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Item 4 of the provisional agenda

#### Activities of the Forum Management Group and the Permanent Groups

### Activities of the Forum Management Group and the Permanent Groups\*

#### Activities since the fifteenth session

Submitted by the Forum Management Group (FMG)

#### *Summary*

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 programme of work for 2010-2011. Details on the delivery of trade facilitation recommendations, electronic business standards, technical specifications and best practice, are given under section II.

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

## Contents

<i>Chapter</i>	<i>Paragraphs</i>	<i>Page</i>
I. Introduction.....	1-5	3
II. Meeting .....	6-16	3
A. 15 <sup>th</sup> UN/CEFACT Forum, Sapporo, Japan .....	11-12	3
B. 16 <sup>th</sup> UN/CEFACT Forum, Bangkok, Thailand .....	13	4
C. 17 <sup>th</sup> UN/CEFACT Forum, Geneva, Switzerland .....	14-16	4
III. Reports from the Permanent Groups .....	17-112	4
A. International Trade and Business Processes Group .....	17-85	4
B. Applied Technologies Group .....	86-89	12
C. Information Content Management Group .....	90-97	14
D. Legal Group .....	98-104	15
E. Techniques and Methodologies Group .....	105-112	16
Annex		
List of abbreviations .....		18

## **I. 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 2009-2010. 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 with the UN/CEFACT Plenary Bureau in an annual face-to-face session over three days in March and two days in June 2010, 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.

## **II. Meetings**

6. Forum meetings were held in Sapporo, Japan, in September/October 2009 and August/September 2010 in Geneva, Switzerland. The 16th Forum meeting which was to be held in Bangkok in April 2010 had to be cancelled. The 17th meeting will be held in Geneva 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 2010-2011 have been identified. This work will continue and the current project delivery process has been improved. The posting and tracking of UN/CEFACT projects on the website have continued to be updated regularly.
9. Work on the trade facilitation implementation guide and its capacity-building programme has continued. Some delays were encountered and the contract with the Swedish Development Agency re-negotiated during 2010. The first deliverables are now expected in 2011. This project is funded by the Government of Sweden.
10. During the period between the 15th and 16th 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. 15th Forum, Sapporo, Japan**

11. Some 185 experts from all over the world took part in the 15th UN/CEFACT Forum held in Sapporo, Japan from September to October 2009. The Forum was opened by Mr. Katsuyuki Ozaki, Director-General of the Hokkaido District of the Ministry of Land,

Infrastructure, Transport & Tourism. The Mayor of Sapporo, Mr. Fumio Ueda, also welcomed experts to the city of Sapporo.

12. A seminar on UN/CEFACT standards and recommendations was held jointly with JASTPRO (Japan Association for the Simplification of International Trade Procedures) during the Forum meeting and attended by 74 experts from the Asia/Pacific region.

## **B. 16th Forum, Bangkok, Thailand**

13. The 16th Forum was organized jointly with the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP) and planned to be held in April 2010. Due to the civil unrest in Bangkok at the time, the meeting had to be cancelled.

## **C. 17th Forum, Geneva, Switzerland**

14. The 17th Forum held in Geneva from 30 August to 3 September 2010, was attended by 180 experts. Mr. Andrey Vasilyev, Deputy Executive Secretary of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE), opened the Forum. He praised the strong level of participation in the Forum and noted the importance of UN/CEFACT's role as one of UNECE's key intergovernmental bodies in producing recommendations and standards with a global reach. He called for involvement by all member States in the work of UN/CEFACT and spoke of the importance of the UNECE secretariat's outreach work to developing and transition economies. He also emphasised the value of the ongoing cooperation between UNECE and the other regional commissions of the United Nations to support the implementation of trade facilitation and other relevant international standards.

15. A briefing session on UN/CEFACT and UNECE's trade facilitation and eBusiness standards development work held for diplomats from Geneva-based Missions was attended by around 70 participants.

16. A second briefing session for technical experts from transition and developing economies was attended by some 25 participants, including UN/CEFACT experts.

# **III. Reports from the Permanent Groups**

## **A. International Trade and Business Processes Group**

### **Group 1: Supply Chain**

17. 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.

