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**United Nations Centre for Trade Facilitation and Electronic Business
structure, mandate, terms of reference and procedures**

United Nations Centre for Trade Facilitation and Electronic Business: Programme of Work 2023-2024

Submitted by the Bureau

Summary

This document presents the Programme of Work of the United Nations Centre for Trade Facilitation and Electronic Business (UN/CEFACT) for 2023-2024.

Document ECE/TRADE/C/CEFACT/2022/21 is submitted by the Bureau to the twenty-eighth session of the Plenary for approval.



I. Introduction

1. This document presents the Programme of Work (PoW) of the United Nations Centre for Trade Facilitation and Electronic Business (UN/CEFACT) for 2023-2024.
2. It is submitted by the UN/CEFACT Bureau to the twenty-eighth session of the Plenary for discussion and approval and will be subsequently submitted for approval to the Executive Committee of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (ECE).
3. It is consistent with the streamlined project-oriented management approach adopted at the Plenary's eighteenth session in February 2012 and the associated revised foundation document updated during the twenty-fourth session UN/CEFACT Structure, Mandate, Terms of Reference (ECE/TRADE/C/CEFACT/2017/15/Rev.1). The PoW for 2023-2024 also aligns with the document UN/CEFACT Prospective Directions (ECE/TRADE/C/CEFACT/2016/20/Rev.1).
4. Activities are driven by the expressed needs of the member States and the recommendations of the ECE Executive Committee. One of the key advantages of UN/CEFACT work is the inclusiveness in the development and the decisional power of United Nations Member States to review and approve the resulting recommendations and standards and, perhaps most importantly, inclusiveness in the availability (free of charge) of the resulting deliverables.

II. Key elements of the UN/CEFACT vision and mandate

5. The UN/CEFACT vision is to enable "simple, transparent and effective processes for global commerce".
6. Within the United Nations framework, under the Economic and Social Council, ECE serves as the focal point for trade facilitation recommendations and electronic business standards which cover both commercial and government business processes that foster growth in international trade and related services. In this context, UN/CEFACT was established as a subsidiary intergovernmental body of ECE and was mandated to develop a PoW of global relevance to achieve improved worldwide coordination and cooperation in these areas.
7. UN/CEFACT supports activities dedicated to improving the ability of business, trade and administrative organizations from developed, developing and transition economies to trade in products and relevant services effectively. Its principal focus is on facilitating national and international transactions through the simplification, standardization and harmonization of processes, procedures and information flows, thereby contributing to a more sustainable growth in global trade.
8. UN/CEFACT provides an opportunity for public and private sector experts to work together, under the guidance of its Plenary, Bureau and secretariat, to develop a body of freely available recommendations, standards and guidance materials that can help reduce regulatory and procedural barriers to trade. Its experts conduct projects within the Plenary-approved

PoW, using a transparent methodology and the Open Development Process¹, respecting Intellectual Property Rights Policy² and adhering to its Code of Conduct³.

III. Programme of Work for 2023-2024

9. The focus areas of the PoW for 2023-2024, as described below, reflect the *UN/CEFACT Prospective Directions* (ECE/TRADE/C/CEFACT/2016/20/Rev.1) adopted by the UN/CEFACT Plenary at its twenty second session. By taking this approach, it is possible to streamline the presentation of the PoW and to bring to the attention of the Plenary and the ECE Executive Committee the different types of substantive work that experts intend to address.

A. Sustainable development goals and sustainable value chains in the circular economy

10. The work of UN/CEFACT supports directly and indirectly the successful implementation of the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development⁴, a vast majority of its Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), a transition towards a more circular economy and a transition to more resilient, inclusive and sustainable value chains in the circular economy. In particular, it directly contributes to the achievement of the following SDGs:

