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Programme of work: Cooperation with other organizations and Economic Commission for Europe bodies

Cooperation with other organizations and Economic Commission for Europe bodies*

Submitted by the secretariat

I. Introduction

1. This document maps cooperation under the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) subprogramme on Trade during 2019–2021. The first part provides an overview of collaborative efforts with development partners, while the second features an account of the areas and cooperation mechanisms underpinning these efforts.
2. Sections covering activities by the United Nations Centre for Trade Facilitation and Electronic Business (UN/CEFACT) are for information only.

II. Agricultural Quality Standards

3. ECE continues to pool efforts with the United Nations Economic Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) and the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) in implementing the United Nations Development Account (UNDA) project for increased policy coherence and sustainability of national production and consumption patterns in North-South and South-South agriculture trade.¹ ECE is also cooperating with the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) on food loss and waste solution for increased sustainability and food security.
4. ECE continues to work closely with the European Commission to maintain the complete harmonization of marketing standards with ECE standards. It also cooperates with the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) Scheme for the Application of International Standards for Fruit and Vegetables to facilitate the common

* This document was submitted late for processing since clearance in finalizing this document took longer than anticipated.

¹ The project was launched in February 2018 to strengthen national capacities for using international best practices, tools and instruments as well as developing integrated strategies for sustainable agricultural trade and food loss prevention.



interpretation of ECE standards and their application in international trade. It cooperates with the Codex Alimentarius Committees on Fresh Fruits and Vegetables and on Processed Fruits and Vegetables in developing new commercial quality standards and maintaining existing ones.

5. ECE continues to work closely with United Nations country teams in Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan. Previously, ECE organized jointly with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and donor agencies a regional train the trainer workshop on the sustainability of national production and consumption patterns in agriculture trade in Tashkent, Uzbekistan. The country teams were vital in disseminating, promoting, and helping with the implementation of ECE work in this area in the respective countries. ECE also organized several joint activities with the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) on “Sustainable natural resources and their value chains” (June 2019) as well as on “Food loss/waste and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) – Policy perspective for the Agenda 2030” (November 2019). In 2020, ECE participated in FAO workshops on food loss and waste. ECE contributed a chapter in the FAO “Regional Overview of Food Security and Nutrition in Europe and Central Asia 2019” (FAO Regional Office for Europe and Central Asia) and in 2020. ECE also cooperated with the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) in the organization of training activities on sustainable trade of agricultural produce (September 2019).

III. Regulatory Cooperation and Standardization Policies

A. Cooperation with international and regional organizations

6. Through the Working Party on Regulatory Cooperation and Standardization Policies (WP.6), ECE is a permanent observer at the World Trade Organization (WTO) Committee on Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT). ECE participated in all official meetings of the TBT Committee. Members of the Committee have expressed keen interest in ECE activities on “Standards for the SDGs” and “Gender-Responsive Standards”. In November 2019, the ECE secretariat made a presentation at the “Thematic Session on Standards” on incorporating standards by reference in regulations (ECE Recommendation D).

7. ECE strengthened cooperation with the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) in support of gender-responsive standards. For example, WP.6 co-organized with the UN-Women regional office for Europe and Central Asia an online event on “Re-tooling for sustainability” (March 2020).

8. Collaboration with the International Trade Centre (ITC) continued on several initiatives, particularly in the area of gender-responsive standards and voluntary sustainability standards. The ECE secretariat is working with ITC on the publication of a joint guidebook on integrating risk management in trade facilitation, which will be issued in 2021.

9. ECE continued to work closely with the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR) to promote the implementation of international standards as tools for the reduction of disaster risks, including health risks such as the current pandemic, particularly in the urban context. It participates in a task force – led by the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) secretariat – developing a suite of the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) standards on “Urban Resilience”.

10. ECE continued to contribute to the OECD “Partnership for effective international rule-making” developing best practice on the variety of international instruments of regulatory cooperation issued by international rulemaking institutions. At the regional level, the European Commission supports WP.6 activities, particularly in the area of market surveillance and gender-responsive standards. The European Committee for Standardization (CEN) and the European Committee for Electrotechnical Standardization (CENELEC) – the organizations that develop European Standards – were vocal advocates of the Gender-Responsive Standards Declaration to their membership.

11. The Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS), the Interstate Council for Standardization, Metrology and Certification (EASC) and the Eurasian Economic Commission (EEC) are also important partners. EEC hosted the 2019 meeting of the MARS Group. These organizations also report their and their member States use of the WP.6 deliverables. For example, WP.6 “Recommendation S” on “Applying Predictive Risk Management for Targeted Market Surveillance” was an input in the EEC risk-based approach to border inspections, and the International Model on Regulatory Harmonization, as contained in WP.6 Recommendation L, was used as a basis for regulatory harmonization among the CIS countries. Beyond the ECE region, close cooperation continued with the African Organization for Standardisation (ARSO), and a new partnership was established with the Standards and Metrology Institute for Islamic Countries (SMIIC).

12. ECE organized a conference on the occasion of jubilee anniversary of WP.6 on 2 November 2020 under the theme “Building Back Better: Shared Solutions as a Critical Tool for Sustainable Development in the Era of COVID-19”. High-level representatives of CEN, CENELEC, International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC), ISO and the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) participated in this conference.

