

Item. 3 Matters arising



ECTD in a Nutshell

Harnessing economic cooperation and trade for the SDGs



ONE Vision: Harnessing Trade, Innovation and Infrastructure Investment for the SDGs

TWO Sub-programmes

- Sub-programme 4: Economic Cooperation and Integration
- Sub-programme 6: Trade

THREE Cross-cutting Themes

- Circular Economy and the Sustainable Use of Natural Resources
- Digital and Green Transformations
- Support for Gender Equality and Micro, Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (MSMEs)

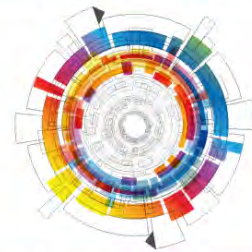
FOUR Sections

- Cooperation and Partnerships Section
- Innovative Policies Development Section
- Market Access Section
- Trade Facilitation Section



UNECE Cross-cutting Priority Themes

Green, circular and digital



69TH SESSION OF THE COMMISSION

PROMOTING CIRCULAR ECONOMY AND SUSTAINABLE USE
OF NATURAL RESOURCES IN THE UNECE REGION

20-21 APRIL 2021 | ROOM XVII | PALAIS DES NATIONS | GENEVA



70th SESSION OF THE COMMISSION

DIGITAL AND GREEN TRANSFORMATIONS
FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT
IN THE REGION OF THE ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

18-19 APRIL 2023 | PALAIS DES NATIONS | GENEVA

Circular Economy

ECTD response to 69th Com. session yielded concrete results



We established **Circular STEP**, our multi-stakeholder engagement platform for the UNECE region

We harnessed our **inter-governmental machinery** (56 member States) to adopt/establish

- 2 Standards on Public Private Partnerships (PPPs) for the Circular Economy
- 1 Sustainability Pledge for Transparency & Traceability of Supply Chains in Garments & Footwear
- 1 Code of Good Practice for Reducing Food Loss & Ensuring Optimum Handling of Fresh Fruit & Vegetables
- 1 Team of Specialists for Sustainable Value Chains for the Circular Economy

We supported **beneficiary countries (UNDA)**

We prepare our **analytical paper series**

We held **numerous policy dialogues**

- Contributing to World Circular Economy Forum (WCEF), SwitchMed, WTO Public Forum, WTO Trade & Environment Week, Issue Based Coalition on Sustainable Food Systems, 70 Commission session
- Together w. partners, EllenMacArthur, Friedrich Ebert Stiftung, QazTrade and others





Progress report at 70th Commission session



Economic Commission for Europe

Seventieth session

Geneva, 18 and 19 April 2023

Item 5 of the provisional agenda

Report on activities on the high-level theme of the sixty-ninth session: “Promoting circular economy and sustainable use of natural resources in the region of the Economic Commission for Europe”

Progress report on the work of the Commission on the promotion of a circular economy and the sustainable use of natural resources

Note by the secretariat

The high-level segment of the sixty-ninth session of the Economic Commission for Europe was held under the theme “Promoting circular economy and the sustainable use of natural resources”. Decision B (69) requested the secretariat to present a progress report on the work of the Commission on this theme, for consideration at its seventieth session. The present report is presented in response to this request.

