

Report by the Chair of the Steering Committee on Trade Capacity and Standards (SCTCS)

Mr. Zdenko Lucić (Croatia)

UNECE Executive Committee, 130th session

Geneva, 9 October 2023



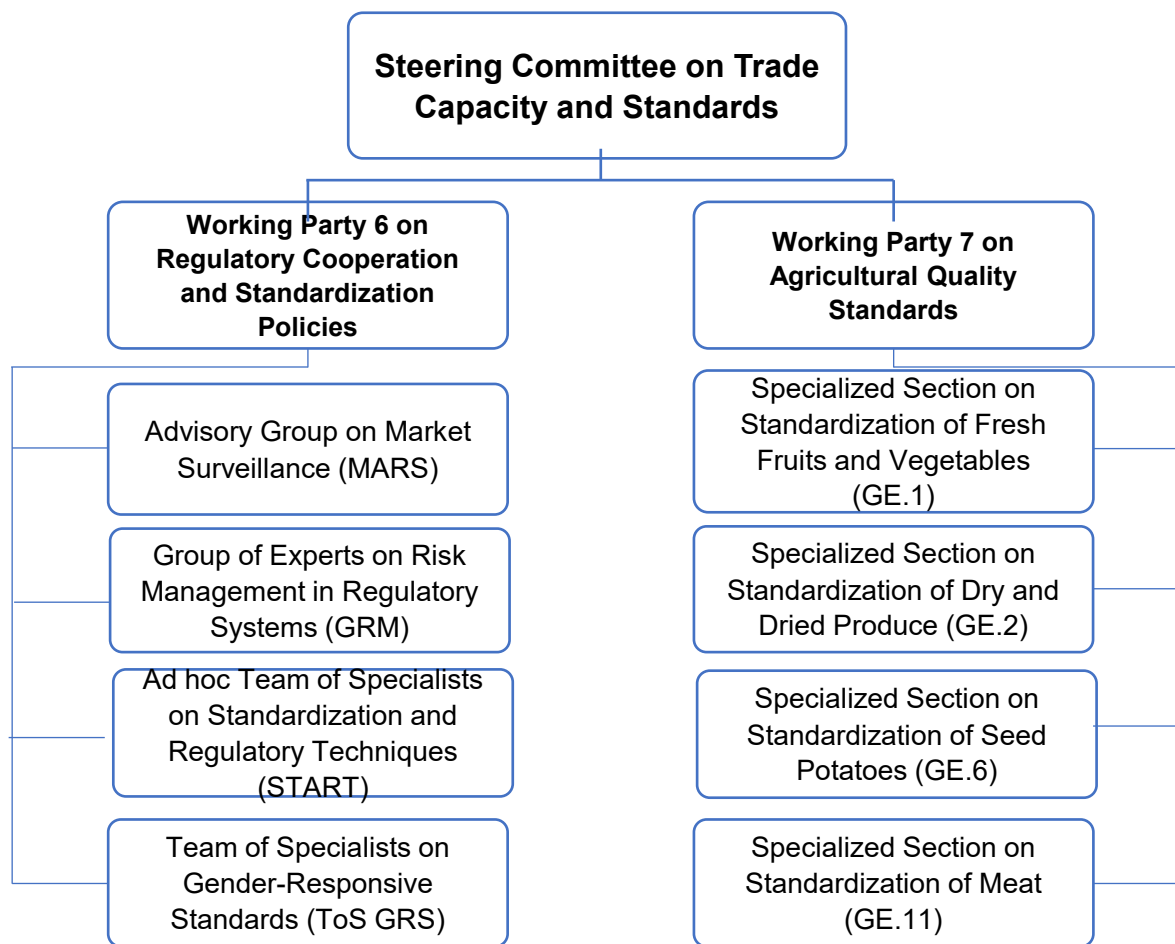
About the Steering Committee on Trade Capacity and Standards



UNECE

The **Steering Committee** is an intergovernmental body that **oversees** and **guides** the development of **international norms and standards, procedures and best practices** to:

- **reduce the costs** associated with export and import processes;
- **increase the efficiency, predictability and transparency** of trade regulations and procedures and the movement of goods and services.



Achievements since previous session: SCTCS Regulatory and Procedural Barriers to Trade (RPBT) Studies



UNECE

At its 8th session on 26-27 June 2023, the **Steering Committee** discussed and adopted related decisions on:

- **RPBT Study for Kyrgyzstan**, aimed at enhancing the country's agricultural export potential;
- **RPBT Study for the Republic of Moldova**, showcasing the progress regarding trade facilitation reforms and the areas for further improvement;
- Report on **lessons learned** from the **RPBT** studies undertaken since 2012 and a possible way forward;
- Document on integrating **circular economy** considerations into RPBT studies;
- Document on integrating **digital economy considerations** into RPBT studies.