18. TBG1 has put considerable effort into developing of a number of key messages used in the supply chain processes. Messages and process descriptions supporting Ordering, Delivery, Invoicing, Sourcing (electronic catalogues) have been published during 2010. Their development has required close collaboration with and contribution from stakeholders such as: GS1, OASIS (UBL Universal Business Language), Odette, BoostAero, EDIBuild, CEN and a number of public-sector representatives.

19. The European Commission (EC) eInvoicing Expert Group established in November 2007, recommended the adoption of the UN/CEFACT Cross Industry Invoice (CII V2.0) as

the standard for the European E-Invoicing Framework (EEI) in its final report in December 2009.

### **Group 3: Transport and Logistics**

20. Following the approval by the UN/CEFACT Plenary of the Business Requirements Specification (BRS) for International Forwarding and Multimodal Transport, TBG3 is working on the individual BRSs in the area of transport and forwarding, with the priorities being Transport Status Requesting & Reporting, Transport Instructions, Dangerous Goods Declaration and Waybill including Road CMR, Railroad CIM, and Maritime Bill of lading.

21. TBG3 submitted a proposal for a new project “Cargo Tracing and Tracking” to the TBG Steering Committee at the last UN/CEFACT Forum in Geneva.

22. TBG3 cooperates with a number of other business and governmental organizations: World Customs Organisation (WCO) (through TBG4) on WCO Data Model, UCR and GOVCBR, GS1 on the Transport Instruction, IATA on the Shipper’s Declaration for Dangerous Goods and on Cargo XML, International Maritime Organization (IMO) on Electronic FAL Forms.

23. TBG3 held three 1-week face-to-face meetings in 2010 to progress these works (Paris in February, Seoul in June and Paris in November). This represents a total of 20 days including the UN/CEFACT Forum and the teleconference calls.

24. TBG3 maintained a close liaison with ISO standards committees especially ISO TC204 dealing with ITS – Intelligent Transport Systems, and also TC8 Marine, TC104 Containers.

25. TBG3/ITIGG pursued work 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 EDIFACT and ebXML.

### **Group 4: Customs**

26. TBG4 (Customs) developed a new EDIFACT message in 2009 called GOVCBR or the Government Cross-Border Regulatory Message. This message is now under consideration for implementation by a few Customs administrations and international organizations. WCO has produced Message Implementation Guidelines for GOVCBR to meet the requirements of different scenarios for cross-border regulatory reporting. The work in the future will involve updating and strengthening GOVCBR to ensure its continued relevance as the key electronic messaging template for B2G (Business to Government) and G2B (Government to Business) regulatory reporting in international trade.

27. WCO/TBG4 is also updating the UN/EDIFACT PAXLST message to meet the latest requirements of Advance Passenger Information.

28. WCO/TBG4 has completed submission of the Core Components to the UN/CEFACT Core Component Library. WCO had prepared the submissions on the basis that UN/CEFACT Core Component Library did not include several data concepts from the WCO Data Model Version 3.0. As a result of this submission, around 300 entries in the library were affected. These include the addition of new Core Components to the library or modification of existing Core Components. The next step in the exercise of alignment between the Data Model Version 3.0 and the Core Component Library would include submission of Business Information Entities (BIEs). At this stage WCO faces the choice between the use of the latest specifications e.g. (CCTS Version 3.0) and the earlier (CCTS Version 2.01). This submission is part of the WCO work programme for 2010.

29. TBG4 is coordinating with the Transport Group (TBG3) on issues of common concern such as the ship-port interface, Intelligent Transport Systems and dangerous goods reporting. Maritime reporting TBG4 is working with TBG3 and TBG1 on developing concrete ways of promoting the use of WCO-UCR. TBG4 is also contributing to the recommendations on trade facilitation being developed by TBG15.

#### **Group 5: Finance**

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

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

32. 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. It also serves as a link for interaction to the financial standards development under ISO20022.

#### **Group 6: Architecture, Engineering & Construction**

33. The International Trade and Business Processes Group 6 (TBG6) has continued to develop and maintain UN/CEFACT standards and recommendations for public and private procurement. Working closely with TBG1 in order to secure coherence with the Supply Chain messages and with a common data library, TBG6 is hosting projects, not only for architecture, engineering and construction but also dealing with “Contract and Project Management” approach.

