



Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
8 June 2015

Original: English

Economic Commission for Europe

Steering Committee on Trade Capacity and Standards

First session

31 August-2 September 2015

Item 1 of the provisional agenda

Adoption of the agenda

Annotated provisional agenda* **

Palais des Nations, Geneva, room IX,

starting at 3.00 p.m. on Monday 31 August 2015

Note by the Secretariat

The Steering Committee on Trade Capacity and Standards was established by the Executive Committee (EXCOM) of UNECE on 10 February 2015 pursuant to its decision on the establishment and terms of reference of the UNECE Steering Committee on Trade Capacity and Standards (ECE/EX/22).

The first session of the Steering Committee on Trade Capacity and Standards will be followed on 2 September 2015 by a one-day conference on “Unlocking Economic Potential for Sustainable Development – The Role of Norms, Standards and Good Practices,” which will be jointly organized with Subprogramme 4 on Economic Cooperation and Integration. The conference agenda can be found at: <http://www.unece.org/trade/meetings.html#/>

* Delegates attending meetings at the Palais des Nations should register online at: <https://www2.unece.org/uncdb/app/ext/meeting-registration?id=A00QpT>. Prior to the session, delegates are requested to present themselves with a valid identification card/passport at the Pass and Identification Unit of the UNOG Security and Safety Section, located at the Pregny Gate, Avenue de la Paix 8-14 for the issuance of an identification badge. There will not be hard copies of the meeting documents. Delegates are requested to bring their own documents to the meeting; these are available in English, French and Russian on: <http://www.unece.org/trade/meetings.html#/0/0/0/19836/12631> Additional information for delegates, including a map of the premises, is available on <http://www.unece.org/meetings/practical.html>.

** Documents for the newly formed “Steering Committee on Trade Capacity and Standards” will be issued with the symbol ECE/CTCS. Documents for the predecessor Committee on Trade were issued with the symbol ECE/TRADE/C.

I. Provisional agenda

1. Adoption of the agenda
2. Election of officers

A. General segment

3. Matters rising from the 66th session of the UNECE Commission and EXCOM meetings
4. Programme of work
 - (a) Updates from subsidiary bodies
 - (b) Status of implementation of the 2014-2015 programme of work
 - (c) Capacity-building and technical assistance activities
 - (d) Programme of work 2016-2017
 - (e) Plan for inter sessional implementation of the programme of work
5. Reports from other UNECE bodies and international organizations on related work and potential areas for collaboration with the Steering Committee on Trade Capacity and Standards.

B. High-level segment: Removing regulatory and procedural barriers to trade in the UNECE region

6. Supporting the removal of regulatory and procedural barriers to trade
 - (a) Kyrgyzstan: Findings and recommendations
 - (b) Ongoing work
7. Country follow-up to UNECE studies on regulatory barriers and procedural barriers to trade

C. Continuation of the general segment

8. Stakeholder needs and priorities
9. Information on the Conference on Unlocking Economic Potential for Sustainable Development – The Role of Norms, Standards and Good Practices
10. Other business
11. Adoption of report

II. Annotations

Item 1. Adoption of the agenda

1. Delegates are invited to adopt the provisional agenda.

<i>Title of document</i>	<i>Document symbol</i>	<i>For information/decision</i>
Annotated provisional agenda	ECE/CTCS/2015/1	Decision

Item 2. Election of officers

A. General segment

Item 3. Matters rising from the 66th session of the UNECE Commission and EXCOM meetings

2. Under this item, the secretariat will report on matters arising from the 66th session of the Economic Commission for Europe of April 2015 and the EXCOM 2014 meetings.

3. Delegates will be invited to discuss the development of guidelines and procedures for the Steering Committee on Trade Capacity and Standards. The guidelines and procedures of the Committee on Trade could be used as a reference document for these discussions.

<i>Title of document</i>	<i>Document symbol</i>	<i>For information/decision</i>
Executive Committee Seventy-fifth Meeting: Chairman's Conclusions	ECE/EX/22	Information
Steering Committee on Trade Capacity and Standards: Terms of Reference	ECE/CTCS/2015/3	Information
Guidelines and procedures of the Committee on Trade	ECE/TRADE/C/2011/13	Discussion

Item 4. Programme of work

- (a) Updates from subsidiary bodies

Each subsidiary body will report on its priorities, completed activities and future plans. The subsidiary bodies will also introduce decisions that need to be considered by the Steering Committee. Delegates will be invited to endorse the reports by the subsidiary bodies.