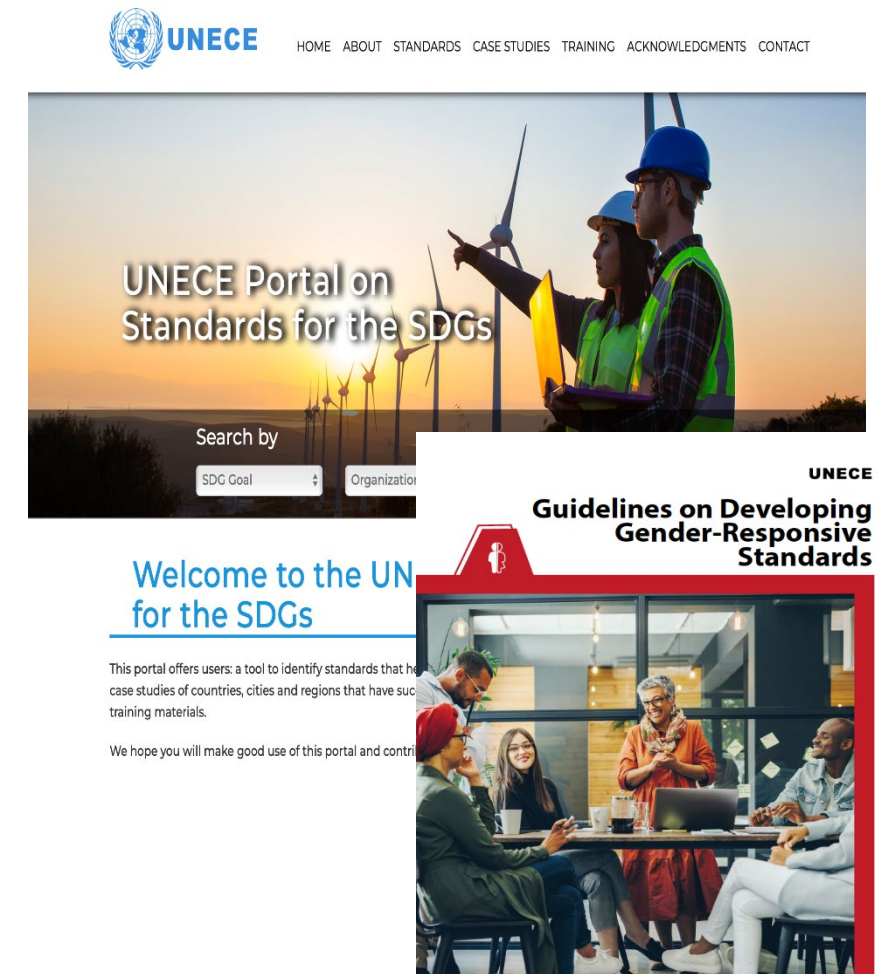


Achievements since previous session: Working Party 6 on Regulatory Cooperation and Standardization Policies



The 32nd session of WP.6 on 7-9 November 2022 and related meetings of its subsidiary bodies discussed the following deliverables:

- Revised Glossary of **Market Surveillance Terms**;
- Revision of Recommendation T on **Standards and Regulations for Sustainable Development**;
- **Guidelines on developing GRS**, four **capacity-building workshops** on GRS and a **webinar** on incorporating a gender perspective in standards for sustainability;
- The launch of the **e-learning platform** (> 400 registrations); and updates of the “**Standards for SDGs**” portal (>21,000 standards);
- **Project on integrated risk management** in Single Window systems.

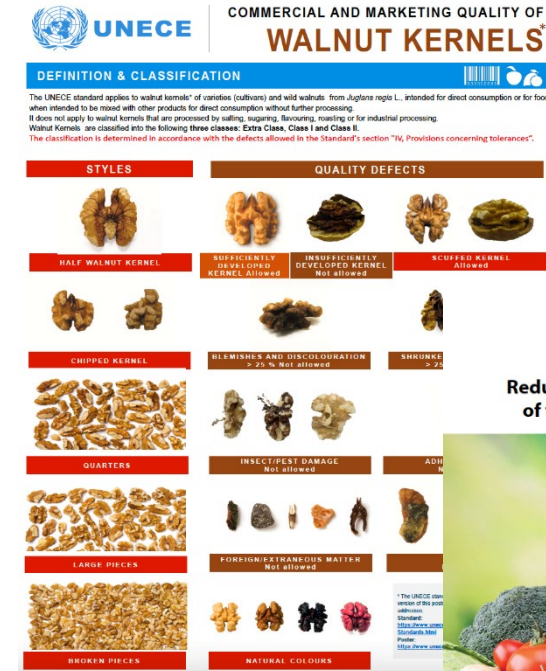


Achievements since the previous session: Working Party 7 on Agricultural Quality Standards



