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Economic Commission for Europe

Executive Committee

Centre for Trade Facilitation and Electronic Business

Twenty-ninth session

Geneva, 9 and 10 November 2023

Item 1 of the provisional agenda

Adoption of the agenda

Revised Annotated Provisional Agenda for the Twenty-Ninth Session^{1, 2}

To be held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva
Starting at 10:00 a.m. on Thursday 9 November 2023, Salle VII

I. Provisional agenda

1. Adoption of the agenda.
2. Elections.
3. Matters arising since the twenty-eighth session.
4. Bureau overview of developments.
5. Reports of rapporteurs.
6. Recommendations, standards, and deliverables supporting implementation:
 - (a) Recommendations;
 - (b) Standards;
 - (c) Deliverables in support of implementation:
 - (i) Reports and executive guides;

¹ Please note that as part of its move to paperless meetings, the secretariat does not distribute paper copies of meeting documents. Before the session, documents may be downloaded from the ECE website <https://unece.org/info/events/event/377991>.

² All delegates are requested to complete the INDICO online registration form available here: [UN/CEFACT Plenary \(9-10 November 2023\): Overview : Indico](#). Upon arrival at the Palais des Nations, delegates should obtain an identification badge at the UNOG Security and Safety Section, located at the Pregny Gate for Permanent badge holders and at the Peace Gate for Delegate/Other badge. In case of difficulty, please contact the secretariat by telephone (ext. 73254). For a map of the Palais des Nations and other useful information, see the website: <https://www.ungeneva.org/en/about/practical-information>.

- (ii) Deliverables in support of the outcomes of the seventieth Commission session;
 - (iii) Deliverables in support of the United Nations Regional Commissions joint approach to trade facilitation.
7. Evaluation of Economic Commission for Europe Subprogramme 4 and subprogramme 6 by the United Nations Office of Internal Oversight Services.
 8. Activities of other Economic Commission for Europe bodies and international organizations of interest to the United Nations Centre for Trade Facilitation and Electronic Business.
 9. Advisory Group on the United Nations Code for Trade and Transport Locations.
 10. Team of Specialists on Environmental, Social and Governance Traceability of Sustainable Value Chains in the Circular Economy.
 11. Future challenges in trade facilitation and electronic business and prospective directions.
 12. Other business.
 13. Adoption of decisions and draft report of the twenty-ninth session.

II. Annotations

Opening

The provisional agenda and timetable for the twenty-ninth session of the United Nations Centre for Trade Facilitation and Electronic Business (UN/CEFACT) has been drawn up by the Bureau in consultation with the secretariat. It is based on the decisions adopted at the twenty-eighth session. There will be simultaneous interpretation into English, French and Russian.

1. Adoption of the agenda

<i>Document title</i>	<i>Document symbol</i>	
<i>Revised Annotated Provisional Agenda for the Twenty-Ninth Session</i>	ECE/TRADE/C/CEFACT/2023/1/Rev.1	For decision

The UN/CEFACT Chair, with the assistance of the secretariat, will present the annotated provisional agenda for adoption and will inform the Plenary of any proposed changes.

2. Elections

<i>Document title</i>	<i>Document symbol</i>	
<i>Consolidated UN/CEFACT Mandate and Terms of Reference</i>	ECE/TRADE/C/CEFACT/2017/15	For information

Delegations who are physically present will elect at least four vice-chairs for the UN/CEFACT Bureau for the period 2023-2026 and the regional rapporteurs for the period 2023-2025.

3. Matters arising since the twenty-eighth session

<i>Document title</i>	<i>Document symbol</i>	
<i>Matters Arising Since the Twenty-Eighth Session</i>	ECE/TRADE/C/CEFACT/2023/3	For information
<i>Report from ECE Regional Adviser</i>	ECE/TRADE/C/CEFACT/2023/INF.1	For information

The ECE secretariat will report on matters arising since the twenty-eighth session and activities of the regional adviser.

Delegations will have an opportunity to clarify questions and provide comments on these documents.

4. Bureau overview of developments

<i>Document title</i>	<i>Document symbol</i>	
<i>UN/CEFACT Bureau Report of Developments</i>	ECE/TRADE/C/CEFACT/2023/4	For information

The UN/CEFACT Chair and members of the Bureau will provide an overview of developments since the twenty-eighth session including Bureau decisions, summary of promotional activities and project activities. This will set the stage for the subsequent agenda items.

