ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

COMMITTEE FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND ENTERPRISE DEVELOPMENT

United Nations Centre for Trade Facilitation and Electronic Business (UN/CEFACT)
Seventh session, 26-29 March 2001

REPORT ON THE SEVENTH SESSION

1. The United Nations Centre for Trade Facilitation and Electronic Business (UN/CEFACT) held its seventh session in Geneva on 26-29 March 2001 under the chairmanship of Mr. Henri Martre.

2. Participants in the meeting included representatives of the following countries: Australia, Austria, Belgium, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, China, Cuba, Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Hungary, Iceland, India, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Mauritius, Netherlands, Nigeria, Norway, Philippines, Poland, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Senegal, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Venezuela and Yugoslavia.

3. The following intergovernmental organizations participated: Bank for International Settlements (BIS), Danube Commission (CD), European Free Trade Association (EFTA), European Organization for Nuclear Research (CERN), League of Arab States, and World Customs Organization (WCO).

4. The following United Nations bodies, regional commissions and specialized agencies were also represented: International Telecommunication Union (ITU), United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL), United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA), United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR), and the Universal Postal Union (UPU).

5. The following non-governmental organizations participated: European Electronic Messaging Association (EEMA), International Article Numbering Association (EAN), International Association of Ports and Harbours (IAPH), International Chamber of Commerce (ICC),
International Multimodal Transport Association (IMMTA) and the International Organization for Standardization (ISO).

6. Observers present at the invitation of the secretariat included representatives of: the Electronic Commerce Europe Association (ECEA), the Global Commerce Initiative (GCI), Organisation for the Advancement of Structured Information Standards (OASIS), REDTOO AG, the Taipei EDIFACT Committee, and Webforce International.

Note: Decisions made during this meeting are shown in boldface type in the current report.

Introductory remarks

7. Mr. Henri Martre, Chairman of UN/CEFACT, opened the meeting by welcoming the delegations, in particular the new members of UN/CEFACT.

8. The Executive Secretary of UN/ECE, Ms. Danuta Hübner, addressed the meeting expressing her gratitude to the working groups for their deliverables. She thanked the Chairman of UN/CEFACT, Mr. Henri Martre, and the Chairman of the UN/CEFACT Steering Group, Mr. Ray Walker, for their contributions and especially for the organization of the UN/CEFACT Conference “Accelerating Global Trade through Effective E-Business”. She underlined the importance of UN/CEFACT’s activities and offered continuous support to the Centre and its officers.

Agenda item 1 - Adoption of the provisional agenda

TRADE/CEFACT/2001/1/Rev.1 Revised provisional agenda for the seventh UN/CEFACT Plenary session

9. The delegation of France asked why not all documents were provided in French and Russian. The secretariat explained that, given the large volume of submitted documents, the UN Conference Services had not been able to translate all of them into French and Russian in time for the Plenary. Those documents containing Recommendations or meant for publication were translated.

The Plenary approved the revised provisional agenda (TRADE/CEFACT/2001/1/Rev.1).

Agenda item 2 - Confirmation of the report from the UN/CEFACT March 2000 Plenary


10. The Chairman of UN/CEFACT recalled the procedure with regard to the adoption of the Plenary report, which should be circulated electronically to delegations for a 30-day period for comments, amended, and then be considered as approved. This approval, however, needs to be formally confirmed by the next Plenary.

The Plenary confirmed the approval of the report of the sixth session of UN/CEFACT (TRADE/CEFACT/2000/32).
Agenda item 3 - Election of UN/CEFACT officers and Steering Group members

11. The Chairman of UN/CEFACT recalled the procedure (contained in document R.650/Rev.2) for the election of a Chairperson of UN/CEFACT, five Vice Chairpersons, and fifteen members of the UN/CEFACT Steering Group. He explained that he would not stand for re-election.

The UN/CEFACT Chairman requested the delegations to nominate candidates for officers of UN/CEFACT, including the UN/CEFACT Steering Group (CSG). The elections were to take place on 2001-03-29.

12. Based on nominations received by the secretariat, the Plenary performed the following elections:

The Plenary elected Dr. Christian Frühwald as Chairperson of UN/CEFACT for two years.

The Plenary elected five Vice Chairpersons of UN/CEFACT, fifteen CSG members and appointed Ray Walker as CSG Chairman (new elections would take place in 2003).

