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Economic Commission for Europe

Steering Committee on Trade Capacity and Standards

Seventh session

Geneva, 27–28 (am) June 2022

Item 1 of the provisional agenda

Adoption of the agenda

Annotated provisional agenda

Palais des Nations, Geneva, Room TPS 1,
starting at 10:00 a.m. on Monday 27 June 2022*

I. Provisional agenda

1. Adoption of the agenda.
2. Matters arising.
3. Updates from the Working Party on Regulatory Cooperation and Standardization Policies (WP.6).
4. Updates for the Working Party on Agricultural Quality Standards (WP.7).
5. Supporting the removal of regulatory and procedural barriers to trade: Uzbekistan.
6. Findings and recommendations emerging from the COVID-19 impact assessments targeting female-owned micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) in selected countries.
7. Country follow-up to Economic Commission for Europe studies on regulatory and procedural barriers to trade.
8. Report from the Economic Commission for Europe 27 June side event on circular economy.
9. Capacity-building and technical assistance activities.
10. Cooperation with other organizations and Economic Commission for Europe bodies.
11. Programme of work:

* The hybrid sessions will be organized on 27 June 10:00–12:00 and 15:30–17:30. On 28 June the hybrid session will take place 10:00–12:00. Restrictions to in-person participation apply and delegates are encouraged to join the sessions virtually. Delegates are requested to register online at <https://indico.un.org/e/sctcs-2022>. The session documents will be made available progressively at <https://unece.org/trade/sctcs-2022>. Please note that as part of its move to paperless meetings, the secretariat does not distribute paper copies of meeting documents.

Additional information for delegates, including a map of the Palais des Nations meeting rooms, is available at: <http://www.unece.org/meetings/practical.html>.



- (a) Status of implementation of the Trade subprogramme's programme of work for 2022; and
- (b) Trade subprogramme's programme of work for 2023 and outline of key components of the programme of work for 2024.
12. Stakeholder needs and priorities.
 13. Other business.
 14. Adoption of the report.

II. Annotations

Item 1. Adoption of the agenda

<i>Title of document</i>	<i>Document symbol</i>	<i>For information/decision</i>
Provisional agenda	ECE/CTCS/2022/1	Decision

1. Delegates are invited to adopt the provisional agenda.

Item 2. Matters arising

2. Under this item, the secretariat will report on matters arising from the 2022 meetings of the Economic Commission for Europe and its Executive Committee (EXCOM).

Item 3. Updates from the Working Party on Regulatory Cooperation and Standardization Policies (WP.6)

<i>Title of document</i>	<i>Document symbol</i>	<i>For information/decision</i>
Report on the thirty-first session of the Working Party on Regulatory Cooperation and Standardization Policies	ECE/CTCS/WP.6/2021/2	Decision
Programme of work of the Working Party on Regulatory Cooperation and Standardization Policies for 2022	ECE/CTCS/WP.6/2021/10	Decision
Terms of Reference of the Team of Specialists on Gender-Responsive Standards	ECE/CTCS/WP.6/2021/10/ Add.1	Decision
Revised Recommendation P on Risk Management in Regulatory Systems	ECE/CTCS/WP.6/2020/11	Decision
Recommendation V on Addressing Product Non-Compliance Risks in International Trade	ECE/CTCS/WP.6/2021/5	Decision
Managing Risk for Post-Pandemic Trade: Guide for Border Regulatory Agencies	ECE/CTCS/WP.6/2021/ INF.1	Information

3. The Working Party on Regulatory Cooperation and Standardization Policies (WP.6) promotes regulatory cooperation, standardization policies and building risk-based regulatory frameworks supported by effective quality infrastructure, and other activities which contribute towards reducing technical barriers to trade, while efficiently managing risk, promoting sustainable development in all its dimensions including, for example, gender equality, climate and environmental protection and adaptation to new technologies.

4. The Gender-Responsive Standards Initiative (GRSI) launched a *Declaration for Gender-Responsive Standards and Standards Development* in 2019 which has been signed by over eighty standards development organizations. GRSI has noted multiple times throughout its meetings since 2016 that gender mainstreaming is not a one-off activity but requires long-term investments. The network of gender focal points which has been established through the *Recommendation U on Gender-Responsive Standards* and the *Declaration* establishes a de facto Team of Specialists internationally which will require a forum to continue exchange on best practices to develop further guidance on the topic. It is for this reason that a Team of Specialists on Gender-Responsive Standards (GRS) is proposed.