Delegations will have an opportunity to clarify questions and provide comments on this document.

5. Reports of rapporteurs

<i>Document title</i>	<i>Document symbol</i>	
<i>Report of the UN/CEFACT Rapporteur for Africa</i>	ECE/TRADE/C/CEFACT/2023/5	For noting
<i>Report of the UN/CEFACT Rapporteur for Asia and the Pacific</i>	ECE/TRADE/C/CEFACT/2023/6	For noting

The regional rapporteurs will report on activities related to UN/CEFACT in their regions.

Delegations will have an opportunity to clarify questions and provide comments on these documents.

6. Recommendations, standards, and deliverables supporting implementation

(a) Recommendations

<i>Document title</i>	<i>Document symbol</i>	
<i>Summary of ECE Trade Facilitation Recommendations</i>	ECE/TRADE/475	For noting

<i>Recommendation No.48: Private Sector Participation in National Trade Facilitation Bodies</i>	ECE/TRADE/C/CEFACT/2023/7	For decision
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The Plenary will have before it the summary of ECE trade facilitation recommendations for noting and Recommendation No.48: Private Sector Participation in National Trade Facilitation Bodies, for approval.

Delegations will have an opportunity to clarify questions and provide comments on these documents.

(b) Standards

The Plenary will have before it the following standards for noting, and delegations will have an opportunity to discuss these:

UN/CEFACT Core Component Library (versions 22B and 23A)
(http://www.unece.org/cefact/codesfortrade/uncl/ccl_index.html)

UN/CEFACT XML Schema Library (versions 22B and 23A)
(http://www.unece.org/cefact/xml_schemas/index)

UN/EDIFACT Directory (versions D.22B and D.23A)
(<https://unece.org/unefact/unedifact/2021-2022>)

UN/LOCODE Directory (versions 2022-1 and 2022-2)
(<http://www.unece.org/cefact/locode/welcome.html>)

UN/CEFACT JSON-LD Web Vocabulary
(<https://vocabulary.uncefact.org>)

All UN/CEFACT e-business standards
(<https://unece.org/trade/uncefact/mainstandards>)

All UN/CEFACT e-business context files, schemas, and OpenAPI specifications on the Open-Source GitHub Environment
(<https://github.com/uncefact>)

UN/CEFACT Reference Data Models (RDMs)
(<https://unece.org/trade/uncefact/rdm>)

(c) Deliverables in support of implementation

(i) Reports and executive guides

<i>Document title</i>	<i>Document symbol</i>	
<i>Report of the Single Window Domain – Single Window Assessment Methodology</i>	ECE/TRADE/C/CEFACT/2023/8	For noting
<i>Report of the Travel and Tourism Domain – Technical Application of Business Standards for Sustainable Tourism</i>	ECE/TRADE/C/CEFACT/2023/9	For noting
<i>Report of the Trade Procedures Facilitation and Agri-food Domains –</i>	ECE/TRADE/C/CEFACT/2023/10	For noting

<i>Digital Product Conformity Certificate Exchange</i>		
<i>Report of the eDATA Domain – Transfer of Model Law on Electronic Transferable Records - Compliant Titles</i>	ECE/TRADE/C/CEFACT/2023/11	For noting
<i>Report of the eDATA Domain – Artificial Intelligence in Trade Facilitation</i>	ECE/TRADE/C/CEFACT/2023/12	For noting
<i>United Nations Trade Facilitation Implementation Guide</i>	ECE/TRADE/C/CEFACT/2023/13	For information
<i>Executive Guide on United Nations Code for Trade and Transport Locations Maintenance</i>	ECE/TRADE/C/CEFACT/2023/14	For noting
<i>Executive Guide on UN/CEFACT JSON-LD Web Vocabulary</i>	ECE/TRADE/C/CEFACT/2023/15	For noting
<i>Revision of the Executive Guide on Digital Product Conformity Certificate Exchange</i>	ECE/TRADE/C/CEFACT/2023/16/Rev.1	For noting

The above deliverables are presented to the Plenary for noting and for information and delegations will have an opportunity to clarify questions and provide comments on these documents.

