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Item 4 of the provisional agenda

Facilitated discussion on future direction of work on “Standards and sustainable development”

Report on the Standards for the Sustainable Development Goals project

Submitted by the secretariat

Summary

This document presents the main activities, results and impacts of the project “Enhancing usage and uptake of the standards for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)” which was carried out by the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) Secretariat from July 2018 to July 2019 thanks to contributions by the German Cooperation fund through the Physikalisch-Technische Bundesanstalt (PTB) as well as ASTM International and Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE).

Proposed decision:

“The Working Party takes note of the project report and thanks the Government of Germany, PTB and the other donors for their generous contributions. The Working Party commends the continuation of the project for another biennium and requests the Secretariat to continue to report on the technical activities carried out”.

I. Introduction

1. The project “Enhancing usage and uptake of the standards for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals” was carried out by the UNECE Secretariat from July 2018

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to July 2019 thanks to contributions by the German Cooperation fund through the Physikalisch-Technische Bundesanstalt (PTB) as well as ASTM International and Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE).

II. Summary of the project activities

2. The major accomplishments of the project were:
 - (a) the organization of two high-level events (the Standards for the SDGs event on 26/9/2018 and the Opening of the Declaration on Gender Responsive Standards and Standards Development for signature on 14/5/2019);
 - (b) two publications on “Standards for the SDGs” and “Gender Responsive Standards”;
 - (c) the development of a portal made available on the UNECE website <https://standards4sdgs.unece.org/> comprising: a tool to identify standards that help to realise the Sustainable Development Goals and Targets; a collection of case studies of countries, cities and regions that have successfully used standards for sustainability; and supporting online training materials;
 - (d) the production of two videos and one animation video on Standards for the SDGs and on Gender Responsive standards, as well as numerous awareness raising materials (pull up posters, brochures, etc.); and
 - (e) participation by the Secretariat in nine awareness-raising and capacity-building events aimed at enhancing usage and uptake of standards by policymakers and increased cooperation between policymakers and the standards community.
3. Looking in more detail to the mapping tool, developed thanks to the project, this allows users to identify standards that support the achievement of specific SDGs and targets (currently, SDG6, SDG7, SDG11 and SDG13). It enables policymakers and other stakeholders to quickly access a large base of knowledge and expertise that is immediately relevant to their needs and aspirations.
4. By selecting an SDG and target into the custom-built search engine, the online tool returns the complete list of standards that can be used to support its achievement. The results include: the name and logo of the organization that developed the standard, a link to the technical committee responsible for its development, and a link to the website where the standard is available for purchase or for download.
5. The database currently contains close to 1000 standards, from international, regional and national standards bodies including: the American Water Works Association, ASTM International, the European Committee for Standardization (CEN), the European Committee for Electrotechnical Standardization (CENELEC) CEN/CENELEC, European Telecommunications Standards Institute (ETSI), Equitable Origin, Forest Stewardship Council FSC, Global Reporting Initiative (GRI), International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC), Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE), International Telecommunications Union (ITU), International Organization for Standardization (ISO), Marine Stewardship Council (MSC), World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF), UNECE, UTZ, and the World Health Organization (WHO).
6. While other organizations have also worked on the link between standards and the SDGs the UNECE database is unique in its impartiality and broad reach.
7. The mapping tool is made available on a portal that was custom-built to support the project and which also makes available: a collection of case studies and three online courses on: risk management, conformity assessment and market surveillance. Additionally, funds

from the Project were used to raise awareness about the UNECE Declaration on Gender Responsive Standards and to promote its adoption. These outreach activities were highly successful as evidenced by the large number of standards bodies that signed the Declaration on the day it opened for signature, and subsequently (60 standards bodies had signed at the date of reporting, in September 2019).

8. Table below provides additional details of all activities.

III. Achievements and impacts

9. The project had two expected accomplishments (EA):

- (a) increased understanding by policy makers on the role of standards in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda (EA1); and
- (b) strengthened cooperation for sustainable development across standards bodies, national governments and the United Nations system (EA2).