34. Four projects are actively ongoing, with different steps to date:

(a) **“Security for XML Messages and Documents”**: “Recommendation 37”, to be approved at the December Plenary, was adopted at the Geneva UN/CEFACT August Forum. This recommendation will allow guidance for exchanging interoperable signed digital evidence and, thus, foster secure electronic business across borders and organizations;

(b) **eTendering** was published, in version 1, in March 2008 including 20 UN XML Transactions allowing Calls for Tender and Bidding by electronic means. A new version for publication by the end of this year has been prepared, taking into account: feedback from real implementations; and developments, with TBG19, of eNotification transactions;

(c) **PSCPM (Project Schedule and Cost Performance Management)** was published, in version 1, in March 2008 including 10 UN XML Transactions allowing the monitoring of large projects using earned values metrics and detailed schedules; updates are ongoing in link with real implementations;

(d) **CFEM (Contract Financial Execution Management)** is now under way to publish a full set of UN/Standards. It will allow mastering the contract and payment transactions for any kind of project (public and private).

35. An important effort has been under way for more than a year, within TBG6 and in cooperation with other PGs, for preparing a new generation of UN/CEFACT standards in CCTS v3.0 and NDR v3.0. A software tool has been created and is being used by TBG6 members to develop processes and data models and to easily and automatically generate the XML Schemas conforming to NDR v3.0. A User Guide for standard developments in v3 has also been prepared.

36. Participation within TBG6 is quite high; 12 national delegations are involved in the projects, gathering experts from four regions (Pacific, North America, Africa and Europe) and from private (national EDI Communities) and public sectors (Prime Ministers' services, Ministries of Defence, Ministries of Post and Telecommunication, and Ministries of Construction).

#### **Group 8: Insurance**

37. TBG8's goal is to set up a common, harmonized insurance data dictionary, which will be used as input for the TBG17 harmonization process and as a reference dictionary within the insurance industry for developing data models, object class modes or message structures. It will be used as the basis for facilitation of interoperability within the global Insurance sector.

38. The group met at the Geneva Forum. They have worked on the P6 Project, on health insurance issues and had a meeting with TBG1 on the Cross Industry Invoice to find out how it can be usable for insurance. Further work will be done until the next Forum. At the end of the Forum, the P6 work was finalized. In total the P6 Project has submitted 2,400 Core Components supporting Motor Insurance, Property & Casualty Insurance and Health Insurance. The first 2,000 are part of the CCL 09B. The other 400 will go into CCL 10B. Three new projects are planned on Property & Casualty Claim, Commercial Insurance and Health Insurance.

39. For Health Insurance it is planned to build up a liaison with HL7 for the Health Care part of Health Insurance Information.

40. TBG8 and ACORD held during the Forum on 31 August an "Insurance Vision Day". The goal of the day was, to discuss global trends and their implications for the Insurance Industry, as well as what relevance this will have for process-, message- and data standards. The discussions were held through presentations, panel discussions, breakout sessions and interactive sessions with the whole audience. In total, there were 31 participants, TBG8 and 25 guests from the insurance industry. The guests were insurers, reinsurers, service providers and consultants.

#### **Group 9: Travel, Tourism & Leisure**

41. TBG9 (Travel, Tourism & Leisure) has a project named Small-scal Lodging House (SLH) Information Process. The first set of TBG9 schemas for requesting and receiving information on SLH was published as part of the CCL 07B. TBG9 worked out the second part of the BRS and core components for this project, which is the information for the actual products offered at an SLH. The second set of schemas for requesting and receiving travel product information on an SLH was published as part of the CCL09A. TBG9 will soon start the review of the third part of the project, which deals with the reservation of the products, and will finish it in 2011.

42. TBG9 has started the survey of the world SLH type lodging houses, finding that the Ryokan in Japan and China, the Ondol house in the Republic of Korea, the Auberge in France, the Parador in Spain, the Château Hotel in Germany and France, the Farm house in England, and Green Lodging House in Malaysia are some of them.