Digital and Green Transformations

70th Commission session, 18-19 April 2023



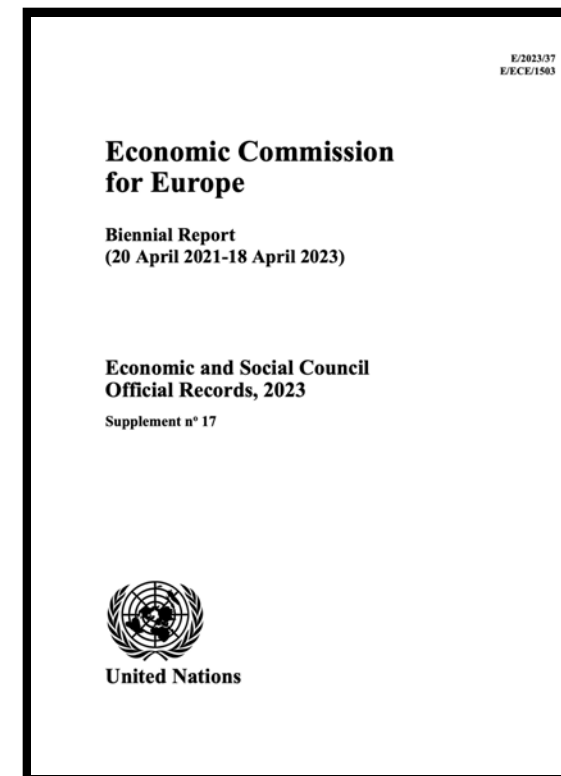
14. *Emphasizes* the need to further strengthen the work of the Commission in support of digital and green transformations for sustainable development in the ECE region within its existing mandate as appropriate and subject to available resources;

15. *Requests* 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 digital and green transformations, including by proposing ways to identify, assess and fill gaps in governance and good practices;**

16. *Invites* these subsidiary bodies to replicate and scale up existing approaches that facilitate broad and effective use of the appropriate instruments, including through capacity-building and knowledge-sharing activities;

17. *Further invites* these subsidiary bodies, as appropriate, to consider developing proposals in their respective programmes of work, including possible collaboration across subprogrammes, for impactful and measurable solutions that promote digital and green transformations and that can facilitate attaining the objectives of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

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Digital and Green Transformations

Trade, infrastructure investment and innovation



AT THE CORE OF ECTD WORK STREAMS

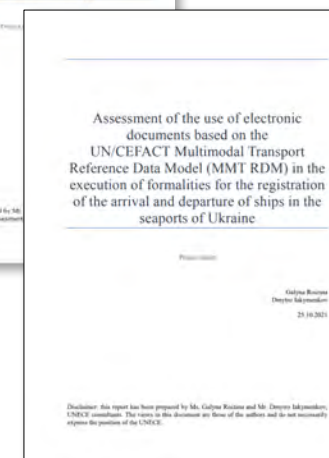
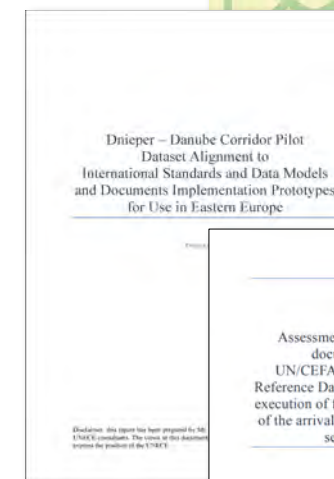
- ESG transparency and traceability of supply chains
- Connectivity and digital data-exchange across multi-modal supply chains
- UN/CEFACT trade facilitation and e-business standards
- New discussions at 16th CICPPP (31May-2 June 2023)
- New discussions within 8th session of SCTCS (26-27 June 2023)

CLOSELY RELATED TO ECTD WORK STREAMS

- Infrastructure investment – to enable D&G transformations
- Innovation – to drive D&G transformations
- Trade – to harness the benefits of the D&G transformations

OFFERING INSPIRATION FOR FRONTIER TOPICS

- Gender and MSMEs – to ensure inclusiveness
- Circularity – to link the D&G transformations
- Critical minerals – to enable the D&G transformations



Astana International Forum 2023

UNECE side event on Unlocking the Buckle of Sustainable Trade: the Role of Digitalization



UN Special Programme for Economies of Central Asia, 1998

SPECA



Objectives

- To strengthen subregional cooperation in Central Asia and its integration into the world economy,
- Brings 7 countries and 2 regional economic commissions

SPECA work streams

- SPECA Trade Facilitation Strategy
- Principles of Sustainable Trade in the SPECA Subregion
- SPECA Innovation Strategy for Sustainable Development

Trade-related activities in 2022

- On 31 August 2022, the 17th session of the SPECA Working Group on Trade, chaired by Tajikistan
- Activities leading up to the SPECA Economic Forum “Greener and Safer Future” in Almaty, Kazakhstan on 16-17 November 2022



