

# **UNECE**

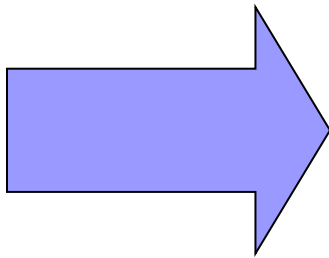
## **Trade Subprogramme**

Work on Trade Facilitation and e-Business under  
the Steering Committee on Trade Capacity and  
Standards

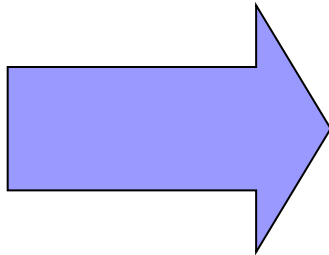
**21 April 2016**

**Mr. Mika Vepsäläinen**  
**Chief, Market Access Section**

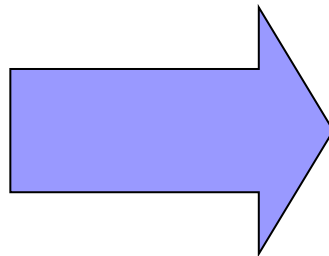
# UNECE Trade: 3 Priorities



**Facilitating trade flows**

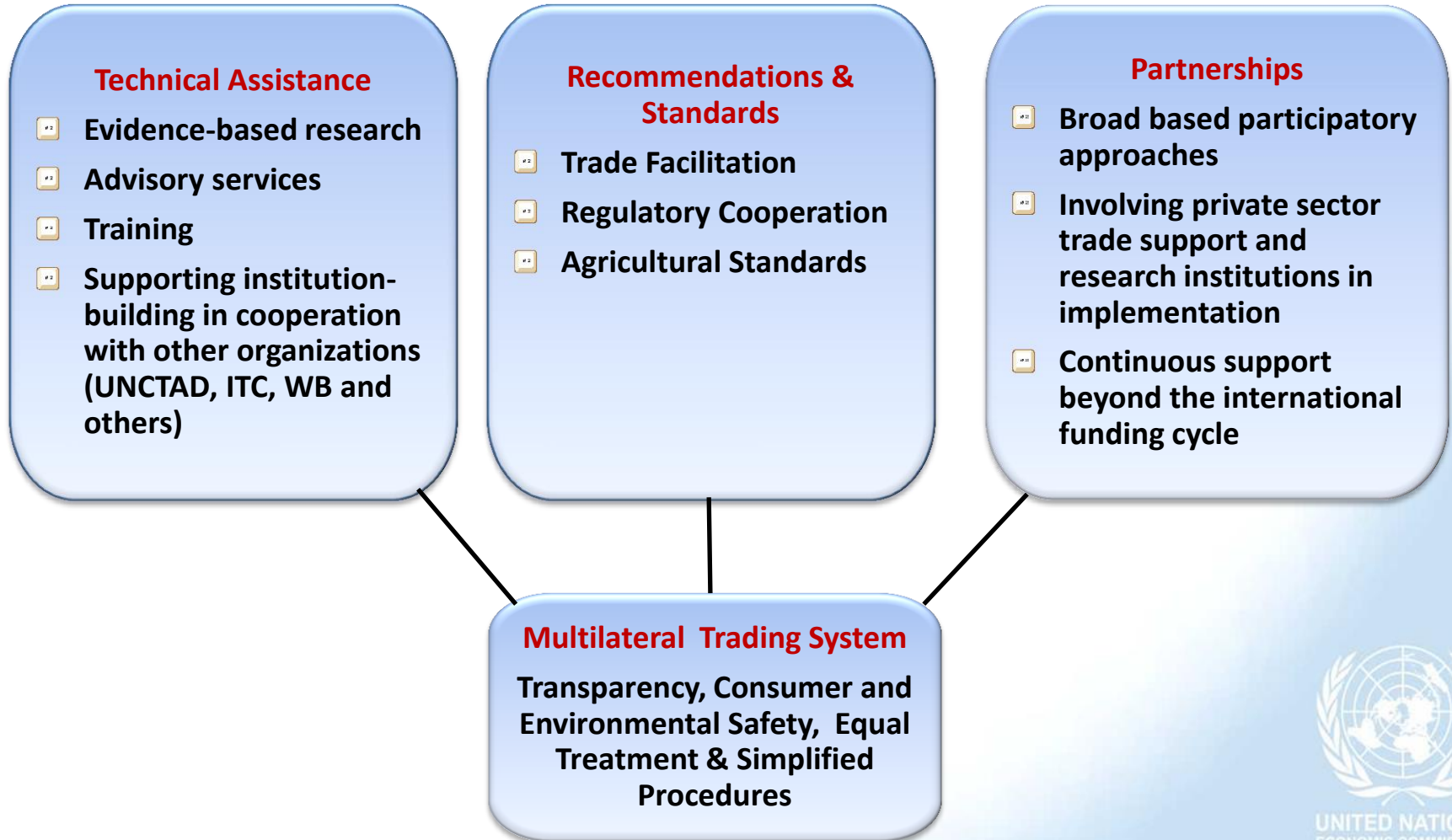


**Simplifying and harmonizing regulations**

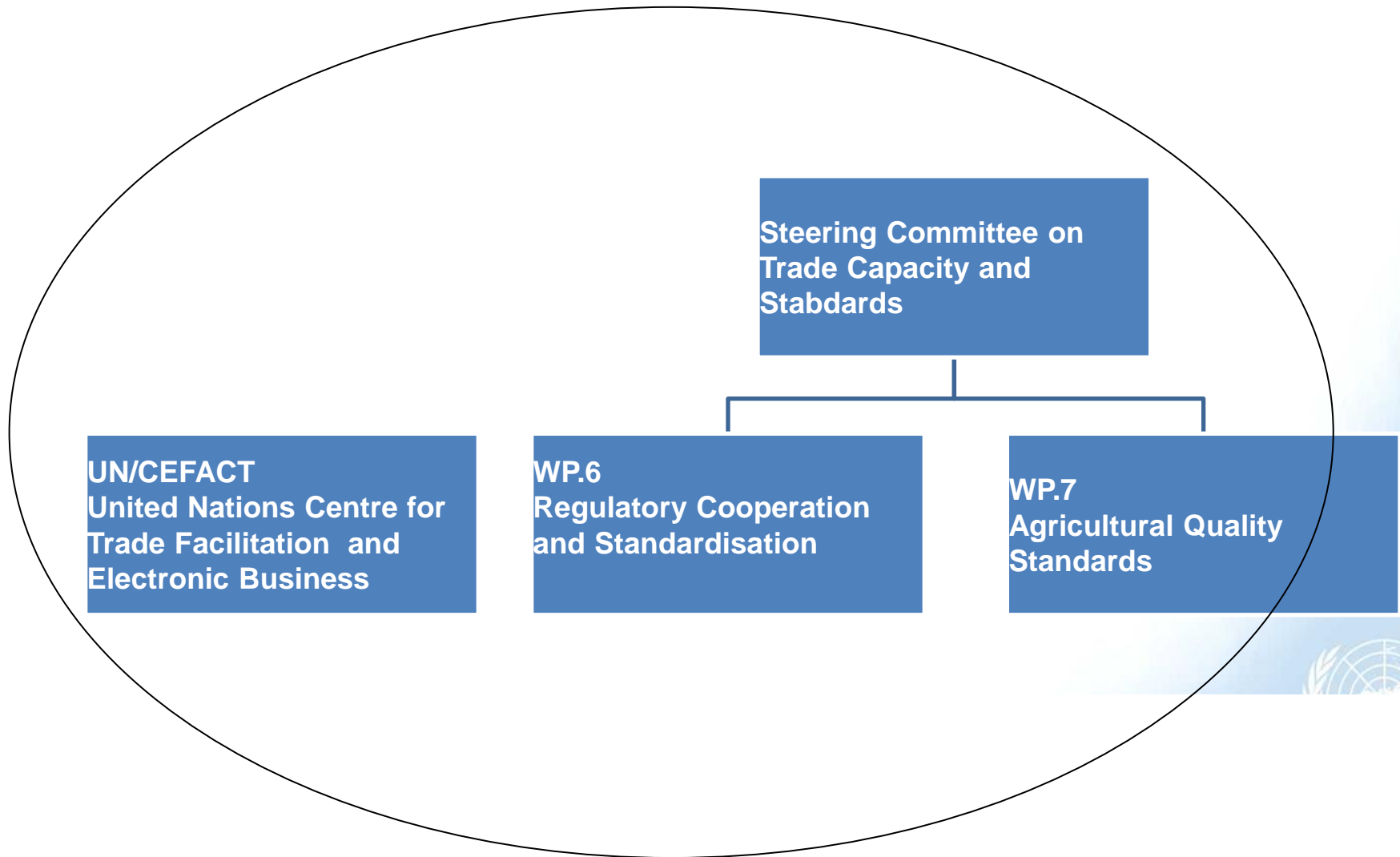


**Implementing standards-based agricultural trade**

# UNECE Trade: How we work



# UNECE Trade Expert Groups




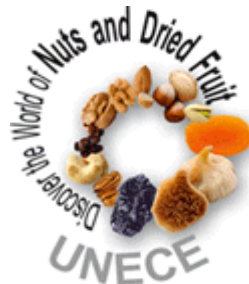
# Agricultural Quality Standards (WP 7)

 **Fresh Fruit and Vegetables** (51 standards; explanatory brochures)

 **Meat** (15 illustrated standards) **& Eggs** (2 standards)

 **Seed Potatoes** (1 standard; inspection guide)

 **Dry and Dried Produce** (27 standards; explanatory brochures; colour scales)



# Why Agricultural Quality Standards?

- To provide a common trading language
