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**ACTIVITIES OF THE FORUM MANAGEMENT GROUP AND
THE PERMANENT GROUPS**

Activities since the fourteenth session

Report by the Forum Management Group¹

Summary

This document is being submitted pursuant to paragraph 50 of the Mandate and Terms of Reference of the United Nations Centre for Trade Facilitation and Electronic Business (UN/CEFACT) (TRADE/R.650/Rev.4).

The Forum is the operational entity of the United Nations Centre for Trade Facilitation and Electronic Business (UN/CEFACT). It is comprised of five permanent groups managed by the Forum Management Group (FMG), which in turn is managed by the Bureau. The UN/CEFACT Forum convenes twice a year in different parts of the world to allow all permanent groups, working groups and project teams to meet for one week in the same location.

During the past 12 months, the UN/CEFACT Forum has made progress on the approved programme of work for 2009 - 2010. Details on the delivery of trade facilitation recommendations, electronic business standards, technical specifications and best practice, are given under section II.

¹ This document was submitted late due to resource constraints.

CONTENTS

	<u>Paragraphs</u>	<u>Page</u>
Introduction.....	1 - 5	3
<u>Chapter</u>		
I. MEETINGS.....	6 - 20	3
A. 13 th UN/CEFACT Forum, Saly, Senegal.....	12 – 15	4
B. 14 th UN/CEFACT Forum, Rome, Italy.....	16 - 18	4
C. Review of the UNeDocs project.....	19 - 20	5
II. REPORTS FROM THE PERMANENT GROUPS.....	21	5
A. International Trade and Business Processes Group.....	21 – 81	5
B. Applied Technologies Group.....	82 - 87	14
C. Information Content Management Group.....	88 - 94	17
D. Legal Group.....	95 - 99	18
E. Techniques and Methodologies Group.....	100 - 106	19
<u>Annexes</u>		
II. LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS.....		21
II. NUMBER OF PROJECTS BY KEY WORK AREA ACTIVITY OF THE UN/CEFACT.....		24

INTRODUCTION

1. The Forum is the operational entity of the United Nations Centre for Trade Facilitation and Electronic Business (UN/CEFACT). It is comprised of five permanent groups managed by the Forum Management Group (FMG), which in turn is managed by the Bureau. The UN/CEFACT Forum convenes twice a year in different parts of the world to allow all permanent groups, working groups and project teams to meet for one week in the same location.
2. During the past 12 months, the UN/CEFACT Forum has made progress on the approved programme of work for 2008 - 2009. Details on the delivery of trade facilitation recommendations, electronic business standards, technical specifications and best practice, are given under section II below.
3. The FMG manages the operations of the Forum through fortnightly conference calls throughout the year, and through virtual communications on a day-to-day basis. The results are posted on the UN/CEFACT website.
4. The FMG met together with the UN/CEFACT Plenary Bureau in an annual face-to-face session over three days, in February 2009, as well as on a daily basis during the biannual Forum meetings, to discuss strategy, priorities, teamwork and communications.
5. A list of the abbreviations used in the current document is attached as annex I.

I. MEETINGS

6. Forum meetings were held in November 2008 in Saly, Senegal and in April 2009 in Rome. The 15th meeting will be held in Sapporo, Japan, in September 2009; and discussions are being held concerning the hosting of the 16th meeting in April 2010. The 17th meeting will be held in Geneva, Switzerland, in August/September 2010.
7. A requirement that has emerged from recent Forum meetings is the need to hold parallel or capacity-building events for promoting UN/CEFACT's work for the benefit of government and business representatives in the host countries and countries in their regions.
8. The project portfolio has been reviewed and priorities for delivery in 2009-2010 have been identified. This work will continue and the current project delivery process has been improved. A new web-based tool has been implemented during 2009 to post and track UN/CEFACT projects on the website.
9. The UN/CEFACT Forum operating procedures on improving the workflow between the permanent groups of the Forum have been revised and published.

10. Work on the trade facilitation implementation guide and its capacity-building programme has continued. Some delays were encountered and the first deliverables are now expected in 2010. This project is funded by the Government of Sweden.

11. During the period between the 14th and 15th UN/CEFACT Plenary sessions, the Forum Management Group participated actively in the meetings of the UNECE Executive Committee (EXCOM) when subjects concerning UN/CEFACT were discussed.

A. 13th UN/CEFACT Forum, Saly, Senegal

12. Some 150 experts from all over the world took part in the 13th UN/CEFACT Forum held in Saly, Senegal from 9 to 14 November 2008. This was the first UN/CEFACT Forum meeting to be held in Africa.

13. During the opening session, Senegal's Minister for Budget, Mr. Mamadou Abdoulaye Sow stated that Senegal has always based its development efforts on know-how and exchanges. It was therefore understandable that the public authorities viewed the holding of such a landmark event in Senegal so favourably.

14. At a time when most economies were undergoing major transformations due to crises that were thought to be one-off events but which, in fact, appeared to be structural, it was currently essential to reshape the basic practices of international trade. For developing economies, all of which are bound to scale up their level of competitiveness and sustain social progress, efficiency in processing commercial transactions was not only a simple imperative but also an urgent one.

15. At a National Forum on eBusiness, which was held in parallel to the UN/CEFACT Forum, which was attended by Senegalese and regional business and government officials, the Minister of Finance emphasized the opportunities that trade facilitation presented for Senegal, and for Africa in general. He said that there was a need for a lingua franca in international trade for goods to cross borders and to ensure that traders understood each other. The meeting highlighted the importance of global standards in international trade in general and in Africa, in particular.

