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## Economic Commission for Europe

### Steering Committee on Trade Capacity and Standards

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Item 11 of the provisional agenda

#### **Cooperation with other organizations and Economic Commission for Europe bodies**

## **Report on cooperation with other organizations and Economic Commission for Europe bodies**

**Submitted by the secretariat**

### *Summary*

This document provides an overview of cooperation under the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) subprogramme on Trade during the period July 2022 – March 2023. It provides an overview of collaborative efforts of ECE with development partners and cooperation mechanisms underpinning these efforts in the following areas of work: circular economy (Section II); agricultural quality standards (Section III); regulatory cooperation and standardization policies (Section IV); and trade facilitation policies and standards (Section V).

This document also covers trade-related cooperation activities carried out in the context of the activities in response to the sixty-ninth Commission session on the topic of “Circular Economy and the Sustainable Use of Natural Resources”.

The document is presented to the Steering Committee on Trade Capacity and Standards for decision.



## **I. Introduction**

1. This document maps cooperation under the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) subprogramme on Trade during 2022–2023. 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. This document also covers trade-related cooperation activities carried out in the context of the activities in response to the sixty-ninth Commission session on the topic of “Circular Economy and the Sustainable Use of Natural Resources”. ECE established the internal Task Force on Circular Economy to build partnerships in the area and generate knowledge exchange within organization. It is led by Deputy Executive Secretary and all eight subprogrammes actively contribute to this Task Force, including the Trade Subprogramme.

## **II. ECE cross-cutting work on circular economy**

3. The sixty-ninth session of ECE (21–22 April 2021) was dedicated to the topic of fostering “Circular Economy and the Sustainable Use of Natural Resources”. In response to a request from the Commission, the ECE Economic Cooperation and Trade Division (ECTD) pooled its efforts to mainstream circularity and the sustainable use of natural resources in the existing relevant work streams and capacity building in the ECE region, as appropriate and subject to available resources.

4. The secretariat regularly participates in related international discussions on the circular economy. Examples of recent engagements included meetings organized by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP); the World Trade Organisation’s (WTO) Committee of Trade and Environment and WTO Trade and Environmental Sustainability Structured Discussions (TESSD); Economist Impact’s Global Trade Week 2022; “Stockholm+50”; the European Development Days; the annual Circular Economy Stakeholder Conference and together with the Finnish Innovation Fund (Sitra), a contribution to World Circular Economy Forum (WCEF). The ECE organized a session on Environmental, social and governance (ESG) traceability of supply chains during the context of “Trade and Environment Week 2022”. Building on conducted analytical and capacity-building work in the area of the circular economy transition, the secretariat, jointly with the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Uzbekistan to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva, organized a session on “Circular economy and trade: opportunities and challenges for transition economies” during the WTO Public Forum on 30 September 2022.

5. The ECE launched a project on “Accelerating the Transition towards a Circular Economy in the ECE region” (2021–2024), funded by the 13th tranche of UNDA. The project established a stakeholder engagement platform, Circular STEP. As of April 2023, there are 25 member States who nominated official focal points for the network. The platform facilitates exchanges of experience and best practices among stakeholders in the region for circular economy transition, including Governments, the private sector, academic and research institutions, civil society, and other actors from all 56 member States. Circular STEP partners with key circularity players, such as the Ellen MacArthur Foundation, the Finnish Innovation Fund (Sitra), the Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung, Chatham House, United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), UNEP, the International Telecommunications Union, the University of Cambridge, and Lund University.

## **III. Agricultural Quality Standards**

6. Within the framework of Working Party 7 on Agricultural Quality Standards (WP.7), ECE continues to collaborate with the four other regional commissions (RCs) and with the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and other relevant United Nations organizations on issues related to food systems and food loss and waste. In particular, through the regional

issue-based coalition on sustainable food systems (IBC-SFS) for Europe and Central Asia, which aims to advocate for and facilitate coordinated support for strengthening sustainable food systems in the region of Europe and Central Asia, ECE collaborates closely with FAO, the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF), World Food Programme (WFP), World Health Organization (WHO), and World Metrological Organization (WMO).

