

**UN ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL (ECOSOC)
DECISION TO APPROVE RECOMMENDATION 25 ON UN/EDIFACT AS
AN INTERNATIONAL UN RECOMMENDATION**

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REGIONAL COOPERATION

Regional cooperation in the economic, social and related fields

Report of the Secretary-General

Addendum

Matters calling for action by the Economic and Social Council or brought to its attention

SUMMARY

The present report contains resolutions and decisions adopted at the recent sessions of the regional commissions that call for action by the Economic and Social Council or are to be brought to its attention. The report covers the period between the Council's substantive sessions of 1996 and 1997. During the first half of 1997, four of the five regional commissions held their regular sessions: the Economic Commission for Europe held its fifty-second session at Geneva from 21 to 24 April; the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific held its fifty-third session at Bangkok from 23 to 30 April; the Economic Commission for Africa held the thirty-second session of the Commission and twenty-third meeting of its Conference of Ministers at Addis Ababa from 5 to 8 May, and the eighteenth meeting of the Technical Preparatory Committee of the Whole from 28 April to 2 May; and the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia held its nineteenth session at Beirut from 5 to 8 May. The Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, which holds its sessions on a biennial basis, did not meet in 1997; however, its Committee of the Whole met in New York on 5 and 6 June.

* E/1997/100.

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Endorsement of ECE Recommendation 25, "Use of the
UN/EDIFACT Standard"

6. The United Nations Electronic Data Interchange for Administration, Commerce and Transport (UN/EDIFACT) is the only international standard for electronic data interchange. It is developed and maintained by technical experts from both the private and public sectors within and outside the ECE region. UN/EDIFACT is supported by a memorandum of understanding with the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) and has been endorsed for use by a number of important international organizations such as the World Customs Organization (WCO), the International Air Transport Association (IATA), the Society for Worldwide Interbank Financial Telecommunication (SWIFT) and the International Article Numbering Association (EAN).

7. During its September 1995 session, the ECE Working Party on Facilitation of International Trade Procedures, which was recently transformed by the Commission into the Centre for Facilitation of Procedures and Practices in Administration, Commerce and Transport (CEFACT), adopted Recommendation 25 on the use of the UN/EDIFACT Standard. The Recommendation was subsequently adopted by the Committee on the Development of Trade. At the request of the latter, the Commission, in its decision B (52), endorsed the Recommendation and recommended that the Economic and Social Council also endorse it.

8. In compliance with that decision, it is proposed that the Economic and Social Council adopt the following decision:

DRAFT DECISION II

Economic Commission for Europe Recommendation 25,
"Use of the UN/EDIFACT Standard"

The Economic and Social Council, taking note of the decision of the Committee on the Development of Trade³ and decision B (52) of the Economic Commission for Europe on the UN/EDIFACT Standard, decides to endorse Commission Recommendation 25, "Use of the UN/EDIFACT Standard"⁴ as an international United Nations recommendation.

United Nations Framework Classification for Reserves/Resources:
Solid Fuels and Mineral Commodities

9. An international framework classification for reserves/resources of solid fuels and mineral commodities was recently completed under the auspices of the ECE Working Party on Coal. Its purpose was to create an instrument that would permit reserves/resources to be classified on an internationally consistent and uniform basis using market economy criteria.

³ ECE/TRADE/210, para. 23.

⁴ ECE/TRADE/207.