



# Economic and Social Council

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## Economic Commission for Europe

Steering Committee on Trade Capacity and Standards

### Working Party on Regulatory Cooperation and Standardization Policies (WP.6)

Twenty-seventh session

Geneva, 28 (pm) – 30 November 2017

## Report of Working Party on Regulatory Cooperation and Standardization Policies on its twenty-seventh session

### I. Introduction

1. The Working Party on Regulatory Cooperation and Standardization Policies (WP.6) held its twenty-seventh session from the afternoon of 28 to 30 November 2017.
2. The following ECE countries were represent: the Republic of Belarus, Canada, the Czech Republic, Ireland, Finland, Germany, Israel, Mongolia, Poland, the Russian Federation, Serbia, Slovakia, Sweden, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey, Ukraine, and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.
3. The following non-ECE countries were also present: China, Djibouti, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Saudi Arabia.
4. The meeting was attended by representatives of the European Commission (EC).
5. The following United Nations bodies and specialized agencies participated: Codex Alimentarius Commission, International Telecommunications Union (ITU), United Nations Conference for Trade and Development (UNCTAD), United Nations Institute for Training & Research (UNITAR), United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS), United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), United Nations System Joint Inspection Unit, International Trade Centre (ITC), and World Trade Organisation (WTO).
6. The following inter- and non-governmental organizations participated: AFNOR Rus, European Committee for Standardization (CEN), European Committee for Standardization in Electrical Engineering (CENELEC), Eurasian Economic Commission (EEC), European Environmental Citizens' Organisation for Standardisation (ECOS), Gender & Mine Action Programme, Global Reporting Initiative (GRI), GS1 AISBL, Impact, International Centre for Trade and Sustainable Development (ICTSD), International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC), International Organization for Standardization (ISO), International Social and Environmental Accreditation and Labelling Alliance (ISEAL), International

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Sustainable Energy Organisation (ISEO), Organisation for Economic Co-Operation and Development (OECD), Organisation for Security and Co-Operation in Europe (OSCE), PEFC Council, Russian Union of Industrialists and Entrepreneurs (RSPP), World Business Council For Sustainable Development (WBCSD), Marine Stewardship Council, and World Wildlife Fund (WWF).

7. Observers present at the invitation of the secretariat included representatives of private-sector companies, associations, universities and civil-society organizations from various regions.

8. The Director-General of the United Nations Office in Geneva, the Deputy Secretary-General of UNCTAD, and the Chair of the Working Party opened the meeting.

## II. Adoption of the agenda (Item 1)

<i>Title of document</i>	<i>Document symbol</i>	<i>For information/decision</i>
Annotated provisional agenda	ECE/CTCS/WP.6/2017/1	D

9. **The Working Party approved the provisional agenda (Decision 1).**

## III. Election of officers (Item 2)

10. **The Working Party in accordance with the Commission's rules of procedure and established practice, elected Ms. M. Stoldt (Germany) as Chairperson and Mr. V. Koreshkov (Belarus) as Vice-Chairperson for the period of 2017-2019 (Decision 2).**

## IV. International Conference on "Standards for the Sustainable Development Goals" (Item 3)

<i>Title of document</i>	<i>Document symbol</i>	<i>For information/decision</i>
From commitment to action: Standards at work for the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development	ECE/CTCS/WP.6/2017/3	D
The "Gender Informed Standards and Technical Regulations"	ECE/CTCS/WP.6/2017/4	D
Report on the meeting of the GRM on "Risk management in regulatory frameworks in support of Sustainable Development Goals"	ECE/CTCS/WP.6/2017/5	D

**(a) High-level panel – International Conference on “Standards for the SDGs”**

11. The Director Standards of the Global Reporting Initiative (GRI) introduced “sustainability reporting” which is an organization’s practice of reporting publicly on its economic, environmental, and/or social impacts, and hence its contributions – positive or negative – towards the goal of sustainable development. By covering topics such as externalities, depletion of natural resources, and societal participation in financial value creation, GRI standards help corporates understand policymakers’ expectations, and articulate their contribution; also resulting in increased uptake of SDG focused practice on capital markets.

12. The Executive Director of the ISEAL Alliance commented that multi-stakeholder standards and roundtables play an important role as platforms and tools to implement sustainable practices within a given sector or industry, providing guidelines and metrics for environmental and social issues. Their positive contribution goes beyond certification and includes their ability to convene and create partnerships, provide support and channel resources to producers, and influence broader sector dynamics. Sustainability standards are only part of the solution; governments in particular can play a more direct role by recognizing, leveraging and partnering with sustainability standards.

13. The Director General of the World Wildlife Fund (WWF) said that voluntary sustainability standards pioneer better practices while Governments and policy-makers make it common practice. Governments can, in particular, create an enabling environment for better production and consumption, including by providing financial support or capacity building to supply-chain actors, by referencing credibly certified goods in public procurement policies, and by aligning trade policies, subsidies and overseas development aid to support sustainable production giving preference to credible certified goods. It is important to reach beyond industrial production and include artisanal and small-scale producers. To do so, landscape level certification supported by enabling legislation is a promising tool that WWF has used successfully in its project work.

14. The Secretary-General of ISO recalled that ISO has developed over 21 000 standards that enable organizations, governments, communities and stakeholder groups to embrace sustainable practices in a strategic and effective way. This large toolbox - developed with worldwide input and expertise and based on consensus, openness and transparency - could be mapped to each and every one of the 17 SDGs (e.g. water and sanitation, social responsibility, sustainable communities, climate change, etc.). While voluntary standards do not seek to establish, drive or motivate public policy, regulations, or social or political agendas, they can provide valuable support in public policy implementation, as they guarantee buy-in of a wide range of stakeholders. Two recent cases of standards supporting sustainable development are a 4-year project on the uptake and use of ISO 26000 on Social Responsibility within the MENA region, and the work of TC 305 on non-sewered sanitation systems.

15. The General Secretary of IEC focused on the 12 SDGs that are directly impacted by IEC work in standardization and testing and certification. He said that electricity demand by developing nations is estimated to double over the next decade and observed that energy is the golden thread that runs through all sustainable development goals (SDGs). IEC standards representing global consensus solutions to particular issues provided the technical foundation for energy generation and all devices that use electricity or contain electronics. By referring to IEC Standards in laws or regulations, regulators are able to specify the technical details and how to meet requirements and verify compliance. This helps avoid unnecessary technical barriers to trade and keeps regulations up to date. International standards could help achieve greater efficiency, improve the safety of devices, workers and populations, and increase the resilience and long-term viability of infrastructure while reducing cost.

