



# 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)

#### Informal Virtual Consultations

Geneva, 2 - 3 November 2020

Item 1 of the provisional agenda

#### Adoption of the agenda

### Annotated provisional agenda for the Informal Virtual Consultations\*

To be held online as Informal Virtual Consultations starting on 2 November 2020 at 3 PM and concluding on 3 November 2020 at 6 PM. An online session on “Gender-Responsive Standards” will be held from 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM on 2 November to discuss how standards help progress gender equality and women’s empowerment.

#### I. Provisional agenda

1. Adoption of the agenda.
2. Election of officers.
3. Matters arising.
4. Virtual Conference on Building Back Better: Shared solutions as a Critical Tool for Sustainable Development in the Era of COVID-19.
5. Gender-Responsive Standards Initiative (GRSI).
6. Risk Management in Regulatory Systems.
7. Recent Developments in Standardization.
8. Recent Developments in International Regulatory Cooperation.

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Delegates should register online at: <http://indico.un.org/e/trade/wp6/wp6-30th-2020.html>

Delegates are requested to download their own documents to the meeting; these will be available in English, French and Russian on: <http://www.unece.org/index.php?id=53785>. Additional information for delegates, including a map of the premises, is available on <http://www.unece.org/meetings/practical.html>.

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9. Recent Developments in Conformity Assessment and Accreditation.
10. Recent Developments in Metrology.
11. Report of the Advisory Group on Market Surveillance.
12. Report on Capacity-building.
13. Report of the Twenty-ninth Session and Intersessional Developments.
14. Programme of Work for 2021.
15. Other Business.
16. Adoption of the Report.

## II. Annotations

### 1. Adoption of the agenda

<i>Title of document</i>	<i>Document symbol</i>	<i>For information/decision</i>
Annotated provisional agenda	ECE/CTCS/WP.6/2020/INF.1	Decision

1. The provisional agenda and timetable were agreed upon by the Bureau of the Working Party and will be presented for adoption by the Informal Virtual Consultations of the Working Party.

### 2. Election of officers

2. The two-year term of Mr. Miroslav Chloupek, WP.6 Vice-Chair (Chechia) comes to an end at the 30<sup>th</sup> session and the Working Party will be invited to elect a new Vice Chair for a two-year term 2020-2022. The 29<sup>th</sup> session of the Working Party elected Ms. Marion Stoldt, (Germany) Chair and Mr. Valentin Tataritsky, (Belarus) Vice-Chair for the period of 2019-2021.

### 3. Matters arising

3. The secretariat will inform the delegations of recent developments in the Steering Committee on Trade Capacity and Standards and the Executive Committee (EXCOM) of the ECE.

### 4. Virtual Conference on Building Back Better: Shared solutions as a Critical Tool for Sustainable Development in the Era of COVID-19

4. In the context of the global health crisis, quality infrastructure has helped to meet the negative effects of contagion and underpinned efforts to deliver continuity in trade. The session will invite delegations to a mini Conference on the solutions that internationally agreed standards can provide for quality infrastructure in support of member States' efforts to mitigate the impact of the recent crisis under the Building Back Better umbrella. Discussants will consider how quality infrastructure helps to meet the myriad challenges of the pandemic and support member States to meet societal needs; both by alleviating trade disruptions and improving the adoption of internationally harmonised policies and regulations.

5. Infrastructure covers most of the operational areas of WP.6 including standards, technical regulations, accreditation, conformity assessments, market surveillance and metrology. These areas can provide significant support to recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic and strengthen resilience to future crises. The mini conference will address the ways in which WP.6 contributes to strengthening resilience of member States to future crisis events. These also include how women's participation in international standard-setting is in the forefront for response to the pandemic through driving economic strength on the ground; by sharing recent experiences in the need for reliable, fast and effective conformity assessment shown in the examples of masks, personal protective equipment etc. as opposed related to challenges in developing countries, counterfeit, and testing kits.

## 5. Gender-responsive Standards Initiative (GRSI)

<i>Title of document</i>	<i>Document symbol</i>	<i>For information/decision</i>
Report on GRSI activities 2019-2020	ECE/CTCS/WP.6/2020/4	Decision

6. The Chair of the Gender-Responsive Standards Initiative (GRSI) will report on activities undertaken since the 29<sup>th</sup> session, including on the signatories of the Gender-Responsive Standards Declaration and their related activities as well as a verbal report of the GRSI meeting to be held on 2 November.

