

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

Second Session

The second session of the Team of Specialists will focus on ESG traceability landscapes in the UNECE region including policies, legislative frameworks and institutional arrangements and on transformative pathways to sustainability: corporate strategies and actions. A special attention will be given to monitoring and reporting on net-zero targets in value chains.

Agenda

10:00 – 10:30 Opening session

Chair:

- **Maylis Souque**, Economic Counsellor, France' Permanent Representation at the OECD Former Secretary General of the French the National Contact Point to the OECD and Senior Advisor for Responsible Business Conduct of France, Ministry of Economics and Finance of France

Vice Chairs:

- **Nathalie Bernasconi**, Executive Director, IISD Europe
- **Harm Jan van Burg**, Senior Policy Advisor on International Standards, OASIS

Speaker:

- **Olga Algayerova**, Executive Secretary, UNECE

10:30 – 10:40 Adoption of the agenda

10:40 – 12:00 ESG traceability landscapes in the ECE region: policies, legislative framework and institutional arrangements

Description:

Responsible business practices and consumption choices are a high priority on the global sustainability agenda. Member States are introducing new legislation and incentive systems to build on the momentum and are fostering ESG monitoring and compliance in value chains of critical sectors for the transition to the circular economy, including through traceability and transparency for due diligence. This discussion is centred around policies and measures that Member States are introducing in their respective jurisdictions.

Keynote speakers:

- **Claudia di Bernardino**, Project Expert, UN/CEFACT and UNECE
- **Anastasia Pankova**, Consultant, UNECE

Presentation of the policy paper "Improving traceability of products along international value chains for circular economy and sustainable use of natural resources".

Moderator:

- **Aik Hoe Lim**, Director, Trade and Environment Division, WTO

Speakers:

- **Christian Hudson**, EU G7 G20 Environmental Diplomacy Support, GIZ
- **Nick MacInnes**, Lead Circular Economy Resource Security Office of the Chief Scientific Advisor, Defra Resources and Waste, Defra
- **Dilshod Sharifi**, Head of the International Economic Department, Ministry of Economic Development and Trade of Tajikistan
- **Harikrishnan Tulsidas**, Economic Affairs Officer, UNECE

Questions:

- ▶ Which policies, legislative framework, and institutional arrangements were proven to be successful in advancing ESG monitoring and reporting in global value chains of high priority sectors (e.g. agri-food, garment and footwear, and extractive industries)?
- ▶ What are the right incentives to put in place for spurring ESG monitoring and compliance along the global value chain of such sectors?
- ▶ How to address potential barriers to trade that ESG compliance may pose for access to market and investment opportunities, and particularly for SMEs and vulnerable actors?

12:00 – 14:00 Lunch break

14:00 – 15:00 Transformative pathways to sustainability and circularity: corporate strategies and actions

Description:

It is important to move from theory to practice and understand how companies can improve ESG compliance in value chains in response to higher pressure from consumers, investors and regulators, and in the context of competing organizational forces.

This section will discuss challenges and opportunities for advancing ESG traceability and transparency for sustainable and circular value chains for solid claims on sustainable and circular performance. It will present corporate strategies that have proven effective. It will also explore the role that innovation and advanced technology can play for scaling-up available solutions and achieving commitments on desired targets.

Speakers:

- **Susanna Horn**, Senior Research Scientist, Finnish Environment Institute
- **Vivek Sadevra**, ESG Senior Manager, Indorama Group
- **Eva Kindgren**, Sustainability Project Manager, KappAhl
- **Sylvain Cariou**, CEO, Crystalchain

Questions:

- ▶ Which corporate strategies and actions for ESG monitoring and compliance are of relevance across industries and for effectively engaging value chain actors?
- ▶ Which ESG indicators, methods and standards are available to support such strategies and actions? Are there any the gaps that need to be addressed?
- ▶ Which role can advanced technologies play? How to harness their potential for vulnerable actors, and especially from emerging economies?

15:00 – 15:20

Net-zero carbon emissions targets in value chains: from monitoring and disclosure to action

Description:

Industries are facing challenges in decarbonizing and achieving indirect and direct greenhouse gas emissions reduction targets. Digital tracking and tracing can support the value chain baseline and mapping exercise and the collection and disclosure of accurate, consistent and complete Scope 1,2 and 3 greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions data. This is essential to inform strategies to reduce the carbon footprint in value chains, encourage lower carbon behaviour, and channel further investments into decarbonization activities.

This session will discuss how monitoring and reporting approaches can support the development of roll-out plans for the achievement of reduction targets – and the associated incentives and costs distribution among value chain actors.

In particular it will focus on areas of incentivization such as progress rewarding, corporate procurement practices, capacity building, and effective engagement and collaboration.

Question:

- ▶ How can ESG traceability landscapes contribute to meeting the climate challenge?

Speakers:

- **Anna Stanley-Radière**, Director for Climate Action, World Business Council for Sustainable Development
- **Sue Probert**, Chair, UN/CEFACT

15:20 – 15:40

Discussion of the Programme of Work

Speaker:

- **Sue Probert**, Chair, UN/CEFACT

15:40 – 15:45

Other business

15:45 – 16:00

Adoption of decisions of the first session

VENUE

Palais Des Nations H-307-1
Webex

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