16. During the questions and answers session, the speakers addressed the issue of the proliferation of private or voluntary standards. The speakers agreed that the standards development should avoid fragmentation, and instead of developing their own standards, organization or standards bodies should work together. The representative of WWF expressed the concern that standards may lose the trust of consumers due to confusion; there is a need to “standardize the standards”. ISEAL Alliance encourages its members to review existing merge their standards and carefully consider the need for new ones before they submit their standards. A harmonized approach is indispensable to avoid complicating the market or suffocating the desire for changes towards sustainable development.

17. The speakers also reflected on the need for cooperation between different international organizations. The representative of IEC used the “Smart City Forum” (Singapore, 2016) as an example to illustrate that none of the organizations could address this kind of multidimensional issue in isolation. He further pointed out that, in addition to the collaboration of international organizations, cooperation at the national level should be strengthened.

18. Addressing a question from the floor, speakers commented on ways to increase the budgets of and support to national standardization bodies. The representative of ISO explained that one way is to try to encourage the governments to invest in standardization bodies so that they can be standards makers instead of standards takers. The representative of IEC further commented that when countries are co-creators of standards, there is a greater willingness to adopt the standards nationally in their country.

19. The speakers also discussed how international and national standardization bodies can be more active in using standards to support the achievement of the SDGs. The representative of ISEAL Alliance suggested reaching out to disadvantaged stakeholders who lack resources to participate in the standards setting process. For example, when formulating standards on sustainable agriculture, the farmers could be reached out proactively to assist their participation.

20. The representative of GRI said that education about SDGs could play a role. The idea of sustainable development has drawn the attention of younger generations and if they receive relevant education, they could apply such knowledge into their daily work. The representative of WWF mentioned that even though the achievement of SDGs is difficult to measure, efforts could be taken to develop indicators for assessing the impact of standards that are connected to the SDGs.

21. One participant asked whether international standardization bodies can make their standards available to the public free of charge to increase social control by consumers and the industry. The representatives of IEC and ISO responded that given the fact that the funding of their organizations is partially based on the royalties, this model of financing is a sustainable model to ensure the development of high quality standards. It is hoped that other funding mechanisms could be conceived. For example, the representative of IEC introduced a pilot project of the World Bank where it sponsors SMEs to have access to international standards.

## **(b) Gender-responsive standards (Goal 5)**

22. The Secretary of the Working Group described the important role of standards and technical regulations play as instruments in the realization of SDG Goal 5.5, and advocated for increased gender responsiveness and inclusiveness throughout their development, use and review. She cited several examples, and recognized the role of standards in easing the time burden of domestic tasks, bringing greater workplace equity and facilitating the implementation of government policies for women empowerment. She described the results of the UNECE gender-responsive standards initiative in the past year and plans for further activities going forward.

23. The representative of the British Standards Institution (BSI) Group shared her experience working on gender responsive initiatives, and presented the draft of the UNECE Gender Responsive Standards Pledge/Charter. The Pledge/Charter aims to assist national standards bodies and standards developing organizations in identifying actions they can take to support the creation of gender responsive standards. These included: improving the gender balance of those participating in standards development, ensuring that the content of standards is gender responsive, and monitoring standards implementation to achieve gender balance.

24. The representative of the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining described the International Mine Action Standards (IMAS) and explained why gender-awareness and assessment helps identify distinct roles, responsibilities and needs within a community. The speaker presented examples of assessment recommendations and explained the process of integrating gender considerations into IMAS. She discussed the range of challenges faced when incorporating gender considerations, and the positive effects (e.g. stakeholder buy-in, donor support and increased quality) gender awareness and inclusivity has had on IMAS.

25. The CEO of the Patir Consultants showed examples highlighting the effect of gender stereotypes in culture and innovative technologies on women empowerment. The lack of gender awareness in standards development was underpinned by a continued failure to address persistent gender-biased language. Gender-biased language may compound female exclusion. Standards organizations need to become more gender aware, challenge prejudice and foster inclusivity. Concrete actions to be considered included: promoting reference to women in media communiqués, case studies and competitions, as well as increased measuring and reporting.

**(c) Sustainable production and consumption (Goal 12)**

26. The Director of the Standardization Administration of China (SAC) said that China has incorporated the idea of sustainable development into the new version of Standardization Law of China. In addition to mandatory standards, SAC also optimized the interplay between voluntary national standards, sector standards and local standards. While pursuing sustainable development, it is also necessary to mitigate the risks of creating barriers to trade and of unduly influencing global value chains. In this regard, the Chinese National Platform of Voluntary Sustainability Standards was established to manage and coordinate non-governmental standards related to sustainable development.

27. The representative of the UNCTAD described their role as a focal point in the United Nations systems on issues of enterprise accounting and reporting. She presented the Intergovernmental Working Group of Experts on International Standards of Accounting and Reporting (UNCTAD-ISAR) and UNCTAD's co-custodial role for indicator 12.6. She called for collaboration in the harmonization of enterprise reporting on sustainability.

28. The representative of the TÜV Rheinland Group observed that the apparel, clothing and footwear industry creates a significant burden on the environment. Several countries have established a voluntary framework for brands to operate with, and industry-wide standards and tools have also been established. Organizations including UNECE, UNEP and UNIDO have offered platforms for multi-stakeholder co-operation. He called for further action, including supporting firms technically and financially in standards implementation, strengthening capacity for certification processes and enhancing policy coherence.

29. The representative of Research Institute of Global Value Chains presented the case study of a training on sustainable trade and global value chains in Jiangsu Province of China. This training targeted local textile producers and exporters, retailers as well as policymakers. Based on this experience, significant achievements in energy conservation

and emissions reduction could be achieved by utilizing the ISO environmental system certification and European certification of green environmental protection. She also stressed the importance of increasing investments in technical reform and equipment, and using eco-environmental raw materials in production.

30. The representative of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) highlighted the need for a more comprehensive and sector-wide approach to supply chain due diligence in the garment and footwear sector. OECD had launched the Due Diligence Guidance for Responsible Supply Chains in the Garment and Footwear Sector, in line with the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises and the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights. The due diligence model addresses risks across the supply chain including those related to sub-contracting, indirect sourcing and purchasing practices. In order to see transformation in the sector, a shift away from individual projects and towards sector-wide collaboration is likely necessary; government, business, trade unions and civil society all have important roles to play.

31. During the questions and answers session, the representative of UN/CEFACT noted that UN/CEFACT has many activities in the area of sustainable production and consumption, such as sustainable textile and agriculture, from the perspective of trade facilitation. The representative of the Eurasian Economic Commission (EEC) noted that they have also developed a large number of standards in this area. He called attention to the proliferation of standards, and invited the participants to provide proposals to unify various standards.

