

**Annual Session of the Steering Committee on Trade Capacity and Standardization
of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe
7th session, 2022
Geneva, 27-28 June 2022**

Decisions submitted to silence procedure following the formal session of SCTCS with remote participation

Agenda item	Document (LINK)	Decision
1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • https://unece.org/sites/default/files/2022-06/ECE_CTCS_2022_01_Rev.1_E.pdf 	<p>Decision 2022-01</p> <p>The Steering Committee adopted the agenda.</p>
2		<p>Decision 2022-02</p> <p>The Steering Committee expressed its appreciation and took note of the secretariat's report on matters arising which included the recent developments within the Commission, notably on the topic of circular economy and the sustainable use of natural resources of the sixty-ninth session of the Commission (document E/ECE/1500) and the topic of the forthcoming seventieth session on digital and green transformations for sustainable development.</p>
3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • https://unece.org/sites/default/files/2022-05/ECE_CTCS_WP.6_2021_02_E.pdf • https://unece.org/sites/default/files/2021-10/ECE_CTCS_WP.6_10_E_0.pdf 	<p>Decision 2022-03</p> <p>The Steering Committee expressed its satisfaction with the work undertaken by the Working Party on Regulatory Cooperation and Standardization Policies (WP.6), recognized the importance of this topic in today's challenging trade environment and endorsed the report of the thirty-first session of WP.6 in document ECE/CTCS/WP.6/2021/2 and the programme of work of WP.6 in document ECE/CTCS/WP.6/2021/10. It invited WP.6 to continue implementing its programme of work and report to the 2023 session.</p>
3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • https://unece.org/DAM/trade/wp6/documents/2020/ECE_CTCS_WP.6_2020_11E.pdf • https://unece.org/sites/default/files/2021-10/ECE_CTCS_WP.6_05_E.pdf 	<p>Decision 2022-04</p> <p>Following the Decision 4 of the thirty-first session of WP.6 on 24–26 November 2021 adopting the decisions taken through silent procedure in 2020, the Steering Committee endorsed the Revised Recommendation P on Risk Management in Regulatory Systems in document ECE/CTCS/WP.6/2020/11. Following the Decision 7 of the thirty-first session of WP.6 on 24–26 November 2021, the Steering Committee endorsed the Recommendation V on Addressing Product Non-Compliance Risks in International Trade in document ECE/CTCS/WP.6/2021/5.</p>