5. As outlined within its Programme of work, WP.6 requests the launch of a new Team of Specialists on Gender-Responsive Standards (GRS) as well as the renewal of the mandates of the three existing subgroups: Advisory Group on Market Surveillance (MARS); Ad Hoc Team of Specialists on Standardization and Regulatory Techniques (START); and Group of Experts on Risk Management in Regulatory Systems (GRM). WP.6 requests that these mandates be endorsed by the Steering Committee and presented, as appropriate, to the ECE Executive Committee.

6. WP.6 reports its activities and deliverables to the Steering Committee for endorsement to then subsequently be reported to the ECE Executive Committee. Delegates will have an opportunity to clarify questions and provide comments on the work of WP.6.

Item 4. Updates for the Working Party on Agricultural Quality Standards (WP.7)

<i>Title of document</i>	<i>Document symbol</i>	<i>For information/decision</i>
Report of the seventy-sixth session of the Working Party on Agricultural Quality Standards	ECE/CTCS/WP.7/2021/2	Decision
Programme of work of the Working Party on Agricultural Quality Standards 2022	ECE/CTCS/WP.7/2021/27	Decision
Recommendation for Inshell Pecans	ECE/CTCS/WP.7/2021/6	Information
Recommendation for Pecan Kernels	ECE/CTCS/WP.7/2021/7	Information
Recommendation for Dried Persimmons	ECE/CTCS/WP.7/2021/8	Information
Recommendation for Raw and Roasted Inshell Peanuts	ECE/CTCS/WP.7/2021/9	Information
Recommendation for Raw and Roasted Peanut Kernels	ECE/CTCS/WP.7/2021/10	Information
Standard for Sweet Apricot Kernels	ECE/CTCS/WP.7/2021/11	Information
Revised standard for Prunes	ECE/CTCS/WP.7/2021/13	Information

Revised standard for Dates	ECE/CTCS/WP.7/2021/12	Information
Revised standard for Carrots	ECE/CTCS/WP.7/2021/15	Information
Revised standard for Strawberries	ECE/CTCS/WP.7/2021/17	Information
Revised standard for Fresh Figs	ECE/CTCS/WP.7/2021/18	Information
Revised standard for Chinese Cabbage	ECE/CTCS/WP.7/2021/19	Information
Revised standard for Cucumbers	ECE/CTCS/WP.7/2021/20	Information
Revised standard for Watermelons	ECE/CTCS/WP.7/2021/21	Information
Revised standard for Apricots	ECE/CTCS/WP.7/2021/22	Information
Revised standard for Cauliflower	ECE/CTCS/WP.7/2021/23	Information
Standard for Pomegranates	ECE/CTCS/WP.7/2021/28	Information
Revised Standard Layout for UNECE Standards for Fresh Fruit and Vegetables	ECE/CTCS/WP.7/2021/24	Information

7. The Working Party on Agricultural Quality Standards (WP.7) develops, interprets and promotes the application of internationally agreed commercial quality standards for meat and eggs, seed potatoes, fresh fruit and vegetables, and dry and dried produce and guidance material for agricultural produce to facilitate national and international trade of agricultural products. The Working Party takes into account of the needs of Governments and the private sector to deliver the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

8. WP.7 reports its activities and deliverables to the Steering Committee for endorsement to then subsequently be reported to the ECE Executive Committee. Delegates will have an opportunity to clarify questions and provide comments on the work of WP.7.

Item 5. Supporting the removal of regulatory and procedural barriers to trade: Uzbekistan

<i>Title of document</i>	<i>Document symbol</i>	<i>For information/decision</i>
Economic Commission for Europe study on regulatory and procedural barriers to trade in the Republic of Uzbekistan: Recommendations	ECE/CTCS/2022/3	Decision

9. Delegates will be briefed about the findings and recommendations emerging from the ECE study on regulatory and procedural barriers to trade in Uzbekistan. The study, which was funded by the United Nations Development Account (UNDA), was conducted in 2021–2022 using the ECE evaluation methodology, which was extended to capture the impact of non-tariff measures (NTMs) governing trade in goods in support of achieving the 2030 Agenda.

10. The study captures behind and at-the-border regulatory and procedural barriers to trade and highlights their impact on transaction costs in terms of both time and money. It also highlights the implication of these barriers for the achievement of SDGs and provides detailed recommendations.

