Economic Commission for Europe
Steering Committee on Trade Capacity and Standards

Fourth session
Geneva, 3-4 May 2018
Item 6 (f) of the provisional agenda
Programme of work

Trade Subprogramme’s Strategic Framework for 2020-2021

Summary

This document contains the trade subprogramme’s strategic framework for the biennium 2020-2021, which was endorsed by the Bureau members in October 2017.

The document is presented to the Steering Committee on Trade Capacity and Standards for information.
Subprogramme 06: Trade

I. Objectives for the biennium, expected accomplishments, indicators of achievement and performance measures

Objective of the Organization: To foster a conducive policy and regulatory environment for trade in goods and economic cooperation in the ECE region

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat</th>
<th>Performance measures</th>
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<tr>
<td>a) Increased consensus on and strengthened implementation of ECE recommendations, norms, standards, guidelines and tools for trade facilitation and electronic business</td>
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<tr>
<td>(i) Number of new and/or revised recommendations, norms, standards and tools for trade facilitation and electronic business adopted by ECE intergovernmental bodies</td>
<td>Target 22 22 22 24</td>
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<td>Estimate 22 22 24 24</td>
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<td>Actual 51 25</td>
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<td>(ii) Number of new measures introduced by member States to implement ECE trade recommendations, norms, standards, guidelines and tools</td>
<td>Target 4 4</td>
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<td>Estimate 4 4</td>
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<td>Actual</td>
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<td>b) Increased consensus on the development of ECE recommendations and guidelines for regulatory cooperation</td>
<td>Number of new and/or revised recommendations and guidelines for regulatory cooperation adopted by ECE intergovernmental bodies</td>
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<td>Estimate 2 2 1</td>
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<td>Actual 4 1</td>
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<tr>
<td>c) Increased consensus on and strengthened implementation of ECE recommendations, norms, standards, guidelines and tools for agricultural quality standards</td>
<td>(i) Number of new and/or revised recommendations and standards on agricultural produce adopted by ECE intergovernmental bodies</td>
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<td>Estimate 25 25 25 25</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Actual 39 33</td>
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<tr>
<td>(ii) Increased number of implementations of ECE agricultural quality standards by member States</td>
<td>Target 1600 1500 1000 1000</td>
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<td>Estimate 1500 1000 1000</td>
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<td>Actual 1500 1439</td>
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<tr>
<td>d) Strengthened capacity for export diversification in the ECE region</td>
<td>(i) Number of new measures introduced by member States to remove regulatory and procedural barriers and increase the contribution of trade in goods to export diversification</td>
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II. Strategy

1. The Economic Cooperation and Trade Division is responsible for implementing the subprogramme. The subprogramme will contribute to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the achievement of the trade-related
Sustainable Development Goals to support, in particular, Goals 8 and 9. The objective of the subprogramme will be achieved through:

(a) International policy dialogue on removing regulatory and procedural barriers to trade, including those caused by administrative procedures as well as documentary and regulatory requirements, which hamper market access and undermine the trade sector’s contribution to export diversification;

(b) Normative work to develop standards and recommendations in the areas of trade facilitation, agricultural quality standards and regulatory cooperation;

(c) Demand-driven training workshops and advisory services to support the implementation of ECE standards and recommendations and to disseminate best practices and lessons learned in the subprogramme’s areas of work.

2. The subprogramme will contribute to the establishment of an open, rule-based, predictable, efficient and non-discriminatory trading system in the region, which is geared towards supporting the achievement of export diversification. To that end, the subprogramme will promote:

(a) Simple, transparent and effective supply chain processes through the development and maintenance of trade facilitation instruments;

(b) A predictable and harmonized regulatory environment by strengthening regulatory cooperation and promoting standards and best practices in regulatory frameworks, risk management, conformity assessment and market surveillance;

(c) Agricultural trade through the development of agricultural quality standards and explanatory guidelines;

(d) Export diversification through the development of recommendations on removing regulatory and procedural barriers to trade in goods and strengthening the capacity for their implementation.

3. The subprogramme will support Governments in their national and regional adaptation and implementation of ECE trade-related standards and recommendations in the areas of trade facilitation, agricultural quality standards, regulatory cooperation and trade policy.

III. External factors

4. The subprogramme is expected to achieve its objective and expected accomplishments on the assumption that: (a) there is political will and cooperation among Governments and international organizations; (b) there is demand for ECE standards and recommendations; (c) member States provide the necessary information; (d) there is active participation by experts in ECE technical meetings; and (e) donors’ support for the work of the subprogramme is adequate.

IV. Legislative mandates

Overall ECE legislative mandates*

* As of 20 June 2017. To be updated by PMU
The future we want

Cooperation between the United Nations and the Eurasian Economic Community

Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development (Addis Ababa Action Agenda)

Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and full implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly

Operational activities for development of the United Nations system

Cooperation between the United Nations and the Commonwealth of Independent States

Cooperation between the United Nations and the Central European Initiative

Cooperation between the United Nations and the Shanghai Cooperation Organization

Cooperation between the United Nations and the Economic Cooperation Organization

Cooperation between the United Nations and the Black Sea Economic Cooperation Organization

Implementation of the outcome of the World Summit for Social Development and of the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly

Implementation of Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 and the outcomes of the World Summit on Sustainable Development

Disaster risk reduction

Protection of global climate for present and future generations of humankind

Ensuring access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all

Quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system

South-South cooperation

Progress towards an accountability system in the United Nations Secretariat

Economic and Social Council resolutions

Workplan on reform of the Economic Commission for Europe and revised terms of reference of the Commission

Outcome of the review of the 2005 Reform of the Economic Commission for Europe
Mainstreaming a gender perspective into all policies and programmes in the United Nations system

**Economic Commission for Europe decisions**

A (64) The Work of the Economic Commission for Europe

A (65) Outcome of the review of the 2005 reform of ECE

A (66) Endorsement of the High-level statement on the post-2015 development agenda and expected sustainable development goals in the ECE region

A(67) Adoption of the High-level statement

B(67) Establishment of the Regional Forum on Sustainable Development

**Legislative mandates specific to the subprogramme**

**Subprogramme 6: Trade**

**General Assembly resolutions**

69/137 Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries for the Decade 2014–2024

69/213 Role of transport and transit corridors in ensuring international cooperation for sustainable development

70/217 Follow-up to the second United Nations Conference on Landlocked Developing Countries

71/239 Follow-up to the second United Nations Conference on Landlocked Developing Countries

71/242 Industrial development cooperation

71/245 Agriculture development, food security and nutrition

**Economic and Social Council resolution**

1991/76 Promotion of interregional cooperation in the area of international trade facilitation

**Economic and Social Council decision**

1997/225 Economic Commission for Europe Recommendation 25, entitled “Use of the UN/EDIFACT Standard”