10. As regards the first (EA1), several indicators confirm that it has been achieved, including:

- (a) according to a survey was administered to the participants of the High-Level event, overall understanding on the role of standards in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda was 3.17 out of 5 prior to the event, and rose to 4.0 out of 5 after;
- (b) the UNECE secretariat made presentations about the contribution of voluntary standards to the achievement of Agenda 2030 and of the WP6 mapping instrument, at 10 meetings of standards bodies and policymaking bodies in 2018-2019; and
- (c) the wide reach of the information campaign on “Gender Responsive Standards” which used traditional and social media, animation videos, and direct contacts reaching an estimated total of over 5 million people globally.

11. As regards the second (EA2), an important indicator is the number of signatories of the Declaration on Gender Responsive Standards.

12. This indicator was chosen because it shows the engagement of the standards community to act for the achievement of SDG 5, in partnership with Member States, with UNECE and other UN agencies as well as other key stakeholders including NGOs and academia. Additionally, 32 signatories of the Declaration have formally met in Cape Town, South Africa, on 17th September 2019, showing once again their engagement and their availability to work in partnership.

13. The Declaration was signed on the day of opening by 55 standards bodies, including all leading international standards bodies (IEC, ISO, ITU) and key regional standards bodies (CEN/CENELEC and African Organisation for Standardisation (ARSO)), a large number of national standards bodies from all regions of the world as well as sectoral and voluntary sustainability standards organizations. Looking in particular at the engagement of the UNECE member states, 40% of the UNECE member states have formally signed the Declaration as well as 22 standards bodies outside the UNECE region as well as other key stakeholders, the signatories represent peoples from all continents, levels of development, and geopolitical characteristics.

14. Overall, the project collected and shared new evidence on how standards have been applied and can be further used by policy makers in every region of the world, as well as evidence on the integration of standards into SDG reporting. In the publications, particular emphasis has been given to how standards have been referenced in the Voluntary National Reviews.

15. Table below provides additional details and more indicators.

IV. Follow-up to the project

16. A follow up project has already started its activities, thanks to continued generous funding from the German Government through PTB, for the period 2019-2021. Immediate expected results under the project, include:

- (a) the organization of the first meeting of the Signatories of the Gender Responsive Standards Declaration in Cape Town, South Africa on 17 September 2019;
- (b) the further development of the portal and of additional training and awareness-raising materials;
- (c) the organization of 2 high-level events and 4 national/regional workshops on the topic of “Standards for the SDGs” and gender responsive standards; and
- (d) dedicated support to local and national stakeholders in the development, dissemination and implementation of best practice for gender responsive standards.

Table: Draft Final Project Report (UNECE reporting format)

General information	
Project number and title of the project	Enhancing usage and uptake of the standards for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals
Project manager	Lorenza Jachia
Project duration as approved	12 months (July 2018 – July 2019)
Actual project duration and reporting period	12 months
Financial implementation rate	To be provided at a later stage.
Summary of impact/outcomes (max 4 paras)	<p>The project contributed to increasing awareness of and usage by policymakers of voluntary standards as developed by national, regional and international standards bodies, as part of their strategies for the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Additionally, the project reinforced cooperation and mutual understanding between international standards bodies on the one hand, and regulatory authorities, administrations and policymakers, on the other.</p> <p>The objectives of the project were not only fully met but amply surpassed expectations, and resulted in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - the organization of two high-level events (the Standards for the SDGs event on 26/9/2018 and the Opening of the Declaration on Gender

	<p>Responsive Standards and Standards Development for signature on 14/5/2019)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - two publications on “Standards for the SDGs” and “Gender Responsive Standards” - the development of a portal, made available on the UNECE website https://standards4sdgs.unece.org/ comprising: a tool to identify standards that help to realise the Sustainable Development Goals and Targets; a collection of case studies of countries, cities and regions that have successfully used standards for sustainability; and supporting online training materials. - the production of two videos and one animation video on Standards for the SDGs and on Gender Responsive standards, as well as numerous awareness raising materials (pull up posters, brochures, etc). <p>Additionally, funds from the Project were used to raise awareness about the UNECE Declaration on Gender Responsive Standards and to promote its adoption. These outreach activities were highly successful as evidenced by the large number of standards bodies that signed the Declaration on the day it opened for signature, and subsequently.</p>
<p>SDGs and targets project contributed</p>	<p>SDG 5: Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Target 5.5: Ensure women’s full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of decision-making in political, economic and public life. <p>The project resulted in an increased awareness of the impact of standards on women’s empowerment and gender equality, as evidenced by the signing of the Declaration on Gender Responsive Standards by 60 international, regional and national standards bodies worldwide. This will directly impact and increase the participation of women in the setting of standards and the representation of their interests in the standards themselves.</p> <p>SDG 6: Clean water and sanitation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All targets • The project has contributed to enhance awareness of how standards are used by