B. Cooperation with standard setting and quality infrastructure organizations

1. Standardization policies⁷⁰⁵⁴

13. The standardization community continues to support the work of WP.6. The Declaration on “Gender-Responsive Standards” has been signed to date by seventy-six organizations including: 50 national standards bodies from all continents; all major international standards organizations (ISO, ITU, IEC);² voluntary sustainability standards organizations and regional standards bodies (see complete list of signatories at: <https://unece.org/gender-responsive-standards-initiative>).

14. The opening of the Declaration for signature was held as an offline and online event on 14 May 2019 bringing together over fifty standard bodies that made a joint commitment for gender equality and women’s empowerment. In September 2019, as part of ECE cooperation with ISO, the first meeting of the signatories took place at the organization’s General Assembly in Cape Town, South Africa. This high-profile event brought together over sixty representatives from forty standards bodies through which ECE increased awareness about how standards contribute to the realization of SDGs and, in particular SDG 5. In 2020, three new expert working groups had been established. They were working with the signatories to develop training and best practices on Gender-Responsive Standards (GRS), GRS methodology and research and network development, respectively.

15. Another important area of ECE collaboration with over thirty bodies was the launch of the Portal “Standards for the SDGs” in October 2019. This online resource increases awareness of policymakers on how standards support the achievement of the Goals and Targets of Agenda 2030. It features a mapping tool, a repository of case studies as well as supporting training materials and can be consulted at <https://standards4sdgs.unece.org/>.

16. WP.6 also partners closely with IEC in support of two sectoral initiatives, respectively on “Equipment used in environments with an explosive atmosphere” and on “Cybersecurity”. The first of these benefits from the support of the IEC System for Certification to Standards Relating to Equipment for Use in Explosive Atmosphere (IECEX) and of the Government of Germany through the National Metrology Body of Germany (Physikalisch-Technische Bundesanstalt – PTB) and the other from the IEC Conformity Assessment Board (CAB).

17. The Group of Experts on Risk Management in Regulatory Systems (GRM) benefits from a partnership with the ISO Technical Committee (TC) 262 on Risk Management, and WP.6 is a member of the Strategic Alliance and Regulatory Group (STAR), which provides strategic advice to the ISO Committee on Conformity Assessment (ISO/CASCO). The British Standards Institution (BSI) has recently taken up the Chair of the Gender-Responsive

² International Telecommunication Union (ITU).

Standards Initiative. The START-Ed Group on Education and Standardization is since spring 2020 in liaison with the ISO Technical Committee (TC) 232 on Education and learning services.

2. Metrology and other areas of the national and international system of quality infrastructure

18. WP.6 works in partnership with national, regional, and international institutions that lay the foundations of the quality infrastructure systems. In this area, the closest partner is PTB, which is also the major donor of the extrabudgetary projects on “Usage and Uptake of Voluntary Standards” and “Standards for SDGs”.

19. Other close partners in this area are the Bureau International des Poids et Mesures (BIPM), International Committee of Weights and Measures (CIPM), the International Accreditation Forum (IAF), IEC, the International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (ILAC), the International Organization of Legal Metrology (OIML), the International Committee for Legal Metrology (CIML), ISO, ITU and UNIDO. The cooperation entails e.g. mutually shared expertise and support to technical assistance and participation in meetings, as appropriate.

20. Since 2010, the Working Party has been a member of the “International Network on Quality Infrastructure” (previously Network on Metrology, Accreditation and Standardization for Developing Countries (DCMAS)), which includes: BIPM, CIML, CIPM, IAF, IEC, ILAC, ISO, OIML, ITU, and UNIDO, the World Bank and WTO. The cooperation includes e.g. shared expertise and mutual participation in meetings.

3. Cooperation with academia

21. Cooperation with academia continued in 2019–2021. The WP.6 secretariat prepared a chapter on “ECE Initiatives on Education on Standardization” for the book on “Sustainable Development: Knowledge and Education About Standardisation” and took part in the World Standards Cooperation Academic Day 2019 (October 2019, Belgrade).

22. Additionally, a High-level panel on “Education on standards-related issues” is regularly held as part of the WP.6 annual sessions with participation from fifteen universities from the ECE region and beyond. The panel has recommended to establish a “Group of Experts on Education on Standards-Related issues” which would structure the existing network of rectors and scholars that actively contribute to WP.6 activities.

IV. Trade Facilitation

23. ECE is part of the United Nations Inter-Agency Cluster on Trade and Productive Capacity. The cluster, which is led by UNCTAD, was established in 2007 to create synergies between productive capacity-building and trade development under the United Nations “Delivering as One” initiative.

24. ECE also participates in the Joint United Nations Regional Commissions (UNRCs) Approach on Trade Facilitation, launched in January 2010 by the five United Nations regional commissions. In 2019, ECE and its sister regional commissions launched the third Global Survey on Digital and Sustainable Trade Facilitation (previously Survey on trade facilitation and paperless trade), which covered 129 countries. The results were presented at UNRCs joint events during the WTO Aid for Trade Global Review, held in Geneva (July 2019). The ECE Regional Report was published in December 2019. The five regional commissions have jointly developed an online portal (untfsurvey.org) to help countries visualize and compare the implementation of measures across regions and economies. The results of the survey for countries of the ECE region were presented to the twenty-sixth UN/CEFACT session (ECE/TRADE/C/CEFACT/2020/17). Jointly with ESCAP, at the ESCAP Trade Facilitation Forum, and in collaboration with ITC and UNCTAD, ECE led the organization of a policy dialogue on key drivers for the sustainability of national trade facilitation committees in the Asian region (September 2019, New Delhi).