- To create market transparency and international trade
- To guide producers, improve and ensure the level of product quality
- To increase profitability of the sector  
(Profitability depends on trading volume and price which are influenced by quality)
- To protect consumers' interests



**UNECE STANDARDS ensure consistent quality and help establish lasting trade relations.**



# Discussion group on Traceability of Agricultural Produce under WP.7

- The UNECE Conference on Traceability in Agricultural Produce as part of WP.7 session in November 2015 recommended establishing a discussion group.
- Discussion in 2016 on UNECE labelling provisions:
  - Explore the possibility of harmonized code marks or the use of alternative internationally agreed codes
  - Possible ways to support control agencies in verifying traceability claims/detering wrong labelling of consignments and unidentifiable control marks, e.g. through exchange of information
- Collecting good practices on the better integration of small scale farmers and small agri enterprises into traceability information flows (especially in transition and developing countries)

# Discussion on new work items

- Mapping of processes and actors along a sample fresh fruit supply chain to identify opportunities for governments to get better traceability data (may be even in cross-border context)
- Electronic Quality Certificates
  - Initial discussions but no firm decisions yet (idea will be presented to the Specialized Section on Fresh Fruit and Vegetables on 18 to 21 April 2016)



# Regulatory Cooperation and Standardization Policies (WP 6)

Forum for Dialogue between UN & Standards Community

- Enable and empower both Governments and UN initiatives with a knowledge base as regards standards

