

17 SEPTEMBER 2008

ENGLISH ONLY

UNITED NATIONS CENTRE FOR TRADE FACILITATION AND ELECTRONIC BUSINESS (UN/CEFACT)

DECISIONS MADE AT THE FOURTEENTH SESSION 16 – 17 SEPTEMBER 2008

This document is for information. The decisions will be included in the report, which will be submitted for intersessional approval after the fourteenth Plenary session.

The approved report will be published in English, French and Russian on the UN/CEFACT webpage at http://www.unece.org/cefact/cf_plenary/plenary08/list_doc_08.html.

Fourteenth UN/CEFACT Plenary Session

List of decisions

17 September 2008

Agenda item 1 - Adoption of the agenda

Decision 08-01

The Plenary adopted the agenda, with minor changes.

Agenda item 2 - Overview of stakeholder priorities

Decision 08-02

The Plenary took note of document ECE/TRADE/C/CEFACT/2008/4 “Overview of stakeholder priorities” and the presentations made.

Decision 08-03

The Plenary requested that updated summaries of the replies to the questions sent to heads of delegation by the UN/CEFACT Bureau be published in the annex to this report.

Agenda item 3 - Uses of the UN/CEFACT framework of recommendations and standards

Decision 08-04

The Plenary took note of the presentations made by representatives from the member States, intergovernmental, non-governmental and private-sector organizations listed below. It requested that the secretariat place these on the UNECE website for information.

List of presentations:

- Australia – New Zealand
- Denmark
- France
- India
- Norway
- Senegal
- Sweden
- United Kingdom
- United States
- European Transmission System Operators
- Global Standards 1
- Society for Worldwide Interbank Financial Telecommunication (SWIFT)
- United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific
- World Customs Organisation

Decision 08-05

The Plenary requested that the information from the presentations be developed into an information brochure on the uses of UN/CEFACT standards, to be published in the three official languages of the UNECE.

Agenda item 4 - Report on UN/CEFACT Forum activities since the thirteenth Plenary session**Decision 08-06**

The Plenary, having been informed that document ECE/TRADE/C/CEFACT/2008/9 had been superseded by the report of the Forum Management Group (ECE/TRADE/C/CEFACT/2008/24), took note of the latter document.

Agenda item 5 - Developments by expert groups: deliverables and priorities**Decision 08-07**

The Plenary noted the draft annex to Recommendation 6, “Aligned Invoice Layout Key for International Trade” (ECE/TRADE/C/CEFACT/2008/5), which had as its objective to accommodate e-Invoicing.

Decision 08-08

The Plenary noted the following revised recommendations:

- (1) Codes for Units of Measure Used in International Trade, Revision 5 of Recommendation 20 (ECE/TRADE/C/CEFACT/2008/6)
- (2) Codes for Passengers, Types of Cargo, Packages and Packaging Materials, annexes V and VI, Revision 6 of Recommendation 21 (ECE/TRADE/C/CEFACT/2008/7)
- (3) Documentary Aspects of the International Transport of Dangerous Goods, Revision 2 of Recommendation 11 (ECE/TRADE/C/CEFACT/2008/8 and ECE/TRADE/C/CEFACT/2008/8/Corr.1)
- (4) Freight Cost Code – FCC Harmonization of the Description of Freight Costs and Other Charges, Revision 6 of Recommendation 23 (ECE/TRADE/C/CEFACT/2008/30)

Decision 08-09

The Plenary agreed to submit for intersessional approval the following new and updated Business Requirements Specifications as contained in document “Business Requirement Specifications” (ECE/TRADE/C/CEFACT/2008/29):

- (1) Electronic Agreement Template and Process (ECE/TRADE/C/CEFACT/2008/29/Add.1)
- (2) International Forwarding and Transport (ECE/TRADE/C/CEFACT/2008/29/Add.2)
- (3) Small-Scale Lodging House Travel Product Information (ECE/TRADE/C/CEFACT/2008/29/Add.3)
- (4) Accounting in Supply Chain Process (ECE/TRADE/C/CEFACT/2008/29/Add.4)
- (5) Universal Accounting Journal Process (ECE/TRADE/C/CEFACT/2008/29/Add.5)
- (6) Transfrontier Movements of Waste (ECE/TRADE/C/CEFACT/2008/29/Add.6)
- (7) Crop Data Sheet Process (ECE/TRADE/C/CEFACT/2008/29/Add.7)
- (8) Sourcing of Market Survey Information (ECE/TRADE/C/CEFACT/2008/29/Add.8)

Agenda item 6 - Reports of the rapporteurs

Decision 08-10

The Plenary noted the report from the Rapporteur for Africa (ECE/TRADE/C/CEFACT/2008/22) and encouraged UN/CEFACT experts to participate in the next UN/CEFACT Forum which would take place in Senegal from 10-14 November 2008 and to contribute to the International Conference on Single Windows that would be organized by GAINDE 2000 and the Senegalese Government from 5 to 7 November in Dakar.

Decision 08-11

The Plenary noted the report from the Rapporteur for Asia (ECE/TRADE/C/CEFACT/2008/23).

Decision 08-12

The Plenary requested that the Bureau and the secretariat follow up on the recommendations from the Joint Capacity Building Symposium organized by the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) and UN/CEFACT in Seoul in May 2008. In particular, the Plenary expressed support for the development of a recommendation, for approval by APEC, UN/CEFACT and other organizations, on the use of the UN/CEFACT Core Component Library as the foundational standard for cross-border paperless trading and the establishment of a joint APEC and UN/CEFACT task force.

