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Economic Commission for Europe

Steering Committee on Trade Capacity and Standards

Working Party on Regulatory Cooperation and Standardization Policies (WP.6)

Thirty-third session

Geneva, 23–24 November 2023

Item 1 of the provisional agenda

Adoption of the agenda

Provisional agenda for the thirty-third session*

To be held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva starting at 10:00 on Thursday 23 November 2023, tentatively in Room V as an in-person meeting. Best efforts will be made to allow distant participation connection to listen in only to the floor (no active participation remotely).

I. Provisional agenda

1. Adoption of the agenda
2. Election of officers
3. Matters arising
4. Advisory Group on Market Surveillance
5. Group of Experts on Risk Management in Regulatory Systems
6. Ad Hoc Team of Specialists on Standardization and Regulatory Techniques
7. Team of Specialists on Gender-Responsive Standards
8. Programme of work
 - (a) Report on capacity-building
 - (b) Working Party terms of reference
 - (c) Programme of work for 2024

* The session will be held in person on 23 and 24 November 2023 from 10:00 to 13:00 and from 15:00 to 18:00. Simultaneous interpretation between English, French and Russian will be provided in the room. Delegates are requested to register online at <https://indico.un.org/e/wp6-33rd-2023>. The session documents will be made available progressively at <https://unece.org/trade/wp6/wp6-33rd-2023>. Please note that as part of its move to paperless meetings, the secretariat does not distribute paper copies of meeting documents. Additional information for delegates, including a map of the Palais des Nations meeting rooms, is available at: <http://www.unece.org/meetings/practical.html>. Best efforts will be made in order to provide distant participant connection to follow the discussion from the floor without interpretation, but this will not allow for active participation.

(d) Activities of other United Nations Economic Commission for Europe bodies and other international organizations of interest

9. Panel discussion: How to address continuous compliance in products with embedded digital technologies

10. Other business

11. Adoption of the report

II. Annotations

1. Adoption of the agenda

<i>Title of document</i>	<i>Document symbol</i>	<i>For information/decision</i>
<i>Provisional agenda for the thirty-third session</i>	ECE/CTCS/WP.6/2023/1	For decision

The *Provisional agenda for the thirty-third session* of the Working Party was approved by the Bureau. It is based on the decisions adopted at the previous sessions. It is presented to the Working Party for an approval decision.

The WP.6 chair, with the assistance of the secretariat, will present the provisional agenda for adoption and will inform the Working Party of any proposed changes.

2. Election of officers

Member State delegations who are physically present in the meeting will elect the chair and two vice-chairs for a two-year period, 2023 to 2025. Candidatures will be introduced formally by their respective delegations at the opening of this agenda item. Election procedures will be communicated on the event web page prior to the meeting.

3. Matters arising

<i>Title of document</i>	<i>Document symbol</i>	<i>For information/decision</i>
<i>Report from the Bureau of Working Party 6</i>	ECE/CTCS/WP.6/2023/INF.1	For information

The secretariat will report on recent developments in the Steering Committee on Trade Capacity and Standards and the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) and other activities within ECE of relevance to the Working Party.

In 2022, the United Nations Office of Internal Oversight Services (OIOS) evaluated the relevance, effectiveness, coherence, sustainability, and integration of cross-cutting issues in Subprogramme 4: Economic Cooperation and Integration, and Subprogramme 6: Trade of the United Nations Economic Cooperation for Europe for the period 2018–2021. The evaluation was part of the UN secretariat's regular program periodically evaluating selected aspects of its operations. Delegates will be briefed on the key findings and recommendations of the evaluation as they pertain to Subprogramme 6, the associated management response, and plans on how to implement relevant recommendations.

The chair of WP.6 will present a report (ECE/CTCS/WP.6/2023/INF.1) on activities during this past period as well as strategic directions for the months to come. This document is presented to the Working Party for information.

Working Party members will have an opportunity to ask questions and provide comments.