32. The representative of the UNCTAD commented on the governance of matters related to seas at the UN. He noticed that there are many unsolved problems such as the management of high seas, and suggested that reforms are needed to update regulatory methods. He also emphasized the importance of science for policy makers, and the fact that sound political decisions have to be based on science.

33. A representative of UNCTAD speaking from the audience asked about ways to encourage the active participation of companies. Using an initiative by Greenpeace as an example, the representative of the TÜV Rheinland Group illustrated how they incentivize companies by making public the risks of companies' practice, such as water pollution, to consumers. Another way is demonstrated by the practice of ILO in Germany where they encourage the companies by making them realize the benefits of adopting good practice, such as saving of costs. The panellist from UNCTAD shared her organization's experience of collaborating with standard setting bodies at the country level to engage companies where SDG focal points are set at country level to gather information and facilitate communication.

#### **(d) Managing risks for sustainable fisheries (Goal 14)**

34. The representative of UNCTAD introduced the goals and targets of SDG14 against the worrying trends of increasingly fully fished and overfished species and the rise of aquaculture production. He discussed the role of regulations and standards for the advancement of SDG 14. Certified seafood had increased 40-fold between 2003 and 2015, while fish-related SPS/TBT measures had grown by 11.2 % since 2010. There was an urgent need to increase transparency, understanding, harmonization, capacity building and mutual recognition. He concluded by presenting key expectations and concerns regarding standards by developing country users.

35. The practice of the Marine Stewardship Council (MSC) illustrated the role of standards in promoting sustainable fisheries. MSC maintains a Fishery Standard which determines the sustainability of a fishery against 28 indicators. Certified fish can be traded only through companies certified against the MSC's Chain of Custody Standard. MSC has mobilized consumers, retailers and fisheries in support of a theory of change that uses the

market to reward improvements and sustainable performance in fisheries. The programme has generated thousands of positive environmental improvements; moreover, communities and businesses have seen significant economic and social benefits.

36. The representative of the HCL Consultants talked about his experience implementing the UNECE Risk Management for Regulatory Frameworks Model in the sector of fisheries in two African countries, Uganda and Namibia, thanks to funding provided by the ACP EU TBT Programme. The project supported a shift from rules-based to risk-based regulations, and a sustainable model of consumption and production. He described the activities and results of his missions, and explained that, after a short training, local stakeholders had shown extensive capacity to assess, evaluate, plan and enforce risk management within regulatory frameworks and would only need modest funding for a communication platform in order to sustain change.

37. A speaker from the private sector, also speaking on behalf of the representative of the Institute for Coastal Research, said that the achievement of the SDGs depended on risk management being central to policies and strategies. He presented the results of the meeting of the GRM that had discussed the use of risk management tools in regulatory frameworks in support of SDG14. He also announced that a symposium would be held in October 2018 in Iceland, in collaboration with the International Council for the Exploration of Sea, to further identify governance, scientific and technical needs in support of SDG 14.

38. The representative of UN/CEFACT explained that overfishing and illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing accounted for an estimated 25% of annual ocean harvest, and was valued at up to \$23 billion, which threatened biodiversity and food security in many countries. UN/CEFACT had developed the Fisheries Language for Universal Exchange (FLUX) to facilitate timely acquisition of information on vessels, stocks and catches and information exchange among stakeholders to address the challenge. A Team of Specialists for the implementation of FLUX and other sustainable fisheries standards on a global scale had been established and would meet in Geneva on 29-30 January 2018.

39. Answering a question about potential duplication between Aquaculture Stewardship Council, the representative of the MSC said the two organizations have a close relationship. For example they have recently developed the joint MSC-ASC Seaweed Standard. The representative of the EEC supported international cooperation in this area, and highlighted the need to integrate different standards, such as different designations of the same species of fish, to reduce confusion and disputes.

40. Answering a question from the floor, the representative of the HCL Consultants reflected that one driving force to incentive the uptake of standards that can contribute to the SDGs is to convenience the companies that these standards can provide benefits, such as economic gains and meeting consumers' demands. This is especially the case for SDG 14 since activities on the sea is difficult to regulate.

41. The Minister on Technical Regulation of EEC highlighted the need for cooperation in the area of fisheries and especially with regards to potential conflicts in denominations and avoiding fragmentation.

## V. Matters arising and programme of work (Item 4)

<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-sixth session	ECE/TRADE/C/WP.6/2016/2	D

<i>Title of document</i>	<i>Document symbol</i>	<i>For information/decision</i>
Programme of work of the trade subprogramme for 2018-2019	ECE/CTCS/2017/10	I
Programme of work of the Working Party on Regulatory Cooperation and Standardization Policies for 2018-2019	ECE/CTCS/WP.6/2017/6	D

(a) **Report of the past session and intersessional developments**

(c) **Adoption of the Working Party’s work plan 2018 – 2019**

42. The Secretary of the Working Party reviewed the highlights of the report of the previous session, reported on the intersessional activities, and proposed the new directions for future work related to the Conference on Standards for Sustainable Development Goals”.

**43. Member States took note of the proposal for changing the name of the Working Party and aligning its activities to the Agenda 2030 and other international mandates (Decision 3).**

44. The Minister for Technical Regulations of EEC and the delegations of Germany and Sweden both praised the UNECE WP. 6 as a unique body that continued to attract a variety of stakeholders including Member States and SDOs as well as representatives of the private sector.

**45. Member States decided to retain the existing name and requested the Secretariat and the Bureau to establish a task force aimed at identifying concrete actions to enhance the contribution of standards to the implementation of Agenda 2030 and other international mandates, including the Sendai Framework for Action. The task force will report to the Working Party at its next session (Decision 4).**

**46. Member States supported the proposal to create an Advisory Board that will work with the Bureau to support and monitor the activities of the Working Party. They entrusted the Secretariat to seek candidates for the said body and follow the required procedures for the creation of the Advisory Board (Decision 5).**

**47. The Working Party mandated the Secretariat to explore the possibility of organizing a side event on the ISO General Assembly in September 2018 also involving other standardization organizations and UN Agencies (Decision 6).**

**48. The Working Party took note of the progress of the initiative “Mainstreaming a gender perspective in standards and technical regulations”. It encouraged the Initiative to further refine the draft proposal for the “Pledge for Action on Gender Responsive Standards”, taking into account recent consultations. The document could be adopted during the intersessional period (Decision 7).**

**49. Member States renewed the mandate of the Secretariat and the Bureau to progress the implementation of the Proposed Action Plan of the Gender-Responsive Standards Initiative and to report on progress at the next Working Party session (Decision 8).**



**(b) Reports by other United Nations Commission for Europe bodies of potential interest to the Working Party**

50. The Secretary to the Steering Committee on Trade Capacity and Standards underlined the three priorities of work suggested by the UN Secretary-General: peacekeeping, human rights, and development. The achievement of the SDGs was central to these three mandates. The mandate and the scope of the WP. 6 should be reviewed in light of these trends.