B. 14th UN/CEFACT Forum, Rome, Italy

16. Over 200 delegates representing every continent attended the 14th UN/CEFACT Forum held in Rome, from 20 to 24 April 2009. Opening the Forum, the Italian Undersecretary for Trade, Ministry of Economic Development, Mr. Adolfo Urso, said that trade facilitation was closely linked to the competitiveness of all countries in the global economy. Estimates showed that up to 15 per cent of costs could be saved by applying trade facilitation measures. Currently, as the world economy was slowing down the need for simpler and more efficient trade procedures was becoming more and more a necessity, and not merely an effective way to help the development of international trade.

17. In this connection, given the strong commitment of Italy to support trade facilitation and the work of UN/CEFACT, the Rome Forum was intended to continue and to enhance the efforts made so far to implement new standards, to help both online and offline international trade in the interest of all Member States of the United Nations.

18. The Italian Ministry of Economic Development organized a seminar in parallel with the UN/CEFACT Forum on the “Role of Trade Facilitation: Promoting Market Integration with a focus on Africa”. The seminar was opened by the Minister of Economic Development, and speakers included the EU Development Commissioner as well as representatives of the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development, the World Trade Organization and some Italian organizations involved in international trade.

C. Review of the UNeDocs project

19. For the 14th Plenary in September 2008, the Bureau made available an informal information note on “The Harmonized Data Model Buy-Ship-Pay subset for international trade (including UNeDocs)” (ECE/TRADE/C/CEFACT/2008/MISC.2). It described how efforts had progressed since the 13th Plenary in May 2007, when a revised Business Requirements Specification (BRS) was approved (see “Cross-Border Supply Chain (UNeDocs)” - ECE/TRADE/C/CEFACT/2007/8).

20. The note outlined steps towards achieving the objective of a Business Standard, with planning for the completion of deliverables to be presented no later than the Forum meeting in Senegal in November 2008. As this was not achieved, and the way forward could not be agreed between the Forum Management Group (FMG) and the UNeDocs Project Leaders, the FMG referred the issue to the Bureau for resolution. The Bureau then created the Review Team to proceed with a set of tasks. The results of the review and the Bureau’s recommendations on taking the project forward are contained in document ECE/TRADE/C/CEFACT/2009/18.

II. REPORTS FROM THE PERMANENT GROUPS

A. International Trade and Business Processes Group

Group 1: Supply Chain

21. The International Trade and Business Processes Group 1 (TBG1) develops and maintains business process models, business transaction models, the semantics and the contents in a syntax-neutral way that fulfil the requirements of trade and industry communities. Supply Chain and e-Procurement covers the Purchasing, Material Management and Product development areas.

22. TBG1 has put considerable effort into revising the Cross Industry Invoice (CII), and expects to publish it, as version V2.0, during the third quarter of 2009. Because it is of major interest to many parties, its development has required close collaboration with and contribution from the following stakeholders: International Trade and Business Processes Group 5, GS1, OASIS (UBL/NES (Universal

Business Language/North European Subset)), Odette, BoostAero, EDIFrance (EDIFrance was closed at the end of 2008).

23. TBG1 maintains a close and productive relationship with the European Commission (EC) eInvoicing Expert Group established in November 2007. At the beginning of 2009, the EC Expert Group published an interim report (Expert Group E-Invoicing mid term report-2009_01_27_en.pdf). Chapter 1.4 of that report states "...as the Expert Group encourages implementation of the UN CEFACT Cross Industry Invoice as a reference semantic model that supports convergence with UBL, the Northern European Sub-set and with ISO20022". It is the hope that the EC Expert Group will recommend the CII V2.0 as the standard for the European E-Invoicing Framework (EEI).

24. The International Trade and Business Processes Group 3 (TBG3 - Transport and Logistics) and Group 6 (TBG6 - Architecture, Engineering & Construction) have indicated the wish to implement the CII in their sectors and to provide further sector-specific input for the next version of the invoice. It is foreseen to continue the developments to include more industries and to base the future UN/XML invoice message on CCTS 3.0 and Naming and Dispatch Rules (NDR) 3.0.

25. TBG1 currently collaborates with TBG6 on developing the "Cross Industry Catalogue", another collaborative project taking place with International Trade and Business Processes Group 18 (TBG18) on developing the "Despatch Advice". "Ordering" messages are also being developed, as well as a standard on "eMarket Research", and all messages are planned to be included in the Core Component Library (CCL) 09B. Another suite of messages is planned to be included in the Core Component Library 10A which cover "Quotation", being a collaborative project with TBG6, "Remittance Advice", and "Scheduling".

Group 2: Digital Paper

26. Following the report of the Review Team, which was set up in December 2008, the Bureau decided to disband the TBG2 Working Group. This was confirmed to heads of delegation and stakeholders on 22 March 2009. Plans for the transitioning of the project work are set out in document ECE/TRADE/C/CEFACT/2009/18.

Group 3: Transport and Logistics

27. The International Trade and Business Processes Group 3 (TBG3) contributed to the CCL 08B with submissions related to transport and logistics as input to the Buy-Ship-Pay model. The Transportation and Logistics Core Components were subsequently harmonized by the International Trade and Business Processes Group 17 (Aggregate Core Component level) in the CCL 08B.

28. The Business Requirements Specification (BRS) for "International Forwarding and Multimodal Transport" was approved at the UN/CEFACT Plenary in September 2008.

29. TBG3 is working on the individual BRSs in the area of transport and forwarding. The priorities being Transport Status Requesting & Reporting, Transport Instructions, Dangerous

Goods Declaration and Waybill, including the Convention on the Contract for the International Carriage of Goods by Road, and the Convention on Uniform Rules Concerning the Contract for International Carriage of Good by Rail, and the Maritime Bill of lading.