25. The ECE secretariat has developed its role in the multi-stakeholder eTrade for All³ platform. In connection with such initiatives, it has partnered with ITC and UNCTAD to organize focus sessions on digital trade facilitation (UNCTAD eCommerce Week, April 2019 and April 2020, Geneva). The ECE secretariat has also participated in the UNCTAD eTrade for All initiative to publish a series of reports about the impact of COVID-19 on e-commerce along with other UNRCs. In this effort, the ECE secretariat published a Regional Report on Post-Pandemic COVID-19 Economic Recovery: E-Commerce and Trade Facilitation, highlighting the role of trade facilitation in enhancing e-commerce in the economies in transition amongst the ECE member States.

26. ECE engaged in the eighteenth Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) Conference of the Parties (August 2019, Geneva) and has continued to support the CITES secretariat and its member States in the fight against illegal wildlife trade through the development of the eCITES standards and through the organization of workshops to support countries in their efforts to digitalize CITES permits. ECE recently developed jointly with the CITES secretariat guidelines and best practice for national management authorities to implement cross-border exchange of electronic CITES permits. This document has been approved by the relevant UN/CEFCAT and CITES Working Group and will be presented to the next CITES Conference of Parties as a new international standard. To support member States in the implementation of electronic permit exchanges ECE and ESCAP host the Task Force for CITES electronic permit exchange which is open to member State administrations.

27. Blockchain/Distributed Ledger Technology has been a major subject during this past period. UN/CEFACT and its secretariat have collaborated with other organizations to provide clarity and to explain the importance of clear semantic standards in this field. This includes the OECD, the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS), the Dutch Blockchain Coalition, the Government of Slovenia, the United Nations SDG Lab, and the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA) Division for Public Institutions and Digital Government (DPIDG). In particular, during 2019 and 2020, and jointly with United Nations SDG Lab, the ECE secretariat has led several inter-agency meetings to facilitate the exchange of information and lessons learned about ongoing blockchain projects and related work in the United Nations system of organizations (e.g. the World Food Programme, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the United Nations Office at Geneva, UNCTAD, WTO, the World Health Organization, ITC, and the Joint Inspection Unit of the United Nations System).

28. OECD has supported the promotion and dissemination of UN/CEFACT recommendations and standards for advanced technologies and due diligence in industry value chains by engaging the ECE secretariat in the finalization of publications (e.g. OECD Discussion paper "Is there a role for blockchain in responsible supply chains", 2019), and hosting ECE sessions at the OECD Blockchain Policy Forum and OECD Due Diligence Forum (February and September 2019, and February 2020, Paris).

29. In 2020, ECE concluded a multilateral partnership agreement with the International Maritime Organization (IMO), the World Customs Organization (WCO) and ISO in order to help IMO to develop and maintain an electronic version of its FAL Convention. The first version of this IMO Reference Data Model shall be officially launched at the FAL Committee meeting in June 2021. The result is fully compatible with the three standards organizations' data models; a UN/CEFACT version of this data model is to be published shortly after the IMO June 2021 meeting.

³ eTrade for All is an initiative to help developing countries assess challenges and opportunities, to leverage the potential of eTrade for sustainable and inclusive development, connect with potential partners, learn about trends, and best practices, and access up-to-date e-commerce data. See (as of January 2020): <https://etradeforall.org/>.

A. United Nations regional commissions joint approach to trade facilitation

30. UNRCs have taken a joint approach to trade facilitation, which was launched in Beirut in January 2010 by the executive secretaries of the five regional commissions, and subsequently endorsed by all five regional commissions. In 2015, they launched a Survey on Trade Facilitation and Paperless Trade. In 2019, ECE, jointly with the other regional commissions, conducted the third Global Survey on Digital and Sustainable Trade Facilitation, which covered 129 countries from the five regions of the world and whose preliminary results were presented at a joint event during the WTO Aid for Trade Global Review, held in Geneva in July 2019. The Global Report and the Regional Reports from other regional commissions were released in December 2019.

31. The third Global Survey on Digital and Sustainable Trade Facilitation was even more relevant for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The implementation rates of the participating countries are calculated based on thirty-eight indicators for general trade facilitation measures that are part of the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA) provisions, along with additional measures on automation and cross-border paperless trade transaction, and measures attempting to gauge the inclusiveness of trade facilitation reforms. The latter ones focus on trade facilitation for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), agriculture, women in trade, and trade financing.

32. The third Global Survey was conducted in close collaboration with other global and regional bodies engaged in trade facilitation and digital trade like UNCTAD, the International Chamber of Commerce (ICC) and EEC.

33. The fourth Global Survey was launched in January 2021. For the first time, a new module on “trade facilitation in times of crisis” was added to the questionnaire to assess the trade facilitation measures undertaken to address crisis situations like the COVID-19 pandemic. The results of the fourth Survey are expected to be available in summer 2021.