<i>Title of document</i>	<i>Document symbol</i>	<i>For information/decision</i>
Report of the Working Party on Regulatory Cooperation and Standardization Policies on its twenty-fourth session	ECE/TRADE/C/WP.6/2014/2	Decision
Report of the Working Party on Agricultural Quality Standards on its seventieth session	ECE/TRADE/C/WP.7/2014/2	Decision
Geneva Understanding	ECE/CTCS/2015/4	Decision

(b) Status of implementation of the 2014-2015 programme of work

The delegates will discuss the status of the implementation of the 2014-2015 programme of work.

<i>Title of document</i>	<i>Document symbol</i>	<i>For information/decision</i>
Status of implementation of the 2014-2015 programme of work	ECE/CTCS/2015/5	Decision

(c) Capacity-building and technical assistance activities

Delegates will be invited to endorse the relevant sections of the Trade Subprogramme's report on capacity-building and technical assistance activities for 2014-2015. Sections implemented by the United Nations Centre for Trade Facilitation and Electronic Business (UN/CEFACT) are for information only.

<i>Title of document</i>	<i>Document symbol</i>	<i>For information/decision</i>
Report on capacity-building and technical assistance activities	ECE/CTCS/2015/6	Decision

(d) Programme of work 2016-2017

Delegates will be invited to consider the relevant sections of the Trade Subprogramme's work programme for the biennium 2016-2017 and recommend them to the Executive Committee for approval. Activities and outputs implemented by UN/CEFACT are for information only.

<i>Title of document</i>	<i>Document symbol</i>	<i>For information/decision</i>
Draft programme of work of the trade subprogramme for 2016-2017	ECE/CTCS/2015/7	Decision

(e) Plan for inter sessional implementation of the programme of work

The implementation plan for relevant activities covered by the Steering Committee, to be undertaken between the 2015 and 2016 annual sessions, will be presented for approval.

<i>Title of document</i>	<i>Document symbol</i>	<i>For information/decision</i>
Plan for inter sessional implementation of the programme of work	ECE/CTCS/2015/8	Decision

Item 5. Reports from other UNECE bodies and international organizations on related work and potential areas for collaboration with the Steering Committee on Trade Capacity and Standards

4. Delegates will be briefed about activities of potential interest undertaken by UN/CEFACT and the Committee on Innovation, Competitiveness and Public-Private Partnerships.

5. The secretariat will also report on ongoing collaboration with other international organisations.

6. Representatives from other international organizations will be invited to highlight areas for potential cooperation with the Steering Committee on Trade Capacity and Standards as well as current and future activities of relevance.

7. A discussion will take place on potential areas for collaboration between the Steering Committee and other UNECE bodies and international organisations.

<i>Title of document</i>	<i>Document symbol</i>	<i>For information/decision</i>
Report of the Centre for Trade Facilitation and Electronic Business on its twenty-first Plenary session and twenty-fifth Forum	ECE/TRADE/C/CEFACT/2015/2	Information
Programme of work 2016-2017: Economic Cooperation and Integration	ECE/CECI/2015/8	Information
Cooperation with other UNECE bodies and other organizations	ECE/CTCS/2015/9	Decision

B. High-level segment: Removing regulatory and procedural barriers to trade in the UNECE region

8. The terms of reference of the Steering Committee on Trade Capacity and Standards stipulates that the Steering Committee shall:

Review the results of demand-driven studies (financed by extra budgetary resources) that identify procedural and regulatory barriers to trade in member States in coordination and cooperation with other relevant international organizations; Capacity building and technical assistance activities to help countries in the region to implement standards developed under the subprogramme may be decided in accordance with point 18(a) of Commission Decision A(65) Item 3.

9. This high-level segment is organized with the aim of carrying out the above function.

Item 6. Supporting the removal of regulatory and procedural barriers to trade

(a) Kyrgyzstan: Findings and recommendations

Delegates will be briefed about the findings of the UNECE assessment study on regulatory and procedural barriers to trade in Kyrgyzstan. Using the UNECE evaluation methodology, the study captures both behind and at-the-border regulatory and procedural barriers to trade, highlights their impact on transaction costs (time and financial wise) and provides detailed recommendations, including for supporting joint-action at a regional level.

Delegates will be invited to discuss the recommendations emerging from the study and their implication for regional cooperation, including areas for possible joint-action and coordination with trade and development partners.