30. TBG3 cooperates with GS1 on the Transport Instruction and with the International Air Transport Association (IATA) on the Shipper's Declaration for Dangerous Goods and on Cargo XML.

31. TBG3 have had three 1-week meetings in 2009 to move this work forward.

32. Discussions were also held with the OASIS UBL-Subcommittee on Transportation and it was agreed that TBG3 would be leading in further developments.

33. TBG3/ ITIGG (International Transport Implementation Guidelines Group) started working on developing a new version of the worldwide ITIGG implementation guidelines (version 3.0), with priorities for Transport Status Request/Report, Transport Instruction, Dangerous Goods Declaration and Waybill to be valid for both UN/EDIFACT (United Nations Electronic Data Interchange for Administration, Commerce and Transport) and ebXML.

Group 4: Customs

34. International Trade and Business Processes Group 4 (TBG4) does not officially meet at the Forum but tries to hold information sessions for other TBGs during the Forum meetings. It meets at least twice a year at the World Customs Organization (WCO), Brussels. In 2008, it held four face-to-face meetings and in 2009, has already held three.

35. Its meetings are open to all persons who may have any interest in Customs/ Cross-Border issues. It has a list server that is managed by the Data Model Project Team and is also open to interested persons. Membership of the Group is open to WCO members and a number of designated international organizations.

36. TBG4 is interested in business processes and information management involving cross-border movement of people, goods and conveyances. It is specifically responsible for Customs procedures, procedural simplification, and business-process and data requirements. As part of the Single Window environment, TBG4 is concerned with cross-border regulation from a data and regulatory perspective. Electronic messages to Customs are very often carriers of data for other government/ regulatory agencies at the border. As common electronic messages for enabling the "single submission" of documents is a topic of current interest, TBG4 has given this subject much attention.

37. TBG4/Customs has had a track record of collaboration with UN/CEFACT. It continues to maintain several UN/EDIFACT messages, including CUSDEC (Customs goods declaration), CUSCAR (Cargo report), CUSREP (conveyance report) and CUSRES (Customs response). It also maintains PAXLST (Passenger manifest) and SANCRT (Sanitary and Phytosanitary Certificates). It has now developed a new UN/EDIFACT message called GOVCBR, which is the Government Cross-Border Regulatory message. This new message covers the data requirements arising out of version 3.0 of the WCO Data Model and includes requirements of several cross-border regulatory agencies. It is aimed at helping WCO member administrations implement Single Window solutions.

38. The development of this message showed certain gaps of coverage of existing UN/EDIFACT code lists from a cross-border regulatory perspective. Serious efforts are under way to address this problem. For example, with over 450 data maintenance requests to these code lists, a substantial part of these requirements were covered through UN/CEFACT technical assessment and are now part of the United Nations Code List. This not only helps simplify government data but also enables the development of “joined-up” services at the border.

39. In year 2009, TBG4 is striving to complete the work concerning alignment with the Core Component Library. Other TBGs are actively engaged in this activity.

Group 5: Finance

40. International Trade and Business Processes Group 5 (TBG5) is responsible within the financial services area for the simplification of international trade procedures, business and governmental process analysis, and optimization of all information-exchange standards.

41. It also supports securing integration of required financial data for the completeness of the UN/CEFACT Core Component Library.

42. It continues to participate actively in cross-domain projects, which are increasingly important in the financial sphere. The key focus is on e-invoicing, remittance information and integration into the financial payment chain.

Group 6: Architecture, Engineering & Construction

43. In the past year, the International Trade and Business Processes Group 6 (TBG6) has continued to refine full XML UN/CEFACT standards for public procurement. The first update for the “Project Schedule and Cost Performance Management” (PSCPM) project was included in CCL 08B. The first update for “eTendering” and the second update for PSCPM have been submitted to the International Trade and Business Processes Group 17 for inclusion in CCL 09B. All of the updates represent input from users of the existing standards and are further refinements enhancing the usability of the standards.

44. The Group’s joint projects with TBG1 have been reviewed, including the “eCatalogue” and the “Contract Financial Execution Management” (CFEM) projects. The “eCatalogue” project has been submitted to International Trade and Business Processes Group 17, on Harmonization, for inclusion in CCL 09B. Work has continued on CFEM and a partial submission that is intended to align it with the Cross Industry Invoice (CII) has been submitted for inclusion in CCL 09B.

45. Work continues on the project for business needs regarding security in messages and documents.

Group 8: Insurance

46. The goal of the International Trade and Business Processes Group 8 (TBG8) is to set up a common, harmonized insurance data dictionary, which will be used as input for the TBG17 harmonization process. The insurance industry will use this as a reference dictionary for developing data

models, object class models or message structures and to facilitate interoperability within the global Insurance sector.

47. The TBG8 project work is developed externally through Global Insurance Standards (ACORD) and Expert Group Seven (TBG8 Europe/eEG7) of eBES (e-Business Board for European Standardization) of CEN (European Committee for Standardization).

48. The project is to harmonize its respective dictionaries and to discover generic and/or insurance specific core components. The submission to the CCL 09A contains insurance-related information for Contract, Party and Coverage to construct Insurance Information Messages. TBG8's plan is to finalize the resubmission and new areas of business including claims, life insurance, health insurance and automotive insurance.

Group 9: Travel, Tourism & Leisure

49. The International Trade and Business Processes Group 9 (TBG9) first set of schemas for requesting and receiving information on small-scale lodging was published as part of the CCL 07A. TBG9 has worked out the second part of the BRS and core components for this project, which is the information for the actual products offered at a small-scale lodging house. TBG9 will start the review of the third part of the project, which deals with the reservation of the products, and discussion on travel-related activities in the Republic of Korea to harmonize with the UN/CEFACT Forum procedures. TBG9 will also review the data maintenance requests (DMR) code requests, etc.