4. Advisory Group on Market Surveillance

<i>Title of document</i>	<i>Document symbol</i>	<i>For information/decision</i>
<i>Report of activities under the Advisory Group on Market Surveillance 2022–2023</i>	ECE/CTCS/WP.6/2023/3	For decision
<i>Report of the 21 February 2023 meeting on “Market surveillance role in combatting counterfeit products”</i>	ECE/CTCS/WP.6/2023/4	For information
<i>Revision of Recommendation K on Metrological Assurance of Conformity Assessment and Testing, 3rd revised version</i>	ECE/CTCS/WP.6/2023/5	For decision

The Advisory Group on Market Surveillance (MARS) was established in 2003 to be a forum for discussion about market surveillance, to increase transparency and visibility of the chain of control and to promote coherent best practices. The *Report* of this group (ECE/CTCS/WP.6/2023/3) is presented to the Working Party for an endorsement decision.

The *Recommendation M on the Use of Market Surveillance as a Complementary Means to Protect Consumers and Users against Counterfeit Goods* was approved and published in 2007. It makes the case to involve market surveillance agencies in the control of intellectual property rights. On 21 February 2023, MARS organized a conference to take stock of the implementation of *Recommendation M* and assess whether a revision of this recommendation could be useful. This was announced at the thirty-second session of WP.6 (see ECE/CTCS/WP.6/2022/2, paragraph 16). The *Report* of this meeting (ECE/CTCS/WP.6/2023/4) is presented to the Working Party for information.

Metrology is a cornerstone to international standardization and the quality infrastructure in general, which contributes to the facilitation of trade. *Recommendation K* was first approved and published in 1988 and then revised in 2008. The current, third revised version aligns to current best practices and updated international standards on the topic. The revised *Recommendation K* (ECE/CTCS/WP.6/2023/5) is presented to the Working Party for an endorsement decision.

Working Party members will have an opportunity to ask questions and provide comments.

5. Group of Experts on Risk Management in Regulatory Systems

<i>Title of document</i>	<i>Document symbol</i>	<i>For information/decision</i>
<i>Report of activities under the Group of Experts on Risk Management in Regulatory Systems 2022–2023</i>	ECE/CTCS/WP.6/2023/6	For decision

The Group of Experts on Risk Management in Regulatory Systems (GRM) was established in 2011 as a high-level and international partnership in the field of risk management. The *Report* of this group is presented to the Working Party for an endorsement decision.

Working Party members will have an opportunity to ask questions and provide comments.

6. Ad Hoc Team of Specialists on Standardization and Regulatory Techniques

<i>Title of document</i>	<i>Document symbol</i>	<i>For information/decision</i>
<i>Report on activities under the Ad Hoc Team of Specialists on Standardization and Regulatory Techniques 2022–2023</i>	ECE/CTCS/WP.6/2023/7	For decision
<i>Report of activities of the Education on Standardization Initiative 2022–2023</i>	ECE/CTCS/WP.6/2023/8	For decision

The Ad Hoc Team of Specialists on Standardization and Regulatory Techniques (START) was established in 1999 with an aim to promote international regulatory cooperation on product technical regulations. These regulations define safety and health requirements which may be unique to the needs and circumstances of each country which can result in higher compliance costs when approaching multiple markets. Several initiatives have been launched to support the ECE *Recommendation L on an International Model for Transnational Regulatory Cooperation Based on Good Regulatory Practice* with common regulatory arrangements (CRA) for telecom, cybersecurity, earth-moving machinery, equipment for explosive environment and pipeline safety. The *Report* of this group is presented to the Working Party for an endorsement decision.

Education on standardization has been a focus of WP.6 and its predecessor since the publication of the ECE *Recommendation I on Education on Standards-Related Issues* in 1970 and reenforced with an updated recommendation in 2012 and the subsequent development of a 16-module model programme on standardization. The *Report* of this initiative is presented to the Working Party for an endorsement decision.

Working Party members will have an opportunity to ask questions and provide comments.

