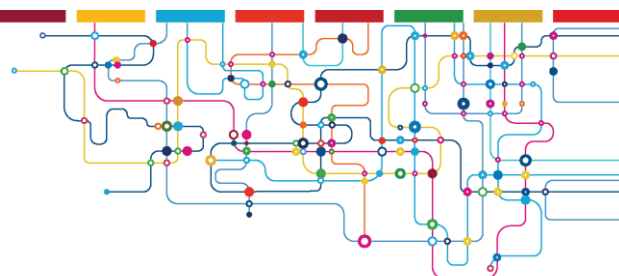


# UN/CEFACT NEWSLETTER



Biannual | January – June 2023

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 [41<sup>st</sup> UN/CEFACT Forum](#) and leading up to the [29<sup>th</sup> 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



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.

# EVENTS

## PAST EVENTS



### [Seventieth session of the Economic Commission for Europe](#)

The 70<sup>th</sup> 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.



DIGITAL AND GREEN  
TRANSFORMATIONS  
The role of innovation and  
public-private partnerships  
31 MAY  
2 JUNE  
2023

### [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.



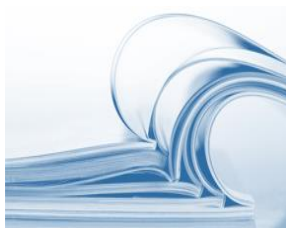
### [40th UN/CEFACT Forum](#)

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:

### [41<sup>st</sup> UN/CEFACT Forum](#)

**2-6 October 2023**

Bangkok | Thailand



### [29th UN/CEFACT Plenary](#)

**9-10 November 2023**

Palais des Nations | Geneva



### [3<sup>rd</sup> Session of the ToS on ESG Traceability of Sustainable Value Chains](#)

**23 November 2023**

Palais des Nations | Geneva

## PROJECTS

- 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

## TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE & CAPACITY BUILDING

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, United States of America, Vietnam, New Zealand

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

UNECE 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.

## IMPACT & MEDIA COVERAGE

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

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
1 Jan	05	09	13	17	21	25	29	31	04	08	12	16
2 Jan	06	10	14	18	22	26	30	02	06	10	14	18
3 Jan	07	11	15	19	23	27	31	03	07	11	15	19
4 Jan	08	12	16	20	24	28	31	04	08	12	16	20
5 Jan	09	13	17	21	25	29	31	05	09	13	17	21
6 Jan	10	14	18	22	26	30	31	06	10	14	18	22
7 Jan	11	15	19	23	27	31	31	07	11	15	19	23
8 Jan	12	16	20	24	28	31	31	08	12	16	20	24
9 Jan	13	17	21	25	29	31	31	09	13	17	21	25
10 Jan	14	18	22	26	30	31	31	10	14	18	22	26
11 Jan	15	19	23	27	31	31	31	11	15	19	23	27
12 Jan	16	20	24	28	31	31	31	12	16	20	24	28
13 Jan	17	21	25	29	31	31	31	13	17	21	25	29
14 Jan	18	22	26	30	31	31	31	14	18	22	26	30
15 Jan	19	23	27	31	31	31	31	15	19	23	27	31
16 Jan	20	24	28	31	31	31	31	16	20	24	28	31
17 Jan	21	25	29	31	31	31	31	17	21	25	29	31
18 Jan	22	26	30	31	31	31	31	18	22	26	30	31
19 Jan	23	27	31	31	31	31	31	19	23	27	31	31
20 Jan	24	28	31	31	31	31	31	20	24	28	31	31
21 Jan	25	29	31	31	31	31	31	21	25	29	31	31
22 Jan	26	30	31	31	31	31	31	22	26	30	31	31
23 Jan	27	31	31	31	31	31	31	23	27	31	31	31
24 Jan	28	31	31	31	31	31	31	24	28	31	31	31
25 Jan	29	31	31	31	31	31	31	25	29	31	31	31
26 Jan	30	31	31	31	31	31	31	26	30	31	31	31
27 Jan	31	31	31	31	31	31	31	27	31	31	31	31
28 Jan	31	31	31	31	31	31	31	28	31	31	31	31
29 Jan	31	31	31	31	31	31	31	29	31	31	31	31
30 Jan	31	31	31	31	31	31	31	30	31	31	31	31
31 Jan	31	31	31	31	31	31	31	31	31	31	31	31

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**

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