

Annex to document TRADE/2004/11

**REVISED TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR THE WORKING PARTY
ON REGULATORY COOPERATION AND STANDARDIZATION POLICIES**

(adopted at the 13th session of the Working Party in November 2003)

The Working Party:

- (a) Serves as a forum for the exchange of information on developments and experiences in the areas of technical regulations, standardization, conformity assessment and related activities at the national, regional and international levels, with the goal of contributing to the establishment of an open, equitable, rule-based, predictable and non-discriminatory multilateral trading and financial system;
- (b) Determines priorities for international standardization activities with a view to:
 - promoting a global policy based on sustainable development principles in selected domains such as public health and safety, environmental protection, energy efficiency, consumer protection and new technologies;
 - preventing, reducing or eliminating technical barriers to trade;
- (c) Analyses problems of an international and regional nature and experiences in solving them. Prepares recommendations aimed at facilitating international trade through the harmonization of national policies and the promotion of best practices based on good governance principles with respect to technical regulations, standardization, conformity assessment and related activities such as quality and environment management, consumer protection and market surveillance;
- (d) Acts as a Forum for reflection on such topics as may be referred to it by the Economic Commission for Europe, the Committee for Trade, Industry and Enterprise Development, member Governments and/or concerned international and regional organizations. Cooperates with the private sector, non-governmental organizations and civil society in general on issues contributing to the realization of its goals and programmes;
- (e) Maintains, when appropriate through special coordinators, liaison with governmental and non-governmental organizations concerned with technical regulations, standardization and related activities. Cooperates with other UNECE subsidiary bodies on cross-sectoral matters;
- (f) Organizes seminars and workshops at the international, regional and national levels on the implementation of internationally agreed principles of technical regulation, standardization and related activities. Provides advice and assistance to countries with economies in transition to facilitate their market reforms and integration into the world economy;
- (g) Arranges, upon request, for the provision of technical assistance to member Governments with a view to implementing agreed UNECE recommendations on regulatory cooperation and standardization policies;
- (h) Creates projects and establishes, when necessary, ad hoc groups of experts to address specific problems and concerns identified by the Working Party. Supervises, together with the secretariat, trust funds established for the implementation of concrete projects and undertakes other activities as requested and mandated by member States.

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