7. Recent activities have included contributions to the 2022 Regional Overview of Food Security and Nutrition in Europe and Central Asia, and the joint organization of several webinars including on “Sustainable Food Systems to Build Back Better in Europe and Central Asia”, held as a side-event to the Regional Forum on Sustainable Development (RFSD) in April 2022, and on “How is the Ukraine-Russia conflict affecting food systems in Europe and Central Asia” (14 July 2022). ECE is also collaborating with the UN Food Systems Coordination Hub and the IBC-SFS in the organization of the regional preparatory meeting for the food systems stock-taking moment, held in connection with the RFSD on 28 March 2023, in preparation for the global Food Systems Stock-Taking Moment scheduled for July 2023.<sup>1</sup>

8. ECE continues to work closely with the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) Fruit and Vegetables Scheme to facilitate the common interpretation of ECE standards and their application in international trade. It cooperates with the FAO Codex Alimentarius Committees on Fresh Fruits and Vegetables and on Processed Fruits and Vegetables in developing new commercial quality standards and maintaining existing ones. ECE and OECD has collaborated on a study to assess the impact of ECE agricultural quality standards and OECD explanatory material on the trade of fresh fruit and vegetables. The study, which is based on regression analysis at product level, finds conclusive evidence that trade in various types of fresh fruits and vegetables increases, in general, in the period after revision of an ECE standard. The study also showed that trade in the products were higher between countries which had adopted the standards than with other countries. Finally, coordination with the European Commission is ongoing to ensure continued harmonization of EU marketing standards with ECE standards.

## **IV. Regulatory Cooperation and Standardization Policies**

### **A. Cooperation with international and regional organizations**

9. Through the Working Party on Regulatory Cooperation and Standardization Policies (WP.6), ECE is an observer at the World Trade Organization (WTO) Committee on Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT). ECE participates in the official meetings of the TBT Committee. The work on market surveillance, conformity assessment, risk management and education on standardization are all key themes that are often on the table of WTO discussions. The ECE secretariat provides input on these as well as on the importance of gender-responsive standards.

10. Collaboration with the International Trade Center (ITC) has culminated in the joint publication of a guide for border regulators on “Managing Risk for Safe, Efficient Trade.” This publication provides guidance on the application of WP.6 recommendations P on “Risk Management in Regulatory Systems,” R on “Managing Risk in Regulatory Frameworks,” S on “Applying Predictive Risk Management Tools for Targeted Market Surveillance,” T on “Standards and Regulations for Sustainable Development” and V on “Addressing Product Non-Compliance Risks in International Trade”. This cooperation has assisted the ECE secretariat in reaching a larger audience and finding funding to develop and publish these guidelines.

<sup>1</sup> See: <https://unece.org/circular-economy/news/un-regional-commissions-launch-policy-brief-transforming-food-systems>.

11. WP.6 is active in cross-cutting themes of the United Nations. It has actively participated in meetings of the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR) to promote the implementation of international standards as tools for the reduction of disaster risks. It has been actively engaged on the ECE response to the UN-Women “UN-SWAP for mainstreaming gender equality”, integrating many of the key concepts into the gender-responsive standards workflow. It has also taken into consideration the UN Disability Inclusion Strategy of the sub-working group of the Inter-Agency Support Group on the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, notably through the development of videos with closed captioning and through the integration of disability considerations in the evaluation of extra-budgetary projects.

12. ECE strengthened cooperation with the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) in support of gender-responsive standards. WP.6 has identified meaningful areas where cooperation with UN-Women could help to bring this work to another level, such as linking gender-responsive standards to the general national policies on gender as well as monitoring and measuring the results of this standards work. UN-Women has been consulted in the potential organization of a new extra-budgetary project on gender-responsive standards, the implementation of which is subject to finding donor funding.

13. WP.6 works with many regional organizations for the promotion of its work, notably the gender-responsive standards workflow. Many of these regional organizations are signatories to the Gender-Responsive Standards Declaration, and they encourage their membership to adopt the principles of this Declaration and to become signatories themselves. This includes very active participation from the European Committee for Standardization (CEN) and the European Committee for Electrotechnical Standardization (CENELEC) – the organizations that develop European Standards; the African Organization for Standardisation (ARSO); the Standards and Metrology Institute for Islamic Countries (SMIIC) and the Pan American Standards Commission (COPANT).

## **B. Cooperation with standard setting and quality infrastructure organizations**

### **Standardization policies**

14. The standardization community continues to support the work of WP.6. The Declaration for Gender-Responsive Standards and Standards Development has been signed to date by eighty organizations including 50 national standards bodies from all continents; and all major international standards organizations (the International Organization for Standardization (ISO), ITU, International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC), voluntary sustainability standards organizations and regional standards bodies.<sup>2</sup>

15. Another important area of ECE collaboration with over thirty standards bodies has been the portal “Standards for the SDGs”. The secretariat has been working with major international standards setting bodies to update this portal, such as ASTM International, CODEX, International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), IEC, International Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE), ISO and World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO). 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 (<https://standards4sdgs.unece.org/>). The portal hosts over thirty thousand standards mapped and over forty case studies.

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 the other from the IEC Conformity Assessment Board (CAB).