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3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • https://unece.org/sites/default/files/2021-10/ECE_CTCS_WP.6_10_E_0.pdf • https://unece.org/sites/default/files/2022-06/ECE_CTCS_WP.6_2021_02_Add.1_E.pdf 	<p>Decision 2022-05</p> <p>Following the Decision 13 of the thirty-first session of WP.6 on 24–26 November 2021, the Steering Committee endorsed the extension of the mandates of the Advisory Group on Market Surveillance (MARS Group), the Ad Hoc Team of Specialists on Standardization and Regulatory Techniques (START Team) and of the Group of Experts on Risk Management in Regulatory Systems (GRM) in the annexes of document ECE/CTCS/WP.6/2021/10. Following a written procedure approval post-session sent on 9 February 2022, the Steering Committee also approved the creation of a Team of Specialists on Gender-Responsive Standards in document ECE/CTCS/WP.6/2021/10/Add.1 and encouraged potential donors to explore extrabudgetary funding to further enhance its work on gender-responsive standards.</p>
4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • https://unece.org/sites/default/files/2022-05/WP7_2021_2E-Report.pdf • https://unece.org/sites/default/files/2022-06/WP7_2021_27_Rev1E.pdf 	<p>Decision 2022-06</p> <p>The Steering Committee recognized the importance of agricultural quality standards for facilitating international trade in agricultural produce and expressed its satisfaction with the work undertaken by the Working Party on Agricultural Quality Standards (WP.7). The Steering Committee endorsed the report of the seventy-sixth session of WP.7 in document ECE/CTCS/WP.7/2021/2 and the programme of work of WP.7 in document ECE/CTCS/WP.7/2021/27/Rev.1. It invited WP.7 to continue implementing its programme of work and report to the 2023 session.</p>
4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • https://unece.org/sites/default/files/2021-09/WP7_2021_6EInshellPecans.pdf • https://unece.org/sites/default/files/2021-09/WP7_2021_7EPecanKernels.pdf • https://unece.org/sites/default/files/2021-12/WP7_2021_8EDriedPersimmons19Oct.pdf • https://unece.org/sites/default/files/2021-12/WP7_2021_9EInshellPeanuts6OCT.pdf • https://unece.org/sites/default/files/2021-12/WP7_2021_10EPeanutKernels6OCT.pdf • https://unece.org/sites/default/files/2021-12/WP7_2021_11ESweetApricotKernels19Oct.pdf • https://unece.org/sites/default/files/2021-12/WP7_2021_12EDates6OCT.pdf • https://unece.org/sites/default/files/2021-12/WP7_2021_13EPrunes19Oct.pdf 	<p>Following the decisions of the WP.7 seventy-sixth session on 15–17 November 2021, the Steering Committee endorsed five recommendations for:</p> <p>Inshell pecans in document ECE/CTCS/WP.7/2021/6, Pecan kernels in document ECE/CTCS/WP.7/2021/7, Dried persimmons in document ECE/CTCS/WP.7/2021/8, Raw and roasted inshell peanuts in document ECE/CTCS/WP.7/2021/9, and Raw and roasted peanut kernels in document ECE/CTCS/WP.7/2021/10.</p> <p>The Steering Committee also endorsed ten revised standards following the decisions of the WP.7 seventy-sixth session on 15–17 November 2021, for:</p> <p>Dates in document ECE/CTCS/WP.7/2021/12, Prunes in document ECE/CTCS/WP.7/2021/13,</p>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • https://unece.org/sites/default/files/2021-12/WP7_2021_15ECarrots19Oct.pdf • https://unece.org/sites/default/files/2021-12/WP7_2021_17EStrawberries19Oct.pdf • https://unece.org/sites/default/files/2021-12/WP7_2021_18E-FreshFigs.pdf • https://unece.org/sites/default/files/2021-12/WP7_2021_19EChineseCabbage19Oct_1.pdf • https://unece.org/sites/default/files/2021-12/WP7_2021_20ECucumbers19Oct.pdf • https://unece.org/sites/default/files/2021-09/WP7_2021_21_EWatermelons.pdf • https://unece.org/sites/default/files/2021-09/WP7_2021_22EApricots.pdf • https://unece.org/sites/default/files/2021-09/WP7_2021_23ECauliflower.pdf • https://unece.org/sites/default/files/2021-12/WP7_2021_28EPomegranates19Oct.pdf • https://unece.org/sites/default/files/2021-09/WP7_2021_24EStandardLayoutFFV.pdf 	<p>Carrots in document ECE/CTCS/WP.7/2021/15, Strawberries in document ECE/CTCS/WP.7/2021/17, Fresh figs in document ECE/CTCS/WP.7/2021/18, Chinese cabbage in document ECE/CTCS/WP.7/2021/19, Cucumbers in document ECE/CTCS/WP.7/2021/20, Watermelons in document ECE/CTCS/WP.7/2021/21, Apricots in document ECE/CTCS/WP.7/2021/22, Cauliflower in document ECE/CTCS/WP.7/2021/23, and Two new standards for sweet apricot kernels in document ECE/CTCS/WP.7/2021/11 and for pomegranates in document ECE/CTCS/WP.7/2021/28.</p> <p>It also endorsed the Revised Standard Layout for UNECE Standards for Fresh Fruit and Vegetables in document ECE/CTCS/WP.7/2021/24 as per the decisions of the WP.7 seventy-sixth session on 15–17 November 2021.</p>
5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • https://unece.org/sites/default/files/2022-06/ECE_CTCS_2022_3_E.pdf 	<p>Decision 2022-08</p> <p>The Steering Committee congratulated the Government of the Republic of Uzbekistan for a successful Study on Regulatory and Procedural Barriers to Trade. It welcomed the recommendations in document ECE/CTCS/2022/3 and expressed its appreciation of the secretariat's support to the Republic of Uzbekistan on trade and economic cooperation-related issues, including in the framework of the Innovation for Sustainable Development Review, the Digital and Sustainable Trade Facilitation Assessment and the Sustainability Pledge. The Steering Committee recognized the importance of this work to facilitate the integration of the member States, especially the ones acceding to the World Trade Organization (WTO) into the global economy and harnessing the power of trade for sustainable development. It encouraged potential donors to explore extrabudgetary funds to support the implementation of the recommendations.</p>
6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • https://unece.org/sites/default/files/2022-06/ECE_CTCS_2022_04_E.pdf 	<p>Decision 2022-09</p> <p>The Steering Committee recognized the importance of micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) for sustainable economic development of ECE members States with economies in transition and the challenges MSMEs face as a result of COVID-19. It</p>