7. Team of Specialists on Gender-Responsive Standards

<i>Title of document</i>	<i>Document symbol</i>	<i>For information/decision</i>
<i>Report of activities of the Team of Specialists on Gender-Responsive Standards</i>	ECE/CTCS/WP.6/2023/10	For decision
<i>White paper on gender and salutation code lists</i>	ECE/CTCS/WP.6/2023/11	For decision
<i>Why Gender-Responsive Standards are Better for Everyone</i>	ECE/TRADE/474	For information

The Gender-Responsive Standardization Initiative was launched in 2016 and was approved as a Team of Specialists on Gender-Responsive Standards (ToS-GRS) in September 2022. The ToS-GRS aims to help support the implementation of the sustainable development goal “Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls” (SDG 5) through gender-responsive standards. The *Report* of this group is presented to the Working Party for an endorsement decision.

The project on gender and salutation code lists was presented to the twenty-second annual session (see ECE/CTCS/WP.6/2022/2, paragraph 66). The White Paper (ECE/CTCS/WP.6/2023/11) is intended to be the base for code lists which could eventually

be taken up by UN/EDIFACT, enabling all future messages referencing these code lists to be gender inclusive. The code lists are created in order to be able to evolve in the future. This white paper is presented to the Working Party for an endorsement decision.

Building awareness and disseminating the work on gender-responsive standards is a core goal of the ToS-GRS. The short publication *Why Gender-Responsive Standards are Better for Everyone* (ECE/TRADE/474) was developed in close collaboration with the members of the ToS-GRS and targets a broad audience which doesn't necessarily have much information on the topic yet. This publication is presented to the Working Party for information.

Working Party members will have an opportunity to ask questions and provide comments.

8. Programme of work

(a) Report on capacity-building

<i>Title of document</i>	<i>Document symbol</i>	<i>For information/decision</i>
<i>Highlights of the Evaluation of the Standards for Sustainable Development Goals project, phase II</i>	ECE/CTCS/WP.6/2023/INF.3	For information

The phase II of the project on Standards for Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) ended in September 2022. This document provides a summary of the key achievements and a summary of the evaluation recommendations. This document is presented to the Working Party for information.

Working Party members will have an opportunity to clarify questions and provide comments.

(b) Working Party terms of reference

<i>Title of document</i>	<i>Document symbol</i>	<i>For information/decision</i>
<i>Summary of working practices for the Working Party on Regulatory Cooperation and Standardization Policies</i>	ECE/CTCS/WP.6/2023/12	For decision
<i>Summary of practices for representation of and the use of titles within the Working Party on Regulatory Cooperation and Standardization Policies</i>	ECE/CTCS/WP.6/2023/13	For decision

The Bureau of WP.6 has made efforts to streamline and clarify internal procedures. With the help of the secretariat, and in consultation with all of the subgroup leadership, these informal summaries provide clarity and transparency on how WP.6 and its subgroups operate. These summaries have both taken into account advice from the United Nations Office of Legal Affairs. These documents are presented to the Working Party for an endorsement decision.

Working Party members will have an opportunity to clarify questions and provide comments.

(c) Programme of work for 2024

<i>Title of document</i>	<i>Document symbol</i>	<i>For information/decision</i>
<i>Programme of work of the Working Party on Regulatory</i>	ECE/CTCS/WP.6/2023/14	For decision

*Cooperation and Standardization
Policies for 2024*

The Working Party will have before it a draft programme of work for 2024. This document has been reviewed and endorsed by the Bureau of WP.6 as well as the subgroup leadership. The document is presented to the Working Party for an approval decision.

Working Party members will have an opportunity to clarify questions and provide comments.

(d) Activities of other United Nations Economic Commission for Europe bodies and other international organizations of interest to WP.6

Delegates will be briefed about activities of other international organizations on matters of potential interest to WP.6. Representatives from other international organizations will be invited to highlight areas for potential cooperation with WP.6 as well as current and future activities of relevance. This will include topics of international regulatory cooperation, conformity assessment, accreditation, metrology and others.

Working Party members will have an opportunity to clarify questions and provide comments.