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<sup>2</sup> See complete list of signatories at: <https://unece.org/gender-responsive-standards-initiative>.

17. WP.6 participates actively in several key technical committees (TC) of ISO, notably ISO TC 262 on Risk Management where WP.6 is a member of the Strategic Alliance and Regulatory Group (STAR), and provides strategic advice to the ISO Committee on Conformity Assessment (ISO/CASCO). WP.6 has also established liaison with the ISO TC 232 on Education and Learning Services. WP.6 also benefits from an in-depth cooperation with the ISO central secretariat, collaborating on key themes such as gender-responsive standards, education on standardization and standards in support of the SDGs.

#### **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 the German Physikalisch-Technische Bundesanstalt (PTB), which was also the major donor of the extrabudgetary projects on “Usage and Uptake of Voluntary Standards” and “Standards for the SDGs”.

19. Other close partners in this area are the Bureau International des Poids et Mesures (BIPM), 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 is currently crystalized through a project to update the Recommendation K on “Metrological Assurance of Conformity Assessment and Testing,” expected to be completed in 2023.

20. Since 2010, the WP 6 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, IAF, IEC, ILAC, ISO, ITU, OIML, and UNIDO, the World Bank and the WTO. The cooperation includes sharing expertise and mutual participation in meetings.

#### **Cooperation with academia**

21. WP.6 approved at its 31<sup>st</sup> session in 2022 the establishment of a focal point network of academia experts. The network is to ensure that education on standardization is integrated into curricula of non-technical students so that they are prepared with a base knowledge of the requirements and expectations when they enter the workforce. The first meeting of this network took place on 1 March 2023 where a path forward for further bringing this work to students was presented and best practices of the use of the currently available material was shared.

## **V. Trade Facilitation Policies and Standards**

### **A. Cooperation with international and standard-setting organizations**

#### **Trade facilitation**

22. Trade facilitation and electronic business play a key role in the trade-related aspects of addressing value chain disruptions and ensuring sustainable and resilient recovery. UN/CEFACT, serviced by ECTD has been at the forefront of trade facilitation and digitalization for several decades and it is very well placed to address global and regional challenges, through developing and deploying global standards and digital solutions as well as enhancing traceability and transparency along value chains.

23. The five RCs have taken a joint approach to trade facilitation, which was decided by the Executive Secretaries of the commissions in Beirut in January 2010 and subsequently endorsed by all five RCs. In 2015, they launched the first Survey on Trade Facilitation and Paperless Trade, which was followed by the biennial editions in 2017, 2019 and 2021. The five RCs have jointly developed an online portal (unftsurvey.org) to help countries visualize and compare the implementation of measures across regions and economies.

24. Under the UNDA 14th tranche, the five RCs developed the project “Blockchains for facilitating trade and enhancing competitiveness”. This project, which is led by the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA), aims to strengthen national innovation and technological capacities related to the use of blockchain technology in customs and trade operations in five selected developing countries. It is expected that its implementation will boost trade and enhance competitiveness in support of sustainable development. ECE is the RC that is more advanced in the implementation of blockchain technology for trade, considering that extensive work was done on this topic since 2017.

25. ECE has cooperated with WTO, GIZ, and other organizations on the implementation of the SPECA Trade Facilitation Strategy, for example on the publication of a guide on establishing a trade facilitation enquiry point<sup>3</sup>, and a series of events on various measures in the WTO Agreement on Trade Facilitation (TFA).

### **Digitalization**

26. ECE is co-chairing (with the Head of the ITU Office for Europe) the United Nations Group for Digital Transformation in Europe and Central Asia (DTG4ECA)<sup>4</sup>. Together with the DTG4ECA, the UN/CEFACT secretariat co-organized two virtual events in the context of the ECE Regional Forum for Sustainable Development 2022 on the topics related to digital transformations and accelerating digital developments.

27. The secretariat has also chaired (on a rotational basis) the Management Group of Memorandum of Understanding on e-Business between the International Organization of Standards (ISO), International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC), ITU and ECE, and hosted its last meeting. This group of experts ensures intersectoral coherence in the field of e-business, avoiding overlap and duplication among organizations and fostering digitalization.

28. The secretariat was invited to contribute to the ICC Digital Standards Initiative (DSI), including the inputs to the WTO-ICC Standards Toolkit for Cross-Border Paperless Trade (of which out of 100 standards presented in the Toolkit, around 20 are from frameworks and initiatives of UN/CEFACT); and the engagement in the ICC DSI/Industry Advisory Board Working Group on Key Trade Documents and Data Elements. The Working Group produced the paper “ICC DSI Key Trade Documents & Data Elements Standards Analysis and Recommendations”, published at the end of March 2023.

