

Subprogramme-level evaluation of
UNECE’s support to the advancement of Regulatory Cooperation and Standardization Policies in member States (Working Party 6)” (December 2019)

Progress report as at 30 June 2020

#	Recommendation	Management response	Responsibility	Target date/deadline	Date of implementation/comments
1	<p>Update and reflect the work of Working Party 6 in line with the 2030 Agenda, which was adopted by ECE member States in 2015. Review and update the Terms of Reference of Working Party 6 in line with the Guidelines for the Establishment and Functioning of Working Parties within ECE (ECE/EX/1 paragraph 3(d) – see Annex) to assess and propose necessary adjustments to the mandate and status of Working Party 6 and submit to the Steering Committee on Trade Capacity and Standards.</p>	<p>UNECE accepts the recommendation.</p> <p>The secretariat notes the need to update the Terms of Reference of WP. 6, which date back to 2003, in order to reflect the priorities of the 2030 Agenda, as appropriate. Recent activities by the WP.6 on “Standards for the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)” and on “Gender Responsive Standards” helped raise awareness on SDG-related issues among member States. The revision of the Terms of Reference will build upon current activities of WP.6 that have already been aligned with the 2030 Agenda as reflected in the Programme of Work of WP.6 for 2020. Approved by WP.6 at its 29th Annual Session in 2019 (ECE/CTCS/WP.6/2019/5), the Programme of Work was geared towards supporting members States’ efforts for the delivery of the SDGs.</p> <p>The secretariat of WP.6 will work with the Bureau to draft an update of the Terms of</p>	Secretary of W.P.6	December 2021	<p>In progress</p> <p>In cooperation with the Chair and the Vice Chairs, the secretariat has updated the Programme of Work of WP.6 to take into account the 2030 Agenda. The updated programme of work was submitted to the Steering Committee for endorsement in late June 2020 and to the EXCOM for adoption together with the report of the report of the WP.6 session in 2019.</p> <p>In view of the COVID-19 situation, the Steering Committee session was replaced by an informal online consultation on 29 June after which, the programme of work and report of the WP.6 2019 session were submitted to a silence procedure for approval by the Geneva based missions.</p> <p>The discussion for the need of an update of the Terms of Reference of WP.6 will be held at the 2020 session of the working party in November 2020.</p>

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		<p>Reference for discussion and – if consensus is found – for adoption at the WP.6 session scheduled for 2-3 November 2020. The updated Terms of Reference will be submitted for review by the Steering Committee for Trade Capacity and Standards at its 7th Session in 2021, for subsequent submission for approval by the EXCOM.</p>			
2	<p>Take steps to formally establish START-Ed and the Gender Responsive Standards Initiative, in line with the agreed guidance and procedures in Annex F.</p>	<p>UNECE partially accepts the recommendation</p> <p>The secretariat notes the recommendation to formally establish these groups of experts in line with agreed rules and procedures. These initiatives have so far operated informally, as foreseen by the WP.6 Terms of Reference which stipulate that, when necessary, ad hoc groups of experts can be established to address specific problems and concerns identified by the Working Party.</p> <p>The secretariat is currently facing budgetary and personnel constraints that may result in a need to streamline activities. Resources permitting, the secretariat will prepare Terms of Reference for the START-Ed Group and for the Gender Responsive Standards Initiative and submit these through the Steering Committee to EXCOM for formal establishment, in 2021. Additional XB</p>	Secretary of W.P.6	December 2021	<p>In progress</p> <p>The proposal for the establishment of new groups and initiating formal work will be submitted to the 2020 session of WP.6 in November taking into account the budgetary constraints of the secretariat that seriously reduce the capacity of the secretariat to engage in support to additional groups.</p>

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		resources will need to be secured for supporting any additional activities in these Groups.			
3	<p>Find ways to address inclusion and participation in Working Party 6 groups of experts: Advisory Group on Market Surveillance (MARS), Group on Education and Standardisation (START-Ed), Group of Experts on Risk Management in Regulatory Systems (GRM), Standardisation and Regulatory Techniques (START).</p> <p>This could include:</p> <p>(i) increasing representation of women in all Working Party 6 advisory groups to increase input of women in the standards development process, to improve gender balance in these bodies, and to enhance expertise to create and deliver gender inclusivity;</p> <p>(ii) setting up a system of regional hubs or rotating the timing of advisory group virtual meetings so that</p>	<p>UNECE partially accepts the recommendation.</p> <p>As foreseen by the ECE Gender Action Plan, the secretariat has mainstreamed gender in its decisions and activities e.g. by leading ground-breaking work on the inclusion of women in standards development processes, at national, regional and international levels (i.e. the Gender Responsive Standards Declaration).</p> <p>As additionally foreseen by the Programme level evaluation on gender mainstreaming, the secretariat monitors the level of participation of women in the meetings of the Working Party and its advisory groups. While the participation of female delegates in WP.6 activities remains below parity, it is higher than in the standards community more generally.</p> <p>The secretariat will strive to further increase women' s participation by raising the attention of member States to the importance of reaching parity in the</p>	Secretary of W.P.6	December 2021	<p>In progress</p> <p>The secretariat is looking for new innovative approaches to supporting member States' efforts in all the mentioned areas that would simultaneously allow increase the participation of women in WP.6 related work. The Gender Responsive Standards initiative is bringing in a lot of positive reactions from UNECE member States and beyond.</p> <p>Simultaneously, the secretariat acknowledges that the level or gender of delegates from member States in not in the hands of the secretariat and the ultimate decisions regarding the composition of national delegations is beyond the reach of the secretariat.</p> <p>Further efforts are underway to attract additional XB funding to support further efforts.</p>