Group 10: Healthcare

50. Many of the standardization activities previously dealt with by the International Trade and Business Processes Group 10 (TBG10) and eBES Expert Group 9 have increasingly been overtaken by the CEN (European Committee for Standardization) Technical Committee 251, ISO Technical Committee 215, as well as by Health Level 7. For this reason, TBG10 has mostly been passive in the last year.

51. There is, however, a need for trans-sector harmonization as well as cross-border harmonization of implementations. TBG10 will therefore evaluate the interest in these issues and re-vitalize the group if necessary. In which case, it will be searching for a new Chair.

Group 12: Accounting & Audit

52. Group 12 (TBG12) is responsible for using the UN/CEFACT Modelling Methodology for the accounting and auditing domains and financial reporting. The first message, "Accounting Entry", was made available within the CCL 08B. Several software companies have participated in its development. The implementation of the "Accounting Entry" message is expected in Belgium as part of a local eInvoice project, led by a portal provider of financial e-services and with the collaboration of the National Institute of Certified Public Accountants and Isabel.

53. This Group continues to feed the CCL with accounting and audit input that covers specific accounting domains such as entries, accounts, ledger, trial balance next to a wide range of elements used for mandatory declarations, form filing towards public data collectors such as VAT return or financial-reporting-related data such as the joint project with the International Trade and Business Processes Group 18 (TBG18), on agriculture, concerning financial statements for cooperative farms in France.

54. Four new messages, “Reporting”, “Chart of Accounts”, “Ledger” and “Accounting Message”, have been successively approved and simultaneously developed:

- (a) “Reporting” core components have been harmonized and the “Reporting Message” is expected to be one among the new messages produced with CCL 09A. Implementation by TBG18 is expected by 2010;
- (b) In continuity of the domain core business, the messages “Ledger” and “Chart of Accounts” are aiming to fulfil the basic requirements of accountants and auditors. Both have been successfully harmonized and will be added to the CCL 09A;
- (c) Last but not least, “Accounting Message” was developed as a companion message providing the necessary information to identify the parties involved in an accounting-matter transaction and to prepare and forward data-enabling acceptance check at receipt of other accounting-related business message(s).

55. Two new projects have been approved by the Forum Management Group; the first one relates to a list of journals (“Accounting Journal”) used by an entity; the second aims at organizing storage of bundle collections (“Accounting Bundle Collection”) of evidence documents and drill from accounting entry up to the originator document or voucher, and vice versa.

56. Another important and continued issue for the Group is to encourage insertion of the “Accounting Token” into all messages of the Buy-Ship-Pay model in such a way that an accounting entry can be automatically derived and the numerous requirements in downstream bookkeeping completed.

Group 13: Environment

57. The International Trade and Business Processes Group 13 (TBG13) supports and promotes both international- and regional-cooperation activities related to environmental data exchange.

58. Programme of work

- (a) Basel Convention on Control of Transboundary Movements of Waste (TMW): 172 Parties, G2G, B2G;
- (b) TMW Business Information Entity/Core Component submission approved, and published within CCL 09A;
- (c) Plans to work on TMW-related waste-assessment data.

Group 14: Business Process Analysis

59. International Trade and Business Processes Group 14 (TBG14) is a cross-domain group responsible for the analysis and harmonization of business processes. Since April 2008, TBG14 has moved from being a research group to a research and operational group. To begin the operation, TBG14 has been active in several TBG projects to create UMM-compliant process models for each project as part of the deliverables.

60. These UMM models created in cooperation with TBG1, TBG3, TBG4, TBG6, TBG12, and TBG13 are gathered and put into context within the Project P059 "International Supply Chain Reference Model", where TBG 14 delivered version 2008A (May 2008) and 2009A (July 2009) of the Buy-Ship-Pay Model and the related Modelling Guidelines. The Buy-Ship-Pay Model is also called "International Supply Chain Reference Model" (ISCM).

61. The latest achievements since the 2008A version are Catalogue, Waste Transport, Customs, Despatch and Receive Goods, Scheduling and Remittance Advice.

62. All TBGs are now expected to engage with International trade and Business Processes Group 14 at the start of each new project to ensure any potential reuse of existing models and to position new process models within the overall Buy-Ship-Pay Reference Model.

63. A new joined project with International trade and Business Processes Group 15 (TBG15) the "International Trade Facilitation Model" - P081 was created and is awaiting FMG approval.

Together with TBG15, TBG14 aimed to draw up a project to relate all relevant UN/CEFACT deliverables to a model of the International Supply Chain emphasizing the UN/CEFACT contributions to Trade facilitation. The deliverables of the project will help users to find and apply UN/CEFACT standards and methods according to their needs.

64. At the 13th UN/CEFACT Forum in Saly, TBG14 ran the Modellers' Reference Initiative (MRI) workshop with the participation of over 50 key contributors to UN/CEFACT work, all permanent group chairs, FMG and Bureau representatives. The next generation tool chain (CCTS3.0, NDR 3.0, UMM2.0) was discussed and it was decided the "Cross Industry Invoice (CII) version 2.0" would be used for implementation verification for these methods.

65. At the 14th UN/CEFACT Forum in Rome, the MRI meeting initiated a discussion about the UN/CEFACT architecture and lead to the proposal to setup an advisory group to the FMG to focus on cross PG methodical issues and aspects - which is still under consideration. MRI meetings are organized as TBG14 Project P080.

Group 15: International Trade Procedures

66. In response to stakeholder requests, the International Trade Procedures Working Group 15 (TBG15) is developing the guidance and tools to support a national Single Window facility.