### **Transparency and traceability**

29. Enhancing transparency and traceability of sustainable value chains in the garment and footwear sector project is implemented by ECE through its UN/CEFACT in close cooperation with ITC, OECD, UNEP, UNCTAD, UNDP, GIZ, IFC, Better Cotton Initiative (BCI), FAO, Global Fashion Alliance, 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 and leather value chains involves suppliers, manufacturers, brands, standard setting bodies and technology solution providers.

30. Under the Sustainability Pledge, ECE collaborated with leading regional actors, including the Bocconi University School of Management, FAO, ITC, the United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (UNECLAC), UNIDO, World Bank – International Finance Corporation (WB-IFC), the German Organisation for International Cooperation (GIZ), and has involved government agencies from host countries and the sub-regions.

31. For the implementation of the UNDA project on “COVID-19 Trade and Transport Connectivity” and the follow-up to the UNDA 14th tranche joint transport and trade project “Sustainable mobility and smart connectivity(trade and transport nexus) in Central Asia, the Caucasus and Western Balkans”, ECE collaborated with the European Commission, DG

<sup>3</sup> <https://unttc.org/stream/national-tf-committees-ece>

<sup>4</sup> <https://unece.org/un-cooperation-unece-region/digital-transformation>

MOVE and DG TAXUD, which use the ECE and UN/CEFACT package of standards in the implementation of the EU Regulations on Electronic Freight Transport (eFTI) and Customs Single Window. Other organizations with which ECE collaborates on the implementation of the package for multimodal data and document exchange include the ICAO, the IMO, the Organization for Cooperation of Railways (OSJD), the International Committee on Railway Transport (CIT), The Transport Corridor Europe-Caucasus-Central Asia (TRACECA), the UN Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL) and others.

### **Joint activities with ISO**

32. Over the past year, UN/CEFACT has seen a peak in interest in its work on dematerialization and in the UN/CEFACT standard development. For example, ISO technical committee 154 adopted the UN/CEFACT Buy-Ship-Pay Reference Data Model (BSP RDM) as an ISO standard (ISO 20197). It will provide a foundation to align future ISO standards related to e-commerce data exchange with UN/CEFACT BSP RDM. The Global Standards 1 (GS1) organization has actively engaged to harmonize their ongoing work with the Buy-Ship-Pay Reference Data Model. The ICAO and the International Maritime Organization (IMO) have both sought the assistance of UN/CEFACT to dematerialize their processes.

33. 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), and the category-B liaison with ISO TC 68 (Financial services). Together with the Sustainable Transport Division, a new category-B liaison was set up with ISO TC 315 (Cold chain logistics) last year. The secretariat is closely working with ISO TC 154 on the Terms of Reference for joint activities and hosted its last Plenary Meeting.

### **Information Exchange**

34. The FAO Global Record Working Group (GRWG) and the Agreement on Port State Measures (PSMA) Technical Working Group on Information Exchange (TWG-IE) resumed their in-person meetings after the COVID-19 pandemic. FAO acknowledged the importance of ensuring that all designated ports under PSMA should be attributed a United Nations Code for Trade and Transport Locations (UN/LOCODE), and they insured that they will closely cooperate with ECE on this. A study paper was jointly drafted with FAO on the use of UN/LOCODE for the FAO Global Record in order to combat illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing. In addition, the secretariat will study feasibility to identify small fish ports with UN/LOCODE. In this way, the FAO Global Record will become the backbone of international fisheries management as it provides the relevant vessels and their activities record.

35. The secretariat was invited to join the review panel to review the e-learning course on the implementation of the Maritime Single Window (MSW), developed by IMO by using the UN/CEFACT materials, which will be available to IMO web account users as an open access E-Learning Course through the IMO Learning Management System portal. The secretariat was also involved in the Correspondence Group on developing the Guidelines for Harmonised Communication and Electronic Exchange of Operational Data for Port Calls.

36. Jointly with ESCAP, the secretariat closely cooperates with the CITES secretariat on the Task Force on Electronic CITES Permit Exchange (EPIX), aiming to support the stakeholders to initiate and carry out pilot-based and/or live electronic exchange of CITES permits in order to contribute to the prevention of fraudulent use of CITES permits and facilitate legal trade.

