - Establishment of UN/LOCODE Focal Point Network



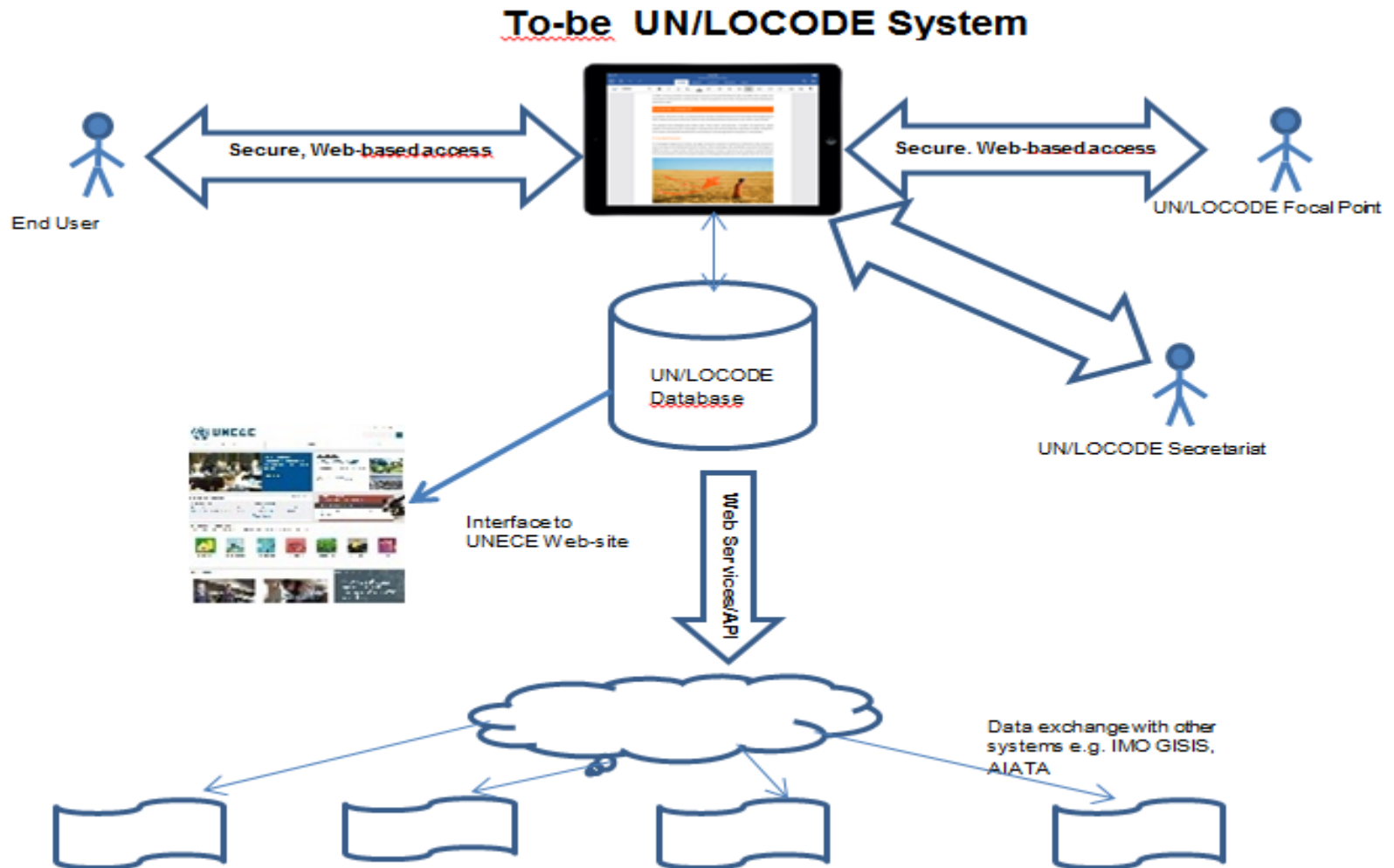
Current UN/LOCODE System Weakness

- No data interface between back-end and front-end system
- Workflow does not cover validation of DMRs
- No tracking after submission of a DMR
- No web-form for submitting a DMR for modification
- Not support new workflow in association with Focal Points

Future UN/LOCODE System

- One integrated system based on a UN standard platform;
- Meet business needs, especially service a complete UN/LOCODE maintenance workflow;
- Data from the legacy system should be migrated to the re-engineered system.
- Current free charge of services must continue.

Future UN/LOCODE System



Feasibility Study

Scope:

UN/LOCODE maintenance workflow

UN/LOCODE business requirement specification

Expected outputs

- Business Requirement Specification
- Development Project Plan



Call for Participants in Feasibility Study



In this presentation



1. **ToRs of Maintenance Group**
2. **Feasibility Study on UN/LOCODE Business Requirement Specification**
3. **UN/CEFACT Liaison Officer**
4. **Maintenance Issues**

UN/CEFACT Liaison Officer

Welcome UN/CEFACT Vice Chair

Ms. Sue Probert



In this presentation



1. **ToRs of Maintenance Group**
2. **Feasibility Study on UN/LOCODE Business Requirement Specification**
3. **UN/CEFACT Liaison Officer**
4. **Maintenance Issues**

UN/LOCODE Maintenance Issues

Guideline for UN/LOCODE assignments to disputed areas

Recommendation No. 16

Place names, code elements and designations used in UN/LOCODE do not reflect any opinion concerning international, national, local or other boundaries, ownership or administrative jurisdiction, but merely aim at providing unambiguous and unique code elements to represent the names of the locations included

UN/LOCODE Maintenance Issues

Guideline for UN/LOCODE assignments to disputed areas

Current Policy:

When an existing entry is challenged and noticed as a dispute, the secretariat removes or rejects it with the following text to inform the requester:

“Due to special status of ‘location name’ and, consequently, following what has been stated by the UN Security Council Resolutions , any request for the allocation of a UN/LOCODE code to the city or part of it has been postponed until further notice.”

UN/LOCODE Maintenance Issues

Guideline for UN/LOCODE assignments to disputed areas

Purpose:

to increase transparency and underline the trusted role of the Secretariat in providing services to trade, transport and administrations worldwide.

UN/LOCODE Maintenance Issues

Six-month notice for big changes



How to announce it?

- The Secretariat Note of each release
- UN/LOCODE newsletter

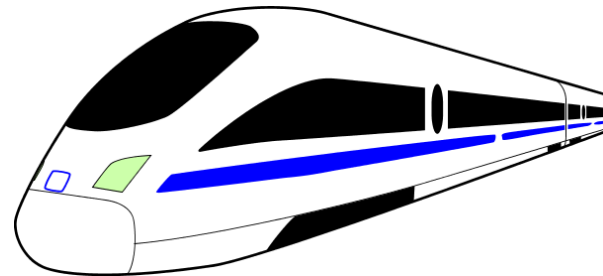
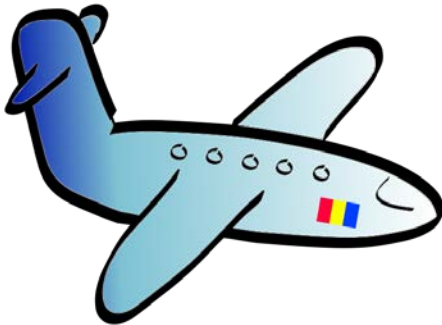
What are big changes?

- A batch of DMRs over a threshold
- Only changes in codes

UN/LOCODE Maintenance Issues

IATA Column

IATA codes for train stations?



*Thank
You*