Sectoral Initiatives

- Remove technical barriers to trade

Market Surveillance

- Fight proliferation of counterfeit and non-compliant goods on the markets

Risk Management in Regulatory Frameworks

- Safer and more resilient communities and eco-systems

Education on Standards-related Issues

- Bring toolbox of standards to the lay person

# WP 6 Deliverables

## Regulatory Harmonization/Sectoral Initiatives:

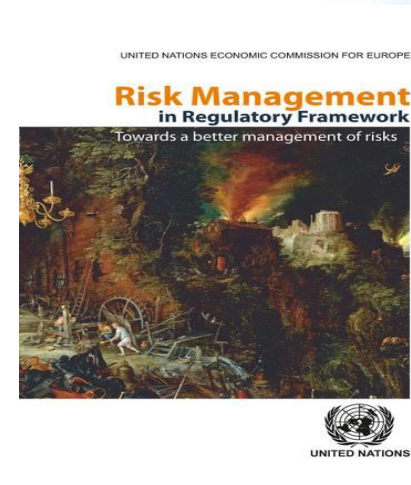
- A common regulatory framework for Equipment Used in Environments with Explosive Atmospheres
- Model is being used worldwide (US Coast Guards)
- Cooperation with EEC in the development of recommendations for regulatory harmonization with EU

## Market surveillance:

- Common terminology/glossary
- Database of market surveillance authorities
- Recommendation on Market Surveillance best practice

## Risk Management:

- Recommendations on effective regulatory frameworks & contingency planning
- Publication «Risk Management in Regulatory Frameworks»
- A panel on «Disaster Risk Management Standards» at the Global Platform on Disaster Risk Reduction (Geneva 23 May)
- Participation in the development of ISO 31004 guidelines for authorities



# Cooperation between UN/CEFACT and WP.6

1) In February 2016, WP.6 briefed the Bureau on the “Template for exchanging information on non-conformity products between Market Surveillance Authority”.

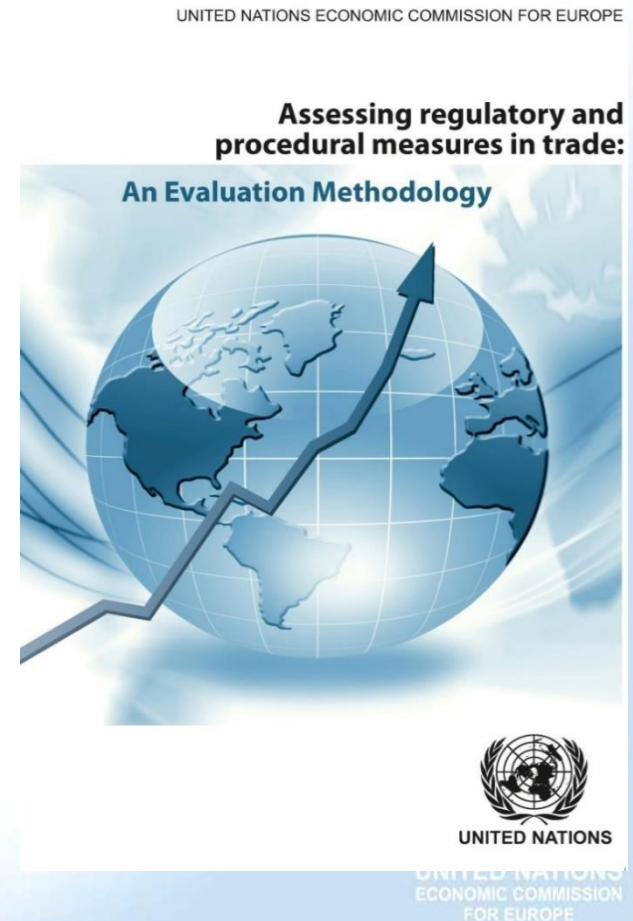
2) UN/CEFACT Bureau

- asked WP.6 to submit a formal project proposal
- discussed potential cooperation on conformity assessment.