Support with WTO Accession Process



UNECE trains Turkmenistan's government officials on regulatory and procedural trade measures as part of accession to WTO

SDGs ▷

UN/CEFACT ▷

Trade facilitation ▷

WP.6 - Working Party on Regulatory Cooperation and Standardization ▷

WP.7 - Agricultural Standards ▷

Sustainable Development ▷

Technical Cooperation ▷

Trade ▷

22 June 2023

As the global economy emerges from the COVID-19 pandemic and governments strengthen efforts to “build-back-better”, trade as an engine of growth has re-emerged in policy agendas. For developing countries and countries with economies in transition that are still in the process of accession to the World Trade Organization (WTO), technical support continues to be critical to enhance the understanding of international trade disciplines, potential costs, benefits and trade-offs involved in trade integration as well as to ensure the negotiations bring sustainable development outcomes for vulnerable populations.



Very pleased @UNECE contributed to session on #digitalization of information flows for #Azerbaijan

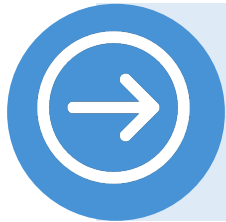
Great discussions on the potential for #digital corridors in the region – UN/CEFACT tools can play important role

Thanks to Ambassador Israfilov @galib_is for this invitation



Technical Cooperation

The Division takes a holistic approach



Our technical cooperation benefits from a synergistic feedback loop between our normative machinery, and our activities in the areas of policy analysis, training and policy dialogues



ANALYTICAL WORK

We offer studies assessing the state of play and contribute policy recommendations:

- Sub-regional Innovation Policy Outlook (IPO)
- Innovation for Sustainable Development Review (I4SDR)
- Regulatory & Procedural Barriers to Trade (RPBT)
- Trade Facilitation Readiness Assessment
- UN Regional Survey on Trade Facilitation
- Handbooks (IHGE, BI etc.)



TRAINING

We support countries in solving identified constraints through capacity building.

This includes:

- Advisory missions
- Written policy and legal advice
- In-person or hybrid training workshops
- Online training materials for self-paced learning



POLICY DIALOGUES

We engage member States in thematic dialogue to share experiences, ideas, and best practices.

Policy dialogues happen in the context of and back-to-back with:

- Committees
- Working Parties
- Teams of Specialists
- Commission Sessions
- Regional Forum for Sustainable Development

Focusing in on Gender Impact

Gender-responsive standards 2023-2025



ENABLING INCLUSIVITY

- The UNECE Guidelines on Gender-responsive Standards provide a clear way forward to increase inclusiveness and ensure a gender lens to standard development
- A new **Team of Specialists on Gender-Responsive Standards** will support the implementation of the Declaration
- UN Women Regional Office joined UNECE to measure the impact of gender inclusiveness in standards development
- **UNECE & UN Women aim to tackle:**
 - Building consensus and buy-in
 - Strengthen capacity on gender- and sex-aggregated standards and data
 - Accessibility of educational material on quality infrastructure
 - Developing an actionable gender action plan
 - Verifying that the results are effective

POTENTIAL BENEFICIARIES

UNECE 17 programme countries in Central Asia, Eastern Europe, the Balkans, and the Caucasus



ECTD work ahead of COP27



UNECE

17 October 2022, UNECE hosted **“Towards COP27: UNECE Regional Forum on Climate Initiatives to Finance Climate Action and the SDGs”**.

This Forum was one of five, one hosted by each UN Regional Commission.

High-level panels included:

- Towards a Common Environmental Social and Governance Framework for Critical Raw Material (CRM) Value Chains
- Public-private Partnerships and Climate Finance Instruments - Opportunities to scale-up for Critical Raw Materials

With over 800 participants, the Forum

- Delivered a nuanced analysis of challenges and opportunities and the importance of CRMs in delivering on the Paris Agreement and the SDGs, and:
- Highlighted the need to include CRMs in discussions on climate finance such as green bonds (and other ESG/SDG-aligned finance) and on trade.





UNECE

**THANK
YOU**

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