67. Two proposed Recommendations, No. 34 on the Data Simplification and Standardization and No. 35 on establishing a legal framework, aim to help Governments create a simple, standard national dataset for trade-related information requirements and ensure an enabling legal environment for the efficient and effective operation of a national Single Window.

68. TBG15 also completed work on the revision of UN/CEFACT Recommendation 6 (Aligned Invoice Layout Key for International Trade), to accommodate eInvoicing.

69. A Project Team within TBG15 began to manage the production of the “Trade Facilitation Implementation Guide” (TFIG). This project, supported by extra budgetary funding from Sweden, will deliver a comprehensive and comprehensible Guide offering practical advice and training techniques for the implementation of trade facilitation recommendations, instruments, standards, and other trade simplification measures.

Group 16: Entry Point

70. Group 16 (TBG16) has continued to maintain the website for the International Trade and Business Group and for the Forum Management Group, making a working repository for Group information and working documents on the Internet. This Group is currently developing a new Data Maintenance Request (DMR) procedure for updates to the UN/CEFACT XML deliverables. The part regarding the change to the BRS is now being tested.

71. TBG16 is now also involved in the TBG Workflow Team, which supports the Forum Procedures Team, mainly to update the UN/CEFACT Forum Operating Procedures and illustrate and enhance the processes between the permanent groups.

Group 17: Harmonization

72. The International Trade and Business Processes Group 17 (TBG17) is a cross-domain group, responsible for consistency and harmonization of core components across business domains and sectors, contributing to a concise and well-defined glossary of business terms, business data semantic definitions, and structuring of the content of data exchanges. Members represent other International Trade and Business Processes Groups, plus liaison member from numerous organizations, including GS1, IATA, ISO, Joint Automotive Industry, RosettaNet, SWIFT, OASIS (UBL), the United States Government and WCO.

73. Most of the Group’s harmonization work is conducted during interim meetings and via weekly conference calls. During the Forum meetings, TBG17 interfaces with the other TBGs and Permanent Groups.

74. As part of the Core Components Library (CCL), TBG17 finalized the CCL 08B, CCL 09A and CCL 09B, containing Business Information Entities:

- (a) CCL 08B is an extensive library containing the Business Information Entities for the Buy-Ship-Pay Data Model and Accounting Entry;

- (b) CCL 09A contains the TBG1 eInvoice, the Basel Convention, and IATA eFreight Invoice, as well as Building Insurance, and submissions from the US Government, RosettaNet, and for travel product;
- (c) CCL 09B contains Supply Chain Ordering, Despatch Advice, and eCatalogue, IATA eFreight Dangerous Goods, CITES²/ASYCUDA Import/Export, Market Survey, four Accounting submissions, Construction Valuation Breakdown and eTendering, and US Government Acquisitions and Performance Scheduling update.

75. Plans for CCL 10A include alignment with the WCO data model, Supply Chain Scheduling and Transport Berth Management.

Group 18: Agriculture

76. In 2008, UN/CEFACT published both the eCERT and the eDAPLOS as eBusiness standards. Together, these standards will help provide safer imported agricultural commodities and allow easier traceability of agricultural crop production. Others projects in progress include:

- (a) Cattle Registration Information Exchange (BRS approved and RSM to be submitted);
- (b) Livestock Animal Record;
- (c) Electronic Data Exchange Proxy;
- (d) Two joint projects with TBG12: Accounting Message and Financial Reporting (harmonization of the core components is in progress with TBG17).

77. The International Trade and Business Processes Group 18 (TBG18) is also involved in the supply chain developments and collaborates on projects with TBG1 such as the “Despatch Advice”. The Group’s objective is to develop a long-term strategic vision for its work and to draw up an implementation guide for each new published standard. These guides will help implementers unfamiliar with UN/CEFACT standards to easily understand how to use UN/CEFACT messages such as eCERT or eDAPLOS.

Group 19: e-Government

78. The International Trade and Business Processes Group approved the Group 19 (TBG19) Business Requirement Specification "Transfer of digital records" for publication (Open Development Process (ODP) Step 7). The Specification can be downloaded from: <http://www1.unece.org/cefact/platform/display/TBG/eArchiving+project> . The next step is to develop the Requirement Specification Mapping. TBG19 also continued its activities on eGovernment data model development.

² Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora, also known as the “Washington Convention”.

79. TBG19, TBG1, and TBG6 carried on the joint project on ePublic Procurement. Its activity is linked to the progress of the European CEN-ISSS project BII. An important objective is to push for the convergence of OASIS UBL and UN/CEFACT models.

80. A gap analysis is being performed about the eNotification process in collaboration with TBG6. The results of this analysis will be used as a basis for future decisions to steer this project.

81. France can no longer assume the chairmanship and secretariat. Until a candidate is found, the French administration proposed to maintain support for ongoing projects and a representation of TBG19 in the UN/CEFACT Forum meetings. The main activities are carried out on a virtual basis, complemented by physical meetings when necessary.

B. Applied Technologies Group

82. The UN/CEFACT Applied Technologies Group (ATG) is responsible for creating and maintaining UN/CEFACT trade, business and administration document structures based on a specific technology or standard, to include design, assembly and production of syntax specific solutions based on identified business and/or technical requirements from the permanent groups of UN/CEFACT.

83. ATG convened during the UN/CEFACT Forum meetings in Saly and Rome, and will meet again at the Sapporo Forum. It also held face-to-face meetings in September 2008 in Pearl River, New York, United States of America, in January 2009 in Waldorf, Germany, and in June 2009 in Washington D.C.

