
Economic Commission for Europe

UNECE Executive Committee

Centre for Trade Facilitation and Electronic Business

Team of Specialists on Environmental, Social and Governance Traceability of Sustainable Value Chains in the Circular Economy

First session

Geneva, 10 November 2021

Item 1 of the provisional agenda

Adoption of the agenda

Annotated Provisional Agenda for the First Session^{1, 2}

To be held virtually via Webex, starting at 10.00 on Wednesday, 10 November 2021.

I. Provisional agenda

1. Opening
2. Adoption of the agenda
3. Appointment of officers
4. Approaches and perspectives for advancing Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) performance in value chains, through traceability
5. Discussion of the Programme of Work of the Team of Specialists on ESG Traceability of Sustainable Value Chains in the Circular Economy (TSVCCE).
6. Other business
7. Adoption of decisions of the first session

¹ For reasons of economy, delegates are requested to bring copies of all relevant documents to the session. There will be no documentation available in the conference room. Before the session, documents may be downloaded from the UNECE website (<https://unece.org/trade/events/ToSESGTraceability>)

² All delegates are requested to complete the online registration form available on the UNECE website (https://unece.webex.com/mw3300/mywebex/default.do?nomenu=true&siteurl=unece&service=6&rnd=0.13210462298320325&main_url=https%3A%2F%2Funece.webex.com%2Fec3300%2Feventcenter%2Fevent%2FeventAction.do%3FtheAction%3Ddetail%26%26%26EMK%3D4832534b00000058cf8b3ffa5d75acd89925cc111e91d10226361c0face4ce705977f1ed9fc569a%26siteurl%3Dunece%26confViewID%3D208153982833526488%26encryptTicket%3DSDJTSwAAAAV_yc3hslKt9jOhr9t0Tb9qyKZCxHoTSvG7gn5mvGmlIA2%26)

II. Annotations

Item 1. Opening

High-level speakers will share insights on the role that ESG performance monitoring and reporting plays for advancing sustainability in critical sector for the transition to the circular economy, through traceability and transparency of value chains.

Item 2. Adoption of the agenda

The secretariat will present the annotated provisional agenda for adoption.

<i>Document title</i>	<i>Document symbol</i>	
Annotated Provisional Agenda for the First Session	ToS-TSVCCE/2021/INF.1	For adoption

Item 3. Appointment of officers

The ToS is invited to appoint a Chair and, possibly, two Vice-Chairs, in accordance with the respective applicable rules.

<i>Document title</i>	<i>Document symbol</i>	
Guidelines for the establishment and functioning of teams of specialists	ECE/EX/2/Rev.1	For information

Item 4. Approaches and perspectives for advancing ESG performance in value chains, through traceability

Consumption and production drive the global economy and are essential for a post-COVID recovery. At the same time, consumption and production also impact on planetary health through the unsustainable use of natural resources and put people health and wellbeing at risk. In order to increase industry's ability to manage value chains sustainably, both consumers and businesses must first be aware of the nature and magnitude of sustainability impact related to the production and consumption of goods traded across countries, and be able of make informed and responsible choices.

Improving the environmental, social and governance (ESG) traceability and transparency of value chains has therefore become a priority. Producing and exchanging relevant information in a standardized way supports common understanding, accessibility, clarity and comparison and fosters credible communication among business partners, with government authorities, and towards consumers and the general public.

In this session representatives from UN Member States, key industry actors and other stakeholders will discuss perspectives, available solutions and priorities for advancing ESG traceability and transparency of value chains in priority industries for the circular transition. Discussions will focus on the agri-food and fishery, garment and footwear, minerals, transport and e-waste management sectors.

Questions:

1. What policies and actions can governments, industry actors and other stakeholders put in place to advance ESG monitoring and reporting in value chains of priority industries for the circular transition?
2. What are the lessons learnt from the COVID-19 pandemic in terms of adapting and improving the ESG performance monitoring and reporting, and how to ensure that solutions in place can support small actors and vulnerable groups?
3. Which role can information exchange standards and advanced technologies (Blockchain, IoT, AI) play for ESG traceability and transparency along value chains?

<i>Document title</i>	<i>Document symbol</i>	
Briefing Note on the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe – United Nations Centre for Trade Facilitation and Electronic Business Contribution to Advance Circular Economy Actions	ECE/TRADE/C/CEFACT/2020/24	For information
Executive Summary for Policymakers: Enhancing Transparency and Traceability of Sustainable Value Chains in the Garment and Footwear Sector	ECE/TRADE/C/CEFACT/2021/11	For information
Report – Enhancing Sustainability and Circularity of Value Chains in the Garment and Footwear Sector: Policy Developments on Traceability and Transparency	ECE/TRADE/C/CEFACT/2021/INF.3	For information

Item 5. Discussion of the Programme of Work of the Team of Specialists for the period 2021-2023

The Programme of Work for the implementation of the Mandate and Terms of Reference of the Team of Specialists for 2021-2023 were adopted by the UNECE 117th session of EXCOM on 8 July 2021 (ECE/EX/2021/L.12) and will be presented for discussion.

This session will also provide an opportunity to brainstorm on how to progress in ongoing relevant projects and activities and on those areas that might be given priority in the future.

<i>Document title</i>	<i>Document symbol</i>	
Mandate and Terms of Reference of the Team of Specialists on Environmental, Social and Governance Traceability of Sustainable Value Chains in the Circular Economy	ECE/TRADE/C/CEFACT/2021/23/Rev.1	For discussion
Decisions related to the Team of Specialists on Environmental, Social and Governance Traceability of Sustainable Value Chains in the Circular Economy	ECE/EX/2021/L.12	For information

Item 6 Other business

Experts will be invited to raise any other issues not previously addressed during the session.

Item 7. Adoption of decisions of the first session

Experts will be invited to adopt the decisions of the first session.

<i>Document title</i>	<i>Document symbol</i>	
Draft report of the first session	ToS-TSVCCE/2021/INF.2	For decision

Closing

III. Provisional timetable

<i>Time</i>	<i>Agenda item</i>	<i>Introduced by</i>
Wednesday, 10 November		
10:00 – 10:15	Item 1: Opening	High-level speakers
10:15 – 10:20	Item 2: Adoption of the agenda	Secretariat
10:20 – 10:40	Item 3: Appointment of officers	Secretariat
10:40 – 12:00	Item 4: Approaches and perspectives for advancing Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) performance in value chains, through traceability and transparency	Secretariat
12:00 – 14:00	Lunch break	
14:00 – 15:20	Item 4: Approaches and perspectives for advancing Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) performance in value chains, through traceability and transparency	Secretariat
15:20 – 15:40	Item 5: Programme of Work of the Team of Specialists on ESG Traceability of Sustainable Value Chains in the Circular Economy (TSVCCE)	Secretariat
15:40 – 15:45	Item 6: Other business	Secretariat
15:45 – 16:00	Item 7: Adoption of decisions of the first session	Secretariat