



# Economic and Social Council

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## Economic Commission for Europe

Executive Committee

Centre for Trade Facilitation and Electronic Business

**Informal virtual consultation with members of the UN/CEFACT Plenary**

Geneva (online), 4-5 May 2020

Item 1 of the provisional agenda

**Agenda**

### **Informal virtual consultation with members of the UN/CEFACT Plenary**

#### **Draft agenda**

The informal consultation will be held as a virtual meeting; connection information to be provided separately, starting at 13:00 CET (Geneva-time) on Monday, 4 May 2020 and, if needed, 13:00 CET (Geneva-time) on Tuesday, 5 May 2020.

#### **Note**

Following consultations with the Chair of the United Nations Centre for Trade Facilitation and Electronic Business (UN/CEFACT), this meeting is aimed at moving forward business-critical decisions in order to ensure that the work of UN/CEFACT can continue in the coming months. This meeting does not replace the twenty-sixth session of UN/CEFACT; best efforts will be made to reschedule this session later in 2020. Any agreements resulting from this consultation and any subsequent silence procedure decisions will be recorded on the next available, official Plenary meeting.

Informal support for consecutive interpretation (UNECE official languages) could be offered upon request. All documents for discussion will be prepared in the three official languages of UNECE.

## I. Provisional agenda

1. Opening.
2. Adoption of the agenda.
3. Discussion on appointment of UN/CEFACT Vice Chairs.
4. Discussion on Recommendations put forward for approval in 2020.
5. Discussion on Programmes of Work put forward for approval in 2020.
6. Agreement on request to use silence procedure decision for business-critical work.
7. Other business.

## II. Annotations

### Item 1. Opening

### Item 2. Adoption of the agenda

<i>Document title</i>	<i>Document symbol</i>	
Informal virtual consultation with members of the UN/CEFACT Plenary Draft agenda	ECE/TRADE/C/CEFACT/2020/INF.11	For information

### Item 3. Discussion on appointment of UN/CEFACT Vice Chairs

<i>Document title</i>	<i>Document symbol</i>	
Consolidated UN/CEFACT Mandate and Terms of Reference	ECE/TRADE/C/CEFACT/2017/15	For information
Note from Chair on the Election of UN/CEFACT Bureau Vice Chairs	ECE/TRADE/C/CEFACT/2020/INF.10	For information
Note from Chair on business-critical decisions on UN/CEFACT activities to be taken under special procedures during the COVID-19 period	ECE/TRADE/C/CEFACT/2020/INF.12	For information
Special procedures during the COVID-19 period	EXCOM document of 6 April 2020	For information

The secretariat received eight candidates for the Bureau Vice Chair elections:

- Australia nominates Mr. Ian Watt
- Canada nominates Mr. Marek Laskowski
- France nominates Ms. Hanane Becha
- India nominates Mr. Tahseen Khan
- Italy nominates Ms. Liliana Fratini Passi
- The Netherlands nominates Mr. Benno Slot
- Nigeria nominates Ms. Estelle Igwe
- The Russian Federation nominates Mr. Aleksei Bondarenko

The importance of appointing the Vice-Chairs in the shortest delay is outlined in the document “Note from Chair on business-critical decisions on UN/CEFACT activities to be taken under special procedures during the COVID-19 period” (ECE/TRADE/C/CEFACT/2020/INF.12).

Delegations are encouraged to refer to the “Consolidated UN/CEFACT mandate and terms of reference” (ECE/TRADE/C/CEFACT/2017/15) adopted at the twenty-third session, section D concerning the role and responsibilities of the Bureau members.

Several delegations have suggested that all eight candidates be elected by acclamation. The Chair agrees and requests that all eight candidates be appointed (ECE/TRADE/C/CEFACT/2020/INF.10).

Participants in the informal virtual consultation will have the opportunity to discuss the appointment of all eight candidates and put forward a request to use silence procedure, as envisaged in the UNECE Executive Committee (hereafter EXCOM) “Special procedures during the COVID-19 period” document of 6 April 2020.