43. There was a discussion on destination travel information as a TBG9 new project to provide a project proposal at the earliest possible time under the leadership of the Republic of Korea.

44. TBG9 continues to review the data maintenance requests (DMR), including code requests.

45. TBG9 discussed to help set a Travel, Tourism & Leisure working group in AFACT and decided to propose this at the AFACT Yokohama plenary scheduled for the third quarter of 2010.

#### **Group 10: Healthcare**

46. 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 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.

47. 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**

48. 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 participated in its development.

49. This Group continues to feed the CCL with accounting and audit input that covers specific accounting domains. Chart of accounts message, ledger message, financial statements and many mandatory declarations using reporting message have been developed. At the same time a companion message named "Wrap" completes the set. It facilitates transmission of several accounting messages within a single sending.

50. The messages "Reporting", "Chart of Accounts", "Ledger" and "Accounting Message" have been developed and successively approved. They were intended to be part of CCL09B. They were finally postponed for technical reasons and after amendments they will be part of CCL10A.

51. Implementation of "Accounting Entry" highlighted that some needs were not covered and minor changes were requested. The updated version will be part of CCL10B; it contains elements enabling asset amortization processing.

52. CCL10B will include a new message from TBG12 business area: "Accounting Journal", which is the list of journals used by an entity.

53. Currently, TBG12 is preparing the submission of the "Trial Balance" message and Accounting "Bundle Collection" that is the vehicle for storage and retrieval of evidence originator document or voucher justifying accounting entries. It is expected to be part of CCL11A.

54. A last message, "Lexical Nomenclature" is scheduled for 2011, provided that the new "Three country rule" can be fulfilled.

#### **Group 13: Environment**

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

56. Core Components and Business Information Entities related to transboundary movements of waste, based on the Basel Convention, were submitted by TBG13 and published within CCL 09A. So far, there has been limited progress with the waste



movement data-exchange implementation. Therefore TBG13 plans on increasing implementation activities by supporting the setup of an online message validation and testing site. The Group also plans to extend the models with waste certificate content and additional content of so-called notifications, i.e. applications for prior consent to transboundary movements of waste.

57. TBG1 had talks with TBG13 on REACH, the project dealing with the Registration, Evaluation, Authorisation and Restriction of Chemical substances. TBG13 will contribute to this project.

58. David Schwarz of the United States Environmental Protection Agency has retired and hence is no longer available to chair TBG13. Franz Mochty of the Austrian Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management and Norbert Pfaffinger of the Australian Federal Environment Agency offered to step in, as Vice Chair and Chair respectively. As TBG13 will be promoted, it is envisioned that there will be nominations for TBG13 positions from additional countries in the near future.

#### **Group 14: Business Process Analysis**

59. International Trade and Business Processes Group 14 (TBG14) is a cross-domain group responsible for analysing and harmonizing business processes. Therefore, TBG14 has been active in several TBG projects to create UMM (UN/CEFACT Modelling Methodology)-compliant process models for each project as part of the deliverables.

60. These UMM models created in cooperation with TBG1, TBG3, TBG4, TBG5, TBG6, TBG12, and TBG13 are gathered and put into context within the Project P059 “International Supply Chain Reference Model”, where TBG14 delivered version 2010A (August 2010) of the Buy-Ship-Pay Model which is also known as the “International Supply Chain Reference Model” (ISCM). Deliverables are available via TBG’s Confluence WebSite<sup>1</sup>.

61. This model consists of detailed descriptions of about 35 trade-related key processes such as Quotation, Tendering, Catalogue, Ordering, Scheduling, Invoicing. The related Modeling Guidelines explains how the Model was developed and shows the use and its benefit for the stakeholders (i.e. reuse of existing models in BPA (Business Process Analysis) and BPM (BP Modeling) efforts, and to position new process models within the overall Buy-Ship-Pay Reference Model).

62. The presentation of version 2010A in Geneva showed that almost all trade-related projects within UN/CEFACT are now covered within the model. The following actions were discussed: establishing the ISCM/BSP Model as an UN/CEFACT standard and developing recommendations to use the model as a trade facilitating tool.