**Summary table: Cooperation with other organizations**

<i>Organization</i>	<i>Mechanisms for cooperation</i>	<i>Current cooperation</i>
Asian Development Bank	Participation in meetings / contributions to analytical work.	Cooperation on the issues related to regulatory and procedural barriers to trade. Contribution to the CAREC Program WG on implementing SPS procedures in January 2023.
ARSO (African Organization for Standardisation)	Declaration for Gender-Responsive Standards and Standards Development.	ARSO is a signatory to the Declaration for Gender-Responsive Standards and Standards Development and actively participates in the relevant meetings of the Gender-Responsive Standards Initiative group.
ASTM International	Declaration for Gender-Responsive Standards and Standards Development.	ASTM is a signatory to the Declaration for Gender-Responsive Standards and Standards Development and actively participates in the relevant meetings of the Gender-Responsive Standards Initiative group.
BIPM (International Bureau of Weights and Measures)	Regular working group meetings.	BIPM actively participates in the meetings of WP.6.
Chatham House	Active participation in meetings / contributions to analytical work.	Environment and Society Programme of the Royal Institute of International Affairs Chatham House actively contributes to the development of the policy paper on financing for circular economy and sustainable management of natural resources in 2022/2023.
Codex Alimentarius Commission	Collaboration on standard development.	ECE standards are circulated to the 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.
	“Standards for the SDGs” Portal.	CODEX have mapped their standards to SDGs and provided these for publication on the ECE “Standards for the SDG” Portal.
Electronic Business Memorandum of Understanding (eB-MoU) between ECE, IEC, ISO, ITU	eB-MoU between ECE, IEC, ISO and ITU.	ECE, IEC, ISO and ITU met several times to discuss developments and topics of joint interest. Webinars have been organized on key topics such as e-business and blockchain. ECE was chairing the eB-MoU from December 2021 to December 2022.  Ongoing cooperation and coordination between the secretariats. Management meetings on average every three months between the secretariats.  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.



<i>Organization</i>	<i>Mechanisms for cooperation</i>	<i>Current cooperation</i>
Ellen McArthur Foundation	Active participation in meetings / contributions to analytical work.	<p>Peer reviewed the draft template for the national thematic gap analysis for circular economy, to be shared with project countries in Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia under a UNDA project. Also supported mapping of experts for policy paper on institutional arrangements for circular economy and sustainable management of natural resources. Collaboration under the project on enhancing transparency and traceability of sustainable value chains in the garment and footwear sector on delivering joint capacity building events.</p> <p>Collaborated, jointly with UNEP and the European Environmental Agency (EEA), to the definition of criteria for second-hand clothing/textile waste and the analysis of trade policies for their exports/imports of their member states. Contributed to the Annual Conferences of the Foundation's Network of Partners in 2022/2023.</p>
European Commission (EC)	Regular working group meetings.	<p>EC participates in all the annual sessions of WP.6, providing input into the work and updates on its own activities. EC also participates in activities related to market surveillance, regulatory cooperation and risk management.</p> <p>EC harmonizes its legislation with marketing standards with ECE standards and attends the annual meetings of WP.7 and its Specialized Sections.</p> <p>UN/CEFACT experts participated in the Digital Forum and Logistics Forum (DTLF) under DG MOVE data requirements and EC decided to implement UN/CEFACT Multimodal Transport Reference Data Model as their semantic standard. Since 2019, ECE has participated regularly in the DTLF subgroup workshops, studying the documentary requirements in transport and logistics and their dematerialization.</p> <p>Cooperation is currently ongoing in connection to the establishment of the EU Digital Product Passport.</p>
	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.
	ECE Team of Specialists on Environmental, Social and Governance Traceability of Sustainable Value Chains in the Circular Economy.	DG MARE has engaged in work with the ECE Team of Specialists on Environmental, Social and Governance Traceability of Sustainable Value Chains in the Circular Economy and has funded communication activities to support the dissemination of the FLUX standard.
	Enhancing transparency and traceability of sustainable value chains in the garment and footwear sector project,	The ECE secretariat is engaging with DG INTPA and DG ENV on the work to advance the sustainability and circularity of value chains in the textile and leather