B. Cooperation with other regional bodies

34. The ECE secretariat has been cooperating with several European Commission Directorate-Generals (DGs) over the past years.

- ECE has actively participated in the Directorate-General for Mobility and Transport (DG MOVE) Digital Transport and Logistics Forum (DTLF) subgroup workshops since 2019, studying the documentary requirements in transport and logistics and their dematerialization. The UN/CEFACT Multi-Modal Transport Reference Data Model (MMT-RDM) has been chosen by the subgroup 1 as the basis for this group’s semantic standards.
- The European Union (EU) Directorate-General for Taxation and the Customs Union (TAXUD) has supported UN/CEFACT work on recommendations. TAXUD and the European Union member States were active in the revision of Recommendation No. 33 on establishing a Single Window, and how this will apply to a Regional European Single Window. TAXUD has also taken an interest in the semantic data models which UN/CEFACT can provide and assisting to consolidate information from multiple government agencies.
- The Directorate-General for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries (DG MARE) has engaged in work with the ECE Team of Specialists on Sustainable Fisheries and has funded communication activities to support the dissemination of the Fisheries Language for Universal Exchange (FLUX) standard.
- The ECE secretariat is also engaging with the Directorate-General for International Partnerships (INTPA; prior to January 2021 – DG for Cooperation and Development (DG DEVCO)) and the Directorate-General for Environment (DG ENV) on work related to sustainability and circularity of value chains in the textile and leather sector in European Union member States and other regions of the world.

- ECE also actively participated in the work of the European Union Multi-Stakeholder Platform on Information and Communication Technology (EU MSP ICT). This initiative is conducted under EU DG DIGIT. EU MSP ICT publishes an annual rolling plan which details the needs of all European Union agencies and also presents the available standards from standards development organizations. The UN/CEFACT standards are well positioned in the 2021 Rolling Plan.

C. Electronic Business Memorandum of Understanding and ISO Technical Committees

35. The signatories to the Electronic Business Memorandum of Understanding (ebMoU) – ECE, ISO, ITU, and IEC – met several times in 2019–2020 to discuss developments and topics of joint interest. Webinars have been organized on key topics such as the Internet of Things, accessibility, and traceability. ECE held the position of secretariat of this group throughout 2020. The last meeting report is provided for information to the twenty-seventh session of UN/CEFACT (ECE/TRADE/C/CEFACT/2021/INF.9).

36. The ECE secretariat has closely followed the official Category-A liaisons with ISO TCs. These include ISO TC 46 (Information and documentation), ISO TC 154 (Processes, data elements and documents in commerce, industry and administration), ISO TC 204 (Intelligent transport systems), ISO TC 307 (Blockchain and distributed ledger technologies), ISO TC 308 (Chain of custody), ISO TC 295 (Audit data services) and the Category-B liaison with ISO TC 68 (Financial services).

37. The ECE secretariat and UN/CEFACT Chair have taken an active role in the Joint Working Group 1 on Electronic Data Interchange for Administrations, Commerce and Transport (EDIFACT) syntax and the Joint Working Group 8 on logistical data content; in the latter, ISO is reusing the semantic data models of UN/CEFACT in order to standardize logistics business processes.

Summary table: Cooperation with other organizations

<i>Organization</i>	<i>Mechanisms for cooperation</i>	<i>Current cooperation</i>
Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) Euro-Asian Interstate Council for Standardization, Metrology and Certification (EASC) and CIS	EASC participate regularly in WP.6 meetings.	Participate in WP.6 meetings and use WP.6 International Model on Regulatory Harmonization.
European Commission (EC)	EC participates in the ECE activities related to market surveillance, regulatory cooperation, and risk management. EC participates in the ECE activities on standardization of agricultural quality standards.	EC participates in all the annual sessions of WP.6, providing input into the work and updates on its own activities. EC closely cooperates, harmonizes its legislation with marketing standards with ECE standards and attends the annual meetings of WP.7 and its Specialized Sections.
European Union DG MOVE	ECE is an observer in the Digital Transport and Logistics Forum (DTLF).	UN/CEFACT Multi-Modal Transport Reference Data Model has been chosen as the semantic standards for DTLF data requirements. Since 2019, ECE has participated regularly in the DTLF subgroup workshops, studying the documentary requirements in transport and logistics and their dematerialization.
European Union DG TAXUD	DG TAXUD organizes regular meetings of the member States' Single Window Implementation group.	TAXUD has been supportive of UN/CEFACT work on recommendations. TAXUD and the European Union member States were active in the revision of Recommendation No. 33 on establishing a Single Window, and how this will apply to a Regional European Single Window.
European Union DG MARE	ECE Team of Specialists on Sustainable Fisheries.	DG MARE has engaged in work with the ECE Team of Specialists on Sustainable Fisheries and has funded communication activities to support the dissemination of the FLUX standard.
European Union DG INTPA and DG ENV	Enhancing transparency and traceability of sustainable value chains in the garment and footwear sector project, jointly implemented by ECE through its UN/CEFACT and ITC with financial support from DG INTPA.	The ECE secretariat is also engaging with DG INTPA and DG ENV on the work to advance the sustainability and circularity of value chains in the textile and leather sector in European Union member States and other regions of the world. The project created a multi-stakeholder policy dialogue platform engaging with more than 200 experts, representing 190,000 companies globally, around more than 30 countries. The project is implemented in close cooperation with ITC, OECD, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), UNCTAD, the International Labour Organization (ILO), the United Nations Global Compact, CITES, government institutions and the private sector (business associations and private companies), academia, think-tanks and non-governmental organizations. The pilot to harness the potential of blockchain technology for due diligence and traceability in cotton value chains involves suppliers, manufacturers, brands, standard-setting bodies and technology solution providers.

