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Economic Commission for Europe

Steering Committee on Trade Capacity and Standards

Fifth session

Geneva, 28-29(am) May 2019

Item 1 of the provisional agenda

Adoption of the agenda

Annotated provisional agenda

Palais des Nations, Geneva, Room V,
starting at 10.00 a.m. on Tuesday 28 May 2019*

I. Provisional agenda

1. Adoption of the agenda.
2. Election of officers.

A. General segment

3. Matters arising.
4. Improving the Steering Committee on Trade Capacity and Standards delivery on the 2030 Agenda.

B. High-level segment: Removing regulatory and procedural barriers to trade in the Economic Commission for Europe region

5. Supporting the removal of regulatory and procedural barriers to trade:

* Delegates are invited to register online at <https://uncdb.unece.org/app/ext/meeting-registration?id=JuamNc>. The session documents will be made available progressively at <http://www.unece.org/trade/sctcs2019>. Please note that as part of its move to paperless meetings, the secretariat does not distribute paper copies of meeting documents.

Additional information for delegates, including a map of the Palais des Nations meeting rooms, is available at: <http://www.unece.org/meetings/practical.html>.

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- (a) Armenia: Findings and recommendations;
 - (b) Ongoing work.
6. Country follow-up to Economic Commission for Europe studies on regulatory and procedural barriers to trade.
7. Trade as a means for implementing the 2030 Agenda.

C. Continuation of the general segment

8. Programme of work:
- (a) Updates from subsidiary bodies;
 - (b) Capacity-building and technical assistance activities;
 - (c) Cooperation with other organizations and Economic Commission for Europe bodies;
 - (d) Stakeholder needs and priorities;
 - (e) Status of implementation of the trade subprogramme 2018-2019 programme of work;
 - (f) Trade subprogramme's programme of work for 2020.
9. Other business.
10. 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>
Provisional agenda	ECE/CTCS/2019/1	Decision

Item 2. Election of officers

2. The delegates will be invited to elect, for a two-year mandate, a new Chair and three vice-chairs.

A. General segment

Item 3. Matters arising

3. Under this item, the secretariat will report on matters arising from the 2018 meetings of the Economic Commission for Europe Executive Committee (EXCOM) and the Secretary General reforms for repositioning the United Nations development system to deliver on the 2030 Agenda (A/72/124–E/2018/3).

Item 4. Improving the Steering Committee on Trade Capacity and Standards delivery on the 2030 Agenda

4. In 2017, the Bureau of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) Steering Committee on Trade Capacity and Standards (SCTCS) reviewed activities under the inter-governmental body in terms of their consistency with the level of ambition of the 2030 Agenda (A/RES/70/1). The results were summarized in a concept note that was prepared by the Chair in consultation with the Bureau and presented to member States during the fourth annual session of the SCTCS (ECE/CTCS/2018/3).

5. Member States took note of the results and requested the Bureau to take into account the proposals made by the European Union and its member countries when preparing a programme of work for the SCTS fifth session (ECE/CTCS/2018/2, Decision 2018-3). In particular, the European Union and its member countries requested the Bureau to further elaborate the proposals listed in the Chair's concept note.

6. Delegates are invited to discuss the background paper elaborating these proposals (ECE/CTCS/2019/3), prepared by the Bureau with the support of the Secretariat.

<i>Title of document</i>	<i>Document symbol</i>	<i>For information/decision</i>
Improving the Economic Commission for Europe Steering Committee on Trade Capacity and Standards delivery on the 2030 Agenda: Proposals by the Bureau	ECE/CTCS/2019/3	Decision

B. High-level segment: Removing regulatory and procedural barriers to trade in the Economic Commission for Europe region

Item 5. Supporting the removal of regulatory and procedural barriers to trade

(a) Armenia: Findings and recommendations

7. Delegates will be briefed about the findings and recommendations emerging from the ECE study of regulatory and procedural barriers to trade in Armenia. The study was conducted in 2018 using the ECE evaluation methodology, which was extended to capture the impact of non-tariff measures on the achievement of the 2030 Agenda.

8. The study captures both behind and at-the-border regulatory and procedural barriers to trade, highlights their impact on transaction costs (in terms of both time and money). It

also highlights the implication of these barriers for the achievement of SDGs and provides detailed recommendations.

9. Delegates will be also invited to discuss areas for possible joint action and coordination with development partners.

<i>Title of document</i>	<i>Document symbol</i>	<i>For information/decision</i>
Economic Commission for Europe study on regulatory and procedural barriers to trade in Armenia: Recommendations	ECE/CTCS/2019/4	Decision

(b) Ongoing work

10. Delegates will be briefed on preparations underway for carrying out additional studies on regulatory and procedural barriers to trade, pursuant to requests by member States.

Item 6. Country follow-up to Economic Commission for Europe studies on regulatory and procedural barriers to trade

11. Delegates from countries where ECE studies on regulatory and procedural barriers to trade were undertaken will inform the Steering Committee about ongoing and planned follow-up activities, particularly those related to implementing the recommendations emerging from the studies.

12. Delegates will be invited to discuss areas for possible joint action and coordination with development partners.

<i>Title of document</i>	<i>Document symbol</i>	<i>For information/decision</i>
Follow-up on Economic Commission for Europe countries studies: Republic of Moldova	ECE/CTCS/2019/5	Decision

Item 7. Trade as a means for implementing the 2030 Agenda

13. The Steering Committee will be briefed about Georgia's experience in gearing trade towards serving as a means for implementing the 2030 Agenda, and the contribution the recommendations emerging from the ECE study therein.

