Economic and Social Council

Economic Commission for Europe

Steering Committee on Trade Capacity and Standards

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

Thirty-second session
Geneva, 7–9 November 2022
Item 1 of the provisional agenda
Adoption of the agenda

Revised provisional agenda for the thirty-second session*

To be held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva starting at 15:00 on Monday 7 November 2022, tentatively in Room XXI as an in-person meeting. Distant participation connection will be available to listen in only (no active participation remotely, only in room).

Prior to the launch of the thirty-second session, an in-person meeting on "back to basics on quality infrastructure" discussing the core themes related to the Working Party on Regulatory Cooperation and Standardization Policies (WP.6) will be proposed from 10:00 to 13:00 on 7 November 2022.

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. Gender-Responsive Standards Initiative

8. Programme of work

---

* The session will be held in person on 7 November 2022 from 15:00 to 18:00 and on 8 and 9 November 2022 from 10:00 to 13:00 and from 15:00 to 18:00. Simultaneous interpretation between English, French and Russian will be provided. Delegates are requested to register online at https://indico.un.org/e/wp6-32nd-2022. The session documents will be made available progressively at https://unece.org/trade/wp6/wp6-32nd-2022. 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. Distant participant connection will be provided to follow the meeting, but in order to maintain 3-hour sessions, this will not allow for active participation; distant participants will have the opportunity to put informal comments in the chat.

(a)   Report on capacity-building

(b)   Working Party terms of reference

(c)   Programme of work for 2023

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

9.   Panel discussion: digital and green transformations and their relation to regulatory cooperation and standardization policies

10.   Other business

11.   Adoption of the report

II.   Annotations

1.   Adoption of the agenda

Title of document	Document symbol	For information/decision
Provisional agenda for the thirty-second session	ECE/CTCS/WP.6/2022/1	For decision

The *Provisional agenda for the thirty-second session* of WP.6 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

The Terms of Reference of WP.6 calls for one chair and two vice chairs. The mandates of the current chair and two remaining vice chairs is until the thirty-third annual session. An election is therefore not required at this meeting and the item is differed to the thirty-third session.

3.   Matters arising

Title of document	Document symbol	For information/decision
Report from the Bureau of Working Party 6	ECE/CTCS/WP.6/2022/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.

The Bureau of WP.6 will present a report (ECE/CTCS/WP.6/2022/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

Title of document	Document symbol	For information/decision
Report on activities under the Advisory Group on Market Surveillance	ECE/CTCS/WP.6/2022/3	For decision
Revised Glossary of Market Surveillance Terms	ECE/CTCS/WP.6/2022/4	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 above report is presented to the Working Party for an endorsement decision.

MARS also finalized a *Revised Glossary of Market Surveillance Terms* (ECE/CTCS/WP.6/2022/4) in order to ensure that all relevant bodies are using the same terms in the same way. The revision adds a number of new terms that were not in use when the first version was developed as well as some updates to existing terms which have slightly evolved. This document 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

Title of document	Document symbol	For information/decision
Report on activities under the Group of Experts on Risk Management in Regulatory Systems	ECE/CTCS/WP.6/2022/5	For decision
Revision of Recommendation T on Standards and Regulations for Sustainable Development	ECE/CTCS/WP.6/2022/6	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 above report is presented to the Working Party for an endorsement decision.

GRM also finalized a revision of *Recommendation T on Standards and Regulations for Sustainable Development* (ECE/CTCS/WP.6/2022/6) which is presented to the Working Party for an approval decision. This recommendation has been updated to reflect key aspects of circular economy as outlined during the thirty-first session of the Working Party; all stakeholders of the Working Party were afforded an opportunity to provide comments to this revision.

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

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

Title of document	Document symbol	For information/decision
Report on recent developments in the sectoral initiatives	ECE/CTCS/WP.6/2022/7	For decision

Common Regulatory Framework for Equipment Used in Environments with an Explosive Atmosphere	ECE/CTCS/WP.6/2022/INF.4	For information

The Ad Hoc Team of Specialists on Standardization and Regulatory Techniques (START) was established in 1999 with an aim to assist member States' efforts to converge towards better regulations. This includes the reduction of non-tariff barriers to trade and harmonizing the content of technical regulations in key sectorial areas such as equipment for explosive environments and pipeline safety. Special focus is given to support efforts by schools, universities, vocational training institutions and other training and research establishments to integrate standards and standards-related issues in their curricula. The above report is presented to the Working Party for an endorsement decision.

The *Common Regulatory Framework for Equipment Used in Environments with an Explosive Atmosphere* in document ECE/CTCS/WP.6/2022/INF.4 was developed and finalized in 2019 but had not yet been presented to an annual session. It is a second edition to the document ECE/TRADE/391. It is presented for information.

The initiative on education on standardization (START-Ed) also proposes the establishment of a network of focal points from academia in order to further promote and disseminate education on standardization (annex 1 to document ECE/CTCS/WP.6/2022/7). This responds to the recommendations formulated in the December 2019 Evaluation of Working Party 6[1] to create a group in support of this initiative.

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

7.   Gender-Responsive Standards Initiative

Title of document	Document symbol	For information/decision
Report on activities of the Gender-Responsive Standards Initiative 2021–2022	ECE/CTCS/WP.6/2022/8	For decision
Guidelines on Developing Gender-Responsive Standards	ECE/CTCS/WP.6/2022/9	For decision
Importance of the term gender-responsive	ECE/CTCS/WP.6/2022/INF.5	For information

At the thirty-first session of WP.6, it was requested to establish a Team of Specialists on Gender-Responsive Standards (GRS), to follow up on the initiative established in 2016. The objective remains to mainstream gender in the activities and management of standards developing bodies. The above report is presented to the Working Party for an endorsement decision.

