



United Nations Economic Commission for Europe

United Nations Centre for Trade Facilitation and Electronic Business

**UN/CEFACT**

# **22<sup>nd</sup> UN/CEFACT FORUM**

**Special Session With Experts**

**on**

**Integrated Strategy and Programme of Work**

**Monday, October 14, 11 am -1 pm**

**Wednesday, October 16 , 8-9 am and 5-6:45 pm**

**Sardinia, Italy – 14 October 2013**



## **INTEGRATED STRATEGY**

- **Discussed at 19th Plenary (5-7 June 2013)**
- **On request of some delegations and on a decision of the Bureau, it will be taken up for approval during the 20th Plenary in April 2014**

## **PROGRAMME OF WORK (2014-2015)**

- **Early draft**
- **Not yet discussed by the Bureau**
- **Produced by one of the members of the Bureau**



- **The Plenary and the Bureau would very much value input on both documents by UN/CEFACT experts.**
- **Important that the Programme of Work reflects the work actually carried out and therefore also reflects areas where work is needed but not enough experts are available to carry out the necessary tasks.**
- **It is the responsibility of the Heads of Delegation to nominate national experts to assist in projects UN/CEFACT identifies as priorities.**



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**Any issues not regarding these documents  
can be discussed with the Bureau  
in the open Bureau sessions**



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- UN/CEFACT is mandated to develop international standards, recommendations and tools and undertake a Programme of Work of global relevance that meets current and future demands as required by its mission
- Integrated Strategy relies on the Plenary-approved document covering UN/CEFACT's structure, mandate, terms of reference and procedures
- The strategic framework serves as a basis for the biennial Programme of Work



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- UN/CEFACT works in an open, transparent and non-discriminatory environment based on United Nations principles, rules and regulations, and in response to the expressed needs of the Member States of the United Nations.
- Work carried out with the highest level of integrity, courtesy and respect for individual opinion and cultural diversity



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- UN/CEFACT's vision is "Simple, Transparent and Effective Processes for Global Commerce".
- Its mission is "to improve the ability of business, trade and administrative organizations, from developed, developing and transition economies, to exchange products and relevant services effectively".
- Its principal focus is on facilitating national and international transactions, through the simplification and harmonization of processes, procedures and information flows, and thereby contribute to the growth of global commerce



The integrated framework brings together two streams of activities of UN/CEFACT:

- trade facilitation (recommendations)
- electronic business (e business standards, standardised messages and semantics)



Integrated Strategy sets the stage for UN/CEFACT deliverables to be articulated in the Programme of Work and its principles aim at:

- facilitating national and international trade procedures;
- developing meaningful and timely recommendations and standards that are unified in their overall “technology-neutral” objectives in support of trade facilitation around the world;
- making use of globally relevant knowledge, experience and good practices in the field of electronic business.



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- The Programme of Work comprises UN/CEFACT priorities and the related work plan, highlighting key outputs.
- Includes work items arising from recent developments and requirements in trade facilitation and electronic business.



## Programme of Work focuses on key work areas:

- Facilitating national and international trade and business procedures and working towards the elimination of constraints by improving the ability of business, trade and administrative organizations to exchange products and relevant services effectively.
- Engaging in open dialogue with all parties facilitating global trade and electronic business



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UN/CEFACT undertakes activities in the following broad areas, in response to the needs of countries, regulators and international business:

- Identification and analysis of requirements to simplify, align, and standardize international trade processes, procedures and information flows.
- Governance of recommendations, standards and instruments in support of international trade facilitation, in response to the requirements of countries and other stakeholders in international business;
- Work with key players involved in trade facilitation activities and organizations dealing with standards development, with the view to avoiding duplication of work and to building together an internationally consistent framework.
- Outreach to support capacity-building to advance implementation of UNECE recommendations and supporting UN/CEFACT standards and instruments worldwide, with a special focus on countries in transition



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- We welcome your input now during this session and the others scheduled this week.
- We welcome your input during the week outside these sessions if you have time to share your thoughts with us.
- We are taking note of your input to be sure we capture your ideas.
- We welcome your input in written form - which can be sent to the secretariat.



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**Documents need to be ready  
by end-December 2013  
for the Plenary session  
in April 2014**



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**We greatly appreciate your input.**

**The floor is open.**