- (a) SDG 5 on improving gender equality, particularly through facilitating access to trading opportunities, which creates employment opportunities for women, thus increasing women's participation in the economy;
- (b) SDG 8 on sustainable economic growth, particularly to facilitate processes and services for international trade, strengthen labour conditions through traceability of sustainable and circular value chains and to contribute to the development of sustainable rural tourism;
- (c) SDG 12 on sustainable consumption and production patterns, particularly to prevent and mitigate negative environmental and social impacts; reduce food loss; provide standards for the movement of waste; and to enhance environmental, social and governance (ESG) traceability and transparency of value chains in critical sectors in order to inform and advance more responsible business models and consumer choices;
- (d) SDG 14 on sustainable use of oceans, seas, and marine resources, particularly through e-business standards for the management of fish stocks and fishing vessels; and

¹ See *Update to the Open Development Process* (ECE/TRADE/C/CEFACT/ 2016/17) at http://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/cefact/cf_plenary/2016_plenary/CF_2016_017E_ODP.pdf.

² See *Updated UN/CEFACT Intellectual Property Rights Policy* (ECE/TRADE/C/CEFACT/ 2010/20/Rev.2) at https://unece.org/DAM/cefact/cf_plenary/plenary12/ECE_TRADE_C_CEFACT_2010_20_Rev2E_UdatedIPRpolicy.pdf.

³ See *Draft revised UN/CEFACT Code of Conduct* (ECE/TRADE/C/CEFACT/ 2010/18/Rev.1) at http://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/cefact/cf_plenary/plenary11/ECE_TRADE_C_CEFACT_2010_18_Rev.1E.pdf.

⁴ At the United Nations Sustainable Development Summit on 25 September 2015, world leaders adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which includes a set of seventeen sustainable development goals (SDGs) to end poverty, fight inequality and injustice, and tackle climate change by 2030. Available at <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/?menu=1300>.

- (e) SDG 17 on implementation and revitalization of global partnerships, particularly relating to the promotion of North-South sharing of information and procedures; the use of technology; capacity building; trade; and public-private partnerships.

11. UN/CEFACT also contributes to reducing poverty and ending hunger through sustainable agriculture, particularly through the certification of agriculture and fishery products (SDG 1 and SDG 2) and by reducing inequalities (SDG 10). It also removes barriers to trade through dematerialization, standardizes message exchange models in support of facilitating micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs), and facilitates the electronic exchange of sanitary and phytosanitary information to mitigate health risks (SDG 3). For the sustainable use of natural resources (SDG 15) it contributes to advancing the circular economy, including through the development of guidance and standards for innovation and advanced technologies (SDG 9), and enables smart cities development (SDG 11).

B. Advancing trade facilitation and supporting its implementation

12. Cross-border standardization, simplification and harmonization are fundamental tools for the facilitation of international trading processes and form the nucleus of UN/CEFACT work. This trade facilitation mission supports the objectives of the Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA) of the World Trade Organization (WTO), which references and emphasizes the importance of several topics covered by ECE recommendations (on single windows, national trade facilitation bodies, etc.) and encourages the use of international standards.

13. UN/CEFACT shall continue its trade facilitation mission through its PoW for 2023-2024. This is articulated around the following key objectives:

- (a) Studying, developing and revising trade facilitation **recommendations** as well as e-business and technical **standards**;
- (b) Supporting interoperability across the many existing, new and future technology platforms (in other words the ability of these systems to exchange data) by acting as a semantic hub that advances the development of technology-neutral **semantics, code lists, processes, data reference models** and **best practices**;
- (c) Increasing **accessibility** of UN/CEFACT work products, especially to new stakeholders involved in the development of web and mobile applications;
- (d) Supporting member States and stakeholders who wish to take full advantage of the UN/CEFACT **family of standards** to address their requirements in trade facilitation and electronic business; and
- (e) Monitoring of advanced technologies to ensure the **continued relevance** of UN/CEFACT work products.

14. Recommendations, standards and other deliverables developed by UN/CEFACT can be used by governments and businesses to implement trade facilitation policies and regulations at the international, regional and national levels. In particular they support the implementation of important aspects of the WTO TFA. The agreement specifically encourages member States to follow best practices in the form of international standards and to participate in the development and review of these standards. UN/CEFACT will continue to develop further deliverables to support implementation of the WTO TFA, to help achieve the United Nations SDGs and to help advance trade facilitation in general.