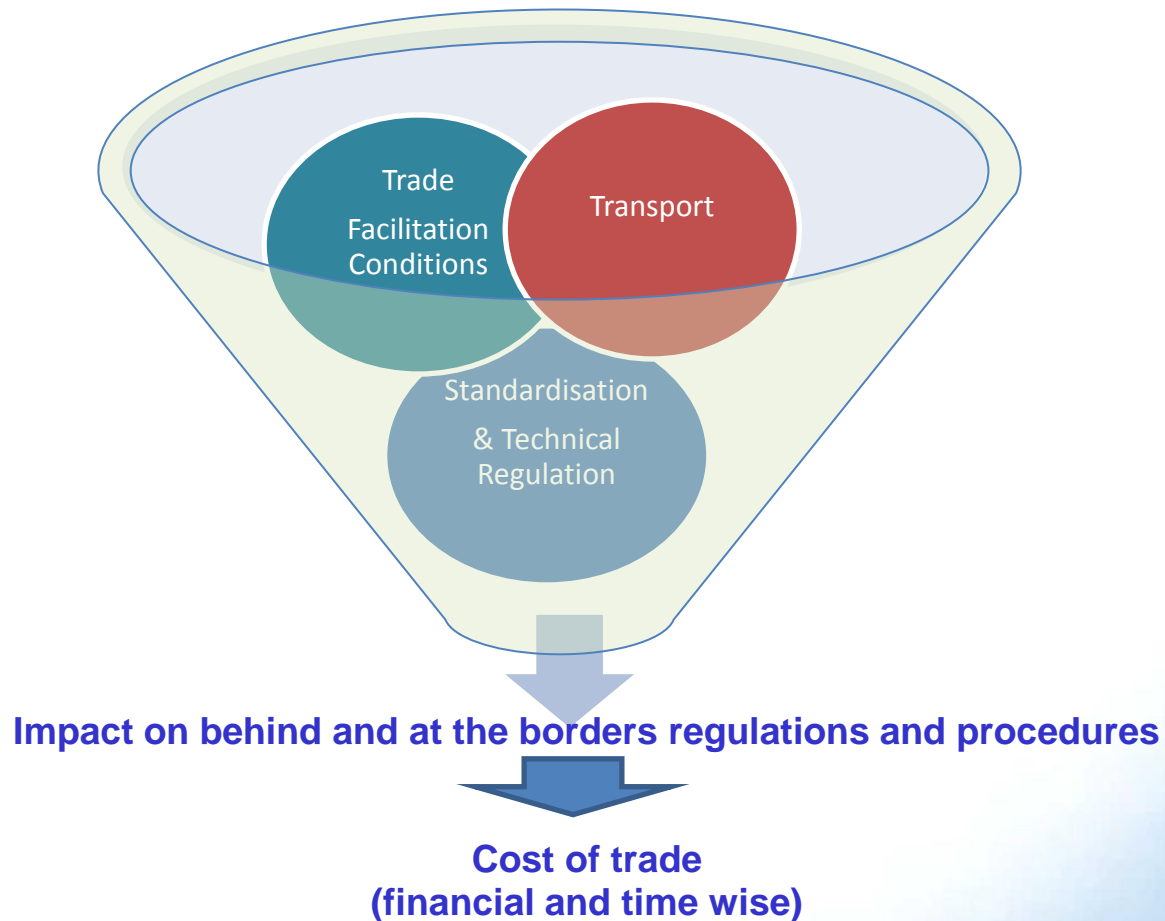
3) The secretariat sent the findings of the UN/CEFACT Conformance project to WP.6.

# Studies on Regulatory and Procedural Barriers to Trade

- 📖 **Completed:** Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan.  
Follow-up ongoing
- 📖 **Ongoing:** Albania and Moldova
- 📖 **Plans:** Turkmenistan and the Customs Union



# Comprehensive Evaluation Methodology



# Evidence based

Desk research and face-to-face interviews

## Desk study

Previous studies

Laws, policy  
documents and  
government decisions

Development plans

## Face-to-face interviews: representatives of Government & trade support institutions

Officials from the  
National Advisory  
Working Group

Logistics service  
providers, transport  
operations, trade and  
enterprise support  
associations

## Face-to-Face interviews: traders

30 traders from  
priority sectors