Vice Chairpersons:

Mr. Kenji ITOH (nominated by Japan)
Mr. Santiago MILA (nominated by IAPH)
Mr. Johnson Jubulu OLUMEKUN (nominated by Nigeria)
Ms. Teresa SORRENTI (nominated by the United States)
Mr. Ray WALKER (nominated by the United Kingdom)

CSG members:

Mr. Alexander DE LIJSTER (nominated by the Netherlands)
Mr. David DOBBING (nominated by Australia)
Mr. Harry FEATHERSTONE (nominated by the United States)
Mr. Pierre GEORGET (nominated by France)
Mr. Peter GULDENTOPS (nominated by ICC)
Mr. Dariush HAGHIGHI-TALAB (nominated by the Islamic Republic of Iran)
Mr. Dietmar JOST (nominated by WCO)
Mr. Tahseen Ahmad KHAN (nominated by India)
Ms. Paivi Helena LEHTONEN (nominated by Finland)
Mr. Klaus-Dieter NAUJOK (nominated by Canada)
Mr. Onoriu Nicolae NAN (nominated by Romania)
Ms. Grazyna RZYMKOWSKA (nominated by Poland)
Ms. Christina WALLEN-RAHLEN (nominated by Sweden)
Mr. Peter WILSON (nominated by the United Kingdom)
Mr. Christoph B. WOLF (nominated by Germany)

The Plenary appointed Mr. Tahseen Ahmad Khan as a new Rapporteur for Asia (the mandate of this Rapporteurship, which had been approved by the Plenary, remained unchanged).

1 http://www.unece.org/trade/tips/docs/tr650r2e.pdf
13. The new UN/CEFACT Chairman addressed the Plenary. He said that a priority for him would be the integration of the existing governmental and industry activities on standardization in the field of trade facilitation and electronic business under the global umbrella of UN/CEFACT. Further, the Plenary noted that a nomination from Belgium will be given priority when a new vacancy appears in the CSG.

Agenda item 4 - UN/CEFACT Steering Group (CSG) reports

- TRADE/CEFACT/2001/3 Report of the March 2000 CSG meeting
- TRADE/CEFACT/2001/4 Report of the May 2000 CSG meeting
- TRADE/CEFACT/2001/5 Report of the August 2000 CSG meeting
- TRADE/CEFACT/2001/6 Report of the November 2000 CSG meeting

14. The Chairman of the UN/CEFACT Steering Group (CSG) summarised his report, which also incorporated the ebXML report (paragraphs 6-20).

15. The CSG Chairman thanked the outgoing members of the CSG, Messrs. Emile Peeters and Rob van Kuik for their contributions. He also expressed his appreciation for the work carried out by Mr. Roger Black, Chairman of the ITPWG, and the Rapporteur for Asia, Mr. Itoh, who had resigned from these positions.

16. The CSG Chairman noted with satisfaction the developments in the MoU with ISO and IEC, namely that the ITU signed the MoU and actively contributed to cooperation during the last year. With regard to trade facilitation activities in other forums he pointed out that UN/CEFACT was ready to contribute to the discussion of this topic in the WTO and in the possible next round of multilateral trade negotiations.

17. The CSG Chairman noted that a number of Recommendations were proposed for approval or review by the Plenary. He thanked the working groups and the PROMO group for their deliverables. He invited the heads of delegations to nominate new experts to the working groups. Finally, he thanked the Port of Barcelona for funding the preparation of the Identity Manual of UN/CEFACT.

18. He then turned to the importance of the top-down modelling methodology adopted by UN/CEFACT in the 1990s and thanked the TMWG and its Chairman, Mr. Klaus-Dieter Naujok, for the development of the N090 document, the UN/CEFACT Modelling Methodology. He then drew the attention of the Plenary to document TRADE/CEFACT/2001/7 and invited the Plenary to approve the strategy outlined in that paper. He noted that the ambitious task of developing syntax-neutral models, introducing the models into a complex database and making the database accessible through the Web, cannot be achieved without the support of industry.

19. He reported in particular on the developments in the ebXML initiative (paragraphs 6-20 of his report). He emphasized the recent achievements in the initiative, the publication of the technical architecture and of eight draft specifications. They would be distributed on the HoD listserver. Further, he said that the specifications would be presented at the final ebXML meeting in Vienna. Further, he said that the executive committee of ebXML was looking into ways to
maintain the ebXML infrastructure and to continue the interaction with the World Wide Web Consortium (W3C) and the International Organization for Standardization (ISO). The CSG Chairman then sought the approval of the direction of the ebXML initiative and the delegation to the CSG of the responsibility for the next steps of ebXML and relations with OASIS.

20. The ebXML Chairman thanked the CSG Chairman for his report on the ebXML initiative. The representative of OASIS qualified the ebXML initiative as very fruitful and thanked the ebXML Chairman.

The Plenary noted the report of the CSG Chairman and the corrigendum (TRADE/CEFACT/2001/CRP.1 and TRADE/CEFACT/2001/CRP.1/Corr.1).

The Plenary approved the direction of the ebXML project (subject to an amendment of the text concerning the amendment of document TRADE/CEFACT/2001/7, detailed below under Agenda item 9).

The Plenary noted the reports from CSG meetings held in March 2000 (TRADE/CEFACT/2001/3), May 2000 (TRADE/CEFACT/2001/4), August 2000 (TRADE/CEFACT/2001/5) and November 2000 (TRADE/CEFACT/2001/6).