(ii) Deliverables in support of the outcomes of the seventieth Commission session

<i>Document title</i>	<i>Document symbol</i>	
<i>Economic Commission for Europe Biennial report</i>	E/2023/37 E/ECE/1503	For information
<i>Toolbox of UN/CEFACT Instruments Related to the 2023 Commission Session</i>	ECE/TRADE/C/CEFACT/2023/INF.2	For information
<i>Enhancing Traceability of Products along International Value Chains for the Circular Economy and Sustainable Use of Resources Policy Paper</i>	ECE/TRADE/C/CEFACT/2023/17	For information
<i>Economic Commission for Europe and Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean Study: Improving the Sustainability of Used Clothing: Global, European and Chilean Perspectives: Executive Summary</i>	ECE/TRADE/C/CEFACT/2023/18	For information
<i>Updated Report on the Blockchain Pilots Project for the Garment and Footwear Sector: Proof of Concept Report: Harnessing the potential of blockchain technology for due diligence and</i>	ECE/TRADE/C/CEFACT/2023/19	For information

sustainability in textile and leather value chains

UN/CEFACT Solutions in Support of the EU Digital Product Passports Note	ECE/TRADE/C/CEFACT/2023/20	For information
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The sixty-ninth and seventieth Commission sessions focused on the topics of “Promoting circular economy and sustainable use of resources in the ECE region” and “Digital and green transformations for sustainable development in the ECE region” respectively. Member States invited subsidiary bodies to replicate and scale up existing approaches that facilitate broad and effective use of the appropriate instruments, including through capacity-building and knowledge-sharing activities.

The above deliverables are developed in response to the outcomes of recent Commission sessions and presented to the Plenary for information.

Delegations will have an opportunity to clarify questions and provide comments on these documents.

(iii) Deliverables in support of the United Nations Regional Commissions joint approach to trade facilitation

<i>Document title</i>	<i>Document symbol</i>	
<i>United Nations Global Survey on Digital and Sustainable Trade Facilitation 2023: Key Findings for the ECE Region</i>	ECE/TRADE/C/CEFACT/2023/21	For information

Following the launch of fifth edition of the United Nations Global Digital and Sustainable Trade Facilitation Survey in July 2023, delegations will be informed of the Survey findings for the ECE region.

The above deliverable is presented to the Plenary for information.

Delegations will have an opportunity to clarify questions and provide comments on this document.

7. Evaluation of the Economic Commission for Europe Subprogramme 4 and subprogramme 6 by the United Nations Office of Internal Oversight Services

<i>Document title</i>	<i>Document symbol</i>	
<i>Evaluation of ECE Subprogramme 4, Economic Cooperation and Integration, and Subprogramme 6, Trade</i>	Informal Document No. 2023/21	For information

In 2022, the United Nations Office of Internal Oversight Services 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 2018-2021.³ The evaluation was part of the United Nations Secretariat’s regular program, which periodically evaluates

³ Available at https://unece.org/sites/default/files/2023-04/Item%205_OIOS%20evaluation%20of%20SP4%20and%206_2023_21_0.pdf. (Accessed 13 July 2023.)

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 the relevant recommendations.

Delegations will have an opportunity to clarify questions and provide comments on the topics raised as well as offer suggestions on implementing relevant recommendations.

8. Activities of other Economic Commission for Europe bodies and international organizations of interest to the United Nations Centre for Trade Facilitation and Electronic Business

Delegates will be briefed on the activities of other ECE bodies and international organizations on matters of potential interest to UN/CEFACT. Representatives from other United Nations organizations and other international organizations will be invited to highlight areas for potential cooperation with UN/CEFACT as well as current and future activities of relevance.

Delegations will have an opportunity to clarify questions and provide comments on the topics raised.

9. Advisory Group on the United Nations Code for Trade and Transport Locations

<i>Document title</i>	<i>Document symbol</i>	
<i>Report of the Advisory Group on the United Nations Code for Trade and Transport Locations at its 2023 meeting</i>	ECE/TRADE/C/CEFACT/2023/22	For endorsement
<i>Advisory Group on the United Nations Code for Trade and Transport Locations Programme of Work 2024-2025</i>	ECE/TRADE/C/CEFACT/2023/23	For decision

At the twenty-eighth session, the Plenary endorsed the Report of the Advisory Group on the UN/LOCODE on its Activities since the Last Plenary and took note of the Advisory Group on the UN/LOCODE Programme of Work 2022-2023 as well as the Decisions on Matters Relating to the United Nations Centre for Trade Facilitation and Electronic Business (Plenary decision 22-17). The Plenary will have before it the above documents for endorsement and decision.