Item 6. Findings and recommendations emerging from the COVID-19 impact assessments targeting female-owned micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) in selected countries

<i>Title of document</i>	<i>Document symbol</i>	<i>For information/decision</i>
Findings and recommendations emerging from the COVID-19 impact assessments targeting female-owned MSMEs in selected countries	ECE/CTCS/2022/4	Decision

11. Pursuant to the General Assembly's Resolution on Global Solidarity to Fight the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) (A/RES/74/270) of 2 April 2020, and in support of the Sustainable Development Goal 5 on gender equality, ECE undertook two national assessments on the impact of COVID-19 on the development prospects of export-oriented female-owned micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) in Armenia and the Republic of Moldova. The assessments were financed by UNDA and contributed to the United Nations system-wide Global Initiative Towards Post-COVID-19 Resurgence of the MSME Sector.

12. The assessments of female-owned MSMEs in Armenia and the Republic of Moldova highlight main COVID-19-induced challenges to scaling up women's economic empowerment in the two countries. The assessments have been published in English. The technical, informal version of the Moldovan assessment is available in Russian and the Armenian one in Armenian. The assessments can be downloaded from the Trade subprogramme's website at unece.org/trade.

13. To facilitate discussions, the secretariat prepared a summary report, highlighting common challenges and recommendations emerging from the assessments. Delegates are invited to discuss the summary report (ECE/CTCS/2022/4).

Item 7. Country follow-up to Economic Commission for Europe studies on regulatory and procedural barriers to trade

14. Delegates will be informed of country follow-up to ECE studies on regulatory and procedural barriers to trade.

15. Delegates from countries and the United Nations Resident Coordinator Offices in countries where ECE studies on regulatory and procedural barriers to trade were undertaken will inform the Steering Committee about ongoing and planned follow-up activities, particularly those related to implementing the recommendations emerging from the studies and COVID-19 impact assessments.

16. Delegates will be invited to discuss areas for possible joint action and coordination with development partners.

Item 8. Report from the Economic Commission for Europe 27 June side event on circular economy

<i>Title of document</i>	<i>Document symbol</i>	<i>For information/decision</i>
Accelerating the Circular Economy Transition in the UNECE Region: Policy Options for Harnessing the Power of Trade and Economic Cooperation – an Executive Summary of the UNECE Policy Paper	ECE/CTCS/2022/5	Information

Report from the Working Party on ECE/CTCS/2022/INF.2 Information
Regulatory Cooperation and
Standardization Policies on work
related to circular economy

17. At its sixty-ninth session, ECE committed to step up efforts to promote circular economy approaches and the sustainable use of natural resources, by mainstreaming circularity and the sustainable use of natural resources in the existing relevant ECE sectoral work programmes as appropriate.

18. The Commission further requested the relevant sectoral committees and bodies reporting directly to the Executive Committee, and their subsidiaries, to consider how to enhance the impact of relevant existing ECE instruments, in order to foster circular and more resource-efficient approaches, including by proposing ways to identify, assess and fill gaps in governance and good practices (Decision B (69) Circular economy and the sustainable use of natural resources, contained in document E/ECE/1497).

19. Under this item, the secretariat will report on a side event that it plans to organize in parallel to the Steering Committee meeting as well as recommendations for the consideration of delegates.

20. The Working Party on Regulatory Cooperation and Standardization Policies featured a panel discussion during its annual session in November 2021 on the relationship of its work to circular economy. This has been compiled into an informal document for information and presented to the Steering Committee at the request of the SCTCS Vice-Chair who attended this meeting.

21. Delegates will have an opportunity to clarify questions and provide comments on this topic.

Item 9. Capacity-building and technical assistance activities

<i>Title of document</i>	<i>Document symbol</i>	<i>For information/decision</i>
Report on capacity-building and technical assistance activities	ECE/CTCS/2022/6	Decision

22. Delegates will be invited to endorse the relevant sections of the Trade subprogramme's report on capacity-building and technical assistance activities implemented since the previous session. The activities reported by the United Nations Centre for Trade Facilitation and Electronic Business (UN/CEFACT) are for information only.