63. 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. This effort, P081 “International Trade Facilitation Model”, was created and is still awaiting FMG approval.

64. TBG14 had been actively participating in the Business Requirement Specification / Requirements Specifications Mapping (BRS/RSM) team and the “context” discussion. It contributed to the new version of the BRS to support business process modeling with UMM more directly. Regarding the ongoing “context” discussion, TBG14 strongly recommend

<sup>1</sup> <http://www1.unece.org/cefact/platform/display/TBG/International+Supply+Chain+Reference+Model>

using the structure and information from the business process model to derive context values for Business Information (documents) and their data elements.

65. At the 17th UN/CEFACT Forum in Geneva, TBG14 organized the UN/CEFACT architecture advisory group meeting “CSDAT”, which finished the work on six out of ten basic architecture-related questions and the recommendation to FMG to set up project groups to prepare a consensual decision for the remaining questions.

### **Group 15: International Trade Procedures**

#### **Work programme and new recommendation projects**

66. The International Trade Procedures Working Group TBG 15 continuously performs environmental scanning in order to understand and describe the developments in trade facilitation in member countries and various international organizations. The results of this scanning is translated into the work programme, first established at the Forum in Sapporo in October 2009, and the work programme is being continuously updated.

67. Following up on the increased focus on consultations on trade facilitation, not least in the context of the WTO negotiations on trade facilitation, the Group has launched a project preparing a Recommendation on Consultation Models. Focusing on how the participating parties can prepare for consultations, this project complements the existing Recommendation 4 National Trade Facilitation Bodies. The group has also chosen to continue its series on Single Window Recommendations with a project on a recommendation on Single Window Interoperability. This recommendation will go beyond the functions of a National Single Window, focusing on how various single windows can exchange information. This is in support of the emerging developments in South-East Asia countries, the European Union and other regions.

#### **Recommendations completed and presented to the Plenary**

68. TBG 15 has during the last year completed and updated the two recommendations in its Single Window suite - Recommendation 34 Data Simplification and Standardization for International Trade and Recommendation 35 Establishing a Legal Framework for an International Trade Single Window. Recommendation 35 has been submitted for intersessional approval and was adopted on 8 October 2010. Recommendation 34 has been presented to this Plenary session for approval. The annex to Recommendation 6 Invoice Layout Key for International Trade accommodating e-invoicing has already been presented to the Plenary and constitutes an important adaptation of Recommendation 6 to the needs of today's businesses.

#### **Other work items**

69. The International Trade Procedures Working Group has been approached by the International Chamber of Commerce in order to update Recommendation 5, Abbreviations of INCOTERMS, to conform to the new INCOTERMS 2010. The Group is also preparing an updated version of Recommendation 12, Measures to Facilitate Maritime Transport Documents procedures.

### **Group 16: Entry Point**

70. The Entry Point still maintains the official website for the International Trade and Business Group.

71. TBG16 has developed a Change Request (CR) procedure for updates to the UN/CEFACT XML deliverables.

72. TBG16 has participated in the TBG Workflow Team which supports the FPT mainly to update the UN/CEFACT Forum Operating Procedures. TBG16 has also participated in the UN/CEFACT Standard Development Advisory Team which has provided its conclusions to the FMG.

### **Group 17: Harmonization**

73. 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 Government of the United States and WCO.

74. 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.

75. 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 Government of the United States, RosettaNet and for travel products;

(c) CCL 09B contains Supply Chain Ordering, Despatch Advice, and eCatalogue, IATA eFreight Dangerous Goods, CITES<sup>2</sup>/ASYCUDA Import/Export, Market Survey, four Accounting submissions, Construction Valuation Breakdown and eTendering, and US Government Acquisitions and Performance Scheduling update.

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

### **Group 18: Agriculture**

77. TBG "Agriculture" is working on several business domains:

(a) ANIMAL: Cattle Registration Information Exchange; Livestock Life Record (in progress), Fish Traceability (in progress), Collaboration with CITES;

(b) CROPS: Crop Data Sheet Message (CCL08B), Agronomical Observation Report (in progress);

(c) eCERTIFICATION: eCERT Message (CCL08B) and its implementation Guide,

(d) ACCOUNTING MANAGEMENT: Financial Reporting (CCL10A) and Financial Accounting (CCL10A) in joint project with TBG 1;

(e) TRANSVERSE PROJECTS: Electronic Data Exchange Proxy (10A)

<sup>2</sup>

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

78. 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”.