15. Activities within UN/CEFACT will concentrate on this trade facilitation role, specifically with projects that support the following:

- (a) WTO TFA Article 10 on formalities connected with importation, exportation and transit; these include the single window concept, streamlined formalities and documentation requirements, and the use of international standards;
- (b) WTO TFA Article 1 on publication and availability of information;
- (c) WTO TFA Article 7 on release and clearance of goods;
- (d) WTO TFA Article 8 on border agency cooperation;
- (e) WTO TFA Article 12 on customs cooperation; and
- (f) WTO TFA Article 23 on institutional arrangements, specifically national trade facilitation committees.

16. UN/CEFACT aims at facilitating trade even beyond the WTO TFA. In this vein, UN/CEFACT will build on its achievements in the past years and further advance various methods of data exchange, including push and pull methods⁵. It will also aim to enable a harmonized approach to the use of prevailing and emerging technologies in trade facilitation through its semantic standards.

C. Supporting countries in addressing disruption in supply chains

17. The COVID-19 pandemic and related supply chain disruptions brought increased awareness to the benefits of trade facilitation and electronic data exchange. In order to ensure that trade and trade-related services continue to flow, UN/CEFACT continues its trade facilitation and e-business work to dematerialize information flows at borders, allow for risk-based and electronic control procedures and support the relief efforts related to such pandemics.

18. The upcoming ECE 70th Commission session in April 2023 will focus on digital and green transformations for sustainable development in the ECE region. UN/CEFACT has expressed its readiness to support the ECE secretariat in preparing for the upcoming anniversary session, considering that the topics of digitalization and green economy are of great relevance to the work of UN/CEFACT and its subsidiary bodies.

19. To ensure sustainable recovery from the pandemic and in line with the Commission's priorities, UN/CEFACT will support member States in strengthening their trade capacity and their transition to a digital and green economy. More broadly, UN/CEFACT will support developing economies and countries with economies in transition by implementing UN/CEFACT trade facilitation standards and recommendations.

D. Providing semantic interoperability

20. The semantics of business data exchange (i.e. the basic, common and shared meanings for business terms and information) are essential to the standardization and harmonization of business interactions across the world.⁶ UN/CEFACT develops deliverables which support this harmonization, such as the United Nations Core Component Library (UN/CCL) and their business requirement specifications (BRS) (describing syntax-neutral business processes).

⁵ A push method of sharing data would be to send an electronic message to a business partner. A pull method of sharing data would be to allow the business partner to directly interface with your own computer system and pull the desired data from your system.

⁶ See Plenary document ECE/TRADE/C/CEFACT/2019/27 on the importance of semantic standards for trade facilitation.

UN/CEFACT will continue to be the semantic hub for all its internal deliverables and will also aim to coordinate and bring together the needs of other organizations.

21. UN/CEFACT shall continue to maintain and develop its key deliverables related to semantic interoperability, as well as other new deliverables under development. These include the following:

- (a) United Nations Core Component Library (UN/CCL);
- (b) Electronic Data Interchange for Administration, Commerce and Transport (UN/EDIFACT) standard;
- (c) United Nations Code for Trade and Transport Locations (UN/LOCODE);
- (d) Trade-related code lists; and
- (e) Reference data models (RDMs) which provide logical groupings of information by sector and facilitate the reuse and dissemination of UN/CEFACT semantic work.

E. Development and maintenance of guidance and standards

22. UN/CEFACT is divided into programme development areas (PDAs), each supported by several domains and focal points.⁷ These have an important role in helping to monitor emerging business processes as well as new information and communication technologies. UN/CEFACT will provide guidance to governments, business and experts on how to leverage the power of such technologies through the use of existing UN/CEFACT deliverables or through the development of new deliverables. In addition, UN/CEFACT will, at the request of the user community, develop guidelines on how to use its deliverables, including in the context of new technologies.

23. UN/CEFACT will pursue its research and guidance work on advanced technologies. These include blockchain/distributed ledger technology, the internet of things, artificial intelligence, application programming interfaces and similar topics. UN/CEFACT will also examine cybersecurity issues related to the development of its e-business standards.

