

3rd Session of the Team of Specialists on Environmental, Social and Governance Traceability of Sustainable Value Chains in the Circular Economy

23 November 2023 - 10:00-16:00 CET

H-207-208-209, Palais des Nations, Geneva

The aim of the Team is to promote, facilitate and support policy and regulatory compliance, through ESG traceability approaches in critical sectors (including garment and footwear, agrifood, critical raw materials, waste management) for the digital and the green transformations and the circular economy transition.

The 3rd session will feature a dialogue on the importance to foster international collaboration along global value chains, build synergies and alignment on the instruments available to support compliance in the ECE region and beyond, in a fast-changing policy and regulatory landscape for sustainability.

Guiding questions:

1. Where is global collaboration needed to achieve transparency and traceability at greatly increased scale and which opportunities exist to create it?
2. What will be the role of the Team of Specialists to support ESG traceability in supporting this collaboration and what are the priority focus areas for the Team?

▪ Item 1: Opening & Keynotes: Drivers and challenges for scaling up of traceability (10:00-10:30)

In the European Union, about 16 legislative acts under development aim to advance the sustainability performance of companies operating in critical sectors for the circular economy, such as agri-food, IT equipment, construction, textile and clothing.

The opening will discuss the main implications of new sustainability legislation, the global trade implications and challenges for compliance and enforcement in the ECE region and beyond, with ESG traceability as an enabler of a sustainable economy.

Including: **Adoption of the agenda**

▪ Item 2: Needs for the future of ESG traceability (10:30-12:00)

This session will be based around inputs from the end-users and solution providers for ESG traceability and transparency, looking into the future and assessing challenges based on current experience.

a) Enabling transparency and traceability at scale in global markets

Exploring the performance features from systems and standards needed to enable transparency and traceability at scale in global markets in order to meet policy needs with brands and retailers and technology solution providers.

b) Landscaping the initiatives in connection with ESG traceability

Collecting information on the initiatives (in place or being developed, outside, and inside) which are currently in place or being developed to understand the level of alignment and build synergies between initiatives to support needs that are common to the stakeholders.

c) The role of multilateral co-operation and standard setting

Discussing the additional needs for multilateral cooperation and standard setting to foster ESG traceability.

▪ ***Lunch break (12:00-14:00)***

▪ **Item 3: Defining the challenges of ESG traceability (14:00-15:15)**

Deep diving into the challenges, which will be defined by the participants of the Team by stakeholder's type during parallel break-out group discussions.

a) Needs and challenges: the business's standpoint

Discussing the needs and challenges from the perspective of producers, manufacturers, retailers and brands in critical sectors for ESG traceability.

b) Needs and challenges: the policy and advocacy's standpoint

Identifying the needs and challenges from the perspective of policymakers, auditors, verifiers and civil society organisations

c) Needs and challenges: the technology's standpoint

Analysing the needs and challenges from the perspective of technology solution and platforms providers.

d) Knowledge sharing about the needs and the challenges

The Team will collect the outcomes of the break-out group discussions and discuss them with all participants.

▪ **Item 4: Discussion of the Programme of Work (15:15-15:45)**

The Team will use the insights of the discussions to shape the implementation of the Programme of Work in 2024, including the collaboration around the proposed Recommendation 49.

▪ **Item 5: Adoption of decisions of the Third Session (15:45-16:00)**

Delegates and participants adopt the decisions to be included in the report of the session.