51. He introduced the needs assessment studies undertaken by the secretariat on regulatory and procedural barriers to trade on Belarus, Kazakhstan, Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan, and Moldova. New studies were underway in Albania, Georgia and Serbia.

52. The Secretary also reported on the activities of the Working Party on Agricultural Quality Standards (WP. 7), focusing on its work presented at the seventy-third session of the WP. 7, such as food loss where the expertise of WP. 6 could be relevant.

53. The secretariat presented the work of the United Nations Centre for Trade Facilitation and e-Business (UN/CEFACT) in developing and maintaining Trade Facilitation Recommendations and e-Business Standards, which contribute to the reduction of technical barriers to trade, lowering of trade costs and ensuring free and open access to messaging standards. UN/CEFACT would be willing to further cooperate with the WP. 6.

54. The Sustainable Energy Division of UNECE developed the “Framework Guidelines on Energy Efficiency Standards in Buildings” which provided guidelines to a holistic, systems approach to building design, delivery, and operation. The guiding principles of the framework and practical steps to implement it were outlined. Buildings can be energy producers instead of solely or primarily energy sinks; and energy required by buildings can be supplied largely, perhaps exclusively, by non-carbon-based energy.

**55. The Working Party took note of the presentations by the Secretary of WP.6, the Secretary of the UNECE Steering Committee on Trade Capacity and Standards, the Secretary of the Working Party on Agricultural Quality Standards, and the Secretary of the UN Centre for Trade Facilitation and Electronic Business. It requested the Secretariat to continue to explore options for cooperation with other UNECE intergovernmental groups and programmes (Decision 9).**

**56. The Working Party adopted the Working Party’s work plan 2018 – 2019 (Decision 10).**

**VI. Risk management in regulatory systems (Item 5)**

<i>Title of document</i>	<i>Document symbol</i>	<i>For information/decision</i>
Risk Management in Regulatory Frameworks	ECE/TRADE/390	I
Progress report on the activities of the Group of Experts on Managing Risks in Regulatory Systems (GRM)	ECE/CTCS/WP.6/2017/7	D
Recommendation T “Standards and Regulations for Sustainable Development”	ECE/CTCS/WP.6/2017/8	D
Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015 - 2030	<a href="http://www.preventionweb.net/files/43291_sendaiframeworkfor">http://www.preventionweb.net/files/43291_sendaiframeworkfor</a>	I

<i>Title of document</i>	<i>Document symbol</i>	<i>For information/decision</i>
	drren.pdf	
UN Plan of Action on Disaster Risk Reduction for Resilience	<a href="http://www.preventionweb.net/files/33703_actionplanweb14.06cs1.pdf">http://www.preventionweb.net/files/33703_actionplanweb14.06cs1.pdf</a>	I

(a) **Report of Activities under the Group of Experts on Managing Risks in Regulatory Systems Group**

57. The Group of Experts on Risk Management in Regulatory Systems (GRM) was established by the Working Party in 2010. Since then, the Group had developed 3 recommendations (Recommendation “P”, “R” and “S”), approved by the Working Party in 2011 and 2016, that had been applied to regulatory practice in more than ten countries. The Group had also prepared several methodologies and training materials on risk management in regulatory frameworks.

58. One of the two co-Coordiators presented the Group’s progress report. The report focused on the main results achieved by the GRM, including: the Group’s first face-to-face meeting, which had taken place in February 2017; the new draft recommendation on the use of risk management tools in regulatory frameworks in support of SDGs, and the progress in the implementation of the field projects. The Group planned to work together with the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES) to organize a workshop in Reykjavik, Iceland in October 2018.

59. The other co-Coordinator of the GRM Group described the application of the GRM model, stressing the importance of regulators understanding and setting out clearly their regulatory objectives with reference to what needed to be protected. When objectives are not clearly set, process is prioritized instead of results. He emphasized the importance of supporting and increasing compliance levels, for example, by partnering with interested parties and furthering self-regulation processes by the industry and risk-based inspections.

60. The following presentation by another GRM member was on the Universal Conduct Risk Paradigm (UCRP) introducing a framework for establishing the right conduct and culture of integrity in any organization or company. The UCRP was introduced to participants proposing the use of a consistent paradigm across the whole of the UN Global Compact for implementation of all 17 SDGs. The UN Global Compact Ten Principles provide tenets for upholding responsibility for people and the planet as well as conditions for continuous and sustainable benefit. As this is still work in progress within the GRM, further discussions are needed before it can be considered by the WP. 6 formally.

61. The Chairman of the State Committee for Standardization, Republic of Belarus explained that their national technical legislation has undergone a significant transformation that shifted away from fully mandatory compliance with standards or requirements at all stages of production. The goal of the reform is to ensure that regulatory measures are proportionate to the risks. Now mandatory conformity assessment is carried out only for mandatory requirements specified in technical regulations; manufacturer’s declaration is recognized as the preferred form of conformity assessment. Conformity assessment is based on risk analysis; and when conducting supervisory activities, a risk-oriented approach is also applied so that the frequency of the control measures depends on which risk group the object belongs to.

**62. The Working Party took note of the presentations from the Group of Experts on Risk Management in Regulatory Systems (GRM Group). It adopted the report of the GRM Group, and mandated the Secretariat and the coordinators to continue to**

report on an annual basis on its activities (Decision 11). The Working Party also agreed to an extension of the mandate of the GRM Group (Decision 12).

63. The Working Party requested the GRM Group and the Secretariat – resources permitting – to contribute to the ICES/UNECE Symposium to be held in Reykjavik, Iceland in October 2018, and appropriately convey the results of the GRM work to on the topic of “Management tools and standards in support of Sustainable Development Goal 14” (Decision 13).

64. The Working Party further requested the GRM Group and the Secretariat to continue to explore how to further use the results of the workshop in the context of the implementation of the outcomes of the “Oceans Conference” (New York, June 2017) including by contacts with the UN Global Compact (Decision 14).