<i>Organization</i>	<i>Mechanisms for cooperation</i>	<i>Current cooperation</i>
FAO	Activities and events related to sustainable agricultural practices and trade as well as sustainable food systems, including food loss/waste, and food loss prevention.	FAO has been joint organizer and convener of several conferences and events to disseminate knowledge and strengthen impact of measures related to sustainable agricultural practices, trade and food loss and waste prevention. Recent example: Regional Forum for Sustainable Development Peer learning round table – cluster 1 – People: Session 1–2: Accelerating SDG progress in the time of a pandemic: improving food systems to make healthy diets accessible to all.
	Issue Based Coalition (IBC) on Sustainable Food Systems.	FAO participated in the launch of FeedUP@UN – a blockchain-powered digital solution to identify, quantify, and trace food lost and wasted along the food supply chain.
	ECE collaborates with FAO Regional Office for Europe and Central Asia on the Regional Overview of Food Security and Nutrition in Europe and Central Asia 2019 and 2020.	ECE contributed to the FAO Regional Overview of Food Security and Nutrition in Europe and Central Asia 2019 and 2020.
	Support to ECE Blockchain project.	FAO participated in the UN/CEFACT Conference on Blockchain and contributed to the future directions of the work to be undertaken.
	Team of Specialists on Sustainable Fishery.	FAO is an active member of the Team of Specialists on Sustainable Fisheries. Combatting Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing (related to FAO Agreement on Port State Measures).
Codex Alimentarius Commission	Collaboration on standard development.	ECE standards are circulated to Codex Committee on Fresh Fruits and Vegetables, the Codex Committee on Processed Fruits and Vegetables and the Codex Alimentarius Commission. Mutual participation in the relevant meetings to share information and enhance cooperation.
Geneva Trade Platform	Co-organization of online events on trade-related themes.	Harnessing Trade as a Means for Strengthening Agenda 2030/SDGs – the Case of WTO accession, September 2020 (together with the WTO Accession Division and the Permanent Missions of Belarus and Kazakhstan to the United Nations, as part of the Geneva Trade Week).
		Recent Trends in Trade and Investment in Transition Economies: COVID-19 Implications for Value Chains, December 2020.
		Promoting Circularity in Transition Economies: The Role of Trade and Economic Cooperation, December 2020.
		Harnessing e-commerce post-COVID-19: Opportunities and Challenges for Transition Economies, February 2021.
International Air Transport Association (IATA)	Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to strengthen the support to	Joint promotion of the use of international recommendations and standards and best practices in trade facilitation and electronic business.

<i>Organization</i>	<i>Mechanisms for cooperation</i>	<i>Current cooperation</i>
	developing countries seeking to implement WTO TFA.	<p>Joint outreach activities to support countries in their implementation of such recommendation and standards – subject to available resources.</p> <p>ECE participated in meetings of the IATA group on location codes, further promoting the convergence of the IATA airport codes and the United Nations Location Codes for Trade and Transport (UN/LOCODE) which is widely used by all other means of transport and administrations.</p>
ICC	<p>Memorandum of Understanding on cooperation between ECE and ICC.</p> <p>Cooperation with ICC-Ukraine.</p>	<p>Participation in the Trade Procedures Facilitation Working Group of UN/CEFACT. In 2019–2020, updated the UNECE Recommendation No. 5 on abbreviations of INCOTERMS (ECE/TRADE/458).</p> <p>Support for trade facilitation in Ukraine, notably through the Interagency Working Group on Trade Facilitation and Logistics of Ukraine, chaired by ICC-Ukraine.</p>
IEC, ITU, ISO	MoU between ECE, IEC, ISO and ITU.	<p>ECE, ISO, ITU and IEC met several times in 2019–2020 to discuss developments and topics of joint interest. Webinars have been organized on key topics such as the Internet of Things, accessibility, and traceability. ECE provided the rotating secretariat of this group throughout 2020.</p> <p>Ongoing cooperation and coordination between the secretariats. Management meetings on average every three months between the secretariats.</p> <p>One annual meetings of the MoU Management Group on coordination and standardization issues with the secretariats, the individual working groups within the four signatory organizations as well as the international user groups.</p> <p>ITU and ECE co-organized a session during the Regional Forum on Sustainable Development in March 2021 on Digital Transformation for Sustainable Development Goals in the Wake of COVID-19.</p>
ITC	ECE, UNCTAD and ITC MoU for delivering coordinated outreach and support activities to help the developing countries implement WTO TFA.	<p>ITC collaborates with ECE on the dissemination and development of training material on trade facilitation, ITC works with ECE on the dissemination of ECE agricultural quality standards and capacity-building activities.</p> <p>ITC participates in the WP.6 Group of Experts on Risk Management Meetings and events.</p> <p>WP.6 is working with ITC on the publication of a joint guidebook on integrating risk management in trade facilitation, which will be issued in 2021.</p>
IEC TC 31, the IEC System for Certification to Standards Relating to Equipment for Use in	Partnership for preparing and implementing two common regulatory frameworks in the sectors of cybersecurity and of “equipment used in	IECEX organizes yearly international conferences in collaboration of ECE. IECEX and PTB participate in WP.6 sessions.

