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**Economic Commission for Europe****Steering Committee on Trade Capacity and Standards****Working Party on Agricultural Quality Standards****Specialized Section on Standardization of Fresh Fruit and Vegetables****Seventieth session**

Geneva, 16-18 May 2022

Item 1 of the provisional agenda

**Adoption of the agenda****Provisional agenda and annotations\***

Session to be held as a hybrid meeting (with interpretation) at the Palais des Nations, Geneva, starting on 16 May 2022.

**I. Provisional agenda**

1. Adoption of the agenda.
2. Matters arising since the last session:
  - (a) United Nations, United Nations Economic Commission for Europe and subsidiary bodies;
  - (b) Recent developments in other organizations.
3. Micro, small and medium-sized enterprises and agricultural quality standards for resilient supply chains.
4. Analysis of the impact of agricultural quality standards on the trade of fruit and vegetables.
5. Sustainable Development Goal 12 and sustainable practices: food loss and waste prevention related to standards.
6. Electronic quality certificates for fresh fruit and vegetables.
7. Capacity-building and promotional activities.
8. Exchange of experience on using the UNECE Code Mark Registry.
9. Revision of standards:
  - (a) Further discussion of 2021 proposals;

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\* Delegates attending the meeting are invited to register online at <https://indico.un.org/e/ge1-70th-2022>. Meeting documents are available at <https://unece.org/trade/wp7/ge1-70th-2022>. In the event of difficulties with electronic registration, contact the secretariat by email ([Subashini.Narasimhan@un.org](mailto:Subashini.Narasimhan@un.org)).

- (b) New proposals;
  - (c) Revisions to the Standard Layout for Standards for Fresh Fruit and Vegetables.
10. Development of new standards
  11. Revision of explanatory brochures: persimmon.
  12. Other business.
  13. Future work.
  14. Election of officers.
  15. Adoption of the report.

## **II. Annotations**

### **1. Adoption of the agenda**

The delegations will adopt the agenda.

*Documentation:* Annotated provisional agenda (ECE/CTCS/WP.7/GE.1/2022/1)

### **2. Matters arising since the last session**

#### **(a) United Nations, United Nations Economic Commission for Europe and subsidiary bodies**

The secretariat will present recent matters arising from the United Nations, the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (ECE), the Steering Committee on Trade Capacity and Standards (SCTCS) and the Working Party on Agricultural Quality Standards (WP.7) having an impact on the work of the Specialized Section.

*Documentation:* Report of the seventy-sixth session of the Working Party on Agricultural Quality Standards (ECE/CTCS/WP.7/2021/2)

#### **(b) Recent developments in other organizations**

Representatives of other organizations and country delegations will inform the Specialized Section about activities taking place in their agencies that are of relevance to the work of the Specialized Section.

### **3. Micro, small and medium-sized enterprises and agricultural quality standards for resilient supply chains**

The secretariat will present the work accomplished on e-learning material (developed under a United Nations Development Account COVID-19 response project). Delegations are invited to report on their countries' work and available e-learning and other related material. The Specialized Section is invited to advice on the development of further guidance material and other contributions.

*Documentation:* Update from the secretariat on the e-learning course (ECE/CTCS/WP.7/GE.1/2022/INF.1)

### **4. Analysis of the impact of agricultural quality standards on the trade of fruit and vegetables**

Following the discussion at the 2021 session, the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) expressed interest to implement the study jointly with the ECE on the impact of agricultural quality standards on the trade of fruit and vegetables. The

preliminary results were presented at the 2021 session of WP.7 and the OECD and the ECE secretariats continued collaborating to finalize the study.

The Specialized Section is invited to review and endorse the final results of the study.

*Documentation:* Results of the study (ECE/CTCS/WP.7/GE.1/2022/INF.2)

## **5. Sustainable Development Goal 12 and sustainable practices: food loss and waste prevention related to standards**

The Specialized Section is invited to review the four brochures developed under a United Nations Development Account project to facilitate practical application of the Code of Good Practice, developed by the ad-hoc drafting group under the Specialized Section and presented at the 2021 session of WP.7.

*Documentation:* Good practices in harvest and post-harvest handling of floral vegetables (ECE/CTCS/WP.7/GE.1/2022/3)

Good practices in harvest and post-harvest handling of immature fruit vegetables (ECE/CTCS/WP.7/GE.1/2022/4)

Good practices in harvest and post-harvest handling of leafy vegetables (ECE/CTCS/WP.7/GE.1/2022/5)

Good practices in harvest and post-harvest handling of root vegetables (ECE/CTCS/WP.7/GE.1/2022/6)

## **6. Electronic quality certificates for fresh fruit and vegetables**

During 2020-2021 under a United Nations Development Account project, the secretariat in collaboration with the United Nations Centre for Trade Facilitation and Electronic Business (UN/CEFACT) and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) has developed the functional specifications (i.e. standardized business process) for an electronic certification system for fresh fruits and vegetables, including support for using an electronic version of the e-quality certificate. The functional specifications were completed in November 2021 and submitted to WP.7 for review, with comments received from Brazil, Germany, the Netherlands, Spain, and the United States of America. The specification is now ready to be used by Governments who are interested in developing or enhancing their ICT systems.