Agenda item 5: Memorandum of Understanding with the World Customs Organization and cooperation with the International Chamber of Commerce and other international organizations. Progress and cooperation under the MoU with the International Electro-technical Commission, the International Organization for Standardization, and the International Telecommunication Union

TRADE/CEFACT/2000/31 Memorandum of Understanding with the International Electrotechnical Commission, the International Organization for Standardization, and the International Telecommunication Union
TRADE/CEFACT/2001/25 Memorandum of Understanding with the World Customs Organization

21. The secretariat informed the Plenary about the developments on an MoU with the WCO and the change in the text (deletion of the guidelines and the reference to the guidelines in paragraph 5 of the core text of the MoU) suggested by the WCO.

The Plenary approved the proposed text for an MoU with the WCO (including the proposed correction in the text) and invited the Executive Secretary of UN/ECE to sign the MoU.

22. The Standards Liaison Rapporteur and the secretariat informed the Plenary about the developments in the MoU with IEC, ISO and ITU. He reported that a workshop (Business Object Summit – BOS) on the coordination of standards for electronic business had been organized in November 2000 under the auspices of the MoU. Many of the presentations were available at <www.itu.int/ITU-T/e_business/bos.html>.

Agenda item 6: Matters arising from the Committee for Trade, Industry and Enterprise Development (CTIED)

ECE/TRADE/262 Report of the Fourth Session of the Committee for Trade, Industry and Enterprise Development (CTIED)
23. The Director of the Trade Division of UN/ECE reported on the activities of the Committee for Trade, Industry and Enterprise Development (CTIED). She informed the Plenary about the high priority that the Bureau of the CTIED allocated to UN/CEFACT and about the decision to maintain the secretariat resources available to UN/CEFACT on the existing level despite growing budgetary constraints. The Vice Chairman of the CTIED reported on the last session of the Committee, its policy objectives, the preparations for the CTIED Forum in June 2001, and the necessity to strengthen relations with the subsidiary bodies, including UN/CEFACT.

24. The delegation of the United Kingdom proposed to organize a high-level meeting on trade facilitation in the first half of 2002 (mid-May 2002) and to reschedule the UN/CEFACT Plenary and CTIED session for the same week in mid-May.

25. The delegations of Australia, France, Ireland, the Netherlands, Sweden, Switzerland, the United States, and the International Association of Ports and Harbours (IAPH) expressed their interest and support for the concept of the proposal, but some of them noted the necessity for consultations with their Governments before giving their full support. The Chairman of UN/CEFACT and some delegates pointed out the necessity of defining the meaning of “high-level” meeting and the details of the proposal. The delegation of Switzerland stated that the concept of trade facilitation should be expanded to trade in services. The delegation of Sweden pointed out that this meeting should be complementary to other activities in trade facilitation in order to add value.

The Plenary noted the developments in the CTIED.

The Plenary requested the delegation of the United Kingdom, working with the UN/ECE secretariat, to prepare and present a detailed proposal by 2001-04-30 for a special and substantive conference on trade facilitation to take place in spring 2002.

Agenda item 7: Programme of work and progress reports from mandated groups

| TRADE/CEFACT/2001/13 | Report of the UN/EDIFACT Working Group (EWG) |
| TRADE/CEFACT/2001/31 | Position paper concerning the work of electronic business XML (ebXML) in the UN/CEFACT environment, submitted by the delegation of Germany. |
| TRADE/CEFACT/2001/33 | UN/EDIFACT Standard Directory D.01A and related documentation |
| TRADE/CEFACT/2001/34 | Work Plan of EWG |
| TRADE/CEFACT/2001/CRP.4 | Report of the Codes Working Group (CDWG) |
| TRADE/CEFACT/2001/CRP.9 * | Addendum to the report of EWG. |

26. The Vice Chairman of the International Trade Procedures Working Group (ITPWG), introduced the Report of the ITPWG. The Group had developed the Addendum and Informative Annex to Recommendation No.1 “United Nations Layout Key for Trade Documents (UNLK),

* These documents have been distributed by the UN/ECE secretariat.
the completely revised Recommendation No.18 “Facilitation Measures Related to International Trade Procedures”, and the Compendium of Trade Facilitation Recommendations. All three revisions had been completed and submitted to the Plenary.

27. The future activities of the ITPWG would be to revise Recommendation No. 8 “Unique Identification Code Methodology”, Recommendation No. 11 “Documentary Aspects of the International Transport of Dangerous Goods” and Recommendation No. 12 “Measures to Facilitate Maritime Transport Documents Procedures”. The development of a new Recommendation on National Electronic Business Framework and a Trade Facilitation Index was considered. Delegations were invited to nominate members of a new sub-group to evaluate new initiatives such as the Single Window Concept for Governments and to liaise with the G7 work group. A workshop preceding the April 2001 meeting, with the participation of various international bodies, would identify barriers to trade, in order to define items and deliverables for ITPWG’s work programme. The ITPWG Vice Chairman reported that the Group maintains close relations with the BPAWG and the two groups would organize two of their annual meetings together. The Plenary thanked the outgoing ITPWG Chairman, Mr. Roger Black, for his contribution.