**(b) Discussion on draft Recommendation T on “Standards and Regulations for Sustainable Development”**

65. The co-Coordinator of the GRM introduced the Recommendation T on “Standards and Regulations for Sustainable Development” for approval. He explained that the Recommendation focuses on the use of risk management tools in regulatory frameworks in support of SDGs. The systematic management of risks inherent to the 2030 Agenda is a prerequisite for achieving the SDGs and provides regulatory authorities with risk management tools for building regulatory frameworks that are needed to operationalize the SDGs.

66. After discussion, Member States agreed on a revised text of the new Recommendation T and approved it. They mandated the Secretariat to report on its implementation. They encouraged the donor community to make available resources for capacity-building projects to assist Member States in its implementation (Decision 15).

**VII. International Regulatory Cooperation (Item 6)**

**(a) Regional developments**

67. The representative of the OECD presented the work of the organization in strengthening international regulatory cooperation. She presented several publications, including: “International Regulatory Co-operation and Trade: Understanding the Trade Costs of Regulatory Divergence and the Remedies” which helps policy makers identify trade costs, and existing approaches to address them. She further introduced the joint work by the OECD and UNECE on the role of international organizations to support better rules of globalization. An important deliverable was the booklet “International Regulatory Co-operation and International Organisations: The Case of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe”. She then outlined future cooperation of the two organizations.

68. The representative of the Federal Chancellery of Germany said that cooperation was the key for better regulation. He introduced the German legislative framework for regulatory initiatives, in particular as regards the role of the Independent Regulatory Control Council. He presented a number of good practices that support the German regulatory impact assessment exercise (i.e. the calculation of the effect on public households, reporting on sustainability effects, the calculation of compliance costs, etc.). The experience of regulatory policy in Germany prior to 2005 demonstrated the limitation of checklists and underscored the importance of stakeholder involvement and systematic evaluation.

69. The Vice Chairperson of the Working Party 6 and Minister of Technical Regulation of the Eurasian Economic Commission presented recent normative acts regulating the common market of the countries of the Eurasian Economic Union (EAEC). He detailed four new technical regulations of establishing unified mandatory requirements for the safety of chemical products, equipment for children's playgrounds, fire safety and fire-fighting equipment and packaged drinking water, that all take into account international best practice. The Commission closely cooperates with the IEC, CEN and CENELEC within the framework of a Memorandums of Understanding.

70. The representative of the European Commission provided information on their regulatory dialogues, focusing on the Regulatory Cooperation Chapter of the Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA) between EU and Canada. She introduced the possible activities and next steps of the Regulatory Cooperation Chapter, and the key features and product scope of the Protocol on Conformity Assessment attached to CETA. It was highlighted that under the CETA Protocol, the EU and Canada agreed to accept each other's conformity assessment certificates for specific sectors. Among other expected benefits, this mutual recognition is particularly helpful to smaller companies.

**71. The Working Party took note of the presentations on international developments. It requested the Secretariat to continue to support the project, including by coordinating the work of the Working Group on "Variety of international instruments" and by co-organizing the 5th Annual Meeting of "International Organisations: Fostering the Contribution of International Organisations to Better Rules of Globalisation" together with ISO and IEC on 12th April, 2018 (date TBC) (Decision 16).**

**72. The Working Party took note of the presentations on regional developments, and requested the Secretariat to continue to have regular reports on regulatory cooperation developments from representatives of regional groups and regions (Decision 17).**

## (b) Sectoral projects

<i>Title of document</i>	<i>Document symbol</i>	<i>For information/decision</i>
Progress report on the sectoral initiative on Earth-Moving Machinery (EMM)	ECE/CTCS/WP.6/2017/9	D
Progress report on the sectoral initiative on Equipment for Explosive Environments (SIEEE)	ECE/CTCS/WP.6/2017/10	D
Progress report on the sectoral initiative on the Safety of Pipelines	ECE/CTCS/WP.6/2017/11	D

73. The initiative Coordinator of the Safety of Pipelines presented the Sectoral Initiative Pipeline Safety (SIPS), and detailed the development of the group's aims since its inception. The speaker acknowledged the complex working landscape, and described how non-technical regulation factors, such as climate and geo-politics, affect the work of the group. The speaker underscored the need for greater collaboration and a systematic approach to pipeline safety, and expressed his support for various norms and recommendations that were being developed. He presented the draft work program of the SIPS initiative for 2018, and recommended a task force be set up to realize these aims.

74. The secretariat reported on the sectoral project for Earth-Moving Machines (EMM) and the sectoral project on Equipment for Explosive Environments (SIEEE). EMM is continuing to promote the process for: using ISO standards for national standards and for regulations, accepting self-declaration of conformity, and accepting conformity assessment testing by manufacturers and a single certification for all countries. The need to address safety of high technology systems was a focus in 2017. An ISO 17757 standard for Autonomous Machine System Safety was published, and standards for collision avoidance and control system safety were advanced.

75. SIEEE continued to promote the Common Regulatory Objectives (CROs) to regulatory authorities internationally. Activities of the sectoral initiative in last year included: an UNECE-IECEX Workshop took place in April 2017 in Shanghai, China; a meeting between SIEEE and representatives of IECEX with respect to Market surveillance activities, contribution to a proficiency-testing program organized by IECEX for testing laboratories, a meeting with Russian delegation to update CROs for their practical application. Additionally, the European Commission will start a market study about the ATEX-Directive next year and an input from SIEEE with respect to the CROs would be appreciated.

**76. The Working Party extended the mandate of the Standardization and Regulatory Techniques (START) Team in line with the UNECE rules of procedure and established practice (Decision 18).**

**77. The Working Party noted the presentations related to sectoral projects. It adopted the reports of the three sectoral initiatives and requested them to report at the 2018 session. It further requested the secretariat, resources permitting, to assist in maintaining and developing contacts with Governments to promote the project (Decision 19).**

78. The representative of the IEC presented the new initiative on cybersecurity. Under the context of various risks posed to the cybersecurity environment, the IEC has undertaken many cybersecurity activities. He introduced the new initiative which features a systems-approach to conformity assessment, a Generic Matrix Model, and a systematic methodology.

79. The representative of the UN/CEFACT reminded the Working Party of the existing Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on electronic business between IEC, ISO, ITU and UNECE, and advised that the new initiative avoid overlap with the existing MoU. 28. The representative of the TÜV Rheinland Group introduced a research in this area in Germany - ITS|KRITIS (IT security for critical infrastructure). The representative of the new initiative took note of the suggestions and information, and underlined that the new initiative will focus on the conformity assessment aspect. Moreover, the new initiative will cooperate with other organizations with various expertise.