24. UN/CEFACT will monitor the continued relevance of its deliverables through its domains and working teams. The objective of such reviews shall be to confirm that the deliverables are still relevant in their business contexts or still the ideal to strive for. The review shall also check for coherence with other current UN/CEFACT deliverables.

25. UN/CEFACT will prioritize the review of all recommendations which are ten years or older, as well as e-business standards which may have been affected by process/technological changes.

26. All UN/CEFACT e-business deliverables are based on the International Supply Chain Reference Model (ISCRM)⁸ Buy-Ship-Pay model of the international supply chain. Efforts will continue to be made to propose comprehensive solutions based on this end-to-end model. Gap analyses will be conducted to identify areas where guidance or standards are needed to cover the full set of international supply chain processes involved in cross-border and domestic trade for different sectors—particularly in the areas of pre-order instructions and post-delivery acknowledgement.

⁷ See ECE/TRADE/C/CEFACT/2021/4 for the most recent Bureau and domain structure at the time of writing.

⁸ UN/CEFACT, 2003, *International Supply Chain Reference Model (ISCRM)*, Available at <http://tfig.unece.org/contents/ISCRM.htm>.

F. Improving communications and increasing participation and advisory services

27. UN/CEFACT will develop guidance material for the use of its deliverables, adapted to different target audiences. Focus will be placed on the creation of guidance materials, to make current deliverables more discoverable and accessible, and to adapt them to various audiences (upon requests from member States or the user community).

28. UN/CEFACT will strive to gather information, including quantitative information on the use and impact of its deliverables.

29. Through the ECE secretariat, UN/CEFACT will work, together with other United Nations bodies and other relevant organizations, to provide advisory services in developing and transition-economy countries adopting its recommendations, standards and best practices.

30. Activities to improve communication and increase participation in the development work include the following:

- (a) The organization of meetings, seminars/webinars, and capacity-building workshops to inform stakeholders about UN/CEFACT deliverables, to encourage their participation in UN/CEFACT work and to assist governments and other stakeholders in the use of UN/CEFACT deliverables and best practices;
- (b) The preparation of implementation guidelines for UN/CEFACT deliverables at the policy, operational and technical levels;
- (c) Engagement in targeted outreach to other relevant organizations on specific issues, to encourage wider contributions to the work and reuse of these standards; and
- (d) Engagement with national trade facilitation bodies to help disseminate the work of UN/CEFACT and to stimulate the interest of relevant experts and users.

G. Enhancing cooperation with other United Nations bodies and international organizations

31. In order to ensure the coherence of guidance provided by United Nations bodies in the spirit of the “One United Nations” principle, UN/CEFACT works closely with the ECE Executive Committee, the secretariat, and other bodies of the ECE and United Nations as well as international policy development and normative organizations such as the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL); United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD); the International Trade Centre (ITC); United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO); International Telecommunication Union (ITU); Universal Postal Union (UPU); International Maritime Organization (IMO); International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO); United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP); International Labour Organization (ILO); United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO); Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD); European Commission; Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO); CITES (the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora) and the secretariat of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm (BRS) Conventions.

32. To effectively fulfil its mandate of global outreach, UN/CEFACT will also seek to enhance, through the ECE secretariat, collaboration with all the United Nations Regional Economic Commissions, UN Resident Coordinators and UN Country Teams. This includes the global and regional survey on trade facilitation and paperless trade.

33. UN/CEFACT will encourage all partner organizations to contribute to the relevant areas of the United Nations Core Component Library (UN/CCL) development, including reference data models, and will support all partners in the trade facilitation and e-business aspects of their work, including their efforts to achieve the relevant goals of the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

H. Enhancing cooperation with other standards bodies

34. UN/CEFACT will engage with other organizations, through the ECE secretariat, to ensure the coherence of its work with that of other organizations, to announce its projects in a timely manner (in order to avoid duplication of efforts) and to find ways to further enhance cooperation, including through the establishment of bilateral agreements. An important vehicle for this is the memorandum of understanding on e-business between the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC), the International Organization for Standardization (ISO), the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) and ECE.