28. The Vice Chairman of the Legal Working Group presented the LWG report which incorporated the Legal Liaison Rapporteur report. He noted the decision of the LWG aiming at preparing one Recommendation per year. The first one, Recommendation 31: the Electronic Commerce Agreement, was approved in March 2000; the second one (draft Recommendation on E-Commerce Self-Regulatory Instruments, Codes of Conduct) was presented to the Plenary for adoption. The LWG was researching ways to promote its products. Practical steps in this direction were taken in collaboration with the International Chamber of Commerce (ICC), namely with its e-commerce team, and assistance was sought to identify software developers who would help develop a software supporting Recommendation 31. Other fields in the work programme of the LWG were: model terms for the accreditation of Certification Authorities; cross-border recognition of electronic signatures; and mechanisms for Alternative Dispute Resolution. He emphasized the strong support of the UN/ECE secretariat for the work of the Group. He reported on the reinforcement of the global structure of the LWG with the establishment of an Asian sub-group, AFACT, the Chairman of which was Mr. Ramin Salehkhou, and a North American sub-group, NAFACT, the Chairman of which was Mr. Philip Nichols.

29. One of the Joint Legal Liaison Rapporteurs reported on the interaction between UN/CEFACT and UNCITRAL and on the working programme of UNCITRAL. In addition, the CSG Chairman informed the Plenary that he had requested the LWG Vice Chairman, Mr. Philip Nichols, and Mr. Don Bundy to prepare a paper on the legal aspects of impediments to electronic business.

30. The Chairman of the Business Process Analysis Working Group reported that the Group had finished its work on the BP015 document, the BPAWG Model of the International Supply Chain Domain (CEFACT/2001/BP015/Rev.4). It had started work on a new version, the Reference Model of the International Supply Chain (document CEFACT/2001/BP044*). Both versions could be found on <http://www.unece.org/cefact/docum/ sessdocs/bawg0398.htm>, the Web page of the BPAWG. The BPAWG had established interaction with the EWG (two of the BPAWG annual meetings were carried out in conjunction with the EWG meetings) and was looking for possibilities for more interaction with the ebXML initiative and the ITPWG.

* These documents can be obtained through the UN/ECE secretariat.
31. The Chairman of the Codes Working Group (CDWG) presented the work of the CDWG and the LOCODE sub-group. The 2001 version of the LOCODE (in two versions: with and without diacritic signs), the revision of Recommendations 19 and 20; the revised codes lists for Recommendations 21 and 24, as well as the new Recommendation 28 were the deliverables which the Group had completed during the last year. The Chairman thanked Mr. Steve Luster, who had retired from the Group, for his work especially on the revision of Recommendation 20.

32. Concerning draft Recommendation 30, the CDWG meeting in December 2000 had decided not to proceed with this Recommendation unless it received support from key transport bodies, notably in the maritime industry. In view of the lack of such support, the CDWG Chairman informed that he would recommend to the CDWG meeting in May 2001 the full withdrawal of Recommendation 30.

33. The TMWG Chairman made a verbal report on the progress of work. He reported on the progress with the N090 document∗ of TMWG (UN/CEFACT’s Modelling Methodology) and noted that it would be finalized by May 2001, and published in HTML format in a CD ROM. Concerning comments about the readability of the document, he noted that once N090 was finalized the TMWG would provide a high-level description of the document as well as a template for the workflow. The transformation from a model to UN/EDIFACT messages needed to be finalized in cooperation with the EWG. The TMWG Chairman offered to organize a workshop for UN/CEFACT to explain the document. He noted that the TMWG had developed a free tool based on the Unified Modelling Methodology (UML) for use by modellers. He expected that the final recommendation on the software to be used by modellers would be ready by the end of April 2001.

34. The UN/CEFACT Chairman asked the TMWG Chairman whether the proposed TMWG workshop on N090 can be organized in conjunction with the next UN/CEFACT Plenary. The delegate of Japan suggested holding such a workshop during an EWG meeting. The EWG Chairman supported the idea, which was accepted by the TMWG Chairman.

The Plenary requested the organization of a series of workshops on the UN/CEFACT Modelling Methodology (UMM), described in the N090 document of the TMWG, in conjunction with the UN/CEFACT Plenary and EWG meetings.

35. The Chairman of EWG introduced his report and three related documents. He stressed that during the last year about 150 to 200 experts participated in each EWG meeting, plus about 200 virtual members who contributed by e-mail. Further, he said that the latest version of UN/EDIFACT had been published and made available on CD ROM to the Plenary. Concerning EWG’s visions for the development of a single, universally accepted e-business language, he informed the meeting that the EWG implemented the modelling approach for messages within all business domains, based on the N090 document. He thanked the BPAWG Chairman, Mr. Mike Doran, for having cooperated with the business domain experts in developing the models. Further, he said that the EWG had established cooperation with the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) Accredited Standards Committee (ASC) X12 to develop ebXML compliant core components and business processes. He thanked Mr. David Barkely, ASC X12 Chairman and Mr. Mark Crawford, Chairman of the Joint EWG - ASC X12 Team, for their work. He also mentioned that the EWG had established cooperation with ISO TC 154 to enable the revision of the ISO 7372 (UNTDED) standard.