<i>Organization</i>	<i>Mechanisms for cooperation</i>	<i>Current cooperation</i>
	jointly implemented by ECE through its UN/CEFACT and ITC with financial support from DG INTPA.	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.
	Active participation in meetings / contributions to analytical work of the EU TFRP	<p>The ECE actively participates in the drafting of the annual Rolling plan for ICT standardisation and EU Special Project: DATA. The EU Task Force Rolling Plan is a comprehensive framework designed by the European Union to promote economic growth, social development, and environmental sustainability across the region, by providing a roadmap for implementing policies and programs in a coordinated and effective manner.</p> <p>The ECE-UN/CEFACT actively participates in the Working Group developing the EU Digital Product Passport (DPP), for the development of the business and data model for information exchange supporting the DPP.</p>
	Active participation in meetings / contributions to analytical work.	<p>Representative from the Directorate-General for Environment.</p> <p>Directorate B – Circular Economy &amp; Green Growth contributed to the regional policy dialogue “Harnessing trade and economic cooperation for the transition to a circular economy in UNECE region” (online). They also contributed to mapping of experts for development of policy papers on digital solutions for circular economy acceleration.</p> <p>ECE showcased circular economy related work at the virtual Networking Village at the Annual Conference “Towards a new normal: Sustainable products for sustainable consumption” (online). This activity was coordinated with the Directorate-General for Environment Unit B1 – Circular Economy, Sustainable Production and Consumption.</p> <p>The ECE-UN/CEFACT actively contributed to the 2023 Annual Circular Economy Conference led by DG ENV, where it was invited to profile its work on Traceability of Sustainable and Circular Value Chains in Garment and Footwear.</p>
European Committee for Standardization (CEN) and European Committee for Electrotechnical Standardization (CENELEC)	Declaration for Gender-Responsive Standards and Standards Development. “Standards for the SDGs” Portal.	<p>CEN/CENELEC is a signatory to the Declaration for Gender-Responsive Standards and Standards Development and actively participates in the relevant meetings of the Gender-Responsive Standards Initiative group.</p> <p>CEN/CENELEC submitted in 2022 the mappings of their standards to SDGs for including in the WP.6 “Standards for the SDGs” Portal, pending final formatting.</p>

<i>Organization</i>	<i>Mechanisms for cooperation</i>	<i>Current cooperation</i>
FAO	<p>Activities and events related to sustainable agricultural practices and trade as well as sustainable food systems, including food loss/waste, and food loss prevention.</p> <p>Issue-based Coalition (IBC) on sustainable food systems.</p> <p>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 in 2022 (through the IBC).</p> <p>ECE collaborates with FAO Regional Office for Latin America on their Cotton+ project.</p>	<p>FAO has been a 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.</p> <p>ECE cooperates with FAO in connection to the adoption and implementation of the UN/LOCODE and UN/FLUX for fighting against IUU and achieving SDG14.</p> <p>ECE contributed to the FAO Regional Overview of Food Security and Nutrition in Europe and Central Asia in 2022.</p> <p>ECE organized together with FAO Regional Office for Latin America a capacity building workshop in Chile in April 2022 on how to uptake transparency and traceability mechanisms to increase international market opportunities, that increased visibility of Peruvian farmers in the global value chains</p>
International Air Transport Association (IATA)	<p>Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to strengthen the support to developing countries seeking to implement WTO TFA.</p>	<p>Joint promotion of the use of international recommendations and standards and best practices in trade facilitation and electronic business.</p> <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 UN/LOCODE which is widely used by all other means of transport and administrations.</p>
ICAO	<p>“Standards for the SDGs” Portal.</p>	<p>ICAO have mapped their standards to SDGs and provided these for publication on the ECE “Standards for the SDGs” Portal.</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, the ICC Digital Standards Initiative.</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	<p>Regular working group meetings.</p> <p>Declaration for Gender-Responsive Standards and Standards Development.</p> <p>“Standards for the SDGs” Portal.</p>	<p>IEC is a signatory of the WP.6 Declaration for Gender-Responsive Standards and Standards Development and regularly participates in the meetings of the WP.6 Gender-Responsive Standards Initiative. IEC have collaborated on gender-related issues in this reporting period.</p>

<i>Organization</i>	<i>Mechanisms for cooperation</i>	<i>Current cooperation</i>
		IEC have mapped their standards to SDGs and provided these for publication on the ECE “Standards for the SDGs” Portal.
		IECEX organizes yearly international conferences in collaboration with ECE on the work on equipment for explosive atmospheres.
IEEE	“Standards for the SDGs” Portal.	IEEE have mapped their standards to SDGs and provided these for publication on the ECE “Standards for the SDGs” Portal.
IMO	Partnership Agreement. Active participation in meetings.	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 was launched at the June 2021 FAL Committee meeting. The UN/CEFACT equivalent standard was published shortly after that.
INetQI (International Network on Quality Infrastructure) (previously “Network on Metrology, Accreditation and Standardization for Developing Countries” [DCMAS])	Joint coordination group between BIPM, IAF, IEC, ILAC, OIML, CIML, ISO, ITU, OIML, UNIDO, WTO and the World Bank.	WP.6 is a founding member of the “International Network on Quality Infrastructure” and participates in all of the meetings of this group.
ISO  (See also ISO TCs below and eB-MoU above)	Regular working group meetings.  Declaration for Gender-Responsive Standards and Standards Development.  “Standards for the SDGs” Portal.	ISO attends all WP.6 meetings and seminars.  ISO is a signatory of WP.6 Declaration for Gender-Responsive Standards and Standards Development.  ISO actively participates in all WP.6 Gender-Responsive Standards Initiatives meetings and events.  ISO have mapped their standards to SDGs and provided these for publication on the ECE “Standards for the SDGs” Portal.  The ECE secretariat delivers presentations on the WP.6 activities in the context of ISO/CASCO.
	Regular working group meetings.	ECE is a voting member in the ISO 3166 Maintenance Agency (alpha-2 country code).