35. To promote digitalization efforts in the region and to accelerate the United Nations SDG achievement, ECE, jointly with the International Telecommunications Union (ITU), is co-chairing the United Nations Digital Transformation Group for Europe and Central Asia (UNDTG4ECA). This group aims to facilitate cooperation and collaboration across different United Nations agencies in the field of digital transformation. Such collaboration is particularly relevant to the upcoming 70th session of the Commission which will focus on “digital and green transformations for sustainable development in the ECE region”.

Annex I

Potential activities of UN/CEFACT 2023-2024

A. Focus Area I: International Trade Procedures

1. The International Trade Procedures Programme Development Area (PDA) shall continue to develop and maintain recommendations and guidance material in support of the implementation of SDGs and the simplification, standardization and harmonization of cross-border trade formalities and related information and documents. It will also update existing recommendations and guidance in order to ensure that these remain pertinent. During this period, the proposed work items will include the following:

<i>Proposed work item</i>

- a. Develop guidance on the harmonization of formalities connected with the administration of export control measures
- b. Develop guidance on the integration of transit country requirements in electronic exchange and related UN/CEFACT standards
- c. Update and maintain the Buy-Ship-Pay model of trade procedures which underpins the UN/CEFACT recommendations, RDMs and family of e-business standards
- d. Develop a new Buy-Ship-Pay model which aligns with the principles of the circular economy
- e. Revise Recommendation No. 18: Facilitation Measures Related to International Trade Procedures
- f. Develop guidance on an assessment methodology for single window effectiveness
- g. Develop guidance on risk management for single window implementations
- h. Develop guidance on cybersecurity issues related to single windows and/or machine learning issues related to single windows
- i. Promote the use of and support member States in enhancing understanding of UN/CEFACT e-business standards, RDMs and recommendations in the implementation of trade facilitation and WTO TFA obligations

B. Focus Area II: International Supply Chain

2. The International Supply Chain PDA shall continue to develop and maintain e-business standards and guidance material in support of the implementation of SDGs and dematerializing the exchange of information in order to reduce human contact, which in turn can decrease the spread of pandemics. It will also update existing e-business standards in order to ensure their continued relevance. During this period, the proposed work items will include the following:

<i>Proposed work item</i>

- a. Update, maintain and expand the cross-industry family of e-business standards, which can promote reconciliation for traders.
- b. Update, maintain and expand the Supply Chain Reference Data Model (SCRDM) and the associated information in the Buy-Ship-Pay Reference Data Model.
- c. Support sector-specific implementations of the SCRDM and cross-industry family of e-business standards, including for the automotive and insurance industries, as well as regional implementations of these standards and support MSME accessibility to these standards.
- d. Update, maintain and expand the Multi-Modal Transport Reference Data Model and the associated information in the Buy-Ship-Pay Reference Data Model.
- e. Update, maintain and enhance the reach of the transport and logistics e-business standards, ensuring the needs of all modes of transport are taken into consideration, and develop further guidance on individual processes such as transport contracts and corridors.
- f. Further enable effective tracking and tracing of logistics assets for logistics, supply chain and regulatory needs, including continued work on the tracking and monitoring of devices linked to containers.
- g. Facilitate the development of national, regional and international digital regulatory corridors including landlocked country corridors and set standards and guidelines for these based on existing CCLs and reference data models.
- h. Develop a study to investigate how the open finance paradigm could be applied to trade facilitation, specifically addressing issues of interoperability.
- i. Cooperate with all PDAs toward the alignment and digitalization of product conformity certificates with actual shipment and consignments of goods in support of end-to-end track and trace across the buy-ship-pay system of international trade.
- j. Develop the travel and tourism e-business standards technical artefacts for Experience Programs Version 3 (include information on payment, product sustainability and its self-evaluation) and technical specification.
- k. Develop technical artefacts for information exchange between travel-related businesses based on RDM guidelines (include tendering, payment, scheduling, itinerary, etc.).
- l. Develop a use case for an anti-financial crime (tax evasion, money laundering, offshore money movement, proceeds of crime, obfuscated beneficial ownership) within the Accounting & Audit Reference Data Model to facilitate global enforcement efforts by regulators, governments, law enforcement and tax authorities to aid asset recovery.
- m. Develop an e-business specification based on a use case of the open finance scenario.
- n. Facilitate the modernization of the repository, maintenance and indexing (discovery) of UN/CEFACT deliverables.