#### **Item 4. Discussion on Recommendations put forward for approval in 2020**

<i>Document title</i>	<i>Document symbol</i>	
Recommendation N°33: Recommendation and Guidelines on Establishing a Single Window	ECE/TRADE/C/CEFACT/2020/7	For information
Recommendation N°16: United Nations Code for Trade and Transport Location	ECE/TRADE/C/CEFACT/2020/8	For information
Recommendation N°5: Abbreviations of INCOTERMS	ECE/TRADE/C/CEFACT/2020/10	For information
Note from Chair on business-critical decisions on UN/CEFACT activities to be taken under special procedures during the COVID-19 period	ECE/TRADE/C/CEFACT/2020/INF.12	For information
Special procedures during the COVID-19 period	EXCOM document of 6 April 2020	For information

Participants in the informal virtual consultation will have before them the revisions of three recommendations for trade:

- Recommendation N°33: Recommendation and Guidelines on Establishing a Single Window: To Enhance the Efficient Exchange of International Trade Information Between Trade and Government (ECE/TRADE/C/CEFACT/2020/7);
- Recommendation N°16: United Nations Code for Trade and Transport Location (ECE/TRADE/C/CEFACT/2020/8);
- Recommendation N°5: Abbreviations of INCOTERMS: Alphabetic Code for INCOTERMS 2020 (ECE/TRADE/C/CEFACT/2020/10).

The importance of approving these recommendations in the shortest delay is outlined in the document “Note from Chair on business-critical decisions on UN/CEFACT activities to be taken under special procedures during the COVID-19 period” (ECE/TRADE/C/CEFACT/2020/INF.12).

Participants in the informal virtual consultation will have the opportunity to discuss the adoption of these three recommendations and put forward a request to use silence procedure, as envisaged in the EXCOM “Special procedures during the COVID-19 period” document of 6 April 2020.

### **Item 5. Discussion on Programmes of Work put forward for approval in 2020**

<i>Document title</i>	<i>Document symbol</i>	
Programme of Work of the Advisory Group on Advanced Technologies in Trade and Logistics	ECE/TRADE/C/CEFACT/2020/18	For information
Programme of Work of the United Nations Code for Trade and Transport Locations (UN/LOCODE) Advisory Group	ECE/TRADE/C/CEFACT/2020/20	For information
Programme of Work of the Team of Specialists on Sustainable Fisheries 2020-2021	ECE/TRADE/C/CEFACT/2020/22	For information
Note from Chair on business-critical decisions on UN/CEFACT activities to be taken under special procedures during the COVID-19 period	ECE/TRADE/C/CEFACT/2020/INF.12	For information
Special procedures during the COVID-19 period	EXCOM document of 6 April 2020	For information

At the twenty-fifth session of the CEFACT Plenary the Advisory Group on Advanced Technologies Mandate and Terms of Reference was approved (Plenary Decision 19-16). The launch meeting of this group was held in Geneva on 30 January 2020; the Programme of Work (ECE/TRADE/C/CEFACT/2020/18) was prepared at this meeting.

At the twenty-fifth session of the CEFACT Plenary, the renewal of the UN/LOCODE Advisory Group Mandate and Terms of Reference was approved (ECE/TRADE/C/CEFACT/2017/17/REV.1). The last meeting of this group was held in Xiamen China on 27-28 November 2019; the group’s proposed Programme of Work (ECE/TRADE/C/CEFACT/2020/20) was prepared at this meeting.

At the twenty-fifth session of the CEFACT Plenary, the renewal of the “Sustainable Fisheries Team of Specialists Mandate and Terms of Reference” (ECE/TRADE/C/CEFACT/2017/16/Rev.2) were approved (Plenary Decision 19-20). The last meeting of this group was held in Geneva in February 2020; the group’s proposed Programme of Work for the period 2020-2021 (ECE/TRADE/C/CEFACT/2020/22) was prepared at this meeting.

The importance of approving these Programmes of Work in the shortest delay is outlined in the document “Note from Chair on business-critical decisions on UN/CEFACT activities to be taken under special procedures during the COVID-19 period” (ECE/TRADE/C/CEFACT/2020/INF.12).

Participants in the informal virtual consultation will have the opportunity to discuss the adoption of these three Programmes of Work and put forward a request to use silence procedure, as envisaged in the EXCOM “Special procedures during the COVID-19 period” document of 6 April 2020.

## Item 6. Agreement on request to use silence procedure decision for business-critical work

<i>Document title</i>	<i>Document symbol</i>	
Note from Chair on business-critical decisions on UN/CEFACT activities to be taken under special procedures during the COVID-19 period	ECE/TRADE/C/CEFACT/2020/INF.12	For agreement
Request from UN/CEFACT Plenary informal consultation to request silence procedure for business-critical decisions	ECE/TRADE/C/CEFACT/2020/INF.13	For agreement
Special procedures during the COVID-19 period	EXCOM document of 6 April 2020	For information

Following discussions during this informal virtual consultation, the participating UN/CEFACT Heads of Delegation are invited to authorize the UN/CEFACT Chair to request EXCOM approval for the use of decision-making through silence procedure, on an exceptional basis and for the seven business-critical issues, in line with the modalities defined in the EXCOM “Special procedures during the COVID-19 period” document of 6 April 2020.

## Item 7. Other business

Delegations will be invited to raise other issues not previously addressed during the session.

## Closing