84. In keeping with its mandate, the bulk of the work of ATG is divided among two working groups. However, some projects cross working group boundaries and are treated as permanent-group-level projects. The distribution is as follows:

- (a) ATG – Cross working group projects. These include the Data Type Catalogue project and the Standard Business Document Header project;
- (b) ATG1 – EDIFACT Syntax. ATG1 is responsible for developing and maintaining EDIFACT syntax solutions to support the UN/CEFACT work programme;
- (c) ATG2 – XML Syntax. ATG2 is responsible for the development and maintenance of XML syntax solutions to support the UN/CEFACT work programme.

85. ATG accomplished the following:

- (a) Data Type Catalogue. The project team has also been developing the CCTS 3.0 Data Type Catalogue. This catalogue represents the changes to data type structures as defined in CCTS 3.0. The ODP6 version was published on 4 August 2009 and comments will be adjudicated during the Sapporo Forum. A final version is expected to be published in fourth quarter of 2009 in conjunction with the corresponding XML NDR Version 3.0, which is also scheduled, for publication at the same time. The timing of release is coordinated with the finalization of CCTS 3.0 expected in fourth quarter of 2009;
- (b) Standard Business Document Header. This project has been on hold pending finalization of CCTS 3.0, Data Type Catalogue 3.0, and XML NDR 3.0. These specifications have reached

sufficient levels of maturity, and the project has been re-initiated during the Rome Forum. The project has completed ODP Steps 1 and 2 and is currently working in ODP3. The project is considering new technologies such as cloud computing, and is expected to gain widespread adoption by Governments and the private sector.

86. ATG1 has accomplished the following:

- (a) Saly Forum – EDIFACT Data Maintenance Request (DMR) processing – 354 Data Maintenance Requests (DMRs) for inclusion in D08B:
 - (i) 75 approved;
 - (ii) 262 approved with changes;
 - (iii) 4 postponed;
 - (iv) 12 rejected;
 - (v) 1 withdrawn;
- (b) Rome Forum – EDIFACT Data Maintenance Request (DMR) processing – 91 Data Maintenance Requests (DMRs) for inclusion in D09A:
 - (i) 34 approved;
 - (ii) 55 approved with changes;
 - (iii) 1 postponed;
 - (iv) 1 withdrawn;
- (c) Continued work on UML2 EDIFACT technical specification, which is currently at ODP Step 6, Implementation Verification. This specification provides formal methodology and rules for transforming UN/CEFACT Modelling Methodology (UMM) conformant UML models into the EDIFACT syntax. TBG6 has agreed to act as one implementation verification for this project and will be developing the requisite submission. This project will be completed when a second implementation verification project is identified and submitted.

87. ATG2 has accomplished the following:

- (a) Completed production and audit of a total of 92 XML schemas in support of D08A, including:
 - (i) Business Process Schemas (41), supporting the various approved and audited BRS/RSMs;
 - (ii) Common Reusable Schema (1), containing XML expressions of the CCL 07A library of BIEs;
 - (iii) Unqualified Data Type Schema (1), containing the XML expression of all CCTS-conformant Unqualified Data Types. This is an update of the schema published with

the release of the NDR specification and incorporates changes made to the supporting code lists;

- (iv) Qualified Data Type Schema (1), containing the XML expressions of all qualified data types contained in CCL 07A;
 - (v) Standard Code List Schema (48). These schemas are the XML expressions of UN/CEFACT and other (e.g. ISO) code lists, and restricted code lists for use by the Unqualified Data Types (UDT), Qualified Data Types (QDT) and business process schemas;
- (b) Completed production of a total of 93 XML schemas in support of D08B, including:
- (i) Business Process Schema (41), supporting the various approved and audited BRS/RSMs;
 - (ii) Common Reusable Schema (1), containing XML expressions of the CCL 07B library of BIEs;
 - (iii) Unqualified Data Type Schema (1), containing the XML expression of all CCTS-conformant Unqualified Data Types. This is an update of the schema published with the release of the NDR specification and incorporates changes made to the supporting code lists;
 - (iv) Qualified Data Type Schema (1), containing the XML expressions of all qualified data types contained in CCL 07B;
 - (v) Standard Code List Schema (49). These schemas are the XML expressions of UN/CEFACT and other (e.g. ISO) code lists, and restricted code lists for use by the UDT, QDT and business process schemas;
- (c) Began production on schema for D09A. These schemas include the revised cross industry invoice schema. Estimate completion, delivery, audit and publication of the schema prior to the Sapporo Forum;
- (d) Continued cross-organizational alignment with active participation of OAGi, ACORD, GS1, CIDX, UBL, AIAG, and RosettaNet who have committed to making version 3.0 of the UN/CEFACT XML NDRs the accepted XML schema design methodology to be adopted by all standards organizations. UN/CEFACT ATG is gaining recognition as the venue of choice for achieving convergence in XML Methodologies across horizontal and vertical standards organizations. This will result in significant improvements in interoperability and greatly facilitate trade;
- (e) XML Naming and Design Rules (NDR) V3.0 project. This project is currently at ODP Step 6. We have made significant progress on this version of the Specification. It aligns with CCTS 3.0, as well as containing a converged set of XML Schema NDRs that will allow other standards-development organizations to transition from their own standards to those of UN/CEFACT. Along with the other Common Methodology specification – CCTS 3.0, Data Type Catalogue 3.0 – NDR 3.0 is gaining widespread recognition and adoption in the private sector, with solution providers building into their products the use of, and direct support for, UN/CEFACT specifications. This will greatly facilitate widespread adoption of

UN/CEFACT standards, and make it easier and less costly for emerging economies to adopt and use them. The NDR is expected to reach ODP step 7 in fourth quarter of 2009, with immediate implementation thereafter;

- (f) XML Representation of Core Components. Currently at ODP Step 4. This project is defining an alternative XML based format for the representation of Core Components that will facilitate defining, exchanging, submitting, and storing all CCTS artefacts in XML. Such a solution will greatly simplify the task of doing CCTS discovery work and will lead to increased out of the box vendor support for CCTS.

