Dear UN/CEFACT expert community!

We are pleased to share the bi-annual newsletter covering the highlights of the UN/CEFACT activities and key milestones and achievements in the first two quarters of 2023. It has been an eventful first half of the year and we brace for the next six months as we advance on our deliverables during the forthcoming 41st UN/CEFACT Forum and leading up to the 29th session of the UN/CEFACT Plenary.

We look forward to working together towards advancing the sustainable and resilient trade in support of digital and green transformations.

**KEY FIGURES**

- +1600 EXPERTS
- +100 PROJECTS
- 10+2 NEWS & PRESS RELEASES
- 29 INTERACTIVE SESSIONS DURING THE 40TH FORUM
- 25 NATIONAL & REGIONAL COMMITTEES
- 240 TITLED REFERECES IN ARTICLES
- 1bn ESTIMATED MEDIA REACH

**PLEASE DON’T MISS A FEW IMPORTANT UPDATES FROM THE SECRETARIAT:**

- Call for UN/CEFACT Vice-Chairs’ and Regional Rapporteurs’ Nominations available [here](#)
- For more updates from the Secretariat follow this [link](#)

**CONTRIBUTE NOW!**

Send us your comments on paper “Recommendation on Encouraging Private Sector Participation in NTFB project” by 8 August 2023. This paper provides insights on the barriers for effective private sector participation including differences in perspective, knowledge and terminologies, and perception as well as organizational challenges such as costs of transportation, effectiveness of meetings, representation, and lack of feedback.
**Seventieth session of the Economic Commission for Europe**
The 70th session of the Economic Commission for Europe focused on exploring how digital and green transformations can advance the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. In addition to gathering senior government officials from the UNECE region in the efforts to review progress of the Commission activities, share experiences and success stories on digital and green transformations, UNECE Executive Secretary convened the Chairpersons of UNECE’s highest sectoral Committees with the goal to deepen the collaboration across subsidiary bodies.

**Committee on Innovation, Competitiveness and Public-Private Partnerships**
As a result, UN/CEFACT was invited to contribute to the annual sessions of the Committee on Innovation, Competitiveness and Public-Private Partnerships and Steering Committee on Trade Capacity and Standards to present an update on its recent and future activities as well as explore synergies for collaboration.

**40th UN/CEFACT Forum**
The jubilee 40th UN/CEFACT Forum took place in Geneva during 8-12 May 2023, bringing together over 1,500 participants in person and virtually in 35 insightful sessions. The sessions discussed current projects and finalized over 10 new guidelines and standards to be presented at the upcoming Plenary session in November. If you missed it, check out the presentations here.

**Resilience of Global Supply Chains in Times of Crisis**
The Forum also featured a high-level conference titled Resilience of Global Supply Chains in Times of Crisis - Supporting a Sustainable Recovery with Green and Digital Solutions with a line-up of senior officials from the WTO, UNCTAD, ITU and UNECE. The conference report can be accessed here.

**UN/CEFACT D22B Standards Release**
The UN/CEFACT D22B Standards Release cycle finalized during the Forum. Although the updates to the standards have completed, the official publication is currently pending completion on the UNECE Streamline Presentation of Standards Page. This publication is eagerly awaited by stakeholders in the global trade and electronic business community. The new D22B release will bring significant improvements and updates to streamline data exchange and enhance interoperability among trading partners.

Second and third working meetings of the Team of Specialists, where Mr. Christian Hudson was appointed as the new Chair and identified key questions to address for developing the guidelines on ESG monitoring and reporting.

Finally, UN/CEFACT and UNECE secretariat contributed to a few international conferences, organized by the ICC, ADB, ESCAP, WCO, European Commission, UNCITRAL, etc.

**UPCOMING**
We look forward to your participation and contribution to the forthcoming 2023 activities:

**41st UN/CEFACT Forum**
2-6 October 2023
Bangkok I Thailand

**29th UN/CEFACT Plenary**
9-10 November 2023
Palais des Nations I Geneva

**3rd Session of the ToS on ESG Traceability of Sustainable Value Chains**
23 November 2023
Palais des Nations I Geneva
Seven new projects were approved since the beginning of the year

- Transparency at scale: Digital solutions for trust, resilience, and sustainability - verifiable credentials in supply chains
- Methodology to subset RDM messages
- Geofencing facilities
- Critical minerals traceability and sustainability
- Data Governance for Trade Facilitation
- Buy Ship Pay data exchange structures for trade finance facilitation
- Digital Identity Standardization for Trade Facilitation

And three more are in the pipeline

- API Transformation of EPs Technical Artefacts with Sustainability Claims
- Travel Agency and DMC API Reference Data Model
- Parcel good traceability in last mile delivery

The blockchain pilots for traceability and transparency in the textile and leather sector are implemented in the context of the global framework initiative, jointly implemented with the International Trade Centre, with financial support of the European Union.