79. Agriculture is a specific domain and a large number of projects of messages will be submitted in the next few years.

80. Six countries attend the TBG 18 meetings (Australia, Brazil, Canada, France, New Zealand, The Netherlands) and new collaboration has been set up this year with CITES.

81. The group has committed to participating in the weekly conference calls of the TBG17 Harmonization work group.

82. 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.

#### **Group 19: e-Government**

83. TBG19 came to an agreement with TBG6 on eNotification following a gap analysis between this project and eTendering. This initiative launched by the eGovernment group will be a sub-project of eTendering and is to be managed jointly between TBG6 and TBG19.

84. A new project on legal notice publication was launched. This project covers the process of notices publication when it is compulsory for individuals, companies or organizations to communicate to the general public a given information in a defined format or media. This communication includes two elements: the information to be delivered and the means through which it is made public. The targeted audience of the publication is undetermined and anonymous. The project could be divided into sub-projects dependent upon requirements. Each sub-project may deal with a specific area of legal notice publication (LNP). The first sub-project is to cover LNP in the Public Procurement domain. Further sub-projects for other domains of legal notice publication could follow as demanded.

85. The eArchiving and eProcurement projects came to a standstill due to lack of resources. Their future is to be decided before the next Forum. New project ideas were brought up during the Geneva Forum, namely in the field of open data sharing between and within countries.

### **B. Applied Technologies Group**

86. The Applied Technologies Group (ATG) continues to be responsible for syntax solutions and direct support to TBG for all aspects of syntax-specific issues. In addition to the Geneva Forum, ATG also met face-to-face in January in Vienna and in June in Oslo. ATG groups regularly hold scheduled weekly calls to advance their work.

87. ATG has two group-level projects – Data Type Catalogue and Standard Business Document Header:

(a) Data Type Catalogue – The DTC is in ODP8 Maintenance. Two Data Maintenance Requests have been received and are in internal review;

(b) Standard Business Document Header – The SDBH project is updating the previously released version to include concepts around Cloud Computing that are considered vital by many stakeholder countries. The project is currently in ODP Step 3, Initial Draft Preparation.

**ATG1**

88. ATG1 is responsible for EDIFACT syntax issues. Its primary responsibility is processing Data Maintenance Requests (DMRs) for EDIFACT releases. During the last year, ATG1 has processed the following:

- (a) D010A DMRs:
  - (i) 14 approved;
  - (ii) 2 approved with changes;
  - (iii) 6 postponed;
  - (iv) 1 rejected.
- (b) D10B DMRs:
  - (i) 20 approved;
  - (ii) 10 approved with changes;
  - (iii) 15 postponed.

**ATG2**

89. ATG2 is responsible for XML syntax issues. It has accomplished the following:

- (a) Completed production and audit of a total of 108 XML schemas in support of D09A, 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 09A library of BIEs;
  - (iii) Unqualified Data Type Schema (1), containing the XML expression of all CCTS- conformant Unqualified DataTypes. This is an update of the schema published with the release of the Naming and Design Rules (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 09A;
  - (v) Standard Code List Schema (64). 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 Type Schema, Qualified Data Type Schema and business process schemas.
- (b) Completed production and audit of a total of 136 XML schemas in support of D09B, including:
  - (i) Business Process Schema (56), supporting the various approved and audited BRS/RSMs;
  - (ii) Common Reusable Schema (1), containing XML expressions of the CCL 09B 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 09B;

(v) Standard Code List Schema (77). 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 Type Schema, Qualified Data Type Schema and business process schemas.

(c) Released version 3.0 of the XML NDR as a UN/CEFACT Technical Specification (ODP step 7). This specification is aligned with CCTS 3.0, as well as containing a converged set of XML NDR Schemas that will allow other standards-development organizations to transition from their own standards to those of UN/CEFACT. Along with the other Methodology specifications – 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;

(d) Continues working on XML Representation of Core Components specification and associated XML schemas. Although remaining at ODP Step 4, significant progress has been achieved. This project is defining an alternative XML-based format for the representation of Core Components which 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 is expected to lead to increased vendor support for CCTS.