<i>Organization</i>	<i>Mechanisms for cooperation</i>	<i>Current cooperation</i>
Explosive Atmosphere (IECEX); and PTB	environments with an explosive atmosphere”.	<p>WP.6 has initiated work on cybersecurity in cooperation with the IEC Conformity Assessment Board (CAB).</p> <p>IEC is a signatory of the WP.6 Declaration on Gender-Responsive Standards and Standards Development.</p> <p>IEC participates in all meetings and events of the WP.6 Gender-Responsive Standards Initiative.</p>
IMO	<p>Partnership Agreement.</p> <p>Active participation in meetings.</p>	<p>ECE concluded in 2020 a partnership agreement with IMO to help them to develop and maintain their e-business standards needs related to the FAL Convention. The first version of the IMO Reference Data Model on this topic should be launched at the June 2021 FAL Committee meeting. The UN/CEFACT equivalent standard will be published shortly after that.</p>
ISO (See also ISO TCs 127, 154, 232, 262, 292 and IEC, ITU and ISO)	<p>Memorandum of Understanding between IEC, ISO, ITU and ECE.</p> <p>Electronic Business MoU between IEC, ISO, ITU and ECE.</p>	<p>ISO attends all WP.6 meetings and seminars as well as UN/CEFACT sessions.</p> <p>TC 127 participates in and supports the WP.6 sectoral regulatory project “Earth-Moving Machinery Initiative”.</p> <p>The Trade Facilitation Section represents ECE in ebMoU.</p> <p>ECE is a voting member in the ISO 3166 Maintenance Agency (alpha-2 country code).</p> <p>ISO is a signatory of WP.6 Declaration on Gender-Responsive Standards and Standards Development.</p> <p>ISO actively participates in all WP.6 Gender-Responsive Standards Initiatives meetings and events.</p>
ISO TC 154 on Processes, data elements and documents in commerce, industry, and administration (See also ISO and IEC, ITU and ISO)	<p>Category A liaison.</p> <p>Regular Working Group Meetings.</p> <p>Annual plenary meetings.</p> <p>MoU for ECE to be Secretary of an ISO Technical Committee is unique of its kind.</p>	<p>ECE maintains a Category A liaison with ISO TC 154, ensuring compatibility of standards and avoiding unnecessary overlaps.</p> <p>Joint Working Group 1 on ISO 9735 Standard (EDIFACT application level syntax rules) is a joint group between ISO and ECE.</p> <p>Joint Working Group 8 on logistic data contents and process is a joint group between ISO and ECE.</p> <p>Several items have been advanced during this period such as a new standard for e-commerce logistics (ISO DIS 23354), UN/EDIFACT syntax and the use of blockchain for the exchange of negotiable bills of lading (PWI5909).</p> <p>TC154 participates in the working group meetings of UN/CEFACT.</p>
ISO TC 68 on Financial Services	Category B liaison.	<p>ECE maintains a Category B liaison with ISO TC 68, sharing information on ongoing work and avoiding unnecessary overlaps. Active participation in the ISO TC 68 meetings.</p>

<i>Organization</i>	<i>Mechanisms for cooperation</i>	<i>Current cooperation</i>
ISO TC 204 on Intelligent Transport Systems	Category A liaison.	ECE maintains a Category A liaison with ISO TC 204, aiming to ensure compatibility of standards and avoiding unnecessary overlaps. ECE participates in the ISO TC204 meetings. It is planned to discontinue the liaison in 2021.
ISO Project Committee 295 on Audit data collection	Category A liaison.	ECE maintains a Category A liaison with ISO PC 295, aiming to ensure compatibility of standards and avoiding unnecessary overlaps. Encouraging this newly founded group to reuse the base standards which have already been developed in this field instead of creating new ones. The liaison was discontinued in 2020.
ISO TC 307 on Blockchain technologies	Category A liaison.	ECE maintains a Category A liaison with ISO TC 307, aiming to ensure compatibility of standards and avoiding unnecessary overlaps. Provided background information and technical examples to the development of ISO TC 307 work. Active participation in ISO TC 307 meetings. It is planned to discontinue the liaison in 2021.
ISO TC 262 on Risk Management	An ISO/TC 262 member is also co-coordinating the Group of Experts on Risk Management in Regulatory Cooperation of WP.6.	Regular coordination, information exchange and activities in risk management with support to the Group of Experts on Risk Management in Regulatory Cooperation.
BIPM, CIPM, IAF, IEC, ILAC, OIML, CIML, ISO, ITU, UNIDO, WTO and the World Bank	All these organizations attend the meetings of the “International Network on Quality Infrastructure” (previously “Network on Metrology, Accreditation and Standardization for Developing Countries” (DCMAS)). BIPM participates actively in the meetings of the WP.6. Several standards-making bodies, including CEN, CENELEC, GS1, IEC, ISO and ITU, take part regularly in the annual session of WP.6 and provide updates on their activities and contribute throughout the year to the progress of these activities. The secretariat attends meetings of national, regional, and international standards-making bodies.	WP.6 is part of the “International Network on Quality Infrastructure”. BIPM is evaluating the use of the Recommendation L in legal metrology. WP.6 works with IEC, its Conformity Assessment Board and its three Conformity Assessment Systems (IECEE, IECEX and IECQ) and its TC 31 on the project on equipment for explosive atmospheres. The IECEE attends ECE meetings and participates in the work of the Group of Experts on Risk Management. The ECE secretariat delivers presentations on the WP.6 activities in the context of ISO/CASCO. A partnership has been established with the ISO Committee on Consumer Policies (COPOLCO).