The 77th session of WP.7 on 14-16 November 2022 and related meetings of its subsidiary bodies discussed the following deliverables:

- **Eight new or revised standards and three recommendations;**
- **Second edition of the UNECE Code of Good Practice on Reducing food loss;**
- **Econometric study in collaboration with OECD on assessing the impact of agricultural quality standards on the trade of fruit and vegetables.**



UNECE

UNECE Code of Good Practice
Reducing food loss and ensuring optimum handling
of fresh fruit and vegetables along the value chain

2nd edition, 2022



UNITED NATIONS

Major activities planned for 2023 and beyond



UNECE

SCTCS RPBT Studies

- Work on the **ongoing and new RPBT Studies**, including for **Armenia, Azerbaijan and Turkmenistan**;
- **Technical assistance** activities in **Kyrgyzstan** and the Republic of **Moldova**.



WP 6 on Regulatory Cooperation and Standardization Policies

- Annual session, **23-24 November 2023**;
- Panel discussion on **compliance** for the changing dynamic of **digital goods**.



WP 7 on Agricultural Quality Standards

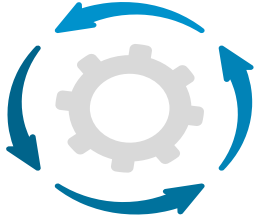
- Annual session, **13-15 November 2023**;
- Adoption of **new standards**, revisions to several existing standard;
- Panel discussion on **digitalization needs for agricultural trade**;
- **Rapporteur's meeting** in Brest on **10-12 October 2023** organised by the Specialized Section on Standardization of Seed Potatoes (GE.6).



Follow-up to the 2023 session of the Economic Commission for Europe



UNECE



Continuous focus on digital and green transformations



United Nations Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia (SPECA) as an **important avenue to support digital transformation**



Regional Policy Dialogue, **CIRCULAR STEP**

ASTANA INTERNATIONAL FORUM | **UNECE**

“Unlocking the buckle of sustainable trade: the role of digitalization”

FRIDAY 9 JUNE 2023 | **TIME 16:45-18:00** | **QAZEXPOCONGRESS CENTER, BALKHASH HALL, GRAND FLOOR**

Keynote Speech	Moderator	Speakers	Closing Remarks
 ARMIDA SALSIAH ALISJAHBANA Under-Secretary-General of the UN and Executive Secretary, ESCAP	 MICHAELA FRIBERG-STOERY United Nations Resident Coordinator for Kazakhstan	 KAIRAT TOREBAYEV Vice-Minister of Trade and Integration of the Republic of Kazakhstan	 RAHIMBERDI JEPBAROV Chairman of the State Bank for Foreign Economic Affairs of Turkmenistan
		 WILLIAM TOMPSON Head of Eurasia Division, OECD	 DMITRY MARIYASIN Deputy Executive Secretary, UNECE

SAVE THE DATE! | **UNECE** | **REGIONAL POLICY DIALOGUE**

Circular STEP Regional Policy Dialogue
Accelerating Circular Economy Transition

18-20 October 2023
Belgrade, Serbia

Accelerating the Circular Economy

Cooperation with other international organizations



UNECE



UNITED NATIONS
UNCTAD



UNITED NATIONS
ESCAP



World Health
Organization



ACWL



WORLD TRADE
ORGANIZATION



United Nations
Environment Programme



UNFSS

United Nations Forum on Sustainability Standards
a joint initiative of FAO, ITC, UNCTAD, UN Environment and UNIDO



SITRA



ELLEN
MACARTHUR
FOUNDATION

UNIVERSITÄT
LUZERN



WMO



world
trade
institute

u^b

UNIVERSITÄT
BERN



WORLD BANK GROUP

The Executive Committee is invited to approve:

- (a) the Programme of Work of subprogramme 6 on Trade for 2024, as contained in document ECE/CTCS/2023/10;
- (b) the Programme of Work of the Working Party on Regulatory Cooperation and Standardization Policies (WP.6), as contained in document ECE/CTCS/WP.6/2022/12;
- (c) the Programme of Work of the Working Party on Agricultural Quality Standards (WP.7), as contained in document ECE/CTCS/WP.7/2022/20; and
- (d) the revised terms of reference of the Working Party on Regulatory Cooperation and Standardization Policies (WP.6), as contained in document ECE/CTCS/WP.6/2022/11.



Thank you!

More information is available on the UNECE website:

<https://unece.org/trade/sctcs-about>

Contact us: ece-sctcs@un.org