Agenda item 7 - Matters arising

Decision 08-13

The Plenary noted the discussion paper (ECE/TRADE/C/CEFACT/2008/25) submitted by the delegation of Switzerland, which had also been presented to the UNECE Executive Committee on 6 May 2008, and encouraged delegations to coordinate with their missions in Geneva in order to be better prepared for participating in the discussions on UN/CEFACT taking place in the UNECE Executive Committee.

Decision 08-14

The Plenary took note of the Introduction to UN/CEFACT (ECE/TRADE/C/CEFACT/2008/25), which had also been presented to the UNECE Executive Committee and requested that the secretariat prepare further communications material for UN/CEFACT in all three official languages based on the text of this document.

Agenda item 8 - Going forward

Decision 08-15

The Plenary approved the Programme of Work of UN/CEFACT for the biennium 2010 – 2011 as found in document ECE/TRADE/C/CEFACT/2008/16 with the following additions:

- (1) The recommendation and joint task force with APEC approved under agenda item 6.
- (2) Under the Guidance of the UN/CEFACT Bureau:
 - (a) Cooperate with and support other international organizations including the World Trade Organization, the World Bank, the World Customs Organization, the United

Nations Conference on Trade and Development, the United Nations Development Programme, and the regional commissions of the United Nations in their efforts to help countries implement trade facilitation and, in particular, UN/CEFACT standards and instruments.

(b) Conduct studies and workshops, subject to the availability of extrabudgetary resources, to support:

- (i) Implementation of UN/CEFACT standards and instruments, with special emphasis on countries in transition.
- (ii) Wider participation of experts from countries in transition in the standardization process and technical assistance activities.

(c) Develop training materials and tools, subject to the availability of extrabudgetary resources, to support the implementation of UN/CEFACT standards and instruments in transition economies.

(d) Subject to the availability of extrabudgetary resources, review the current situation and trade procedures in countries in transition and, based on that analysis, draw up recommendations to improve trade facilitation and e-business, including special measures to ensure better alignment with other regions.

(3) Maintenance of the website with up-to-date information on the work of UN/CEFACT and the individual projects that are to be developed.

Decision 08-16

The Plenary approved the Electronic Business, Government and Trade (eBGT) Initiative as described in document ECE/TRADE/C/CEFACT/2008/2, as well as document ECE/TRADE/C/CEFACT/2008/39 on Extra-budgetary Contributions to a United Nations Trust Fund for UN/CEFACT Activities.

Agenda item 9 - Organizational matters

Decision 08-17

The Plenary took note of the report on Intellectual Property Rights (ECE/TRADE/C/CEFACT/2008/10) and requested that the Bureau implement, as soon as possible, the recommendations found in the report. In particular, it requested that a standing IPR task team be established and the necessary modifications to TRADE/R.650/Rev.4 and its annexes be completed and submitted for intersessional approval as soon as possible.

Decision 08-18

The Plenary took note of the final version of the updated Terms of Reference of UN/CEFACT Permanent Groups, which had been submitted to the UNECE Committee on Trade at its second session, in 2007 (ECE/TRADE/C/CEFACT/2008/11).

Decision 08-19

The Plenary took note of the Report on the World Trade Organization (WTO) Negotiating Group on Trade Facilitation (ECE/TRADE/C/CEFACT/2008/17) and requested that the Bureau and the secretariat discuss with UNCTAD and country representatives to WTO how to better

ensure that UN/CEFACT recommendations and standards are taken into account in the negotiations.

Decision 08-20

The Plenary took note of the Report on Cooperation between the UNECE Trade and Transport Divisions (ECE/TRADE/C/CEFACT/2008/18 and ECE/TRANS/2008/3) and requested that the Bureau and the secretariat work with their counterparts in the Committee on Trade, the Inland Transport Committee, the Working Party on Customs Questions in Transport and the UNECE Transport Division to identify two or three specific joint activities that would be supportive of UN/CEFACT's objectives, taking into account available resources and interest of experts. It also encouraged UN/CEFACT to contribute to the joint Committee on Trade and Inland Transport Committee Workshop, which takes place in February 2009.

Decision 08-21

The Plenary took note of the Report on Support to Transition Economies for the Implementation of UN/CEFACT standards and recommendations from the Regional Advisor (ECE/TRADE/C/CEFACT/2008/21).

Agenda item 10- Election of officers

Decision 08-22

The Plenary elected Mr. Peter Amstutz (the United States), Mr. Pier Alberto Cucino (Italy), Mr. Arild Haraldsen (Norway), Mr. Tahseen A. Khan (India) and Mr. Allen Bruford (the World Customs Organization) as Vice Chairpersons of UN/CEFACT for a two-year term of office.

Decision 08-23

Mr. Ibrahima Nour Eddine Diagne (Senegal) was re-elected for a two year term as Rapporteur for Africa

Agenda item 11- Adoption of the decisions of the fourteenth Plenary session

Decision 08-24

The Plenary adopted the decisions made at the fourteenth Plenary session and requested that the secretariat include these in the report.

Decision 08-25

The Plenary decided to hold its fifteenth session from 29 June to 3 July 2009.