<i>Organization</i>	<i>Mechanisms for cooperation</i>	<i>Current cooperation</i>
Regional Commonwealth in the field of Communications (RCC) and EASC	RCC is a coordinating body of the ministries of communications of CIS States, with a secretariat in Moscow. EASC is one of the effective, functioning interregional CIS organizations/bodies that unites standardization bodies from all CIS member States.	RCC participates in UN/CEFACT Plenaries and Forums. RCC representatives are leading the UN/CEFACT project for the preparation of a Recommendation for ensuring legally significant trusted transboundary electronic interaction.
EEC	ECE-EEC MoU with annual Programme of Action.	There are regular contacts and information exchange between WP.6 and EEC on best practices in regulatory cooperation and market surveillance activities. Following up on a long-standing cooperation on trade facilitation and the Single Window with the Customs law department of EEC, ECE carried out capacity-building on Single Window in the digital economy.
OECD	The two organizations regularly exchange information through their secretariats and attend each other's meetings when possible.	WP.6 secretariat prepared a case study based on the OECD methodology to review International Regulatory Cooperation activities carried out under the umbrella of ECE.
OECD Scheme for the application of international standards for fruit and vegetables	Meeting schedules are set up in coordination between secretaries which actively participate in each other's relevant meetings.	OECD adopts ECE standards. ECE and OECD work closely on updating and interpreting the standards.
OIML	Studies on Regulatory and Procedural Barriers to Trade.	Collaboration with OIML in assisting the countries implement recommendations emerging from the national studies on regulatory and procedural barriers to trade in the area of metrology.
Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE)	Contributions to analytical work. Joint activity.	ECE contributes to trade-related parts of reviews and activities under the OSCE economic dimension, drawing on the recommendations emerging from the studies on Regulatory and Procedural Barriers to Trade and the work of the Trade subprogramme. ECE worked OSCE on training courses in Belarus, Kyrgyzstan, Republic of Moldova.
Regional commissions of the United Nations	Meetings. Capacity-building. Joint projects. Collaboration on trade facilitation in common member States and joint support for the Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia (SPECA).	Coordination meetings of ECE with the other four regional commissions on trade and on trade facilitation. ECE, ESCAP, ECA, ECLAC and ESCWA cooperate in implementing the UNDA project for increased policy coherence and sustainability of national production and consumption patterns in North-South and South-South agriculture trade. ECE supports and cooperates with ESCWA on food loss and waste solution for increased sustainability and food security.

<i>Organization</i>	<i>Mechanisms for cooperation</i>	<i>Current cooperation</i>
		<p>ECE and ESCAP support actively the United Nations activities with SPECA.</p> <p>ECE Regional Adviser collaborated in the preparation and will collaborate on the future implementation of the UNDA 11th tranche and project financed by the Russian Federation for trade facilitation in the transition economies.</p>
UNCTAD	<p>ECE, UNCTAD and ITC have a MoU for delivering coordinated outreach and support activities to help the developing countries implement WTO TFA.</p> <p>ECE is also a signatory to a MoU with the Global Facilitation Partnership (GFP) since 2005. It is a core partner and Steering Committee member of GFP, along with the World Bank, WCO, UNCTAD, UNIDO, OECD and the International Road Transport Union (IRU).</p> <p>eTrade for All Initiative.</p>	<p>ECE and UNCTAD cooperate closely on providing support to countries in the implementation of the WTO TFA. This includes participation in each other's workshops on the topic.</p> <p>ECE is collaborating with UNCTAD in the delivery of training in sustainable agricultural trade.</p> <p>Joint activities and participation in each other's meetings, seminars and forums, joint organization of seminars and mutual contribution to projects.</p> <p>ECE published the Regional Report on Post-Pandemic COVID-19 Economic Recovery: E-commerce and Trade Facilitation under this initiative. The report explores the impact of the pandemic on e-commerce in the transition economies as well as sets out recommendations for enhancing trade facilitation and e-commerce in these economies.</p>
UNDP	<p>Meeting schedules are set up in coordination between secretariats. Joint organization of capacity-building events.</p> <p>Work plans coordinated with the country UNDP offices, United Nations country teams and with the UNDP Regional Hub in Istanbul.</p>	<p>Joint training and capacity-building activities in Central Asia to improve the countries integration into agricultural supply chains. This includes organization of workshops, conducting studies, consultations, development of training material and implementation measures.</p> <p>UNDP participates and provides support for trade facilitation capacity-building activities and for SPECA activities.</p>
UNEP	Meetings.	Active participation in UN/CEFACT conferences and meetings.
UNIDO	<p>UNIDO is a member of GFP.</p> <p>UNIDO is a member of the "International Network on Quality Infrastructure" (previously DCMAS network).</p>	<p>Participation in joint meetings on trade facilitation implementation.</p> <p>UNIDO participates in WP.6 sessions.</p>
United Nations Inter-Agency Cluster on Trade and Productive Capacity (UNCTAD, UNIDO, FAO, ILO, United Nations Commission on	The members of the Cluster assist in building the capacity in the areas of trade and productive policies, in supply side capacity; export capacity; capacity to implement trade	The Cluster designs and implements joint programmes. ECE has been involved in activities undertaken in its member countries.