## **C. Information Content Management Group**

90. The last year, the ICG has been severely hit by the economic downturn, with a large number of the group having to leave. This has left it with a much reduced membership but with the same amount of work to carry out. Owing to this, the Registry work has been left in the hands of the eBGT group to complete.

91. The ICG is still working on the UN/CEFACT Code lists in XML Genericcode but at a much slower rate.

92. It has managed to maintain its support concerning the United Nations Recommendations related to codes and has completed its regular maintenance activities for those requiring evolution.

93. It has completed the audit of the UN/CEFACT Core Component Library D.09B and is currently auditing the D.10A library. It has also audited the UN/CEFACT Schemas version D.08B and D.09A and D.09B.

94. It audited the following Requirements Specification Mapping (RSM) documents and their associated schemas:

Cross Industry Delivery Process – TBG1

Cross Industry Market Service Information – TBG1

Cross Industry Order – TBG1

Cross Industry Catalogue – TBG1

Accounting Message – TBG12

Financial Reporting – TBG12

Chart of Accounts – TBG12

## Corrigendum of the Cross Industry Invoice (CII) – TBG1

## Project Schedule and Cost Performance Management Revision – TBG6.

95. As part of the regular cycle of updates, the ICG has also met its target in completing a formal audit of the D.09A, D.09B and D.10A UN/EDIFACT Directories.

96. The ICG has produced updates to the following key United Nations Recommendations, which are being presented to the Plenary for noting: Recommendation 20 - Units of Measure (Revision 7); Recommendation 21 - Codes for Passengers, Types of Cargo, Packages and Packaging Materials (with Complementary Codes for Package Name) (Revision 8.1); Recommendation 23 - Freight cost codes (Revision 7) and Recommendation 28 - Codes for types of means of transport (Revision 3).

97. The ICG has also begun to examine Recommendation 16 UN/LOCODEs with a view to bringing its documentation up to date and improving the control of the codes submitted. A project plan for this is being prepared.

## D. Legal Group

98. The mission of the Legal Group, reflected in its terms of reference, is to provide legal guidance and counsel for the programmes of UN/CEFACT in a variety of areas related to the intersections of law and technology. It has done this over the past year by working closely with and participating regularly with 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. The Legal Group has also maintained working relationships with other key United Nations and intergovernmental organizations working in the law and technology area related to the work of UN/CEFACT.

99. The Legal Group has analysed current legal issues within the mission and objectives of UN/CEFACT, identified legal constraints that might adversely affect the UN/CEFACT mission, and provided advice and counsel on these issues. Deliverables have included direct assistance and legal drafting for legally oriented trade facilitation and electronic business recommendations, as well as legal input that seeks to assist other Permanent Groups, the FMG and the UN/CEFACT Bureau in advancing global commerce.

100. The Legal Group has continued its work on Recommendation 35 on the Legal Framework for International Trade Single Window, for which the Group had provided the legal drafting and assistance to TBG15. Recommendation 35 was submitted for consideration to the 2009 Plenary session. At the Plenary, some concerns were raised regarding its legal vetting with the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL), the core United Nations body responsible for international trade law. As a result of its close ties to UNCITRAL, the Legal Group, working with the UNECE secretariat, was able to assuage these concerns by showing that UNCITRAL had been involved in reviewing Recommendation 35 and by assisting in making further improvements to this international text.

101. The Legal Group has also continued its work with the World Customs Organization (WCO) and the WCO-UNCITRAL Joint Legal Task Force (JLTF) on the International Single Window. The JLTF is building on the work done by the Legal Group on Recommendation 35 by developing more legal research and analysis on many of the legal issues raised in this Recommendation. Members of the Legal Group participated in the weeklong JLTF meeting held last February in Brussels and have continued to be closely involved in the intersessional work of the JLTF. At the UNCITRAL Plenary session in June/July 2010, UNCITRAL reviewed the work of the JLTF to date and approved an

International Colloquium in which the Legal Group will participate. The Colloquium will explore a number of important legal issues related to the international Single Window in February 2011 at the United Nations Headquarters in New York. Numerous UNCITRAL delegations expressed strong and continuing support for this effort.