<i>Organization</i>	<i>Mechanisms for cooperation</i>	<i>Current cooperation</i>
ISO TC 154 on Processes, data elements and documents in commerce, industry, and administration	Joint Working Group(s), Category-A liaison. CAG meetings Regular Working Group Meetings.	ECE maintains a category-A liaison with ISO TC 154, ensuring compatibility of standards and avoiding unnecessary overlaps.  Joint Working Group 1 on ISO 9735 Standard (EDIFACT application-level syntax rules) is a joint group between ISO and ECE.  TC154 participates in the working group meetings of UN/CEFACT.
ISO 3166 Maintenance Agency	Regular working group meetings.	As one of six standing organizations, ECE contributes to the maintenance of ISO 3166-1 (Country/Territory code) and ISO 3166-2 (Subdivision code)
ISO TC 262 on Risk Management	Category-A liaison. Regular working group meetings.	ECE maintains a category A liaison with ISO TC 262, ensuring regular coordination, information exchange and activities in risk management with support to the WP.6 Group of Experts on Risk Management in Regulatory Systems.
ITC	ECE, UNCTAD and ITC MoU for delivering coordinated outreach and support activities to help the developing countries implement WTO TFA.  Regular working group meetings.	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.  ITC participates in the WP.6 Group of Experts on Risk Management in Regulatory Systems meetings and events.  WP.6 launched a joint publication with ITC on “Managing Risk for Safe, Efficient Trade: Guide for border regulators.”  ITC is a co-implementer of the EU funded project “Enhancing Transparency and Traceability of Sustainable Value Chains in the Garment and Footwear Industry”
ITU	Declaration for Gender-Responsive Standards and Standards Development.	ITU is a signatory to the Declaration for Gender-Responsive Standards and Standards Development and actively participates in the relevant meetings of the Gender-Responsive Standards Initiative group.
OECD	Regular working group meetings.	WP.6 secretariat actively participates in the OECD International Organizations Partnership network.  ECE-UN/CEFACT is a member of the Policy Advisory Group on Due Diligence in the Garment and Footwear Sector and regularly contributes to the Annual Due Diligence Forum.
OECD Fruit and Vegetables Scheme	Regular working group meetings. Standards development.	Meeting schedules are set up in coordination between secretaries which actively participate in each other’s relevant meetings.

<i>Organization</i>	<i>Mechanisms for cooperation</i>	<i>Current cooperation</i>
		<p>OECD develops explanatory brochures on ECE standards.</p> <p>ECE and OECD work closely on updating and interpreting the standards, and on capacity building relating to standards.</p> <p>ECE and OECD conducted a joint study on impact of agricultural quality standards on trade (forthcoming).</p>
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.	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.
	Joint activity.	ECE worked with OSCE on training courses in Belarus, Kyrgyzstan, Republic of Moldova.
Pan American Standards Commission (COPANT)	Declaration for Gender-Responsive Standards and Standards Development.	COPANT is a signatory to the Declaration for Gender-Responsive Standards and Standards Development and actively participates in the relevant meetings of the Gender-Responsive Standards Initiative group. ECE secretariat also presents its work on gender-responsive standards at COPANT meetings.
RCs of the United Nations	Meetings.	Coordination meetings of ECE with the other four regional commissions on trade and on trade facilitation, and on issues related to sustainable food systems.
	Capacity-building.	ECE and ESCAP support actively the United Nations activities with SPECA.
	Joint projects.	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.
	Collaboration on trade facilitation in common member States and joint support for the Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia (SPECA).	ECE is a partner in a joint project of all UN RCs with UNCTAD on Blockchains for facilitating trade and enhancing competitiveness to strengthen national innovation and technological capacities related to the use of blockchain technology in customs and trade operations in five selected developing countries, to boost trade and enhance competitiveness in support of sustainable development.
	UN Global Survey on Digital and Sustainable Trade Facilitation	UN Regional Commissions jointly conduct the UN Global Survey on Digital and Sustainable Trade Facilitation to help countries benchmark and reduce the time and