<i>Organization</i>	<i>Mechanisms for cooperation</i>	<i>Current cooperation</i>
International Trade Law (UNCITRAL), ITC, WTO, UNDP, the five regional commissions, UNEP and UNOPS)	and trade related rules; disputes settlement capacity; negotiating capacity; as well as in research and analysis.	
UNDRR	<p>The ECE Group of Experts on Risk Management in Regulatory Systems (GRM) participates in UNDRR activities.</p> <p>ECE works closely with UNDRR to promote the implementation of international standards as a tool for the reduction of disaster risks.</p>	<p>GRM participated in coordinating United Nations contribution to the implementation of the “Sendai Framework for Action” as agreed at the Third World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction in ISO TC 292.</p> <p>ECE participates in a task force – led by the UN-Habitat secretariat – currently developing a suite of ISO standards on “Urban Resilience”.</p>
UN-Women	Meetings.	<p>ECE strengthened cooperation with UN-Women, co-organizing an online event on “Re-tooling for sustainability” in March 2020.</p> <p>High-level representation from UN-Women at WP.6 events; Annual Session (November 2019) and virtual event (March 2020).</p> <p>UN-Women actively participates in the meetings and events of WP.6 Gender-Responsive Standards Initiative.</p>
WCO	ECE-WCO MoU signed in 2001. Collaboration to promote implementation of gender-responsive standards and women’s empowerment.	UN/CEFACT secretariat and Chair participates in WCO Data Model Project Team meetings and strives to ensure that both the UN/CEFACT model and the WCO model remain compatible.
World Bank (WB)	<p>Support by WB to a variety of ECE capacity-building activities and reciprocal support from the ECE to WB goals and objectives, particularly in trade and transport facilitation.</p> <p>ECE signed an MoU with WB/GFP in March 2005. ECE is a core partner and Steering Committee member of GFP, along with WB, WCO, UNCTAD, UNIDO, OECD and IRU.</p> <p>Support by WB to a variety of ECE capacity-building activities and reciprocal support from ECE to WB goals and objectives, particularly in trade and transport facilitation.</p>	<p>ECE participates actively in and contributes substantial materials to the GFP website.</p> <p>WB participates in the meetings of the International Trade Procedures project development area of UN/CEFACT.</p> <p>WB has selected the ECE Single Window Recommendation as the base for its projects in this area.</p> <p>WB has recognized the importance of the UN/CEFACT e-business standards for agriculture and other regulatory processes.</p>

<i>Organization</i>	<i>Mechanisms for cooperation</i>	<i>Current cooperation</i>
WTO	<p>The United Nations Trade Facilitation Network is an inter-agency group comprising WTO and WB, ITC, UNCTAD and ECE.</p> <p>Through WP.6, ECE is a permanent observer at the WTO TBT Committee.</p>	<p>WTO representatives regularly attend meetings of subsidiary bodies of the Steering Committee on Trade Capacity and Standards.</p> <p>ECE works with WTO on the implementation of TFA in transition countries.</p> <p>ECE Trade Division attends some WTO committee sessions (as representative of the regional commissions of the United Nations) and WTO TFA Annex D+ organizations' meetings organized by TFA Facility. ECE briefed, upon invitation, at the WTO Committee on Trade and Environment. WTO representatives regularly attend the trade facilitation group of UN/CEFACT meetings.</p> <p>Representatives from WP.6 participated in all the meetings of the WTO TBT Committee and provided updates on each activity at each of them.</p> <p>The WTO Standards and Trade Development Facility (STDF) collaborates with ECE on the dissemination and development of training material for sustainable trade of agricultural products.</p> <p>Bi-monthly meetings of the initiative, currently developing guidelines for gender responsive standards and a repository of best practice.</p> <p>Support in identifying and mapping standards that can be used in support of the goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda, as well as in developing case studies of actual use of standards in support of sustainable development by national and local authorities.</p> <p>In November 2019, the ECE secretariat presented at the "Thematic Session on Standards" on incorporating standards by reference in regulations (ECE Recommendation D). ECE also actively contributed to the WTO TBT workshop on "The role of Gender in the Development of Standards" (11 May 2019) organized by the Permanent Mission of Canada to the United Nations.</p>
63 standards bodies (i.e. ISO, IEC, ITU, CEN/CENELEC, ARSO, etc.)	<p>Gender-Responsive Standards Declaration.</p> <p>Portal on Standards for the SDGs.</p>	<p>Signatory of the Declaration.</p> <p>Standards referenced.</p>