	<p> policymakers in the assessment of the quality of drinking water, and in ensuring a reliable supply at an affordable price. The case studies collected also highlighted how standards can support wastewater treatment and help communities cope with water scarcity. </p> <p> SDG 7: Affordable and clean energy </p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All targets • The project contributed to underscore the importance of standards to support the transition to clean energy. In particular, the case studies highlighted how policymakers have used standards in the context of initiatives for energy efficiency, for the development of renewable energy technologies and to enhance the quality of the underlying institutional processes. <p> SDG 11: Sustainable cities and communities </p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 11.3 (increase capacity for participatory, integrated and sustainable urban planning and management) and 11.5 (decrease the direct and indirect human, economic, and environmental losses caused by disasters) • The case studies collected by the project under Target 11.3 showed how local administrations used international standards to develop and implement key performance indicators (KPIs) and enhance transport safety, security and mobility. The case studies collected under target 11.5 show how standards have been used to strengthen communities' resilience to disasters by supporting early warning systems and emergency alerts, by successfully involving volunteers in disaster response, and by increasing communities' awareness of natural hazards. <p> SDG 13: Climate action </p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 13.3: specifically as regards to building institutional capacity on climate change mitigation • The case studies collected by the project show how standards were used to reduce the negative impact of operations on the environment, implement effective environmental management systems, communicate on environmental
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	performances, and finance climate change initiatives.
<p>REVIEW OF EXPECTED ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND ACTIVITIES AS PER PROJECT DOCUMENT</p> <p><i>(Please make sure the review (i) includes all EAs and activities as per the project document implemented during the review period, (ii) provide information on the venue of workshops/seminars, their dates and the number of participants, including gender-disaggregated, and (iii) state if the activities have been completed or are still incomplete)</i></p>	
Expected Accomplishment 1 (EA1)	<i>Increased understanding of the policy makers on the role of standards in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda;</i>
Indicators of Achievement for EA1	<p>At least 80% of invitees confirmed that their understanding on the role of the standards in the implementation of the 2030 agenda has been increased as evidenced by post-event evaluation survey.</p> <p>A survey was administered to the participants of the High Level event. Respondents (65% representing standards bodies) confirmed that, their overall understanding on the role of standards in the implementation of the 2030 increased after participating in the event. Prior to the event, the weighted average to the question of overall understanding was 3.17 out of 5. After participating in the event, the weighted average rose to 4.0 out of 5.</p> <p>With respect to the suitability of content and format for each of the respective breakout session, the mean for each session is as follows: (SDG 6:4.50, SDG 7: 4.62, SDG 11: 4.25, SDG 13: 4.89). Respondents further praised the use of case studies of the event and 80% of respondents (weighted average 4.04) ranked it between 4/5 and 5/5. The post-evaluation survey confirmed that the event was perceived to be well-organized (the weighted average was 4.09) and 97% of respondents confirmed their interest in being informed on future activities of the project “Enhancing Usage and Uptake of Standards for Achieving the Sustainable Development Goals”. 79% of Respondents confirmed their interest in participating in the activities of the Working Party. 95% of Respondents confirmed their interest in a similar event being organized in conjunction with the ISO GA or other international standards meetings in the future.</p> <p>Presentation of the contribution of voluntary standards to the achievement of Agenda 2030 and of the WP6 mapping instrument, at four national/regional/international standards-related meetings in 2018-2019.</p>