C. Information Content Management Group

88. During the course of the last year, the ICG has begun testing of the UN/CEFACT Registry Specification through an experimental implementation.

89. The ICG produced the second draft of the UN/CEFACT Code lists in XML Genericcode and completed its regular UN/EDIFACT audit and its maintenance activities for the UN Recommendations related to codes.

90. The ICG has successfully completed three audits of the UN/CEFACT Core Component Libraries (D.08A, D.08B and D.09A) as well as the audit of the UN/CEFACT Schemas version D.07B and D.08A.

91. The audit of the D.08B Core Components Library identified a set of ABIE Core components that were not fully contextualised and ICG took the view that they should not be included. In the interests of making this harmonisation work available to stakeholders, the UN/CEFACT Bureau took the decision to provide CCL in two parts: one part as audited by ICG in support of the production of UN/CEFACT messages; and the other containing all parts of the CCL as harmonised by TBG 17. This principle was applied to Core Component Libraries D.08B and D.09A.

92. The ICG successfully audited the following Requirements Specification Mapping (RSM) documents and their associated schemas (a and b completed):

- (a) Accounting Entry – TBG12;
- (b) Project Schedule and Cost Performance Management – TBG6;
- (c) Cross Industry Invoice (CII) – TBG1;
- (d) Small-Scale Lodging House Travel Product Information Process – TBG9.

93. As part of the regular cycle of updates, the ICG has also met its target in completing a formal audit of the D.08A and D.08B UN/EDIFACT Directories. The D.09A EDIFACT directory audit has encountered some problems due to the introduction of a new message which is an order of magnitude larger than any previous messages and thus has created some implementation challenges.

94. The ICG has produced updates to the following key UN Recommendations: Recommendation 20 (Units of Measure) Revision 6; Recommendation 21 (Codes for Passengers, Types of Cargo, Packages and Packaging Materials (with Complementary Codes for Package Names)) Revision 7; and Recommendation 24 (Trade and Transport Status Codes).

D. Legal Group

95. The Legal Group assists the UN/CEFACT Bureau, the FMG, and other permanent groups on the legal aspects of electronic business and international trade facilitation and other relevant matters related to the work of the UN/CEFACT. At the request of various UN/CEFACT entities, the LG will analyse current legal processes and issues within the mission and objectives of UN/CEFACT, identify legal constraints that adversely affect the UN/CEFACT mission and LG objectives, and proposes practical improvements to these legal processes and issues. Deliverables generally include legally oriented trade facilitation and electronic business Recommendations to assist other Permanent Groups, the FMG and the UN/CEFACT Bureau in advancing global commerce.

96. Over the past year, the Legal Group has continued to participate with TBG15 in the development of Recommendation 35 on the Legal Framework for International Trade Single Window. The draft of Recommendation 35 was approved for Public Review in November 2008 at the UN/CEFACT Forum in Saly, Senegal. Since then Recommendation 35 has successfully passed Step 5 of the Open Development Process. Recommendation 35 has now been submitted to the FMG and the Secretariat for consideration and approval at the 2009 Plenary Session.

97. Much of the LG effort during the preceding year has been devoted to participating in the efforts of the new WCO-UNCITRAL Joint Legal Task Force (JLTF) on the International Single Window. The work of this Group is expected to build on the work done for Recommendation 35 by developing more legal research and analysis on many of the legal issues raised in Recommendation 35, particularly those included in Recommendation 35's Annex B. Members of the LG participated in the first weeklong JLTF Meeting held last November in Brussels, Belgium. At the UNCITRAL Plenary Session in June/July 2009, the Commission reviewed the work of the JLTF to date and endorsed the continuation of the project. Numerous delegations expressed strong support for this effort.

98. Legal Group members also provided strong support on legal issues for UN/ECE Single Window Workshops for the European-Asia Economic Community (EurASec) (St. Petersburg - November 2008) and a regional Single Window Workshop in Tbilisi, Georgia (June 2009). It is anticipated that the LG will provide additional support to the Secretariat in its work with EurASec. An LG member also presented various legal aspects of the international Single Window based on the public review version of Draft Recommendation 35 at an APEC Single Window Working Group, Workshop in Singapore (April, 2009.)

99. The Legal Group continued its efforts to maintain close relationships with other international organizations including, among others, the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL) and the WCO.

E. Techniques and Methodologies Group

100. The TMG met at the Forums in Saly (Senegal) in November 2008, Rome (Italy) in April 2009 and Sapporo (Japan) scheduled for September 2009 at the time of writing. In January 2009, a TMG Face-to-Face Meeting took place in Waldorf, Germany. Furthermore, the Core Components Working Group (CCWG) met in Washington D.C. in June 2009

101. The Core Components Working Group (CCWG) has been working on three major projects: the Core Components Technical Specification (CCTS) 3.0, the UN/CEFACT context methodology, and the UML Profile for Core Components (UPCC).

102. CCTS 3.0 has received 4 implementation verification reports - one each from TBG1, TBG6, OAGi and ATG. No negative comments were received, minor changes were recommended, and CCTS 3.0 conformant vocabularies were successfully developed by all three groups. TBG6 has provided a detailed assessment of CCTS 3.0 against the library requirements, and has indicated that CCTS 3.0 does meet those requirements that are in scope for the specification. It is expected that CCTS 3.0 will be finalized during the Sapporo Forum and published shortly thereafter. The required Implementation Strategy Document and Impact Assessment will be delivered to the FMG during the Sapporo Forum with a recommendation for phased implementation.