* This document can be obtained through the UN/ECE secretariat.
36. Answering a question of the delegation of Germany about the suppression of the audit team and some ‘errors’ in the latest directory, the EWG Chairman noted that the 7 errors that occurred were of typographical character and did not affect the functionality of the directory.

37. Introducing its document TRADE/CEFACT/2001/31, the delegation of Germany stressed that the expertise and know-how which had been developed in the area of electronic data interchange by the UN/ECE should not be lost. The new modelling methodology used the semantics developed in the EWG and it was important that this know-how be preserved in this body. The EWG Chairman thanked the delegation of Germany for its continuous support for the work of the EWG.

38. The TMWG Chairman expressed concern about the EWG report and the joint EWG – ASC X12 project, stressing that ASC X12, one of the national members of the EWG, was elevated to the same level as the EWG as a global standard body. The delegate of the United States noted that he needed more information and promised to discuss the issue with the Chairman of ASC X12.

The Plenary noted the progress in delivering the work programme.

The Plenary noted the reports of the International Trade Procedures Working Group, the Legal Working Group, the Business Process Analysis Working Group, the Techniques and Methodologies Working Group, the UN/EDIFACT Working Group and the Codes Working Groups.

Agenda item 8 - Reports from UN/CEFACT Rapporteurs, and related matters

| TRADE/CEFACT/2001/24 | Report of the UN/CEFACT Rapporteur for Asia |
| TRADE/CEFACT/2001/CRP.2 (English version) and TRADE/CEFACT/2001/CRP.3 (French version) | Report of the UN/CEFACT Standards Liaison Rapporteur |

39. The Rapporteur for Asia introduced his report, document TRADE/CEFACT/2001/24. He reported on the name change of AFACt, which now reads ‘Asia Pacific Council for Trade Facilitation and Electronic Business’; the accession of Pakistan as member of AFACt; the holding of joint working group activities; the AFACt Web site (which continues to be maintained by the Republic of Korea); and the issues of a permanent secretariat and new member recruitment. The Rapporteur thanked Mr. H. Schlieper for his work in support of the AFACt Web site. The next AFACt meeting would be held in October 2001 in Jakarta. He noted that China should be added to the AFACt members list, page 14 of the report. The Chairman thanked the Rapporteur and congratulated him for his excellent work.

The Plenary noted the report of the Rapporteur for Asia.

40. The Standards Liaison Rapporteur introduced his report, TRADE/CEFACT/2001/CRP.2. He noted that work done in the ISO technical committee JTC-1: Information Technology, and UN/CEFACT would require more coordination and, therefore, suggested that UN/CEFACT requests liaison-A status with JTC-1.

The Plenary noted the report of the Standards Liaison Rapporteur and approved his proposals to apply for the status of A-liaison with JTC-1.
The Plenary requested the secretariat to gather and organize inputs by members of UN/CEFACT in order to update the Glossary of terms used in UN/CEFACT environment, which would be featured on the UN/CEFACT Web site.

The Plenary approved the proposal of the Standards Liaison Rapporteur to receive and analyse information from the WP.6 on “an international model for implementing best regulatory practices for the preparation, adoption and application of technical regulations via the use of international standards” to report to the CSG and suggest further action if advisable.

Agenda item 9. Strategies for the promotion and implementation of UN/CEFACT’s objectives

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<td>Remarks on the future of ebXML and EWG/X12 joint development of ebXML Core Components</td>
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41. After the secretariat distributed the “Manual on the Use of the UN/CEFACT Logo”, the Chairman of the Promotion Working Group informed the Plenary that the final version had been modified since it was presented at the last Plenary. The modifications concerned the name-change of the Centre, duly reflected in the logo, and the deletion of the page containing logos for UN/CEFACT’s products. The Chairman thanked Mr. Santiago Milà for his work on the logo and the Manual.

The Plenary endorsed the new logo and the identity manual of UN/CEFACT.

42. The TMWG Chairman introduced document TRADE/CEFACT/2001/26: an overview of UN/CEFACT’s Modelling Methodology for Enabling E-Business Collaboration. He noted that the TMWG’s goal in working on the UN/CEFACT Modelling Methodology (UMM) was to look for consistency among various existing modelling methodologies. He requested the Plenary to adopt the N090 document, describing the UN/CEFACT Modelling Methodology, in order for the other working groups to start using it.

43. Some delegations expressed their concern about adopting the document N090, which had not been submitted to the Plenary, and also noted that the proposed acronym, UMM, might be confusing.

44. The CSG Chairman suggested to adopt the UN/CEFACT methodology in principle and consult the user groups before adopting an acronym.

The Plenary approved document TRADE/CEFACT/2001/26 and its recommendations and noted that the progress in implementing the UN/CEFACT Modelling Methodology (developed in the N090 document of the TMWG) would be reviewed at its next annual session.