	<p>The Secretary of the Working Party on Regulatory Cooperation policies presented the findings of the project at the following events as well as at a large number of informal meetings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - ISO General Assembly 2018 (specifically the breakout session on “International Standards supporting the SDGs”), Geneva, Switzerland, 24-28 September 2018) - 6th plenary meeting of the ISO TC 262 on “Security and resilience” (Stavanger, Norway, October 7-12, 2018) attended by 150 delegates representing 30 countries - Public hearing of the Advisory Council on Sustainable Development of the German Parliament (17 October 2018. Berlin, Germany) - High-level meeting on the value of products, services and organizations subject to certification organized by the accreditation body of Italy, Accredia (10th January 2019, Milan, Italy) - SADC TBT Cooperation Structures (13-15 March 2019, Windhoek, Namibia) - 34th ISO CASCO Plenary meeting and workshop (29th April - 3rd May 2019, Nairobi, Kenya) - Conference of Small Business Standards (22 May, Brussels) - ISO/TC 207 on “Environmental Management” Plenary Meeting (3rd June 2019, Berlin, Germany) - ISEAL/BSR Gender Working Group (17 June, Brussels) and Global Sustainability Standards Symposium (18 June, the Hague, the Netherlands); - Reports to the meetings of the WTO TBT Committee (14-15 November 2018, 5-7 March 2019, 18-20 June 2019)
<p>Main Activity A.1.1</p> <p>Developing a mapping tool to identify standards that support the implementation of four selected SDGs (SDG 6 "Clean Water and Sanitation"; SDG 7 "Affordable and clean energy"; SDG 11 "Sustainable cities and communities" and SDG 13 "Climate Action);</p>	<p>The mapping tool developed thanks to the project allows users to identify standards that support the achievement of specific SDGs and targets (currently, SDG6, SDG7, SDG11 and SDG13). This allows policymakers to quickly access a large base of knowledge and expertise that is immediately relevant to their needs and aspirations.</p> <p>By selecting an SDG and target into the custom-built search engine, the online tool returns the complete list of standards that can be used to support its achievement. The results include: the name and logo of the organization that developed the standard, a link to the technical committee responsible for its development, and a link to the website where the standard is available for purchase or for download.</p>

	<p>The database currently contains close to 1000 standards, from international, regional and national standards bodies including: the American Water Works Association, ASTM International, CEN/CENELEC, ETSI, Equitable Origin, FSC, GRI, IEC, IEEE, ITU, ISO, MSC, WWF, UTZ, and the WHO.</p> <p>While other organizations have also worked on the link between standards and the SDGs the UNECE database is unique in its impartiality and broad reach.</p> <p>The mapping tool is made available on a portal that was custom-built to support the project and which also makes available: a collection of case studies and three online courses on: risk management, conformity assessment and market surveillance.</p>
<p>Main Activity A.1.2</p> <p>Developing four case studies to showcase how implementing standards advances the implementation of specific SDGs by national policy makers</p>	<p>A total of 25 case studies were submitted by policymakers from across the globe , and they are available along with the search engine on the Standards for the SDGs portal https://standards4sdgs.unece.org/</p> <p>These include 4 case studies for SDG 6, 6 case studies for SDG 7, 8 case studies for SDG 11, and 7 case studies for SDG 13.</p> <p>Additionally, the lessons learned from the case studies have been compiled in two publications “Standards for the SDGs” and “Gender Responsive Standards”, which will be made available on the WP. 6 website in coming weeks.</p>
<p>Main Activity A.1.3</p> <p>Developing awareness-raising materials on "Standards for the SDGs" (videos, brochures);</p>	<p>Brochures, pop up posters and informational PowerPoints were created for the “Standards for the SDGs” event and displayed throughout the ‘pop up village’, during the afternoon of the ISO GA at Centre International de Conférences Genève.</p> <p>3 videos – respectively on Standards for the SDGs on the UNECE Declaration on Gender Responsive Standards and on the Ceremony marking the opening of the declaration for signature (currently being finalized) have been developed and have been made available on YouTube and have been widely shared on social media (see below for details on the social media and media campaign).</p>
<p>Expected Accomplishment 2 (EA2)</p>	<p><i>Strengthened cooperation for sustainable development across standards bodies, national governments and the United Nations system.</i></p>