<i>Organization</i>	<i>Mechanisms for cooperation</i>	<i>Current cooperation</i>
		cost of trading across border. The fifth UN Global Survey on Digital and Sustainable Trade Facilitation has been launched in February 2023. The 2023 edition consists of 60 measures, including two new sets of measures on “Trade Facilitation for E-Commerce” and “Wildlife Trade Facilitation”, on cross-border e-commerce and the application of electronic CITES permits and certificates.
SMIIC	Declaration for Gender-Responsive Standards and Standards Development.	SMIIC is a signatory to the Declaration for Gender-Responsive Standards and Standards Development and actively participates in the relevant meetings of the Gender-Responsive Standards Initiative group.
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 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. Collaboration on capacity building activities in Central Asia for trade facilitation.</p> <p>UNDP participates and provides support for trade facilitation capacity-building activities and for SPECA activities.</p>
UNEP	Active participation in meetings.	<p>Active participation in UN/CEFACT conferences and meetings.</p> <p>Partnership within the UNDA project “Accelerating the Transition towards a Circular Economy in the ECE region”.</p>

<i>Organization</i>	<i>Mechanisms for cooperation</i>	<i>Current cooperation</i>
UNFSS	Meetings, joint activities.	Collaboration in the area of standardization policies. Secretariat participated on the regular basis in the meetings of the UNFSS.
UNIDO	UNIDO is a member of GFP. UNIDO is a member of the INetQI (see above). Contributed to analytical work.	Participation in joint meetings on trade facilitation implementation. UNIDO participates in WP.6 sessions. Contributed to mapping of experts on circular economy and sustainable use of natural resources.
UNDRR	Representation in the ECE delegation to UNDRR.	The WP.6 secretariat participates in the ECE delegation to UNDRR and reports on all activities of the Trade subprogramme related to disaster risk reduction.  The experts within WP.6, notably within the Group of Experts on Risk Management in Regulatory Systems (GRM), participate in coordinated events that contribute to the implementation of the “Sendai Framework for Action”.
UN-Women	Regular working group meetings.	UN-Women actively participates in the meetings and events of WP.6 Gender-Responsive Standards Initiative and support the Declaration for Gender-Responsive Standards and Standards Development.
WCO	ECE-WCO MoU signed in 2001.	The secretariat and the UN/CEFACT Chair participate in WCO Data Model Project Team meetings and strives to ensure that both the UN/CEFACT model and the WCO model remain compatible.
WIPO	“Standards for the SDGs” Portal.	WIPO have mapped their standards to SDGs and provided these for publication on the ECE “Standards for the SDGs” Portal.
Women Organizing for Charge in Agriculture and Natural Resource Management (WOCAN)	Declaration for Gender-Responsive Standards and Standards Development.	WOCAN is a signatory to the Declaration for Gender-Responsive Standards and Standards Development and actively participates in the relevant meetings of the Gender-Responsive Standards Initiative group.
WTO	Observer status in the WTO Committee on Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT).  Observer status in the Committee on Trade and Development.	Representatives from WP.6 participated in the meetings of the WTO TBT Committee and provided updates on each activity.  WTO representatives regularly attend meetings of the Steering Committee on Trade Capacity and Standards and its subsidiary bodies.  WTO consults ECE on the guidance and deliverables of its Gender-Responsive Standards Initiative. The two work jointly on standards-related gender topics.



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	<p>Gender-Responsive Standards Initiative guidance and meetings.</p> <p>“Standards for the SDGs” Portal.</p> <p>The United Nations Trade Facilitation Network is an inter-agency group comprising WTO and WB, ITC, UNCTAD and ECE.</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>ECE works with WTO on the implementation of TFA in transition countries.</p> <p>ECE ECTD 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>Participation in the WTO Committee on Trade Facilitation.</p> <p>Participation in the WTO Committee on Trade and Environment and TESSD.</p> <p>WTO Informal Group on MSME.</p> <p>Collaboration with the WTO Chairs Programme.</p>	<p>ECE secretariat made interventions at the sessions of the Committee on Trade and Environment on 21 October 2022 and 15 March 2023.</p> <p>ECE organized a session on Environmental, social and governance (ESG) traceability of supply chains during the context of "Trade and Environment Week 2022".</p> <p>ECE participated and contributed to the MSMEs-related discussions at the international level. This includes the WTO Informal Group on MSME and its online platform Trade4MSMEs Network, which aims to collect existing tools related to supporting MSMEs. This online platform, among other things, presents ECE trade-related tools.</p> <p>ECE participated in the events organised by the WTO Chairs Programme, which works closely with the academic community, including the Chair from Uzbekistan – University of World Economy and Diplomacy in 2022/2023.</p>
60 national standards bodies	Declaration for Gender-Responsive Standards and Standards Development.	Signatories to the Declaration for Gender-Responsive Standards and Standards Development and actively participate in the relevant meetings of the Gender-Responsive Standards Initiative group.