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**Economic Commission for Europe**

Steering Committee on Trade Capacity and Standards

**Working Party on Agricultural Quality Standards**

**Specialized Section on Standardization**

**of Fresh Fruit and Vegetables**

**Sixty-fifth session**

Geneva, 2-5 May 2017

Item 9 of the provisional agenda

**Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the work of the Specialized Section**

POST SESSION DOCUMENT

The work of the Specialized Section in relation to Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

The following text was drafted by the Specialized Section during its sixty-fifth session in April 2017. Delegates are invited to send their comments to the secretariat. The finalized draft will be submitted to the Working Party for translation and information.

Please send your comments to the secretariat by 25 August 2017.

**THE CONTRIBUTON OF**

**THE SPECIALIZED SECTION ON THE STANDARDIZATION OF FRESH FRUIT AND VEGETABLES (FFV) TO**

**SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS (SDGs)**

**SDG 2: End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture.**

**Target 2.2:** By 2030, end hunger and ensure access by all people, in particular the poor and people in vulnerable situations, including infants, to safe, nutritious and sufficient food all year round

The Specialized Section for FFV contributes to this target by:

* Improving market access to farmers, and
* Improving access of consumers to safe and nutritious food.

**Target 2.3:** By 2030, double the agricultural productivity and incomes of small-scale food producers, in particular women, indigenous peoples, family farmers, pastoralists and fishers, including through secure and equal access to land, other productive resources and inputs, knowledge, financial services, markets and opportunities for value addition and non-farm employment .

The Specialized Section for FFV contributes to this target by:

* Creating standards that provide guidance on the target of production,
* Fighting food loss through transparent quality requirements,
* Improving education in market requirements,
* Involving all processes of trade from the farm to the market,
* Facilitating access of small-scale producers to market by making requirements of distant markets known,
* Improving the role of women in agriculture and support services, and their contribution to family income,
* Adding value by providing a tool for increased profit by quality/price relation and improved farmer resilience,
* Encouraging improvement agricultural skills,
* Supporting possibilities for up-scaling,
* Analyzing new ways of financing exports,
* Decreasing costs for trading fruits and vegetables.

**SDG 12: Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns.**

**Target 12.3:** By 2030, halve per capita global food waste at the retail and consumer levels and reduce food losses along production and supply chains, including post-harvest losses.

The Specialized Section for FFV contributes to this target by:

* Creating standards that help reduce waste, as the standards guarantee the edibility of the product,
* Ensuring that not meeting standards does not prevent processing or consumption of the product,
* Fighting food loss by promoting/rewarding quality production,
* Helping buyers describe their requirements in a clear way,
* Ensuring that the quality provisions of the standards respect different production systems

**SDG 16: Promote just, peaceful and inclusive societies.**

**Target 16.8:** Broaden and strengthen the participation of developing countries in the institutions of global governance.

The Specialized Section for FFV contributes to this target by:

* Ensuring that participation in meetings, standard setting and technical assistance is open to all countries
* Providing capacity-building support on request to and in developing countries
* Providing exposure of all countries to international best practice systems

**SDG 17: Revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development.**

The Specialized Section for FFV contributes to this SDG in general by:

* Inclusive delivery of work with international organizations, private sector, civil society and governments

**Target 17.11:** Significantly increase the exports of developing countries, in particular with a view to doubling the least developed countries’ share of global exports by 2020.

The Specialized Section for FFV contributes to this target by:

* Creating standards that provide the language to allow access to international markets by clarifying buyer requirements,
* Working on the identification of country of origin/packer/exporter,
* Developing standards for products of tropical and temperate zones.