**80. The Working Party noted the presentation and discussions. It accepted the proposal for a new sectoral initiative on cybersecurity, and requested the coordinators of the GRM and START Groups to initiate activities and report at the 2018 session (Decision 20).**

## **VIII. Review of recent developments in standardization and regulatory practice (item 7)**

### **(a) Review of developments in standardization**

81. The representative of the European Commission commented that standards are key for innovation and progress in the EU Single Market, and are essential to supporting European competitiveness, jobs and growth. The European standardization system needs to

be adapted to meet the challenges of a changing economy, the increasing importance of services, and digital innovations. The Joint Initiative on Standardization (JIS) was signed in June 2016. It aims to modernize, speed up and better prioritize standard setting across the board. The initiative is driven by stakeholders, with the European Commission playing a mainly coordinating role and building consensus. She overviewed the progress of the JIS in the past 17 months: more than 120 signatories and endorsements, 15 Actions and case studies to be developed by end 2019, six Steering Group meetings, a list of possible concrete deliverables per Action, and more than 100 meetings in total of the single actions so far; and all of this on a volunteer basis.

82. The representative of CEN and CENELEC explained that these organizations had launched strategic initiatives to address market stakeholder needs for standardization solutions responding to key business, technological and social evolutions. Areas addressed covered the digital transformation of industry, the growing services component of national and European economies, and the continued focus on innovation as a driver for growth and competitiveness. Planned activities would focus on strengthening industry engagement, improving efficiency through new IT tools and services, and ensuring regional relevance and global outreach.

**83. The Working Party noted the presentations on recent developments in standardization and regulatory activities (Decision 21).**

**(b) Education on standards related issues**

84. The Rector of the Academy for Standardization, Metrology and Certification (ASMC) talked about the latest trends in the field of standardization, on which training is being provided by ASMS. Special attention was paid to the contribution of ASMC to the development of standards in Russian. He stressed the importance and the results of cooperation of ASMC with international organizations on training and on overcoming technical barriers.

85. The President of China Jilian University shared the experience of the school in education about standards and standard-related issues. He also emphasized international cooperation in this area and introduced the initiative to set up the Belt and Road University Alliance for Standardization Academics and Education that strives to strengthen academic collaboration, and to establish cooperative education and research platforms to facilitate regional development regarding education about standards-related issues.

86. A professor of the Matej Bel University underlined the role of multidisciplinary education on teaching standardization. The experience of the Matej Bel University and several universities across the world were overviewed. The professor suggested introducing degrees focused on standardization together with other degrees focused on a specific aspect of standardization such as metrology, supported by the EU standardization bodies, in a selected university. At the same time, other courses can be delivered as stand-alone options to provide sufficient knowledge to those who will engage with standards development in various areas. The representative of the International Scientific-Educational Center of Technical Regulation, Standardization and Metrology presented the experience of the Russian Federation in participating in the initiative on education about standardization. Within the framework of cooperation with the WP. 6, Russian experts assessed situation of education on standardization within the Russian Federation. They also took part in elaborating and testing the UNECE module programme developed by the WP.6 and recommended to educational institutions. An additional professional education programme based on this module programme has been developed and approved by the Institute.

87. Another representative from the Center said that training competent personnel in the field of technical regulations including conformity assessment is of key importance today both in Russian Federation and in the EAEU. To achieve the objective, efforts should be

taken in the following areas: the training of personnel, the incorporation of requirements in documents on standardization, the assessment of professional qualifications, and the certification of personnel of certification bodies. She introduced the work of the Center on these topics, and suggested several possible ways to cooperate with the UNECE.

**88. The Working Party took note of the presentations by the representatives of these educational institutions. The Working Party also took note of the START-Ed group activities, and requested the Secretariat to continue supporting the activities of the group, including by publishing studies on education on standards-related issues and preparing publications and or other relevant materials suitable for such educational programmes. It requested the group to report on progress at the 28th session (Decision 22).**

## **IX. Review of recent development in conformity assessment and accreditation (Item 8)**

89. The Chair of IAF and ILAC Communications and Marketing Committees provided an overview of how the activities of ILAC and IAF map to the SDGs in the fields of clean energy, clean water and sanitation, health and wellbeing, industry, innovation and infrastructure. An update on the latest developments was also provided, exemplified by two websites. Public Sector Assurance ([www.publicsectorassurance.org](http://www.publicsectorassurance.org)) is a website developed by the global conformity assessment community to promote the use of standards and accreditation to Governments and Regulators. Business Benefits ([www.business-benefits.org](http://www.business-benefits.org)) is a newly launched site that showcases the financial benefits for the business community. The intended aim of the websites is to illustrate the value of standards and accreditation, thereby making the case for greater adoption, and supporting a better understanding of how standards and conformity assessment contribute to the UN 2030 Development Agenda.

**90. The Working Party noted information on recent developments in conformity assessment and accreditation, noting in particular the contribution of accreditation to sustainable development (Decision 23).**

## **X. Market surveillance (Item 9)**

<i>Title of document</i>	<i>Document symbol</i>	<i>For information/decision</i>
Report of the Advisory Group on Market Surveillance, its activities and its meetings	ECE/CTCS/WP.6/2017/12	D

91. The Chairperson of the Advisory Group on Market Surveillance (MARS Group) reported on the 15th meeting of the Advisory Group on Market Surveillance (MARS Group) that had been held in September 2017 in Stockholm. The meeting had discussed recent developments in the field of market surveillance, including: the New Goods Package, mutual recognition of national technical rules, the General Market Surveillance Model, and the need for multidisciplinary education in the field of quality infrastructure. She introduced the agreed directions for future work of the MARS Group, including: revising market surveillance common terminology, developing guidance on the challenges of e-commerce for market surveillance authorities, enhancing cooperation with education institutions, the UNECE WP.6 START-Ed Group and GRM Group, developing online training materials for economic operators, and establishing contacts with global and regional market surveillance networks.

92. The representative of the European Commission updated the Working Party on market surveillance activities in the EU, including the new enforcement initiative and the recently adopted Commission notice on market surveillance of products offered for sale online. The purpose of the Notice is to assist Member State authorities in the enforcement of EU legislation on the safety and compliance of non-food products. This document refers to tangible goods and excludes non-embedded software and applications. The Notice concerns the application of the General Product Safety Directive and of Regulation (EC) No 765/2008, the two main legislative acts governing market surveillance and safety and compliance of products in online sales. The Notice also sets out good practices for the market surveillance of products sold online and for communication with businesses and consumers.