<p>Indicators of Achievements for EA2</p>	<p>At least 10% of standards bodies, national authorities and UN agencies represented at the “Standards for SDGs” event – as evidenced by the post evaluation survey - express interest in participating in the WP. 6 “Advisory Board” to be formally constituted at the 28th Session of the Working Party on “Regulatory Cooperation and Standardization Policies” (as per its decision at its previous session).</p> <p>Contrary to expectations, WP. 6 did not establish an Advisory Board at its 28th session. For this reason, a proxy indicator is being used to assess the achievement of this expected accomplishment. The proxy used is the number of standards bodies that have become signatories of the “Declaration on Gender Responsive Standards and Standards Development”.</p> <p>This is a good proxy because it shows the engagement of the standards community to act for the achievement of SDG 5, in partnership with Member States, with UNECE and other UN agencies as well as other key stakeholders including NGOs and academia. Additionally, the signatories of the Declaration have formally met in Cape Town, South Africa, on 17th September 2019, showing once again their engagement and their availability to work in partnership.</p> <p>The number of signatories on the day the Declaration opened for signature was 55, including all leading international standards bodies (IEC, ISO, ITU) and key regional standards bodies (CEN/CENELEC and ARSO), a large number of national standards bodies from all regions of the world as well as sectoral and voluntary sustainability standards organizations. Looking in particular at the engagement of the UNECE member states, 40% of the UNECE member states have formally signed the Declaration.</p>
<p>Main Activity A.2.1 <i>(Title of Main Activity A2.1, as per the project document)</i></p> <p>A2.1 Support participation by policymakers from developing and least developed countries in the the ISO General Assembly and in particular in a Joint UNECE-ISO event on 26 September 2018 on the topic of “Standards for the SDGs”</p>	<p>The joint UNECE-ISO event on “Standards for the SDGs” was attended by close to 800 participants, with unprecedented participation by policymakers, national, regional and international standards bodies, UN organizations, academia and other key stakeholders.</p> <p>The event was based on a peer learning approach as line ministries, regulatory bodies and local and central administrations shared their standards-based approaches to common challenges and aspirations, in critical sectors such as water, energy, smart cities, and climate action. This experience brought one participant to conclude, making reference to the water related policy she had</p>

developed, that she would have “done things very differently” had she fully grasped the potential of standards and better understood their implementation.

In his opening address, the Director-General of the United Nations Office at Geneva, Michael Moller, acknowledged how the event was an example of the collaboration that UN promotes in its daily work “to foster new partnerships, share lessons learned and support the creation of collective solutions to cross-cutting challenges”, such as the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. Sergio Mujica, ISO Secretary-General underlined the importance of the two communities working together.

Summary (max.2 pages) of overall assessment *Please provide, to the extent possible, both quantitative and qualitative information on each of the following questions:*

1. *How, in your view, the project funded from the voluntary contribution of the German Government through the Physikalisch-Technische Bundesanstalt (PTB), ASTM International and IEEE has helped UNECE to implement its mandate and meet demands/expectations of its member States?*

The results achieved by the project implemented thanks to the voluntary funding from the German Government through the Physikalisch-Technische Bundesanstalt (PTB), ASTM International and IEEE helped support the overall UNECE mandate of facilitating greater economic integration and cooperation and promoting sustainable development and economic prosperity. The impact was not limited to the UNECE member countries but reached well beyond the UNECE region. For example: out of the 25 case studies that were presented to the Standards for the SDGs event, 16 were from outside the UNECE region.

The activities of the project – such as presentations of the project’s achievements to key meetings of standardization bodies – contributed to raising the awareness by the standards community of the United Nations’ global mandates, in particular, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its 17 Sustainable Development Goals. Standards bodies now have a much better understanding of how they can – in practice – contribute to sustainable development and how they can support national administrations in monitoring and reporting.

Additionally, the project shared new evidence on how standards have been applied and can be further used by policy makers in every region of the world, as well as evidence on the integration of standards into SDG reporting, in particular in the Voluntary National Reviews. This evidence was developed and shared through the publications and learning materials developed by the project – i.e publications on “Standards for the SDGs” and “Gender Responsive Standards”. Policymakers reported having an increased understanding of what standards are, how they are developed, and how they can help to create, monitor and report on sustainability.

Going forward the custom-built mapping tool that links close to 1000 standards to 4 of the SDGs and their targets will assist policymakers in accessing a large body of best practice that they can tap into to support their action on specific policy goals.

2. *What practical benefits have project activities brought to “clients” in beneficiary countries? Provide 2-3 concrete “tangible” examples (e.g. new legislation/policy measures, institutional strengthening, new “products” such as standards, training materials, etc.). Support these*

examples by assessments from partners in projects implementation, beneficiaries of the project).