Delegations will have an opportunity to clarify questions and provide comments on these documents.

10. Team of Specialists on Environmental, Social and Governance Traceability of Sustainable Value Chains in the Circular Economy

<i>Document title</i>	<i>Document symbol</i>	
<i>Report of the Team of Specialists on Environmental, Social and Governance Traceability of Sustainable Value Chains in the Circular Economy on its Activities in 2022-2023</i>	ECE/TRADE/C/CEFACT/2023/24	For endorsement

<i>Decisions on Matters Relating to the United Nations Centre for Trade Facilitation and Electronic Business</i>	ECE/EX/2022/L.17	For information
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At the twenty-eighth session, the Plenary decided to extend the mandate of the Team of Specialists on Environmental, Social and Governance Traceability of Sustainable Value Chains in the Circular Economy of UN/CEFACT until 2025 (Plenary decision 22-19). The 125th meeting of the Executive Committee on 20 November 2022 approved the extension of its mandate, as contained in document ECE/TRADE/C/CEFACT/2021/23/Rev.1, for the period 2023–2025 (ECE/EX/2022/L.17).

The Plenary will have before it above documents for endorsement and information.

Delegations will have an opportunity to clarify questions and provide comments on these documents.

11. Future challenges in trade facilitation and electronic business and prospective directions

For nearly forty years, UN/CEFACT has been a key forum for standards setting in the field of trade facilitation and electronic business. The goal of this session is to discuss the future of the UN/CEFACT, building on progress in key projects and to determine priority areas for the future.

In response to the outcomes of the seventieth Commission session, the country representatives together with partner agencies, will build on existing UN/CEFACT expertise, and on prior work, with the goal of exchanging experiences, sharing success stories and reviewing progress towards the digital and green transformations. They will further discuss how digital and green transformations can be integrated into policy guidance and capacity building, and how to promote implementation of UN/CEFACT standards and supporting tools. Furthermore, country representatives will make suggestions on policy and governance directions to adapt to global and organizational challenges.

Delegations will have an opportunity to clarify questions and provide comments on the topics raised.

12. Other business

Delegations will be invited to raise other issues not previously addressed during the session.

13. Adoption of decisions and draft report of the twenty-ninth session

<i>Document title</i>	<i>Document symbol</i>	
<i>Report of the United Nations Centre for Trade Facilitation and Electronic Business on its Twenty-Ninth Session</i>	ECE/TRADE/C/CEFACT/2023/2	For decision

Delegations will be invited to adopt the decisions and the draft report.

Closing

III. Provisional timetable

<i>Time</i>	<i>Agenda item</i>	<i>Introduced by</i>
Thursday, 9 November		
10:00 – 10:20	Opening	Secretariat
10:20 – 10:30	Item 1: Adoption of the agenda	Chair*
10:30 – 11:30	Item 2: Elections	Secretariat and Bureau
11:30 – 12:00	Item 3: Matters arising since the twenty-eighth session	Secretariat
12:00 – 12:30	Item 4: Bureau overview of developments	Chair and Bureau
12:30 – 13:00	Item 5: Reports of rapporteurs	Regional Rapporteurs
13:00 – 15:00	Lunch break	
15:00 – 17:00	Item 6: Recommendations, standards, and deliverables supporting implementation	Chair and Bureau
17:00 – 18:00	Item 7: Evaluation of the Economic Commission for Europe Subprogramme 4 and Subprogramme 6 by the United Nations Office of Internal Oversight Services	Secretariat
Friday, 10 November		
10:00 – 11:30	Item 8: Activities of other Economic Commission for Europe bodies and international organizations of interest to the United Nations Centre for Trade Facilitation and Electronic Business	Secretariat
11:30 – 12:15	Item 9: Advisory Group on the United Nations Code for Trade and Transport Locations	Advisory Group Chair
12:15 – 13:00	Item 10: Team of Specialists on Environmental, Social and Governance Traceability of Sustainable Value Chains in the Circular Economy	Team of Specialists Chair
13:00 – 15:00	Lunch break	
15:00 – 16:00	Item 11: Future challenges in trade facilitation and electronic business and UN/CEFACT prospective directions	Chair and secretariat
16:00 – 16:15	Item 12: Other business	Chair
16:15 – 18:00	Item 13: Adoption of decisions and draft report of the twenty-ninth session	Secretariat

* When written on its own, “Chair” refers to the UN/CEFACT Chair.