45. The delegation of the United States introduced the document TRADE/CEFACT/2001/7 on the forward e-business strategy of UN/CEFACT. The CSG Chairman stressed that as a result of a
new strategy the EWG might change its role. He also underlined the idea of closer cooperation with industry (OASIS or another group) in order to develop the new generation of standards in electronic business.

46. The Chairman of the TMWG then suggested changes in the text of the document TRADE/CEFACT/2001/7. The delegation of Belgium supported the proposed changes and withdrew its reservations, expressed in document TRADE/CEFACT/2001/CRP.5. The delegation of France also supported the proposed new text. The delegation of Japan noted that the initial text clearly suggested the establishment of a new working group, creating confusion among the users. Therefore, the delegation of Japan supported the proposal for a new text.

The Plenary approved the proposed version of document TRADE/CEFACT/2001/7 and gave directions to the CSG to follow up on its recommendations. The changes introduced into the text are as follows:

On page 8: During the November 2000 CSG meeting Terms of Reference were approved for the CSG Electronic Business Negotiating Team (EBNT). The primary function of this group is to pursue the development of a collaborative relationship with the business community towards establishing and operating an organisational structure that is permanently managed, adequately resourced, and technologically capable of meeting operational support requirements. Although the resultant organization may very well follow a different schema, it is fully expected that it will continue to operate in name and purpose as a UN/CEFACT Working Group.

On page 9:

4. Confirm UN/CEFACT support for the CSG Electronic Business Negotiating Team initiative to develop the requisite external relationships needed to establish a new working group responsible for next generation e-business standards development.

REPLACE with:

4. Confirm UN/CEFACT support for the CSG Electronic Business Team to review and analyse the requirements for UN/CEFACT to implement its vision within the framework of United Nations rules for the next generation of electronic business standards development. This should include the review of the current UN/CEFACT working groups structure to ensure that the organization meets the needs of its users and participants.

47. The delegation of France noted the establishment of an Information and Communication Technology (ICT) Task Force at the United Nations and proposed that UN/CEFACT agree on a resolution in support of this Task Force, to be submitted to the UN/ECE session.

The Plenary adopted a resolution proposed by the delegation of France:

UN/CEFACT takes note with interest of the decision of the United Nations Economic and Social Council to create a Task Force on information and communication technologies (ICT). UN/CEFACT
encourages the future members of that Task Force to take into account, within their mission of coordination of activities undertaken by the United Nations in the domain of ICT, the concern and importance of the work of UN/CEFACT, especially in the domain of harmonization of standards and of facilitation of electronic business.

**Agenda item 10 Approval of Recommendations**

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<tr>
<td>TRADE/CEFACT/2001/30</td>
<td>Inter-Sessional Approval of Documents</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

48. The LWG Vice Chairman introduced the draft Recommendation on E-Commerce Self-Regulatory Instruments (Codes of Conduct). The delegations of Japan, Norway, Poland, and the United States supported the draft Recommendation.

The Plenary approved the draft Recommendation on E-Commerce Self-Regulatory Instruments (Codes of Conduct), proposed by the Legal Working Group, as trade facilitation Recommendation 32.

49. The consultant to the Trade Division, Mr. Gösta Roos, introduced documents TRADE/CEFACT/2001/15, Addendum to Recommendation No.1 “United Nations Layout Key for Trade Documents (UNLK)”; TRADE/CEFACT/2001/16, Informative Annex to Recommendation No.1 and TRADE/CEFACT/2001/16/Add.1, an addendum to the Informative Annex to Recommendation No.1. He explained that the ITPWG had decided to revise this Recommendation due to its importance and to include a set of guidelines for using the UNLK.

The Plenary approved an Addendum, an Informative Annex and an Addendum to the Informative annex to Recommendation 1: the UN Layout Key for Trade Documents, proposed by the International Trade Procedures Working Group.

50. The secretariat introduced documents TRADE/CEFACT/2001/17, Compendium of Trade Facilitation Recommendations, and TRADE/CEFACT/2001/17/Corr.1, Corrigendum to the Compendium, and explained the background, objectives and expected benefit of this document.
A number of international and non-governmental organizations cooperated in the revision: International Chamber of Commerce (ICC); International Chamber of Shipping (ICS); International Civil Aviation Organization; International Maritime Organization (IMO); United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (UNCTRAL); United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD); World Customs Organization (WCO); World Trade Organization (WTO); as well as the various divisions of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe.

The Plenary noted the revised Compendium of trade facilitation recommendations.

51. The Coordinator of the sub-group responsible for the revision of Recommendation No.18, Mr. Helge Schöner, presented document TRADE/CEFACT/2001/18, revised Recommendation No.18: Facilitation Measures Related to International Trade Procedures. He spoke about the background of this Recommendation and about the restructuring of the presented measures into four categories: commercial, transport, official control and payment measures, corresponding to the structure of the guidelines to Recommendation 1. Recommendation 18 was an umbrella Recommendation for the other UN/CEFACT Recommendations and would be useful for transition and developing countries. He noted the important contributions of the representatives of Austria, Norway, Poland, Sweden, the United Kingdom, the UN/ECE secretariat, UNCTAD and other international organizations, IFIA, and SITPRO for the completion of the revision. He emphasized the importance of a constant maintenance of the Recommendation to be kept up-to-date on a regular basis.