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		<p>expressed its appreciation of a number of activities the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) carried out within the framework of the United Nations Development Account (UNDA) project “Global initiative towards post-COVID-19 resurgence of the MSME sector”, including two demand-driven assessments of the impact of COVID-19 on the trade and business development prospects of female-owned enterprises in Armenia and the Republic of Moldova as presented in document ECE/CTCS/2022/4. In line with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goal 5, it recognized the relevance of the gender dimension for the ECE MSMEs-related activities. The Steering Committee congratulated the Governments of Armenia and the Republic of Moldova for successful studies and encouraged potential donors to explore extrabudgetary funding to support implementation of the recommendations outlined in the studies.</p>
7		<p>Decision 2022-10</p> <p>The Steering Committee took note of the updates on the implementation of the recommendations in previous ECE studies on regulatory and procedural barriers to trade and congratulated the countries for their achievements. It expressed its appreciation of the secretariat’s work on studies on regulatory and procedural barriers to trade conducted over the years and asked the secretariat to conduct a follow-up report on the lessons learned from these studies and the way forward. It invited member States to continue reporting on the implementation to the Steering Committee in 2023 and encouraged potential donors to explore extrabudgetary funding to conduct the follow-up report and support member States with implementation.</p>
8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="315 1155 797 1209">• https://unece.org/sites/default/files/2022-05/ECE_CTCS_2022_05_E.pdf 	<p>Decision 2022-11</p> <p>The Steering Committee recalled the decisions on the circular economy and the sustainable use of natural resources of the sixty-ninth session of ECE (document E/ECE/1500), which requested, inter alia, “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 efficient approaches, including by proposing ways to identify, assess and fill gaps in governance and good practice” and recalled the toolbox of instruments of the Commission (E/ECE/1496). The Steering Committee recognized the important role of trade and economic cooperation in the circular economy transition, also as discussed at other international and regional forums such as WTO, and congratulated the secretariat on the timely and topical side event on circular economy and trade and the report in document ECE/CTCS/2022/5. Recognizing the possibility of integrating the circular economy analysis into Studies on Regulatory and Procedural Barriers to Trade if requested by a member State, it requested the Bureau to</p>

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		discuss how these demands could be addressed, and encouraged potential donors to explore extrabudgetary funding possibilities to further develop this topic.
9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • https://unece.org/sites/default/files/2022-05/ECE_CTCS_2022_06_E.pdf 	<p>Decision 2022-12</p> <p>The Steering Committee took note of the report on capacity-building and technical assistance activities implemented as described in document ECE/CTCS/2022/6. It congratulated the secretariat for the results achieved and requested the secretariat to report again at the 2023 session, and make an extra effort to seek for extrabudgetary funding for capacity-building and technical assistance activities.</p>
10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • https://unece.org/sites/default/files/2022-05/ECE_CTCS_2022_07_E.pdf 	<p>Decision 2022-13</p> <p>The Steering Committee took note of the report on cooperation with other organizations and ECE bodies in document ECE/CTCS/2022/7 and recognized the benefits of creating synergies. It thanked the secretariat for the information and requested it to continue reporting in 2023.</p>
11a		<p>Decision 2022-14</p> <p>The Steering Committee noted the good level of implementation of the programme of work that was under way and commended the secretariat's contribution to the ECE cross-cutting theme of circular economy and the sustainable use of natural resources, including through the establishment of the Teams of Specialists on Environmental, Social and Governance Traceability of Sustainable Value Chains in the Circular Economy (ToS-TSVCCE) under UN/CEFACT (Plenary decision 21-24 of the twenty-seventh session of UN/CEFACT on 19–20 April 2021) and which held its first successful meeting in November 2021.</p>
11b	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • https://unece.org/sites/default/files/2022-05/ECE_CTCS_2022_08_E.pdf • https://unece.org/sites/default/files/2022-06/ECE_CTCS_2022_INF.1_Rev.1_0.pdf 	<p>Decision 2022-15</p> <p>The Steering Committee endorsed the Trade subprogramme's programme of work for 2023 (ECE/CTCS/2022/8). Recognizing the challenges in trade capacity and standardization which are arising in the international trading community today, it requested the secretariat to explore the possibility of a conference on a theme chosen by the Steering Committee Bureau in parallel to the 2024 annual session with interpretation to provide an opportunity for exchange and help focus the future direction of the subprogramme work. It endorsed the Outline of key components of the Trade subprogramme's programme of work for 2024 (ECE/CTCS/2022/INF.1_REV.1) with the request to make the Steering Committee official meeting six three-hour sessions (instead of three). It requested the secretariat to prepare the programme of work for 2024, together with an outline for 2025, for review and endorsement at the 2023 session.</p>

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12		<p>Decision 2022-16</p> <p>The Steering Committee noted the needs and priorities expressed by Azerbaijan, Republic of Moldova, Kyrgyzstan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan and invited the Bureau to review them and decide how these could be addressed.</p>
13		<p>Decision 2022-17</p> <p>The Steering Committee decided to hold its eighth session in Geneva in the second quarter of 2023, subject to confirmation of room availability and interpretation services.</p>
14	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ECE/CTCS/2022/2 – pending 	<p>Decision 2022-18</p> <p>The Steering Committee on Trade Capacity and Standards requested the secretariat to prepare a draft report of the session and distribute it to the Geneva Permanent Missions for subsequent approval by silence procedure in accordance with paragraph 21 of Appendix III of document E/ECE/1464 (Guidelines on procedures and practices for ECE bodies). Once the draft report is adopted, it requests its publication in English, French and Russian.</p>