**93. The Working Party noted the presentations by the MARS Group and mandated the Secretariat to continue to report on an annual basis on its activities (Decision 24).**

**94. The Working Party adopted the report of the MARS Group and its plan of work. It requested the Working Party to pursue a further extension of its mandate by the UNECE Executive Committee (Decision 25).**

95. The Director of the Finnish Safety and Chemicals Agency (Tukes) noted that consumers' shopping behaviour is changing very fast and new kinds of products are rapidly coming to the market. These trends have posed new challenges for market surveillance authorities. Within this context, Tukes had prepared a guidance book for market surveillance on online shopping. Tukes had also carried out information campaign on online shopping in order to raise customers' awareness.

96. The representative of eBay commented that eBay operated in a marketplace that connected sellers and buyers around the world, seeking to empower people and create opportunity through connected commerce. The approach taken by eBay to provide a safe and secure online marketplace for its customers is to cooperate closely with monitoring authorities to enforce a wide range of policies globally.

97. The Director General of the Global Express Association introduced the express delivery business model, and explained its role in helping combat intellectual property rights violations. The presentation analysed the industry's capabilities and limitations in dealing with specific regulatory issues affecting trade in goods. Future efforts include the following: advancing electronic shipment information, improving tracking and tracing system, providing adequate facilities to customs officers, and providing relevant information to government agencies.

98. The representative of UNCTAD said that faced with emerging and disruptive business models, existing legislation and regulatory frameworks should be assessed and should keep up with the technological evolution. Interaction with sector-specific regulators (telecoms, media) and data protection agencies is essential to have a comprehensive picture. Now is the time for better and more coherent consumer protection policy. But E-commerce challenges cannot be exclusively addressed by Governments. Coordination and international cooperation are of the utmost importance. There is also a need for strong business engagement - namely through self-regulation initiatives complementing and reinforcing Consumer protection legislation. Moreover, civil society organizations can make contribution through work related to areas such as awareness raising, education, and outreach. The UN Guidelines for Consumer Protection were described as a practical tool.

**99. The Working Party noted the presentations by the representative of the European Commission, and the panel discussion on challenges to market surveillance from e-commerce activities (Decision 26).**



## **XI. Metrology (Item 10)**

100. Due to other important meetings simultaneously underway in the area of metrology, there were no reports presented under this item.

## **XII. Capacity-building (Item 11)**

101. The secretariat introduced a draft paper that was also available online. It highlights the most important challenges in implementing risk-based and standards-based regulatory systems in selected countries of the UNECE region (namely: Albania, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova and Tajikistan). It is based on a synthetic review of the findings and recommendations from the Recommendations of the UNECE's survey-based studies on regulatory and procedural barriers to trade. The main finding is that all countries have a strong drive to harmonize national legislation with the requirements of the WTO-administered multi-lateral trading system as well as the regulatory systems of main trading partners and national development objectives. While there is progress, a risk management culture does not yet permeate the overall system of technical regulations. Risk management is mostly conducted in a partial manner, mostly as part of regulatory impact assessments. The secretariat requested the input of delegations on the draft paper and would share a more advanced version during the intersessional period.

102. The representative of the Swedish Board of Trade highlighted the main findings of an evaluation by the National Board of Trade Sweden on TBT (technical barriers to trade)-related technical assistance. The objective of the evaluation was to analyse both success factors and pitfalls in TBT-related development cooperation. In the report, the National Board of Trade also took on board experience from the American National Standards Institute, Standards Council of Canada and the National Metrology Institute of Germany.

103. The WP.6 Secretary presented progress under the project on "Strengthening the national capacity of trade-support institutions of Kyrgyzstan". The project aims at strengthening the national capacity of trade institutions of Kyrgyzstan. The main activities being carried out included development of training materials, translation and publication of training materials, organization of train-the-trainer courses for trade support institutions, and organization of awareness-raising and training workshops for government officials and traders.

**104. The Working Party noted the results of the needs assessment studies on regulatory and procedural barriers to trade, undertaken by the Steering Committee on Trade Capacity and Standards, and the study on TBT-related technical assistance presented by the Swedish Board of Trade (Decision 27).**

**105. The Working Party took note of the development of the project on "Strengthening the national capacity of trade-support institutions of Kyrgyzstan", and requested the Secretariat – resources permitting - to publish training materials related to standardization. The Working Party invited intergovernmental organizations, international, regional and national authorities to submit relevant information. (Decision 28).**

## **XIII. Other business (Item 12)**

106. The Working Party agreed to hold its 28th session from 14 to 16 November 2018. (Decision 29).

## **XIV. Adoption of the report and closing of the meeting (Item 13)**

107. According to its rules of procedure, The Working Party adopted the decisions and the report of its 27th session (Decision 30).

## ANNEX I

### Pledge for Action on Gender Responsive Standards

All national standards bodies and standards development organizations are invited to pledge to take action to become a gender responsive standards organizations by pledging to take any or all of the actions below.

The key goals listed ( ❖ ) are supported by suggested tactics / activities ( ➤ ) to achieve them. These suggestions are not exhaustive and may not be appropriate or applicable to all contexts and so organizations need to consider what will be successful in their particular circumstances.

[ insert organization name ] pledges to be a gender inclusive national standards body / standards development organization by taking any or all of the actions below.

#### **Working towards gender balanced / representative *and* inclusive standards development environments**

- ❖ Strive for a representative number of women in all phases of standards development
  - always assess the gender balance of your committees and if there is an opportunity to improve it
  - connect with organizations and informal (networks) within industries / professions which could help you improve the gender balance
  - collect sex-disaggregated data on participants in standards development (overall and by industry) and compare this with employment statistics
  
- ❖ Strive to create a standards development environment which enables gender inclusivity and equality
  - Ensure the leadership supports striving for a gender inclusive environment and for gender responsive standards
  - conduct yearly research with committee members to learn about any differences in experiences in standards development based on gender
  - develop / implement policies and procedures which support gender inclusivity
  - review the gender balance of the chairs / senior roles within standards making and seek to improve it where it is imbalanced
  
- ❖ Strive to develop a gender experts network as a resource to support standards development committees in their work
  
- ❖ Support individuals who want to be gender advocates by encouraging and enabling them to take action within their areas of standards development
  - encourage programme managers to promote gender inclusivity on their standards development committees and provide them with tools and resources to do so
  - give individuals the opportunity to pledge to take actions themselves and / or get involved in actions being taken by the organization

- 
- record the number of individuals taking action and involved in collaborative work on internal and external gender inclusivity projects and ask them to report on their results / work
  - ❖ Strive for gender representative participation in other phases of the standards development process such as making proposals, commenting on proposals and commenting on drafts
  