The project activities resulted in the following tangible deliverables and impacts:

- Standards for the SDGs:
 - i. A common understanding by standards bodies and government officials as well as by other regulatory stakeholders of the importance of a standards-based approach in regulatory frameworks for sustainable development;
 - ii. The portal on standards for the SDGs featuring the mapping tool, a large collection of case studies and online training materials to raise the capacity of policymakers to develop standards-based regulatory frameworks;
 - iii. A volume on “Standards for the SDGs” and a video on the UNECE – ISO event on the topic, along with numerous leaflets and awareness-raising materials
 - iv. The German standards body, DIN, participated in the “Standard for the SDGs” event during the 41st ISO General Assembly in Geneva. It reported that “Our delegation particularly appreciated the tools that the UNECE Secretariat presented on that occasion (...) and decided to make use of these tools in the context of the work of the Joint Initiative on Standardization (JIS)” specifically on Action 4”, which aims at improving awareness about standardization in national public authorities. “The case studies collected in the UNECE project “Standards for the SDGs” proved to be a useful tool. We have even started to collect further examples based on the template used by UNECE. Employees of both, national standardization bodies and national public authorities, may now use these examples to share the knowledge about the benefits of standards and standardization”
 - v. The UNECE was invited to deliver a presentation about the “Standards for the SDGs” project at the Public Hearing of the Advisory Council on Sustainable Development of the German Parliament (Bundestag). This provided an important occasion to showcase the value of standards for sustainable development to the German lawmakers. The MPs concluded the discussion by highlighting the complementarity between regulation and voluntary standards for sustainable development

- Gender Responsive Standards:
 - i. Increased awareness and understanding by standards bodies of the importance of integrating a gender lens in standardization resulting in the signing of the Declaration by 58 standards organizations as of 9 September 2019.
 - ii. Established direct contact with over 200 standards bodies worldwide to offer information about the Declaration on Gender Responsive Standards and promote its adoption resulting in the creation of a dedicated listserv that will allow UNECE, even after the conclusion of the project, to effectively communicate with the worldwide standards community on important new initiatives
 - iii. A volume on “Gender-Responsive Standards”, an animation video and a video summarizing the main messages of the event on the opening of the Declaration for signature
 - iv. Collected 16 videos of support from signatories of the Declaration
 - v. Among the many expressions of support by standards bodies, the following stand out: “a gender lens in standardization is important to make standards relevant to everyone” (ISO SG Mr. Sergio Mujica); “We live in a world designed by men, for men (Dr. Reinhard Scholl, on behalf of Mr. Houlin

Zhao, Secretary-General, International Telecommunication Union (ITU); “Different perspectives make technology solutions more relevant (Frans Vreeswijk, IEC); “implementation of gender responsive standards will eventually lead to a gender responsive society” (Ms. Surina Rajan, Director General, Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS); “Standards should work for all of us” (Mr. Hermogene Nsengimana, Secretary General, The African Organization for Standardization, ARSO); “This Declaration a great opportunity to link isolated actions: let’s use it to increase the number of so knowledgeable women in European standardization” (Ms. Elena Santiago Cid, Director General, European Committee for Standardization (CEN) & European Committee for Electrotechnical Standardization (CENELEC) (CEN-CENELEC).

- vi. Presented the Declaration at the SADC TBT Cooperation Structures (13-15 March 2019, Windhoek, Namibia) and at the ISEAL/BSR Gender Working Group (17 June, Brussels) and Global Sustainability Standards Symposium (18 June, the Hague, the Netherlands);
- vii. The UNECE activities sensitized the WTO TBT committee meetings to the importance of gender leading to a proposal by Canada to organize a workshop or thematic session on how gender plays in the development of standards and technical regulations. The Workshop will take place in late 2020.
- viii. Many organizations have already shared the commitments they have taken under their action plans, including for example the IPQ, the Standards Body of Portugal which reported committing to partnering with IST – the national standards body of Iceland – to adopt a standard originally developed by the Icelandic Standards Body on “Equal wage management system”
- ix. The newly adopted feminist trade policy, adopted by Sweden, includes a commitment to gender responsive standards (<https://www.regeringen.se/pressmeddelanden/2019/08/regeringen-satsar-pa-feministisk-handelspolitik/>)

3. *Were there any problems with the execution of the project (including with partners), changes to the implementation plan? What are the main lessons learned/best practices in project implementation?*

The two most acute problems were:

- the lack of regular budget staff to support the activities of the project, which led to missed opportunities, for example: to present the project’s findings to a larger number of high-level events or to organize or co-organize more awareness raising and capacity building events;
- the highly bureaucratic process of onboarding the project’s funds - resulting significant delays in starting the activities - made the lead up to the “Standards for the SDGs” event extremely stressful.