Since 2020, UNECE we are carrying out blockchain pilot projects with industry partners to develop use cases, tracing products back to their origin and proving sustainability credentials that allow the formulation of substantiated claims regarding fibre content, chemical use, social/environmental performance, animal welfare.

So far, UNECE is implementing 20 use cases (15 completed, 5 ongoing) covering the full spectrum of the value chain, 5 for leather and 12 for cotton, 2 for wool and cellulose, 1 synthetic

The pilots are spread across 23 countries as follows: Belgium, Brazil, Chile, China, Czech Republic, Denmark, Egypt, France, Germany, India, Indonesia, Italy, Peru, Switzerland, Netherlands, Türkiye, Singapore, Uganda, United Kingdom, Uzbekistan, Unites States of America, Vietnam, New Zealand

The pilots are involving more than 95 organizations and stakeholders (brands, manufacturers, raw material producers, certifying bodies, integovernmental organizations, academia and technological platforms).

UNCE also contributed to the UNCTAD’s 49th regional course on key issues on the international economic agenda for the Eastern Europe region, with focus on the links between trade, investment, finance and development, including in the context of international trade negotiations.

Together with the other UN Regional Commissions and UNCTAD, we have launched the key findings of the 2023 edition of the UN survey for digital and sustainable trade facilitation on 5 July 2023. In the UNECE region, we have in total 48 member States participating in 2023, with average trade facilitation implementation increased from 76 per cent in 2021 to 80 per cent in 2023.

Finalization of the following papers are underway, and they will be presented at the 2023 UN/CEFACT Plenary

The White Paper on the Technical Applications of Business Standards for Sustainable Tourism produced definitions and guidelines on sustainable tourism and provided elements upon which certification or labelling systems could be built.

The White Paper on Digital Product Conformity Certificate Exchange leverages the concept of trust anchors by exploring access to product conformity information at its source, with digital links to both the physical product, relevant documentation and the issuing body’s credentials. The paper makes clear that new possibilities arise when the challenge is framed in terms of access to, rather than exchange of, conformity attestations.

The White Paper on Single Window Assessment Methodology offers guidance and a tool for assessing the implementation of a Single Window, which can be beneficial for consultants, lead agencies, and anyone interested in improving the implementation of a Single Window. The paper outlines the critical factors that should be considered when conducting a self-assessment, such as analysing the functioning and key indicators of the Single Window, surveying users to determine their level of satisfaction, and identifying areas for improvement.

The White Paper on the Transfer of MLETR-compliant titles explains the key requirements laid out in the MLETR that an electronic record must satisfy to be an ETR so that its legal validity is preserved even when used across international borders through achieving the same legal effects as are achieved by use of its paper counterpart. this White Paper provides guidance on fulfilling the MLETR requirements to those implementing ETRs that are electronic Bills of Lading, for the benefit of the business users they serve.
We also invite you to read some of our recent news items:

- **UN/CEFACT spearheads efforts to bolster resilience of supply chains**
- **New United Nations survey highlights progress in global trade facilitation despite multiple crises**
- **UNECE blockchain pilot for cotton paves the way for more sustainable fashion**

UN/CEFACT has also published 10 news items and 2 press-releases on the UNECE website; with total references captured in media amounting to over 240 articles in 2023.

**UN/CEFACT's Standards and Publications**

Publications and materials from recent standardization activities are now available on the UNECE website to view. Read More

**Other upcoming events in 2023**

Stay tuned for an exciting lineup of upcoming meetings and events as UN/CEFACT continues to drive global trade innovation and collaboration. View Events

---

**Are you a professional wishing to join our expert community?**

REGISTER HERE

---

**CONTACT US**

The Trade Facilitation Section Team, Economic Cooperation and Trade Division, UNECE

uncefact@un.org
unice@unece.org

---

**UN/ECE**

United Nations Economic Commission for Europe
Palais des Nations, 1211 Geneva 10, Switzerland
Telephone: +41 (0)22 917 4144
www.unece.org

If you don't want to receive these emails in the future, please unsubscribe here.

Copyright © 2023 UNECE UN/CEFACT, all rights reserved.