9. Panel discussion: How to address continuous compliance – Conformity assessment, legal metrology and market surveillance tools for the changing dynamic of digital goods

<i>Title of document</i>	<i>Document symbol</i>	<i>For information/decision</i>
<i>White paper on the regulatory compliance of products with embedded artificial intelligence or other digital technologies</i>	ECE/CTCS/WP.6/2023/9	For decision
<i>Report on the possible outputs that can be developed as part of the project on regulatory compliance of products with embedded artificial intelligence or other digital technologies</i>	ECE/CTCS/WP.6/2023/INF.2	For information

This agenda item will respond to the decision taken at the 2023 Commission session on “digital and green transformations for sustainable development in the ECE region” (E/ECE/1504).

The panel discussion will explore the challenges of continued compliance of products with embedded digital technologies such as artificial intelligence throughout their life cycles. It will demonstrate the important role that market surveillance, conformity assessment and legal metrology can play in providing traceability, auditability and verification. The panel will delve into the technical aspects of quality infrastructure and targets regulators, private sector companies and the quality infrastructure community in general.

A project on the regulatory compliance of products with embedded artificial intelligence or other digital technologies was launched in early 2023 and has resulted in the development of a white paper (ECE/CTCS/WP.6/2023/9). This work has been completed as an all-of-WP.6 project involving experts from all subgroups of WP.6 and includes a series of recommendations that governments should consider concerning the regulatory compliance of products with artificial intelligence or other digital technologies. This white paper is presented to the Working Party for an endorsement decision.

The project team plans to continue its development with guidelines to assist governments in their application of this guidance. The project team also proposes to develop a high-level policy document which may be a common regulatory arrangement (based on

Recommendation L), a recommendation, a declaration or a convention. The secretariat prepared a background document (ECE/CTCS/WP.6/2023/INF.2) that outlines the details of each of these potential outputs. Working Party members will be asked to provide input on the possible high-level policy document follow-up.

Working Party members and attendees of the panel will have an opportunity to clarify questions and provide comments.

10. Other business

The Working Party will discuss any other business raised, including the tentative dates of its thirty-fourth session in 2024 (26 to 28 August 2024).

11. Adoption of the report

<i>Title of document</i>	<i>Document symbol</i>	<i>For information/decision</i>
<i>Report on the thirty-third session of the Working Party on Regulatory Cooperation and Standardization Policies</i>	ECE/CTCS/WP.6/2023/2	For decision

The Working Party will be invited to adopt the decisions and draft report of its thirty-third session.

III. Tentative timetable

<i>Time</i>	<i>Agenda item</i>	<i>Introduced by</i>
Thursday, 23 November		
10:00–10:15	Opening	WP.6 Chair and secretariat
10:15–10:25	Item 1: Adoption of the agenda	WP.6 Chair
10:25–11:00	Item 2: Election of officers	Secretariat
11:00–11:20	Item 3: Matters arising	WP.6 Chair and secretariat
11:20–11:40	Item 4: Advisory Group on Market Surveillance	MARS Chair
11:40–12:00	Item 5: Group of Experts on Risk Management in Regulatory Systems	GRM Chair
12:00–12:20	Item 6: Ad Hoc Team of Specialists on Standardization and Regulatory Techniques	START Chair
12:20–13:00	Item 7: Team of Specialists on Gender-Responsive Standards	ToS-GRS Chair
13:00–15:00	Break	
15:00–15:15	Item 8 (a): Report on capacity building	Secretariat
15:15–15:30	Item 8 (b): Working Party terms of reference	WP.6 Chair
15:30–16:00	Item 8 (c): Programme of work for 2024	WP.6 Chair
16:00–18:00	Item 9: Panel discussion: how to ensure continuous compliance in products with embedded digital technologies (part 1)	WP.6 Chair and invited speakers
Friday, 24 November		
10:00–13:00	Item 9: Panel discussion: how to ensure continuous compliance in products with embedded digital technologies (part 2)	WP.6 Chair and invited speakers
13:00–15:00	Break	
15:00–16:00	Item 8 (d): Activities of other United Nations Economic Commission for Europe bodies and other international organizations of interest to WP.6	Secretariat and invited speakers
16:00–16:15	Item 10: Other business	WP.6 Chair
16:15–18:00	Item 11: Adoption of the report	Secretariat