103. The UCM project is focused on the definition and delivery of a robust and complete Context Methodology for UN/CEFACT, and also usable by other organizations. "Context" is the key part of the CCTS component model, facilitating the reasoning and rationale of defining industry, process, business-partners, (and others) specific data objects. The UCM team has now specified and established the foundation of the UCM specification as a mathematical Directed Acyclic Graph. This solid base will allow the organization of codes and identifiers in a way to support precise categorization of CCTS artifacts such as BIES and business processes. This foundational aspect of the UCM specification now sets the clear path for building upon. An expression grammar is required over the graph to complete the UCM specification. UCM, when complete, is expected to facilitate message assembly for exact business purposes. Currently, UCM continues to progress under ODP step 3 and is expected to move to ODP 4 later this year.

104. The UML Profile for Core Components 3.0 (UPCC 3.0) is the successor of the current specification UPCC 1.0. The version number has been set to 3.0, thus aligning it with the Core Component Technical Specification 3.0 (CCTS), on which the UPCC 3 is based on. The project is in ODP step 4 and should move to ODP5 this year.

105. The main work item of the Business Process Working Group (BPWG) is the next version of the UN/CEFACT modelling methodology, i.e. UMM 2.0. The project team succeeded to move the current draft of the UMM 2.0 foundation module and the draft of the UMM 2.0 base module into ODP step 6 "Implementation Verification". At the time of writing, the team is awaiting reports on implementation verifications and is hoping to finish the project by the end of 2009 after receiving at least two implementation verifications. Furthermore, the BPWG is working on a specialization module for UMM that extends its requirements elicitation phase. The project team is scheduled to deliver its initial draft for the Resource Event Agent (REA) 1.0 specialization module by the Sapporo Forum in September 2009.

106. The original task of the eBusiness Architecture Working Group (eBAWG) was to deliver an architectural framework guaranteeing a consistent set of technical specifications to be followed when creating UN/CEFACT products. It was recognized that this ambitious goal can only be realized by a collaborative effort of all permanent groups. Thus, TMG suggested that the FMG is best suited for dealing with a UN/CEFACT's standard development framework. TMG feels responsible for initializing this work under the FMG. Once this work is on its way, the eBusiness Architecture Working Group (eBAWG) will be disbanded.

Annex I

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

ABIE	Aggregate Business Information Entities
ACC	Aggregate Core Component
ACORD	Global Insurance Standards
AFACT	Asia Pacific Council for Trade Facilitation and Electronic Business
AIAG	Automotive Industry Action Group
APEC	Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation
ASBIE	Association Business Information Entity
ASCC	Association Core Component
ASEAN	Association of Southeast Asian Nations
BBIE	Basic Business Information Entity
BCC	Basic Core Component
BCSS	Business Collaboration Specification Scheme
BIE	Business Information Entity
BII	Business Interoperability Interfaces
BPWG	Business Process Working Group
BRS	Business Requirements Specification
CCL	Core Components Library
CCTS	Core Components Technical Specification
CCWG	Core Components Working Group
CEN	European Committee for Standardization
CEN/ISSS	Information Society Standardization System of the European Committee for Standardization
CFEM	Contract Financial Execution Management
CIDX	Chemical Industry Data Exchange
CII	Cross-Industry Invoice
CIO	Cross-Industry Order
CMETs	Common Message Element Types
DMR	Data Maintenance Request

eBES	e-business Board for European Standardization
eBGT	electronic Business Government and Trade
ebXML	Electronic Business using eXtensible Markup Language
eCert	electronic certification system for government-to-government sanitary and phytosanitary certificates issued for traded food and agricultural commodities
eDAPLOS	electronic message describing the data crop sheet exchanged between farmers and their partners
EDI	Electronic Data Interchange
F2F	Face-to-face meeting
FMG	UN/CEFACT Forum Management Group
HoD	Head of Delegation
IATA	International Air Transport Association
ISO	International Organization for Standardization
ITIGG	International Transport Implementation Guidelines Group
ITPWG	International Trade Procedures Working Group
JASTPRO	Japanese Association for Simplification of International Trade Procedures
MRI	Modellers' Reference Initiative
MSDS	Material Safety Data Sheet
NES	Northern European user group of UBL
OAGi	Open Applications Group
OASIS/UBL	Universal Business Language Technical Committee of the Organization for the Advancement of Structured Information Standards
ODP	Open Development Process
QDT	Qualified Data Type
REA	Resource Event Agent
RSM	Requirements Specification Mapping
SDO	Standards development organization
STAR	Standards for Technology in Automotive Retail
SWIFT	Society for Worldwide Interbank Financial Telecommunication
TBG	International Trade and Business Processes Group
TFIG	Trade Facilitation Implementation Guide
UBL-TSC	Universal Business Language Transport Sub-Committee

UCM	UN/CEFACT Context Methodology
UDT	Unqualified Data Type
UN/CEFACT	United Nations Centre for Trade Facilitation and Electronic Business
UNCITRAL	United Nations Commission on International Trade Law
UN/EDIFACT	United Nations Electronic Data Interchange for Administration, Commerce and Transport
UNeDocs	United Nations electronic Trade Documents
UNESCAP	United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific
UPCC	UML Profile for Core Components
XBRL GL	Extensible Business Reporting Language Global Ledger
XML	Extensible Markup Language
XML NDR	Extensible Markup Language Naming and Design Rules

Annex II

NUMBER OF PROJECTS BY KEY WORK AREA ACTIVITY OF THE UN/CEFACT PROGRAMME OF WORK 2008-2009