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	<p>participants in time zones different to Europe may be more easily included.</p>	<p>numbers of male and female participants. However, the secretariat cannot guarantee a more balanced participation as the final decisions on members of delegations are not under the secretariat’ s control. The secretariat will also collect experiences of other ECE bodies and external partners aimed at improving the representation of women in their respective activities. The secretariat will draw lessons from these experiences for replication within WP.6 during the first half of 2020. The secretariat will prepare a presentation or a report for discussion at the WP.6 session 2-3 November 2020 on the experiences of other ECE bodies as well external partners that have successfully increased the participation of women and how these experiences could be replicated by the WP.6 itself.</p> <p>The timing of the meetings of WP.6 groups is currently set by consulting through “ Doodle” polls. The secretariat will strive to rotate the timing of meetings of the groups, to the extent this is acceptable to participants.</p> <p>It will be difficult for the secretariat to support a system of regional hubs without XB funds. For the time being, the secretariat will continue to work with other Regional Commissions and partners to</p>			

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		<p>respond to the needs of countries beyond the ECE region provided that XB funds can be made available. The secretariat will strive to mobilize further resources for this purpose.</p> <p>Responsibility: Ms. Lorenza Jachia, Secretary of WP.6</p>			
4	<p>Explore ways to address resource constraints, for example, by making full use of the resources assigned to Working Party 6, considering redistribution of resources within the Section, interns from Master’ s programmes on standardization, and extra-budgetary projects with project funded project managers.</p>	<p>UNECE accepts the recommendation.</p> <p>The secretariat is evaluating several possibilities to address resource constraints. The possibility to redistribute RB resources within the Section will be reviewed as part of the overall review of programmes in view of the envisaged review of the Division’ s support to activities. As regards internships, the secretariat has established contacts with several universities that offer courses and Undergraduate or Graduate programmes in standardization in view of welcoming students as interns. The secretariat will explore the possibility of establishing a scheme with interested universities, in line with general rules for UN internships.</p> <p>Given the restrictions on the number of interns per Division and further future restrictions in the ECE’ s swing space from late 2020 onwards, the secretariat will work with the ECE internship programme to explore new ways of internship</p>	Secretary of W.P.6	December 2021	<p>In progress</p> <p>The P-4 Officer currently serving as Secretary to WP.6 and Head of the Unit will move on in her career at the end of June 2020 and as soon as a new P-4 officer can be recruited (given the recruitment ban arising from the UN-wide liquidity crisis the duration of which remains uncertain), the job descriptions in the unit will be revisited and adjusted according to the topical needs in 2021 and beyond.</p>

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		<p>programmes, such as remote work based within the interns’ respective universities with online supervision from ECE which could make better use of the secretariat’s resources.</p> <p>The secretariat is currently implementing a project financed by the Government of Germany through the Physikalisch-Technische Bundesanstalt (PTB) on “Enhancing usage and uptake of standards for sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, with special emphasis on gender equality” (December 2019 – December 2021). Additionally, the secretariat will continue its efforts for raising further XB funds including project funded staff.</p> <p>The secretariat will report at the next session of the WP. 6 on 2-3 November 2020 on its efforts in securing additional XB resources for the programme of work.</p>			
5	<p>Seek partnerships with a broad range of women’s organisations, including those representing vulnerable groups of women, in each thematic area and advisory group to seek their perspectives, address their needs, and to reach those furthest behind.</p>	<p>UNECE accepts the recommendation.</p> <p>The secretariat has been working with a number of NGOs representing the needs of women, including L’ Association Réseau Normalisation et Francophonie (RNF), Women at the Table, the International Gender Champions, ISEAL Alliance “Gender Working Group” ,</p>	Secretary of W.P.6	December 2021	<p>In progress</p> <p>Significant progress is being made, in particular through the Gender Responsive Standards Initiative. Several member States beyond the ECE region and numerous international and national standardization bodies are supporting the initiative and bringing in their contribution towards the work.</p>

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		<p>HERProject and others in order to seek their perspectives and address their needs.</p> <p>The secretariat will continue to work with the above – mentioned organizations and identify other partners and seek ways of addressing their needs and perspectives in WP.6 activities, and more broadly in forums related to standards and quality infrastructure as described in the WP.6 programme of work for 2020.</p>			
6	<p>In order to present the findings of the two most recent Working Party 6 initiatives, consider developing a publication on Gender Responsive Standards and the Sustainable Development Goals, focusing on SDG 5 as a standalone and cross cutting goal to showcase how standards contribute to achievement of gender equality, gender mainstreaming, and achievement of the SDGs in the UNECE region.</p>	<p>UNECE accepts the recommendation</p> <p>The secretariat is conscious of the need to present the findings of its initiatives to a broader audience. A publication on Gender Responsive Standards was issued in November 2019 and is accessible here. A publication on Standards for the Sustainable Development Goals (ECE/TRADE/444) was issued as early as in October 2018. Four follow-up publications focussing on how standards support the achievement of each of the SDGs that were covered by the XB project on “Standards for the SDGs” (namely SDG 6, 7, 11 and 13) will be issued in 2020.</p> <p>The secretariat will finalize the follow up publications on “Standards for the SDGs” in 2020, and subject to the availability of XB funds, publish and print it (or its</p>	Secretary of W.P.6	December 2021	<p>In progress</p> <p>The publication is underway and will be finalized taking into account the current resource constrains in the unit.</p>

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		summary) as a visually attractive and user-friendly document.			