C. Focus Area III: Regulatory and eGovernment

3. The Regulatory and eGovernment PDA shall continue to develop and maintain e-business standards and guidance material in support of the implementation of SDGs and dematerializing the exchange of information in order to reduce human contact, which in turn can decrease the spread of pandemics. Particular attention will be paid to projects that support a transition to a more circular economy. It will also update existing e-business standards in order to ensure their continued relevance. During this period, the proposed work items will include the following:

<i>Proposed work item</i>

- a. Support member States in the development and implementation of systems for the management and control of electronic data exchange, including those for licences, permits and certificates for agricultural trade and trade in wildlife.
- b. Develop studies, policy recommendations, agreements, standards and tools to enhance the traceability and transparency of sustainable, circular and carbon-neutral value chains as a means to advance responsible consumption and production patterns, including in sectors such as agri-food, fishery, textile and leather, high-value minerals and other commodities. Implement capacity building projects and advisory services for the dissemination and uptake of such instruments in low- and middle-income countries, including in countries with economies in transition.
- c. Create and maintain a Sustainable Development and Circular Economy Reference Data Model (SDCERDM) for standardized information exchange along the value chain and support sector-specific implementation of the SDCERDM (e.g. in the garment and footwear sector, high value minerals sector, agriculture and other key sectors) to support the sustainable and circular transition.
- d. Develop guidance on the electronic exchange of documents, which can include a transfer of property, based on the work developed under UNCITRAL on the Model Law for the Electronic Transfer of Records (MLETR)
- e. Develop guidance and e-business standards for mutual recognition mechanisms, especially in exchanges between two government entities, to facilitate national, regional and global paperless trade.
- f. Develop guidance material on advanced technologies such as blockchains, the internet of things, artificial intelligence and their impact in the various areas of UN/CEFACT work, including their potential applications for the exchange of national, regional and global regulatory documents like preferential certificates of origin and to support mutual recognition of authorized economic operators (AEO).
- g. Develop guidance material to examine existing cybersecurity issues related international trade, including digital stakeholder identification for trade, data protection and retention rules; and possibly conduct a study on e-notary and trusted third-party services.
- h. Develop and maintain a cross-border management reference data model.
- i. Update guidelines for government development of ICT strategies based on the use of standards.
- j. Promote the use of existing UN/CEFACT e-business standards on transboundary movements of waste and develop further guidance on waste management.

<i>Proposed work item</i>

- k. Develop guidance material around data governance to understand sensitive data exchanged as part of trade data flow and explore the role of standards in supporting secure and streamlined data exchange to facilitate cross-border paperless trade.

D. Focus area IV: Sectoral

4. The sectoral domains shall continue to develop and maintain e-business standards and guidance material in support of the implementation of SDGs and dematerializing the exchange of information in order to reduce human contact, which in turn can decrease the spread of pandemics. These domains will also update existing e-business standards in order to ensure their continued relevance. During this period, the proposed work items will include the following:

<i>Proposed work item</i>

- a. Update, maintain and expand the travel and tourism e-business standards, (e.g. to include information on travel itineraries)
- b. Develop guidance material on sustainable tourism
- c. Develop guidance material on measures to be taken in the tourism industry in order to cope with pandemics such as COVID-19
- d. Develop guidance material on measures to be taken in the health and insurance sector in order to cope with pandemics such as COVID-19
- e. Develop an e-business standard for the digitalization of international motor liability insurance certificates to ensure innovation and infrastructure
- f. Develop e-business standards for the reimbursement of health claims to support access to quality, essential healthcare services and access to safe, effective and affordable essential medicine and vaccines for all