The first problem will be exacerbated by organization-wide budget cuts, which resulted in the loss of a general assistance staff in the section that supports the execution of the project. As for the second problem, UNECE is currently working on a simplified procedure for the initiation of technical cooperation projects, which will be discussed by UNECE member states. If approved, it could save significant time and resources in the startup phase of a project activities, which is often heavily charged.

4. *What could have been done better to raise the effectiveness of the project, enhance its impact and sustainability? How the activities of the project could have been synergized with other related work/activities of UNECE?*

The Regulatory Cooperation unit has worked in close cooperation with colleagues from other divisions - in particular Environment, Energy, and Housing - throughout the project. It also partnered with a number of UN and non-UN organization in identifying and selecting the case studies to be presented. This wide network of collaboration allowed the small Regulatory Cooperation Unit to reach out to a very larger number of policymakers in different sectors and geographical regions and was a key factor of success for the “Standards for the SDGs” event. It also provided an opportunity for UNECE deliverables from different divisions to reach a different and wider audience.

5. *Were the results achieved by the project commensurate to the provided funding? Were any supplementary funds raised to support the project activities and facilitate the achievements of the results?*

The results of the project certainly went above and beyond expectations. The exceptional results of the project were possible thanks to the decision of leveraging upon the large network of support that the WP. 6 enjoys from the standards community and other international organizations. Additionally, regular budget resources and funds from the projects “Removing Regulatory and Procedural Barriers to Trade in Belarus, Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan” (ECE-E268) and “Strengthening the National Capacity of Trade Support Institutions of Kyrgyzstan” (E269)project were used in the early phases of the development of online training courses” which have now been integrated in the “Standards for the SDGs” portal, as well as in the finalization of the “Standards for the SDGs” and “Gender Responsive Standards” publication.

Future TC project and regular budget activities will be based on the results of this project. In particular, the online training materials developed as part of this project will be adapted and used for future projects at regional and national level via educational centres and cooperation projects. The portal and the mapping tool will ground future WP. 6 activities unto the basis of a solid knowledge management system with an optimal information sharing interface. Additionally, the resources of the project have allowed identifying points of contact in all the main standards bodies worldwide, which will significantly increase the leverage and uptake of future TC projects and regular budget activities.

6. *Please attach additional information materials on the project activities such as press clippings, media coverage, publications, websites, etc.*

Press releases:

Two news items were published on the occasion of the ISO-UNECE High Level Event on Standards for the SDGs (see UNECE website <http://www.unece.org/info/media/news/trade/2018/standards-for-the-sdgs-conference-to-explore-voluntary-standards-as-powerful-tools-for-sustainable-development/doc.html> and <http://www.unece.org/info/media/news/trade/2018/unece-connects-policymakers-with-standards-for-the-sdgs/doc.html>)

A press release (‘UNECE and over 50 standards bodies sign Declaration on Gender Responsive Standards’) was made available on the occasion of the opening of the Gender Responsive Standards for signature (available on the UNECE webpage: <https://www.unece.org/?id=51739> .)

Analysis of the social Media coverage of the Ceremony

The Communications team examined the social media results over the period May 1-May 24, 2019 and found the following:

- Including Retweets: 376 results from Twitter, Facebook, YouTube & Blogs
- Excluding Retweets: 61 results from Twitter, Facebook, YouTube & Blogs
- Estimated Reach including Retweets: 2,001,495

Most of the social media coverage was found to be in English from Switzerland, UK, Belgium, Spain, China, Algeria, Ireland, Germany, US and France.

National media coverage: Articles regarding the Gender Responsive Standards Declaration

Articles:

23-May-2019 07:3 8AM	St. Kitts and Nevis Signs Declaration on Gender Responsive Standards and Standards Development	https://www.nevispages.com/st-kitts-and-nevis-signs-declaration-on-gender-responsive-standards-and-standards-development/	Saint Kitts And Nevis
22-May-2019 07:2 2PM	St. Kitts and Nevis signs declaration on gender responsive standards and standards development	https://zisonline.com/st-kitts-and-nevis-signs-declaration-on-gender-responsive-standards-and-standards-development/	Saint Kitts And Nevis
21-May-2019 10:4 4PM	UNE se adhiere a una iniciativa mundial para integrar la perspectiva de género en las normas	https://www.izaro.com/une-se-adhiere-a-una-iniciativa-mundial-para-integrar-la-perspectiva-de-genero-en-las-normas/c-1558351827/	Spain
20-May-2019 07:0 2PM	La UNE se adhiere a una iniciativa mundial para integrar perspectiva de género en las normas	https://www.mujeremprededora.net/une-adhiere-iniciativa-mundial-integrar-perspectiva-genero-normas/	Spain
20-May-2019 05:2 6PM	UNE se adhiere a una iniciativa mundial para integrar la perspectiva de género en las normas	http://www.diariosigloxxi.com/texto-ep/mostrar/20190520172637/une-adhiere-iniciativa-mundial-integrar-perspectiva-genero-normas	Spain
20-May-2019 05:2 6PM	UNE se adhiere a una iniciativa mundial para integrar la perspectiva de género en las normas	https://www.bolsamania.com/noticias/sociedad/une-se-adhiere-a-una-iniciativa-mundial-para-integrar-la-perspectiva-de-genero-en-las-normas--4127393.html	Spain
20-May-2019 05:2 6PM	UNE se adhiere a una iniciativa mundial para integrar la perspectiva de género en las normas	https://www.europapress.es/epsocial/responsables/noticia-une-adhiere-iniciativa-mundial-integrar-perspectiva-genero-normas-20190520172634.html	Spain
16-May-2019 08:5 2PM	Over 50 Countries, Organizations Pledge to Create Gender-Responsive Standards	http://sdg.iisd.org/news/over-50-countries-organizations-pledge-to-create-gender-responsive-standards/	United States

14- May- 2019 12:0 0AM	CEN and CENELEC signed UNECE's declaration on gender responsive standards and standards development	http://pr.euractiv.com/pr/cen-and-cenelec-signed-unece-s-declaration-gender-responsive-standards-and-standards-development	Belgium
07- May- 2019 02:3 2PM	ปฎิญญาว่าด้วยการมาตรฐานที่ตระหนักถึงความเสมอภาคระหว่างหญิงชายและการกำหนดมาตรฐาน	https://www.ryt9.com/s/cabt/2986786	Thailand
21/0 5/19	UNE adheres to a global initiative to integrate the gender perspective into standards	https://www.lavanguardia.com/vida/20190520/462363459847/une-se-adhiere-a-una-iniciativa-mundial-para-integrar-la-perspectiva-de-genero-en-las-normas.html	

The reach of these respective outlets was estimated to be 3,045,362.

Further, online articles regarding the Declaration were featured on the websites of: the International Centre for Trade and Sustainable Development (ICTSD) (<http://www.ictsd.org/bridges-news/bridges/news/un-commission-calls-for-gender-responsive-standards>); Women Organizing Change in Agricultural and Natural Resource Management (WOCAN) (<http://www.wocan.org/resources/declaration-gender-responsive-standards-and-standards-development>); (iii) the International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD) (<https://sdg.iisd.org/news/over-50-countries-organizations-pledge-to-create-gender-responsive-standards/>); (iv) International Gender Champions (<https://genderchampions.com/news/over-50-standards-bodies-sign-a-landmark-declaration-on-gender-responsive-standards>) ; (v) Genève Internationale (<http://www.geneve-int.ch/unece-and-over-50-standards-bodies-sign-declaration-gender-responsive-standards>)

Comments: A follow up project has already started its activities, thanks to continued generous funding from the German Government through PTB for approximately 400'000 USD, for the period 2019-2021. Immediate expected results under the project, include: 1. the organization of the first meeting of the Signatories of the Gender Responsive Standards Declaration in Cape Town, South Africa on 17 September 2019, 2. the further development of the portal and of additional training and awareness-raising materials 3. the organization of 2 high-level events and 4 national/regional workshops on the topic of "Standards for the SDGs" and gender responsive standards; 4 Dedicated support to local and national stakeholders in the development, dissemination and implementation of best practice for gender responsive standards.

The Regulatory Cooperation Unit will continue to seek and leverage upon its network of support in the implementation of the follow up project. CEN/CENELEC has already reached out to the UNECE Secretariat offering to link the Standards for the SDGs portal to its website and integrating it into their awareness-raising campaign on "Standards build Trust".