14. Countries where ECE studies were undertaken will be invited to discuss the challenges associated with aligning trade to serve as a means for implementation, and highlight the manner in which the findings and recommendations support this alignment.

<i>Title of document</i>	<i>Document symbol</i>	<i>For information/decision</i>
Trade as a means for implementing the 2030 Agenda: The experience of Georgia	ECE/CTCS/2019/6	Decision

C. Continuation of the general segment

Item 8. Programme of work

(a) Updates from subsidiary bodies

15. Each subsidiary body will report about its priorities, completed activities and future plans as well as about decisions that need to be considered by the Steering Committee. Consistent with the nature of its work, the programme of work of the Working Party on Agricultural Quality Standards (contained in document ECE/CTCS/2018/7) is biannual. The working party will report on its priorities, completed activities and future plans on an annual basis. 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-eighth session	ECE/CTCS/WP.6/2018/2	Decision
Report of the Working Party on Agricultural Quality Standards on its seventy-fourth session	ECE/CTCS/WP.7/2018/2	Decision
Revised Programme of work of the Working Party on Agricultural Quality Standards 2019-2020	ECE/CTCS/2018/7	Decision
Terms of Reference of the Working Party on Agricultural Quality Standards (2018)	ECE/CTCS/2018/8	Decision

(b) Capacity-building and technical assistance activities

16. Delegates will be briefed about the results of ECE technical assistance activities in Belarus, Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan, completed in 2018 and assessed by an independent external evaluator (<https://www.unece.org/info/open-unece/evaluation-and-audit.html>).

17. Delegates will also be invited to endorse the relevant sections of the Trade Subprogramme's report on capacity-building and technical assistance activities implemented since the previous session. Reported activities 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/2019/7	Decision

(c) Cooperation with other organizations and Economic Commission for Europe bodies

18. Delegates will be briefed about activities of potential interest undertaken by UN/CEFACT.

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

20. Representatives from other international organizations will be invited to highlight areas for potential cooperation with the Steering Committee as well as current and future activities of relevance to delegates.

21. A discussion will take place on potential areas for collaboration between the Steering Committee and other Economic Commission for Europe 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-fourth Plenary session	ECE/TRADE/C/CEFACT/2018/2	Information
Matters arising from the twenty-fourth Plenary Session	ECE/TRADE/C/CEFACT/2019/3	Information
Cooperation with other organizations and Economic Commission for Europe bodies	ECE/CTCS/2019/8	Decision

(d) Stakeholder needs and priorities

22. Delegates will be invited to discuss the needs of low and middle-income countries for removing regulatory and procedural barriers to trade, including those identified in the Economic Commission for Europe studies. The discussion will focus on possible measures by member States, and how the Trade Subprogramme might assist in addressing these needs drawing on experience gained and activities undertaken in the areas covered by the Steering Committee.

(e) Status of implementation of the 2018-2019 programme of work

23. The delegates will be briefed about the implementation of the trade subprogramme's 2018-2019 programme of work. Sections on UN/CEFACT are for information only.

<i>Title of document</i>	<i>Document symbol</i>	<i>For information/decision</i>
Status of Implementation of the 2018-2019 programme of work	ECE/CTCS/2019/9	Decision

(f) Trade subprogramme's programme of work for 2020

24. The secretariat will present the trade subprogramme's draft programme of work for 2020, which is based on the trade subprogramme's draft proposed programme budget for

2020. Delegates will be invited to adopt the programme of work. Sections on UN/CEFACT are for information only.

<i>Title of document</i>	<i>Document symbol</i>	<i>For information/decision</i>
Trade subprogramme's draft programme of work for 2020	ECE/CTCS/2019/10	Decision

Item 9. Other business

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

Item 10. Adoption of report

26. Delegates will adopt the report of the SCTCS fifth session, containing the deliberated decisions.

III. Tentative timetable

<i>Date</i>	<i>Time</i>	<i>Item</i>	<i>Description</i>
28 May 2019	10:00-10:10	1	Adoption of the agenda
	10:10-10:20	2	Elections of officers
		A	General Segment
	10:20-10:30	3	Matters arising
	10:30-10:50	4	Improving the Steering Committee on Trade capacity and Standards delivery on the 2030 Agenda
		B	High-level segment: Removing regulatory and procedural barriers to trade in the Economic Commission for Europe region
		5	Supporting the removal of regulatory and procedural barriers to trade
	10:50-13:00	(a)	Armenia: Findings and recommendations
	15:00-16:00	(b)	Ongoing work
	16:00-17:00	6	Country follow-up to Economic Commission for Europe studies on regulatory barriers and procedural barriers to trade
29 May 2019	17:00-18:00	7	Trade as a means of implementation for the 2030 Agenda
		C	Continuation of the General Segment
		8	Programme of Work
	10:00-10:40	(a)	Updates from subsidiary bodies
	10:40-11:00	(b)	Capacity-building and technical assistance activities
	11:00-11:20	(c)	Cooperation with Economic Commission for Europe bodies and other organizations
	11:20-11:30	(d)	Stakeholder needs and priorities
	11:30-11:40	(e)	Status of implementation of the trade subprogramme 2018-2019 programme of work
11:40-11:50	(f)	Trade subprogramme's programme of work for 2020	

<i>Date</i>	<i>Time</i>	<i>Item</i>	<i>Description</i>
	11:50- 12:00	9	Other business
	12:00- 13:00	10	Adoption of the report