E. Focus Area V: Methodology and Technology

5. The Methodology and Technology PDA produces material that supports the work of the e-business standards developed in other PDAs. It shall concentrate specifically on the process of harmonization in order to ensure the continued interoperability—based on the Buy-Ship-Pay model—of all UN/CEFACT standards. It also develops the technical specifications which allow for a standardized approach to all deliverables within UN/CEFACT. It will update existing e-business standards in order to ensure their continued relevance. During this period, the proposed work items will include the following:

<i>Proposed work item</i>

- a. Develop and maintain the United Nations Core Component Library (UN/CCL), including twice annual releases.
- b. Develop and maintain the Electronic Data Interchange for Administration, Commerce and Transport (UN/EDIFACT) standard, including twice annual releases.

Proposed work item

- c. Develop and maintain the United Nations Location Codes for Trade and Transport Locations (UN/LOCODE), including twice annual releases and the development of a new electronic UN/LOCODE maintenance and access system.
- d. Develop a project to separate the code lists from the syntax to make their reuse easier.
- e. Develop a project for a technical specification for a standardized implementation of application programming interfaces (API) based on the UN/CEFACT reference data models (RDM).
- f. Revise Recommendation No. 7: Numerical Representation of Dates, Time and Periods of Time.

F. Focus Area VI: Support

6. The ECE secretariat will ensure the smooth functioning of UN/CEFACT, will help disseminate its deliverables and will engage other actors in order to ensure a harmonized approach and to avoid duplication of work. During this period, the proposed work items will include the following:

Proposed work item

- a. Organize and service periodic Bureau meetings and of yearly Plenary.
- b. Organize at least one forum per year, as well as meetings, seminars/webinars and capacity-building workshops to advance on ongoing projects, launch new ones, to inform stakeholders about UN/CEFACT deliverables, to encourage their participation in UN/CEFACT work and to assist governments and other stakeholders in the use of UN/CEFACT deliverables and best practices.
- c. Prepare implementation guidelines for UN/CEFACT deliverables at the policy, operational and technical levels.
- d. Engage in targeted outreach to other relevant organizations on specific issues to encourage wider contribution to the work and reuse of UN/CEFACT standards.
- e. Engage with national trade facilitation bodies to help disseminate the work of UN/CEFACT and garner interest from relevant experts.
- f. Update and expand the United Nations Trade Facilitation Implementation Guide (TFIG).
- g. Conduct the 5th (2023) global survey on digital and sustainable trade facilitation in the ECE region.
- h. Cooperate with ITC and UNCTAD on trade facilitation and e-commerce (particularly under the eTrade for All initiative), preparing reports and guidelines on post-pandemic economic recovery and supporting member States with any related issues.
- i. Encourage all partner organizations to contribute to the relevant areas of the United Nations Core Component Library (UN/CCL) development, including reference data models and e-business standards, and support all partners in the trade facilitation and electronic business aspects of their work, including to achieve relevant goals in the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Proposed work item

- j.** Work together with all the United Nations systems and other relevant organizations to provide advisory services to developing and transition-economy countries to support them in the adoption of UN/CEFACT recommendations, standards and best practices.
 - k.** Work together with other organizations, specifically through the memorandum of understanding on e-business between the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC), the International Organization for Standardization (ISO), the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) and ECE. The aim of this cooperation is to ensure a harmonized and interoperable approach to e-business standards.
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Annex II

Potential list of publications for 2023-2024

A Recurrent publication

<i>Item no.</i>	<i>Title</i>	<i>Mandate</i>	<i>Print and/or electronic</i>	<i>Size</i>	<i>No. of pages</i>	<i>Original language(s)</i>	<i>Translated language(s)</i>	<i>No. of copies and language(s)</i>
1	Summary of ECE Trade Facilitation Best Practice and Recommendations	ECE/TRADE/C/CEFACT/2017/15/ para. 10	Electronic	A4	20	E	R	