52. The CDWG Chairman introduced the revision of Recommendation No. 19: Codes for Modes of Transport, revised to conform with the new Recommendation 28: Codes for Types of Means of Transport. He also introduced the revision of Recommendation No. 20: Codes for Units of Measure Used in International Trade, whose text and the associated code list had been revised.

53. He also noted some errors in the text of document TRADE/CEFACT/2001/20 - Recommendation 20 and suggested the following change:

Page 6, Clause 22, a), change:

From:
“letter D(D) temporary indicator, for units not recommended (deprecated), pending final decision before 2001-02-16 by the Bureau International des Poids et Mesures BIPM”

To:
“letter D(D) Deprecated. Units not recommended for use by the Bureau International des Poids et Mesures BIPM”

The Plenary approved the revised Recommendation 19: Codes for Modes of Transport and Recommendation 20: Codes for Units of Measure Used in International Trade, proposed by the Codes Working Group, with amendments as suggested by the CDWG Chairman.

54. The CDWG Chairman then informed the Plenary about the change in the codes of Recommendation 21: Codes for passengers, types of cargo, packages and packing material, and noted some additional corrections that should be made. He also introduced Recommendation 24: Trade and Transport Status codes, in which there were also changes of codes. The CDWG Chairman also proposed the following changes in document TRADE/CEFACT/2001/21 - Recommendation 21:
The Plenary noted the change in the codes in Recommendations 21: Codes for Passengers, Types of Cargo, Packages and Packaging Materials, and 24: Trade and Transport Status Codes, submitted by the Codes Working Group, with amendments as suggested by the CDWG Chairman.

55. The CDWG Chairman then presented a new Recommendation designed to establish a common code list for the identification of the types of means of transport, Recommendation 28, but noted some errors in the text and the necessity to correct it. He proposed the following changes in document TRADE/CEFACT/2001/23 - Recommendation 28:
   - Page 3, I PREAMBLE, Last Paragraph, Last Sentence.
     Change “... system for types of means and ....” to “... system for types of means of transport and ....”
   - Page 4, V EXPLANATORY NOTES, Clause 6
     Change “... the type the means of transport ...” to “... the type of the means of transport ...”
   - Page 5, V EXPLANATORY NOTES, Clause 14
     Change “UN Recommendation 10” to “UN Recommendation 8”

The Plenary approved the new Recommendation on Codes for Types of Means of Transport (Recommendation 28) proposed by the Codes Working Group with amendments as suggested by the CDWG Chairman.

Agenda item 11 - Reports from regional bodies and initiatives, as well as regional advisors

<table>
<thead>
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<th>Document ID</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>TRADE/CEFACT/2001/32</td>
<td>Technical Assistance Provided by the Czech Republic in the Area of Trade Facilitation</td>
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</table>

56. The delegation of the Czech Republic reported on the technical assistance provided to selected eastern European countries, in particular Ukraine, Lithuania and Belarus, in the area of trade facilitation (document TRADE/CEFACT/2001/32). The objective of the project, started in 1997, was to foster trade facilitation activities in the beneficiary countries, namely through establishing and supporting effective national trade facilitation bodies. Following an evaluation of the project’s achievements, the Government of the Czech Republic had decided to extend it for another two years and to involve additional interested countries from eastern Europe. The delegate of the Czech Republic thanked the UN/ECE secretariat for its support in the implementation of the project.

57. The delegations of Ukraine and Lithuania expressed their gratitude to the Czech trade facilitation body, FITPRO, and to the UN/ECE Regional Advisor on Trade Facilitation for their effective assistance.

58. The delegation of ESCWA informed the Plenary about its support for the UNeXDOC project, developed by the UN/ECE secretariat, and about the importance of this project for the
simplification of trade documentation. The delegation also expressed its support for the excellent work done by UN/ECE on the joint project to provide easy and useful access to standards and codes used in international trade on the Web site ‘www.unetrades.net’. ESCWA was working on several transportation and trade facilitation projects aimed at improving inter-regional transport links and on surveys of trade and transport procedures in ESCWA countries.

59. The delegation of ESCAP stressed that although e-business was the trade methodology of the future, many member States with developing or transitional economies would expect UN/CEFACT to maintain a reasonable balance between e-business and the work on simplification of trade procedures.

The Plenary noted the report on the project for Technical Assistance Provided by the Czech Republic in the Area of Trade Facilitation and the positive feedback from two of the beneficiary countries: Lithuania and Ukraine.

The Plenary noted the presentations of the ESCWA and ESCAP Regional Advisors for trade facilitation.