Item 10. Cooperation with other organizations and Economic Commission for Europe bodies

<i>Title of document</i>	<i>Document symbol</i>	<i>For information/decision</i>
Cooperation with other organizations and Economic Commission for Europe bodies	ECE/CTCS/2022/7	Decision

23. The secretariat will report on ongoing collaboration with other international organizations.

24. Representatives from other international organizations will be invited to highlight areas for potential cooperation with the Steering Committee as well as current and future activities of relevance to delegates.

25. A discussion will take place on potential areas for collaboration between the Steering Committee and other ECE bodies and international organizations.

Item 11. Programme of work

(a) Status of implementation of the Trade subprogramme's programme of work for 2022

26. The secretariat will report on the status of the implementation of the programme of work currently under way.

(b) Trade subprogramme's programme of work for 2023 and outline of key components of the programme of work for 2024

<i>Title of document</i>	<i>Document symbol</i>	<i>For information/decision</i>
Trade subprogramme's draft programme of work for 2023	ECE/CTCS/2022/8	Decision
Outline of key components of the Trade subprogramme's programme of work for 2024	ECE/CTCS/2022/INF.1	Consideration

27. The secretariat will present the Trade subprogramme's draft programme of work for 2023. This document is based on the Trade subprogramme's proposed programme plan and performance indicators for 2023, reviewed by the ECE Executive Committee in December 2021 as part of the ECE proposed programme budget for 2023, and submitted for consideration by the seventy-seventh session of the United Nations General Assembly. The draft programme of work document reflects the annual budget format introduced in 2020 in line with General Assembly resolution 72/266, with enrichments reflecting General Assembly resolutions 74/251 adopted on 27 December 2019 and 75/243 adopted on 31 December 2020. Delegates will be invited to adopt the programme of work and recommend it to the Executive Committee for approval. Sections on UN/CEFACT are for information only.

28. At its meeting on 5 March 2021, the ECE Executive Committee adopted a document entitled "Sequential review of the proposed programmes of work of ECE subprogrammes" (doc. 2021/8). In line with the sequential review procedure, the Committee will be invited to also consider the "Outline of key components of the programme of work of the Trade subprogramme for 2024" (ECE/CTCS/2022/INF.1) and provide recommendations on these components, as necessary. Recommendations agreed by the Committee and included in its decisions will be reflected in the proposed programme plan of the Trade subprogramme for 2024.

Item 12. Stakeholder needs and priorities

29. Delegates will be invited to discuss the needs of low- and middle-income countries for removing regulatory and procedural barriers to trade, including those identified in the ECE studies. The discussion will focus on possible measures by member States, and how the Trade subprogramme might assist in addressing these needs drawing on experience gained and activities undertaken in the areas covered by the Steering Committee.

Item 13. Other business

30. The Steering Committee will approve the preliminary dates for its next session.

Item 14. Adoption of the report

<i>Title of document</i>	<i>Document symbol</i>	<i>For information/decision</i>
Report of the session	ECE/CTCS/2022/2	Decision

31. Delegates will adopt the report of the seventh session of the Steering Committee on Trade Capacity and Standards, containing the deliberated decisions.

III. Tentative timetable

<i>Time</i>	<i>Agenda item</i>	<i>Description</i>
27 June 2022		
10:00–10:20	1	Adoption of the agenda
10:20–10:30	2	Matters arising
10:30–10:45	3	Updates from the Working Party on Regulatory Cooperation and Standardization Policies (WP.6)
10:45–11:00	4	Updates for the Working Party on Agricultural Quality Standards (WP.7)
11:00–12:00	5	Supporting the removal of regulatory and procedural barriers to trade: Uzbekistan
15:30–16:30	6	Findings and recommendations emerging from the COVID-19 impact assessments targeting female-owned micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) in selected countries
16:30–17:00	7	Country follow-up to Economic Commission for Europe studies on regulatory barriers and procedural barriers to trade
17:00–17:30	8	Report from the Economic Commission for Europe 27 June side event on circular economy
28 June 2022		
10:00–10:10	9	Capacity-building and technical assistance activities
10:10–10:30	10	Cooperation with other organizations and Economic Commission for Europe bodies
10:30–10:55	11	Programme of work
	(a)	Status of implementation of the Trade subprogramme's programme of work for 2022
	(b)	Trade subprogramme's programme of work for 2023 and outline of key components of the programme of work for 2024
10:55–11:05	12	Stakeholder needs and priorities
11:05–11:25	13	Other business
11:25–12:00	14	Adoption of the report