<i>Title of document</i>	<i>Document symbol</i>	<i>For information/decision</i>
Regulatory and procedural barriers to trade in Kyrgyzstan: Needs assessment	ECE/TRADE/412	Information
UNECE study on regulatory and procedural barriers to trade in Kyrgyzstan : follow up and policy implications	ECE/CTCS/2015/10	Decision

(b) On-going work

Delegates will be briefed on preparations underway for carrying out studies on regulatory and procedural barriers to trade in Albania and Moldova, pursuant to requests by these Governments.

Item 7. Country follow-up to UNECE studies on regulatory and procedural barriers to trade

10. Delegates from countries where UNECE studies on regulatory and procedural barriers to trade have been completed will inform the Steering Committee on ongoing and planned follow-up activities, particularly those related to implementing the recommendations emerging from the studies. During this session, the Steering Committee will be briefed on follow-up activities by Belarus, Kazakhstan and Tajikistan.

<i>Title of document</i>	<i>Document symbol</i>	<i>For information/decision</i>
Belarus: follow up activities	ECE/CTCS/2015/11	Decision
Kazakhstan: follow up activities	ECE/CTCS/2015/12	Decision

<i>Title of document</i>	<i>Document symbol</i>	<i>For information/decision</i>
Tajikistan: action matrix for fostering regional integration	ECE/CTCS/2015/13	Decision
Tajikistan: World Trade Organization post accession plan	ECE/CTCS/2015/14	Decision

C. Continuation of the General Segment

Item 8. Stakeholder needs and priorities

11. Delegates are invited to discuss the needs of low and middle-income countries, as identified in the UNECE studies on regulatory and procedural barriers to trade in order to address these needs. The discussion will focus on possible measures by member States and how the Trade Subprogramme might draw on experience gained and activities undertaken under the areas covered by the Steering Committee.

Item 9. Information on the Conference on Unlocking Economic Potential for Sustainable Development

12. The secretariat will brief the delegates about the Conference on “Unlocking Economic Potential for Sustainable Development – The Role of Norms, Standards and Good Practices”, which will be organized jointly with Subprogramme 4: Economic Cooperation and Integration on 2 September 2015.

13. Delegates are invited to consider requesting the Bureau of the Steering Committee to consider the Chairman’s summary of the conference discussions, with a view to providing suggestions for follow-up to the Steering Committee at its next session.

<i>Title of document</i>	<i>Document symbol</i>	<i>For information/decision</i>
UNECE Conference on Unlocking Economic Potential for Sustainable Development: Background Note	ECE/CTCS/2015/NONE /1 - ECE/CECI/NONE/1	Information

Item 10. Other business

14. The Steering Committee will approve the dates for its next session.

Item 11. Adoption of report

15. Delegates will adopt the final report, containing the decisions adopted by the Steering Committee.

III. Tentative timetable

<i>Time</i>	<i>Agenda item</i>	<i>Description</i>
Monday, 31 August 2015		
15:00 – 15:10		Opening and adoption of the agenda
15:10 – 15:20	Item 2	Election of officers
General Segment		
15:20 – 15:40	Item 3	Matters arising from the 66th session of the UNECE Commission and EXCOM meetings
15:40 – 17:00	Item 4	Programme of work
	(a)	Updates from subsidiary bodies
		Regulatory cooperation and standardization policies
		Commercial agricultural quality standards
	(b)	Status of implementation of the 2014-2015 programme of work
	(c)	Capacity-building and technical assistance activities
	(d)	Programme of work 2016-2017
	(e)	Plan for inter sessional implementation of the programme of work
17:00 – 18:00	Item 5	Reports from other UNECE bodies and international organizations on related work and potential areas for collaboration with the Steering Committee on Trade Capacity and Standards
Tuesday, 1 September 2015		
High-level segment: Removing regulatory and procedural barriers to trade in the UNECE region		
10:00-13:00	Item 6	Supporting the removal of regulatory and procedural barriers to trade
	(a)	Kyrgyzstan: Findings and recommendations
	(b)	Ongoing work
13:00 – 15:00		Lunch Break
15:00–16:30	Item 7	Country follow-up to UNECE studies on regulatory and procedural barriers to trade
Continuation of the General Segment		
16:30 – 16:50	Item 8	Stakeholder needs and priorities
16:50 – 17:00	Item 9	Information on the Conference on Unlocking Economic Potential for Sustainable Development

<i>Time</i>	<i>Agenda item</i>	<i>Description</i>
17:00 – 17:10	Item 10	Other business
17:10 – 18:00	Item 11	Adoption of report