Agenda item 12. Trade facilitation in the transition economies

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TRADE/CEFACT/2001/27</th>
<th>Trade Facilitation in the Transition Economies: Current Aspects and Issues</th>
</tr>
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</table>

60. The secretariat introduced document TRADE/CEFACT/2001/27 pointing out the necessity for concerted effort on behalf of Governments, the private sector and the international bodies in providing trade facilitation advice to economies in transition. The Plenary took note of document TRADE/CEFACT/2001/CRP.7.*

The Plenary noted the document Trade Facilitation in Transition Economies: Current Aspects and Issues, submitted by the secretariat.

Agenda item 13 - Other business

Agenda item 14 - Adoption of the report

61. The Plenary reviewed and approved the list of decisions taken during the meeting.

62. The Chairman thanked the translators, the secretariat, the working groups, and the delegates.

63. The Deputy Director of the Trade Division thanked on behalf of the Plenary the outgoing Chairman for his chairmanship and noted with gratitude his success in guiding UN/CEFACT through its first years of existence.

64. The deadlines for the submission of documents for the next Plenary meeting would depend on the re-scheduling of that meeting to mid-May 2002.

* This document has been distributed by the UN/ECE secretariat.
65. The CSG would hold its meetings on the following dates:

<table>
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<tr>
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<th>Location</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>14 - 17 May 2001</td>
<td>Geneva</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 - 6 September 2001</td>
<td>Rotterdam</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19 - 22 November 2001</td>
<td>Geneva</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25 - 28 February 2002</td>
<td>Geneva</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15 May 2002 (afternoon)</td>
<td>Geneva (UN/CEFACT Plenary)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24-27 June 2002</td>
<td>Geneva</td>
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<tr>
<td>October 2002</td>
<td>Berlin</td>
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### UN/CEFACT Working Groups - Contacts and Meeting Dates

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<tr>
<th>Working Group</th>
<th>Contacts</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>BPAWG – Business Process Analysis Working Group</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| **Chairman:** Mr. Michael Doran  
Senior Administrator, ETT Division  
CERN  
1211 Geneva 23, Switzerland |
| **Secretary:** Mr. Mario Apostolov  
UN/ECE Trade Division,  
Palais des Nations  
1211 Geneva 10, Switzerland |
| Tel: +41 22 767 1872  
Fax: +41 22 767 9295  
E-mail: mike.doran@cern.ch |
| Tel: +41 22 917 1134  
Fax: +41 22 917 0037  
E-mail: mario.apostolov@unece.org |
| 25-26 June 2001, Bled, Slovenia  
10-14 September 2001, Rotterdam, Netherlands  
End of November- beginning of December 2001- BPAWG Workshop (date and place to be confirmed) |
| **CDWG – Codes Working Group** |
| **Chairman:** Mr. David Dobbing  
Data Logistics  
505 Darling Street  
Balmain, Sydney – Australia |
| **Secretary:** Mr. Tauno Kangur  
UN/ECE Trade Division  
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| Tel: +61 2 9555-9914  
Fax: +61 2 9555-1589  
E-mail: ddobbing@attglobal.net |
| Tel: +41 22 917-1474  
Fax: +41 22 917-0037  
E-mail: tauno.kangur@unece.org |
| 7 May 2001 - UN/LOCODE,  
Geneva, Switzerland  
8-10 May 2001 - CDWG, Geneva, Switzerland  
26 November 2001 –  
UN/LOCODE, Geneva, Switzerland  
27-29 November 2001 - CDWG, Geneva, Switzerland |
| **EWG – EDIFACT Working Group** |
| **Chairman:** Mr. Pierre Georget  
Directeur technique  
GENCOD –EAN France  
2, Maurice Hartmann  
92 137 Issy-les-Moulineau CEDEX  
France |
| **Secretary:** Mr. Jean Kubler  
UN/CEFACT  
Palais des Nations  
1211 Geneva 10, Switzerland |
| Tel: +33 1 40 95 54 23  
Fax: +33 1 40 95 54 49  
E-mail: pgeorget@gencod-ean.fr |
| Tel: +41 22 917 2774  
Fax: +41 22 917 0037  
E-mail: jean.kubler@unece.org |
| 10–14 September 2001,  
Rotterdam, Netherlands  
18-22 March 2002, Barcelona, Spain  
16-20 September 2002, Guatemala |
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<tr>
<th>Working Group</th>
<th>Chairman</th>
<th>Secretary</th>
<th>Meetings</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>LWG – Legal Working Group</td>
<td>Mr. Rob E. Van Esch</td>
<td>Mr. Mario Apostolov</td>
<td>25-26 June 2001, Florence, Italy (to be confirmed)&lt;br&gt;13-14 September 2001, Rotterdam, Netherlands&lt;br&gt;December 2001, Geneva, Switzerland</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TMWG – Techniques and Methodologies Working Group</td>
<td>Mr. Klaus-Dieter Naujok</td>
<td>Mr. Christian Huemer</td>
<td>16-20 July 2001, Dublin, Ireland&lt;br&gt;5 - 9 November 2001, Hong Kong&lt;br&gt;25 February - 1 March 2002, Seattle, USA</td>
</tr>
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