102. After its participation in a UNECE Single Window Workshop for the Eurasian Economic Community (EurAsEC) (St. Petersburg - November 2009), members of the Legal Group met with representatives of the EurAsEC Secretariat in February and continued discussions on Single Window legal issues. The Legal Group has expressed its willingness to provide additional support to the EurAsEC Secretariat in its work with EurAsEC as well as other groups in this area.

103. Although it became involved at a late stage in the development process, the Legal Group provided advice on the legal issues that could possibly arise in Recommendation 37 - Signed Digital Evidence Interoperability Recommendation. It also facilitated the involvement of UNCITRAL and others from the international legal community in Step 5 of the ODP for Recommendation 37, with a view towards getting a fuller legal vetting of this Recommendation.

104. Finally, the Legal Group has provided counsel to the Bureau at several meetings regarding how to more fully assure the examination of legal issues related to the work of UN/CEFACT. This has included consideration of various organizational arrangements that are actively being considered by the Bureau to enhance the effectiveness of UN/CEFACT in its ongoing mission.

## **E. Techniques and Methodologies Group**

105. The TMG met at the Forum in Geneva in August/September 2010. In January 2010 a TMG face-to-face meeting took place in Vienna. Furthermore, the Core Components Working Group (CCWG) met in Oslo in June 2010.

106. The Core Components Working Group (CCWG) covers three major projects: the Core Components Technical Specification (CCTS) 3.0, the UN/CEFACT Context Methodology (UCM), and the UML Profile for Core Components (UPCC).

107. The Core Components Technical Specification (CCTS) 3.0 underwent a successful implementation verification already before the UN/CEFACT plenary in 2009 and the success was presented at last year's plenary. However, since the 2009 report did not include the successful completion of CCTS in writing, we include this paragraph in this year's report.

108. 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 specific data objects. This methodology has three key parts – context value organization, an expression grammar, and a "Contextualized" classifier. All three parts are now specified in an internal draft and over 200 internal team comments have been addressed, with some final internal team comments being discussed. UCM is expected to move to ODP 5 later this year after another internal comment session.

109. 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 in order to be aligned with the Core Component Technical Specification 3.0 (CCTS), on which the UPCC 3 is based on. The project is currently in ODP step 5 and undergoing a second review cycle and is expected to move to ODP6 by the end of 2010.



110. The main work item of the Business Process Working Group (BPWG) is the next version of UN/CEFACT's modeling methodology, i.e. UMM 2.0. The current draft of the UMM 2.0 foundation module and the draft of the UMM 2.0 base module is in ODP step 6 "Implementation Verification".

111. The team has already received two successful reports about tool implementations. There is also a successful report about applying UMM in the course of a project. Another project is to deliver implementation verification in the near future. We expect to move to ODP 7 by the end of 2010. Another work item of the BPWG is a specialization module to extend the UMM called Resource Event Agent (REA) 1.0. The project team is about to deliver first internal draft (ODP 4).

112. The eBusiness Architecture working group (eBAWG) has been closed, since the development of an UN/CEFACT eBusiness Architecture is continued as a part of the UN/CEFACT standards development framework, which is a collaborative effort of members of all permanent groups.

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## Annex

### List of abbreviations

ABIE	Aggregate Business Information Entities
ACC	Aggregate Core Component
ACORD	Global Insurance Standards
AEC	Architecture, Engineering and Construction
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

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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
EurAsEC	Eurasian Economic Community
F2F	Face-to-face meeting
FMG	UN/CEFACT Forum Management Group
HoD	Head of Delegation
IATA	International Air Transport Association
ICC	International Chamber of Commerce
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
LNP	Legal Notice Publication
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
UMM	UN/CEFACT Modelling Methodology

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
WCO	World Customs Organization
XBRL GL	Extensible Business Reporting Language Global Ledger
XML	Extensible Markup Language
XML NDR	Extensible Markup Language Naming and Design Rules

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