B. Non-recurrent publications

<i>Item no.</i>	<i>Title</i>	<i>Mandate</i>	<i>Print and/or electronic</i>	<i>Size</i>	<i>No. of pages</i>	<i>Original language(s)</i>	<i>Translated language(s)</i>	<i>No. of copies and language(s)</i>
1	Trade facilitation recommendation on private sector involvement in trade facilitation reform	ECE/TRADE/C/CEFACT/2017/1 5/ para. 10	Print and electronic	A4	25	E, F, R		E-200 F-50 R-50
2	Trade facilitation recommendation on single window assessment	ECE/TRADE/C/CEFACT/2017/1 5/ para. 10	Print and electronic	A4	25	E, F, R		E-200 F-50 R-50
3	Trade facilitation recommendation on single windows and risk management	ECE/TRADE/C/CEFACT/2017/1 5/ para. 10	Print and electronic	A4	25	E, F, R		E-200 F-50 R-50
4	Trade facilitation recommendation – revision of Recommendation 8	ECE/TRADE/C/CEFACT/2017/1 5/ para. 10	Print and electronic	A4	25	E, F, R		E-200 F-50 R-50
5	Trade facilitation recommendation – revision of Recommendation 16	ECE/TRADE/C/CEFACT/2017/1 5/ para. 10	Print and electronic	A4	25	E, F, R		E-200 F-50 R-50
6	Trade facilitation recommendation –	ECE/TRADE/C/CEFACT/2017/1 5/ para. 10	Print and electronic	A4	25	E, F, R		E-200 F-50

<i>Item no.</i>	<i>Title</i>	<i>Mandate</i>	<i>Print and/or electronic</i>	<i>Size</i>	<i>No. of pages</i>	<i>Original language(s)</i>	<i>Translated language(s)</i>	<i>No. of copies and language(s)</i>
	revision of Recommendation 18							R-50
7	Trade facilitation paper on the internet of things	ECE/TRADE/C/CEFACT/2017/15/ para. 10	Electronic	A4	25	E	F, R	
8	Trade facilitation paper on blockchains technology	ECE/TRADE/C/CEFACT/2017/15/ para. 10	Electronic	A4	25	E	F, R	
9	Trade facilitation paper on digital identity	ECE/TRADE/C/CEFACT/2017/15/ para. 10	Electronic	A4	25	E	F, R	
10	Trade facilitation paper on artificial intelligence	ECE/TRADE/C/CEFACT/2017/15/ para. 10	Electronic	A4	40	E	F, R	
11	Trade facilitation paper on sustainable tourism	ECE/TRADE/C/CEFACT/2017/15/ para. 10	Electronic	A4	25	E	F, R	
12	Trade facilitation paper on transfer of electronic records	ECE/TRADE/C/CEFACT/2017/15/ para. 10	Electronic	A4	25	E	F, R	
13	Trade facilitation paper on supply chain cross-industry track and trace	ECE/TRADE/C/CEFACT/2017/15/ para. 10	Print and electronic	A4	25	E	F, R	E-200 F-50 R-50
14	Trade facilitation paper on new technologies	ECE/TRADE/C/CEFACT/2017/15/ para. 10	Electronic	A4	25	E	F, R	
15	Trade facilitation paper on traceability	ECE/TRADE/C/CEFACT/2017/15/ para. 10	Print and electronic	A4	25	E	F, R	E-200 F-50 R-50
16	Trade facilitation paper on circular value chains	ECE/TRADE/C/CEFACT/2017/15/ para. 10	Print and electronic	A4	25	E	F, R	E-200 F-50 R-50
17	Trade facilitation paper on digital corridors	ECE/TRADE/C/CEFACT/2017/15/ para. 10	Electronic	A4	25	E	F, R	
18	Publications of guidelines on trade standards in the following areas:	ECE/TRADE/C/CEFACT/2017/15/ para. 10	Electronic	A4	25	E	F, R	

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	traceability and risk management; e-business and sustainable development							
19	Verifiable credentials for cross-border trade	ECE/TRADE/C/CEFACT/2017/1 5/ para. 10	Print and electronic		A4 25		E	F, R
20	Digital product conformity certificate exchange	ECE/TRADE/C/CEFACT/2017/1 5/ para. 10	Print and electronic		A4 25		E	F, R