The secretariat will update the Specialized Section on the progress in 2021 and possible implementation modalities of electronic quality (e-quality) certificates.

## **7. Capacity-building and promotional activities**

The secretariat and delegations will provide information about their promotional and capacity-building activities in the past year and preview upcoming events and training. The Specialized Section is invited to propose other capacity-building activities and discuss related resource mobilization.

## **8. Exchange of experience on using the UNECE Code Mark Registry**

The delegation of Germany proposed to study the experience of marking packages with official codes for the shipper's information. It was proposed to explore how the inspection bodies proceed if the structure of the code does not match the information provided in the Code Mark Registry or if the country of dispatch is not listed in the Code Mark Registry.

*Documentation:* Exchange of experience on using the UNECE Code Mark Registry (Germany) (ECE/CTCS/WP.7/GE.1/2022/7)

## 9. Revision of standards

### (a) Further discussion of 2021 proposals

The Specialized Section is invited to review the proposed changes and continue the discussions on outstanding issues in view of a possible approval of the following standards:

- Documentation:* Proposal by the delegation of Belgium to amend the standard for beans/peas (ECE/CTCS/WP.7/GE.1/2022/8)
- Proposal by the delegation of Spain to amend the standard for onions (ECE/CTCS/WP.7/GE.1/2022/9)
- Proposal by the delegation of Spain to amend the standard for cherries (ECE/CTCS/WP.7/GE.1/2022/10)
- Proposal by the delegation of Spain to amend the standard for berry fruits (ECE/CTCS/WP.7/GE.1/2022/11)

### (b) New proposals

The Specialized Section is invited to review the proposed changes to the following standards: leafy vegetables; asparagus; citrus fruit; pomegranates; and melons.

- Documentation:* Proposal by the delegation of Germany to amend the standard for leafy vegetables (ECE/CTCS/WP.7/GE.1/2022/12)
- Proposal by the delegation of Germany to amend the standard for asparagus (ECE/CTCS/WP.7/GE.1/2022/13)
- Proposal by the delegation of Germany to amend the standard for citrus fruit (ECE/CTCS/WP.7/GE.1/2022/14)
- Proposal by the delegation of Germany to amend the standard for pomegranates (ECE/CTCS/WP.7/GE.1/2022/15)
- Proposal by the delegation of France regarding commercial types for melons (ECE/CTCS/WP.7/GE.1/2022/18)

### (c) Revisions to the Standard Layout for Standards for Fresh Fruit and Vegetables

The Specialized Section is invited to review proposals to amend the Standard Layout for Standards for Fresh Fruit and Vegetables to allow a post office box identifier instead of the physical address of the packer/dispatcher/exporter.

The Specialized Section is invited to initiate discussions on how to adjust the standard layout and the specific standards to reduce loss and waste, as proposed by the delegation of Sweden.

- Documentation:* Proposal by the delegation of the Netherlands to amend the Standard Layout for Standards for Fresh Fruit and Vegetables (ECE/CTCS/WP.7/GE.1/2022/16)
- Proposal by the delegation of Sweden to adjust the Standard Layout for Standards for Fresh Fruit and Vegetables and specific standards to reduce food loss and waste (ECE/CTCS/WP.7/GE.1/2022/INF.3)

## 10. Development of new standards

### Sweet potatoes

The Specialized Section is invited to discuss the proposal by the delegations of Germany and South Africa to develop a new standard for sweet potatoes (*Ipomoea batatas*).

- Documentation:* Proposal by the delegations of Germany and South Africa to develop a new standard for sweet potato (ECE/CTCS/WP.7/GE.1/2022/17)

**Ripened bananas**

The Specialized Section is invited to discuss the proposal by the delegation of France to develop a new standard for ripened bananas.

*Documentation:* Proposal by the delegation of France to develop a new standard for ripened bananas (ECE/CTCS/WP.7/GE.1/2022/19)

**11. Revision of explanatory brochures: persimmon**

The Specialized Section is invited to discuss a proposal to amend the explanatory brochure for persimmon.

*Documentation:* Proposal by the delegation of Germany to amend the explanatory brochure for persimmon (ECE/CTCS/WP.7/GE.1/2021/19)

**12. Other business**

Any other issues of interest for the work of the Specialized Section can be discussed under this agenda item.

**13. Future work**

The Specialized Section will discuss its future work.

**14. Election of officers**

The Specialized Section will elect a Chair and Vice-Chair for a one-year term. At its sixty-ninth session, it had elected Mr. Cyril Julius (South Africa) and Mr. Umed Aslanov (Tajikistan).

**15. Adoption of the report**

The Specialized Section will adopt the report of the session (to be issued as ECE/CTCS/WP.7/GE.1/2022/2).

**III. Tentative timetable**

Monday, 16 May	11:00-13:00	Items 1-5
	15:00-17:00	Items 6-8
Tuesday, 17 May	11:00-13:00	Items 9 (a,b)
	15:00-17:00	Item 9 (c)
Wednesday, 18 May	11:00-13:00	Items 10-14
	15:00-17:00	Item 15