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COMMITTEE FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND ENTERPRISE DEVELOPMENT

Centre for the Facilitation of Procedures and Practices
for Administration, Commerce and Transport (CEFACT)

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CEFACT PRIORITIES: SUMMARY SUBMITTED TO THE
JUNE 1998 SESSION OF THE CTIED

As requested by the Committee for Trade, Enterprise and Industry Development (CTIED), the CSG submitted this summary of CEFACT's work programme priorities to the June 1998 session of the CTIED. This document was developed in consultation with the chairs of the permanent working groups. It is for information and noting.

* The present document is reproduced in the form in which it was received by the secretariat.

CEFACT list of priorities

CEFACT's agreed direction is summarized in the following text:

Making global commerce happen is a real challenge. It requires open and effective business and administrative processes which are the goal of UN/CEFACT. Such processes, combined with information technology, provide substantial benefits to enterprises and governments alike. Some of these benefits are:

- simplified procedures;
- integrated supply chains;
- effective trading communities;
- reduced cycle times;
- streamlined business; and
- lower costs.

To achieve these goals CEFACT has developed a detailed, prioritized work programme covering all of its permanent and ad hoc working groups. This 24 page document is available from the secretariat and will be presented for final approval at CEFACT's next session in September 1998.

To meet the requirements of the CTIED for a high level summary of CEFACT's priorities, the CEFACT Steering Group has identified, based upon the above work programme, the following set of priorities which are presented at the level of CEFACT and its permanent working groups.

CEFACT level

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|---------|---|
| Higher: | Promotion of CEFACT and the implementation of its Recommendations and standards |
| Medium: | Develop and maintain working relationships with other international organizations such as the World Trade Organization (WTO), the International Organization for Standardization (ISO), the World Customs Organizations (WCO) and the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD). |
| Lower: | Strengthening of effective cooperation and information exchange between the UN regional commissions as well as with UNCTAD and UNCITRAL. |

Permanent Working group level

International Trade Procedures Working Group (ITPWG)

- Higher: Continue the revision and development of Recommendations, particularly revisions of Recommendations 18 (Facilitation measures related to international trade procedures) and 4 (National trade facilitation organs) as well as a new Recommendation on audit-based controls.
- Medium: Continue development of the International Trade Transaction (ITT) model.
- Lower: Work on the revision of recommendations 8 (Unique Identification Code Methodology), 12 (Measures to facilitate maritime transport documents procedures) and 15 (Simpler Shipping Marks).

Business Analysis Working Group (BAWG)

- Higher: Analyse the Public Procurement Process as a first step in the development of a methodology for the analysis of other business processes.
- Medium: Work with the Techniques and Methodologies Working Group (TMWG) to implement modelling in its analysis work.
- Lower: Develop, in the context of CEFACT, value chain analysis.

Techniques and Methodologies Working Group (TMWG)

- Higher: Specify and make recommendations for a modelling technique, methodology and associated procedures for CEFACT
- Medium: Implementation plan for the modelling technique selected by CEFACT for the BAWG.
- Lower: Define the next generation of EDI

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UN/EDIFACT Working Group (EWG)

- Higher: Continue to develop and maintain UN/EDIFACT as a key component of electronic commerce and as a key element in

the integration of electronic commerce with internal corporate systems and data.

Medium: Improve UN/EDIFACT by automating its maintenance process as well as by defining, developing and implementing new working tools.

Lower: Undertake a survey of the implementation of UN/EDIFACT.

Codes Working Group (CDWG)

Higher: Develop proposals for a consistent and cohesive maintenance process for all code lists under the responsibility of CEFACCT.

Medium: Take steps to improve the maintenance of CEFACCT code lists, in particular, the UN location code list (UN/LOCODE) and the codes in the UN Trade Data Elements Directory (UNTDDED).

Lower: Publication of CEFACCT code lists on the Internet.

Legal Working Group (LWG)

Higher: Develop practical legal guidelines and Recommendations to assist the advancement of electronic commerce.

Medium: Support existing Recommendations and the work of other CEFACCT groups.

Lower: Cooperate with the legal work of other international bodies in the field of electronic commerce.

Ad hoc Working Groups

In addition to the above permanent working groups, there are two ad hoc working groups: one working on electronic commerce and the other on SIMPL-EDI, both are expected to finish their work in the next 12 months. The electronic commerce group will produce an information paper placing CEFACT's work in context with the main policy developments in this area, worldwide. The SIMPL-EDI group will identify how to incorporate elements into the work programme which are particularly aimed at bringing to SMEs the benefits of simple standard electronic messages based on simple trading procedures.
