

Terms of reference of the

## Ad Hoc Team of Specialists on Standardization and Regulatory Techniques (START)



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Approved by the Working Party on Regulatory Cooperation and  
Standardization Policies at its 33<sup>rd</sup> session (decision 17)

For presentation at the 9<sup>th</sup> session of the Steering Committee on  
Trade Capacities and Standardization, June 2024

# **Terms of reference of the Ad Hoc Team of Specialists on Standardization and Regulatory Techniques (START Team)**

## **A. Establishment of the Team of Specialists**

1. The establishment of the Ad Hoc Team of Specialists on Standardization and Regulatory Techniques (START Team) was suggested at the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) International workshop on implementation and use of international standards (18 May 1999, Geneva) which was organized in conjunction with the ninth session of the Working Party on Technical Harmonization and Standardization Policies<sup>1</sup> (17–19 May 1999, Geneva). The Working Party supported and approved this proposal. The establishment of the Team was endorsed by the third session of the ECE Committee for Trade, Industry and Enterprise Development<sup>2</sup> (8–10 June 1999).

## **B. Objectives of the Team of Specialists**

2. The general task of the Team of Specialists is to contribute to the activities of the Working Party on Regulatory Cooperation and Standardization Policies (WP.6) aimed at creating conditions conducive to the development and promotion of global trade and economic cooperation.

3. The specific task of the Team of Specialists is to examine the possibilities for reducing non-tariff barriers to trade by limiting the content of related regulations to the essential requirements for meeting regulatory objectives and using reference to international standards as the preferred means for setting out detailed requirements, including conformity assessment requirements.

## **C. Composition of the Team, its membership and participation in its meetings**

4. Members of the Team are representatives from ECE member States and other United Nations Member States.

5. The Team is open to participation by experts from international organizations as well as to representatives of the private sector and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) as observers in their personal capacity.

6. The Team may establish project teams of experts to prepare projects requiring specific expertise, which are expected to become a part of the general activities of the Team. The Team can work with interested Governments and organizations on financing and implementation of such projects.

7. United Nations Member States, international organizations, standards development organizations, NGOs and private sector participants are encouraged to consider gender balance when nominating representatives to participate in the Team.

8. The ECE secretariat will provide necessary support to the Team of Specialists and its project teams within available resources.

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<sup>1</sup> The name of Working Party 6 changed in 2004 to its current name: “Working Party on Regulatory Cooperation and Standardization Policies”.

<sup>2</sup> The name of the Steering Committee changed in 2014 to its current name: “Steering Committee on Trade Capacity and Standards”.

## **D. Reporting**

9. The Team of Specialists works under the guidance of WP.6, in accordance with terms of reference and working practices adopted by WP.6 and reports to it. The Team of Specialists works on the understanding that its final reports, proposals or recommendations will be decided by WP.6 as an intergovernmental body.