  - ❖ If individuals or the organization choose to take action, ensure personal and organizational plans include relevant objectives and that progress is being monitored and tactics are being reviewed and revised accordingly

### **Creating gender responsive standards**

- ❖ Contribute to the development of a tool to review and analyse standards entering into any form of active development (new or revision) to identify which ones may have gender implications in their content or implementation
  
- ❖ Contribute to the development of tools for gender-based analysis suitable for applying to standards and provide training in using the tools
- Use existing frameworks (e.g. ISO, CEN-CENELEC etc.) to work collaboratively and share resources / expertise
  
- ❖ Ensure committees have relevant expertise, tools and resources to strive to develop gender responsive standards where applicable
- provide committees with any necessary training to develop their gender expertise
- ensure committees include a gender expert or have access to gender expertise (e.g. via a network of gender experts)
  
- ❖ Strive to institutionalize successful and effective practices, procedures and policies to ensure the gender inclusive environment is maintained and that future standards will also be gender responsive

## ANNEX II

### Recommendation T on “Standards and Regulations for Sustainable Development”

#### I. Introduction

1. The Working Party on Regulatory Cooperation and Standardization Policies,
2. Taking special note of how Agenda 2030 now represents a cornerstone for the United Nations in all sectors of its activity
3. Wishing to enhance the contribution of voluntary standards to realization of Agenda 2030
4. Wishing to further strengthen cooperation between governmental regulatory authorities of the Member States and standards development bodies and the United Nations in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda

#### **Affirms that:**

5. A systematic management of the risks inherent to of the 2030 Agenda is a pre-requisite for achieving the SDG Goals
6. A standards-based approach constitutes a solid basis for regulating in view of the realization of the Agenda

#### II. The rationale for the recommendation

(a) The social, economic and environmental dimensions of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and targets are currently covered by a very broad range of legislative and regulatory systems and jurisdictions

(b) In order to contribute to the achievement of SDGs and targets, a broad range of risks shall be effectively and efficiently managed within regulatory frameworks, as described in Recommendation R.

(c) Many standards, UN agreements and conventions, as well as other regulatory frameworks that are already in use are relevant to achieving SDGs.

(d) Implementation of the SDGs requires developing regulatory processes and building risk-based regulatory systems that would be proportionate to risks that are relevant to SDG targets in terms of regulatory requirements, conformity assessment and surveillance processes.

(e) Standards and guidelines remains a challenge given the divergent use of definitions and methods. There is a lack of coherence and consistency in conceptual frameworks and methodologies with respect to management of risks in regulatory systems of the sectors linked to the SDGs, and the implementation of risk management practices through regulatory regimes, standards and guidelines remains a challenge given the divergent use of definitions, methods.

(f) The use of standards by policy-makers and business would not only help integrate standards into regulatory systems, but also enhance the design of regulatory systems while providing clarity for institutions in the development of their programs in a more systematic and coherent manner.

**Recommends:****General recommendation**

7. Regulatory authorities should use risk management tools – including voluntary standards to build the regulatory frameworks that are needed to operationalize the SDGs.
8. Regulatory authorities should use the risk management approaches that are based on standardized risk management processes and harmonized definitions.
9. Considering the SDG targets as objectives of a regulatory system the risk management frameworks defined in Recommendations P and R of the Working Party in combination with other tools and methodologies should be applied to design processes required for economic operators, consumers, communities, regulators and legislators, and other societal stakeholders to be involved in managing the risks related to the achievement of the SDG targets.

**Regulatory authorities are encouraged to base the regulatory frameworks aimed at the implementation of the Agenda 2030 on the Annexed Checklist**

## **Checklist for risk based regulatory systems for the implementation of Agenda 2030**

### **A. Setting regulatory objectives**

1. When setting regulatory objectives, the SDG targets should be analyzed within the given national and international contexts to identify clear regulatory objectives and develop a sound implementation strategy from a regulatory and operational perspective.
2. The SDG and their targets should be reviewed regularly to identify intersections and interdependencies, For example, the goal of any given SDG may depend on another SDG being reached. Some of the SDG targets may be relevant for the achievement of other targets. Some interdependencies may – instead - complicate the simultaneous achievement of different goals and targets.. Results of such analysis should be considered when establishing cooperation among regulatory authorities.

### **B. Risk identification and assessment in regulatory frameworks linked to SDGs**

3. Regulatory authorities should use data-driven approaches in risk identification and assessment. Data and modelling play an important role in risk analysis to characterize the risks in terms of causes, events and consequences. Tolerance criteria must be established to evaluate the risks of regulatory options within the national policy context.
4. Proactive stakeholder involvement is key in risk identification.
5. Regulatory authorities should avoid applying the approach of “looking at risk in isolation from the bodies that make decisions”. This means avoiding focusing on smaller risks that we know how to control, but focus instead on the big risks that threaten several SDG outcomes.
6. Risk management and assessment activities including key indicators should be underpinned by current scientific knowledge through formalized and independent advisory processes. Such an approach will ensure that the risks perceived by stakeholders and regulators are examined against existing scientific and technical evidence providing transparency while fostering support from stakeholders. This will enhance the science-informing policy and policy-informing science paradigms and approaches but will require exchange of best practice.

### **C. Regulation development within regulatory frameworks linked to SDGs**

7. In case the implementation of an SDG requires regulatory intervention, regulations, standards and guidelines should be developed from the premise that “people want to comply”. The mechanisms of implementation and awareness raising must be efficiently integrated within the operations of a given sector to be effective at reaching a given objective, including through the adoption of guidelines and relevant enforcing jurisdiction.

### **D. Market surveillance and enforcement**

8. Enforcement is a necessary component of any regulatory system. Sufficient resources should be allocated to its planning and its execution. To prevent regulatory failures, including high levels of non-compliance, instead of introducing new regulations, policy-makers would be well advised to analyze the regulatory system in its entirety: including the need for employee training, the difficulty of implementing regulations within

daily operations, the capacity of the sector to implement the regulation, as well as the extent of intentional violations.

9. Local market surveillance authorities and enforcement bodies play a vital role in the implementation of the SDGs, since they are responsible for enforcing all regulations, no matter by which authority and at which level it was set (e.g. including international regulations).

**10. When possible**, approaches described in Recommendation S should be used **to support the existing qualitative methods** as a prioritization tool that would allow enforcement authorities and regulators to focus their attention on products/businesses/activities that are (1) most threaten the implementation of the SDGs when non-compliant and (2) most likely to be non-compliant (with the highest probability of non-compliance).

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