## 6. Risk Management in Regulatory Systems

<i>Title of document</i>	<i>Document symbol</i>	<i>For information/decision</i>
Report of Activities under the Group of Experts on Managing Risks in Regulatory Systems	ECE/CTCS/WP.6/2020/5	Decision
Revised Recommendation P on "Risk Management in Regulatory Systems"	ECE/TRADE/C/WP.6/2011/4/Rev.1	Decision
Revised concept on Recommendation V on "Addressing Product Non-Compliance Risk in International Trade"	ECE/CTCS/WP.6/2020/6	Information

7. The Group of Experts on Managing Risks in Regulatory Systems will report on its activities since the 29<sup>th</sup> session. The session will have before it for adoption the revised Recommendation P on "Risk Management in Regulatory Systems" as revised by the Group of Experts. The session will also discuss the Group's revised concept for a new Recommendation V on "Addressing Product Non-Compliance Risk in International Trade" and a publication on Integrating Risk Management in Trade Facilitation.

## 7. Recent Developments in Standardization

8. The session will have before it updates from intergovernmental organizations, and international and regional standardization bodies.

## 8. Recent Developments in International Regulatory Cooperation

<i>Title of document</i>	<i>Document symbol</i>	<i>For information/decision</i>
Report on recent developments in the Sectoral Initiatives	ECE/CTCS/WP.6/2020/7	Information

9. The session will have before it a report on international regulatory cooperation. The Working Party will also receive a report of the Sectoral Initiatives on Cybersecurity, Earth-moving Equipment, Explosive Environments, and Pipeline Safety.

## 9. Recent Developments in Conformity Assessment and Accreditation

10. The session will have before it a report of work undertaken in conformity assessment and accreditation.

## 10. Recent Developments in Metrology

11. The session will have before it a report of work undertaken in metrology.

## 11. Report of the Advisory Group on Market Surveillance

<i>Title of document</i>	<i>Document symbol</i>	<i>For information/decision</i>
Report of the Advisory Group on Market Surveillance (MARS)	ECE/CTCS/WP.6/2020/8	Decision

12. The session will have before it a report of the Advisory Group on Market Surveillance.

## 12. Report on Capacity-building

<i>Title of document</i>	<i>Document symbol</i>	<i>For information/decision</i>
Progress Report on Standards for SDGs Project II	ECE/CTCS/WP.6/2020/.9	Decision

13. The session will have before it a progress report of Phase II of the Project on Standards for SDGs and a proposal for its possible prolongation for one year.

## 13. Report of the Twenty-ninth Session and Intersessional Developments

<i>Title of document</i>	<i>Document symbol</i>	<i>For information/decision</i>
Report of the Informal Virtual Consultations of the Working Party on Regulatory Cooperation and Standardization Policies (WP.6)	ECE/CTCS/WP.6/2019/2	Decision

14. The session will be invited to review the implementation of decisions made by the 29<sup>th</sup> session. It will receive a report of the informal consultations of interested parties on

education in standards to be held in the morning of 2 November. The session will also receive reports on cooperation under way with other United Nations Economic Commission for Europe bodies of interest to the Working Party.

#### 14. Programme of Work for 2021

<i>Title of document</i>	<i>Document symbol</i>	<i>For information/decision</i>
Programme of Work of the Working Party on Regulatory Cooperation and Standardization Policies for 2021.	ECE/CTCS/WP.6/2020/10	Decision

15. The session will have before it a draft programme of work for 2021 for adoption.

#### 15. Other Business

16. The session will discuss any other business raised, including the tentative dates of its 31<sup>st</sup> session in 2021.

#### 16. Adoption of the Report

<i>Title of document</i>	<i>Document symbol</i>	<i>For information/decision</i>
Chairs notes on the Informal Virtual Consultations of the Working Party on Regulatory Cooperation and Standardization Policies (WP.6)	ECE/CTCS/WP.6/2020/INF.2	Decision

17. The session will have before it the Chair's notes on the Informal Virtual Consultations for submission for approval by the Steering Committee on Trade Capacity and Standards.

### III. Tentative timetable

<i>Date</i>	<i>Time</i>	<i>Item</i>	<i>Description</i>
2.11	15:00 – 15:10	1	Adoption of the agenda
	15:10 – 15:20	2	Election of officers
	15:20 – 15:30	3	Matters arising
	15:30 – 17:30	4	Virtual Conference on Building Back Better: Shared solutions as a Critical Tool for Sustainable Development in the Era of COVID-19
	17:30 – 18:00	5	Gender-responsive Standards Initiative
3.11	10:00 – 10:30	6	Risk Management in Regulatory Systems
	10:30 – 11:00	7	Recent Developments in Standardization

<i>Date</i>	<i>Time</i>	<i>Item</i>	<i>Description</i>
	11:00 – 11:30	8	International Regulatory Cooperation
	11:30 – 12:00	9	Recent Developments in Conformity Assessment and Accreditation
	12:00 – 12:30	10	Recent Developments in Metrology
	12:30 – 13:00	11	Recent Developments in Market Surveillance
	15:00 - 15:30	12	Capacity-building
	15:30 - 16:00	13	Report of the 29th session and intersessional developments
	16:00 – 16:30	14	Programme of work 2021
	16:30 – 17:00	15	Any other business
	17:00 – 18:00	16	Adoption of the report

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