The Gender-Responsive Standards Initiative (GRSI) has completed a *Guidelines on Developing Gender-Responsive Standards* (ECE/CTCS/WP.6/2022/9). This methodology document provides practical steps that standards development bodies can take to ensure that their standards are gender-responsive and that there is satisfactory gender inclusion in standards development. This document is intended to become an official publication; it is presented to the Working Party for an endorsement decision.

---

[1]   See Recommendation 2 on page 52:
https://unece.org/DAM/OPEN_UNECE/03_Evaluation_and_Audit/Evaluation_Reports-with_SPs/06-Trade/UNECE_WP6_Evaluation_-_final.pdf.

The GRSI also presents a brief explanation of the difference between the terms "gender-sensitive" and "gender-responsive" (ECE/CTCS/WP.6.2022.INF.5). It explains why "gender-responsive" is the more appropriate term for the work within WP.6 and GRSI. This document 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

Title of document	Document symbol	For information/decision
Progress report on the Standards for Sustainable Development Goals project, phase II	ECE/CTCS/WP.6/2022/10	For information
Training Material on Gender-Responsive Standards	ECE/CTCS/WP.6/2022/INF.2	For information
Training Material on Standards in Support of the Sustainable Development Goals	ECE/CTCS/WP.6/2022/INF.3	For information

The phase II of the project on Standards for Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) comes to a close in 2022. The secretariat is pleased to report being on target for all of the deliverables planned within the project. The report provides an outline of the key achievements since 2021. Two of the achievements include the training materials also presented under this agenda item. The secretariat further draws the attention to two platforms developed under this project. The Standards4SDGs platform[2] has been enhanced in this period, now containing over 20,000 standards mapped to all of SDGs. The second platform hosts e-learning modules linked to quality infrastructure and will support accessibility of all to such information as well as support the WP.6 START-Ed model curricula on education on standardization. These documents are 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

Title of document	Document symbol	For information/decision
Revised terms of reference of the Working Party on Regulatory Cooperation and Standardization Policies	ECE/CTCS/WP.6/2022/11	For decision

In December 2019, an evaluation of Working Party 6 proposed[3] that the Working Party review and update its *Terms of reference*[4] in line with the *Guidelines for the establishment and functioning of working parties within ECE* (ECE/EX/1, paragraph 3(d)) to assess and propose necessary adjustments to the mandate and status of WP.6. The evaluation further suggested that this review reflect as appropriate the priorities of the 2030 Agenda. The thirty-first session requested the Bureau to draft a revised terms of reference for consideration and

---

[2] See: https://standards4sdgs.unece.org/.
[3] See Recommendation 1 on page 52: https://unece.org/DAM/OPEN_UNECE/03_Evaluation_and_Audit/Evaluation_Reports-with_SPs/06-Trade/UNECE_WP6_Evaluation_-_final.pdf.
[4] See: https://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/trade/wp6/documents/ref-docs/ToR_eng.pdf.

approval at the thirty-second session (see decision 15 of ECE/CTCS/WP.6/2021/2). The document is 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 2023**

Title of document	Document symbol	For information/decision
Programme of work of the Working Party on Regulatory Cooperation and Standardization Policies for 2023	ECE/CTCS/WP.6/2022/12	For decision

The Working Party will have before it a draft programme of work for 2023 for decision. This document has been reviewed and endorsed by the Bureau of WP.6 as well as the chairs of all of WP.6 subgroups. 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 and accreditation, metrology and others.

Delegates will also receive reports on active cooperation with other ECE bodies of interest to the Working Party.

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

9. Panel discussion: digital and green transformations and their relation to regulatory cooperation and standardization policies

Title of document	Document symbol	For information/decision
Moving towards a digital and green economy: the importance of standardization and harmonized policies	ECE/CTCS/WP.6/2022/13	For information

This agenda item will respond to the proposed theme of the 2023 Commission session on "digital and green transformations for sustainable development in the ECE region". It is important to ensure that digitalization and sustainability support each other and do not hinder each other. Several topics within the Working Party are relevant to digitalization.

This agenda item will be organized as a high-level panel to discuss digital and green transformations and their relation to regulatory cooperation and standardization. It will explore the key themes which WP.6 will need to address. A background document and panel discussion synopsis will be developed and made available prior to the event. Working Party members will be invited to actively participate in the discussion and propose how this theme might best be addressed within WP.6.

10. Other business

The Working Party will discuss any other business raised, including the tentative dates of its thirty-third session in 2023.

11. Adoption of the report

Title of document	Document symbol	For information/decision
Report on the thirty-second session of the Working Party on Regulatory Cooperation and Standardization Policies	ECE/CTCS/WP.6/2022/2	For decision

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

III.Tentative timetable

Time	Agenda item	Introduced by
Monday, 7 November		
15:00–15:15	Opening	WP.6 Chair and secretariat
15:15–15:25	Item 1: Adoption of the agenda	WP.6 Chair
15:25–15:30	Item 2: Election of officers	Secretariat
15:30–16:00	Item 3: Matters arising	Secretariat
16:00–16:30	Item 4: Advisory Group on Market Surveillance	MARS Chair
16:30–17:00	Item 5: Group of Experts on Risk Management in Regulatory Systems	GRM Chair
17:00–17:30	Item 6: Ad Hoc Team of Specialists on Standardization and Regulatory Techniques	START Chair
17:30–18:00	Item 7: Gender-Responsive Standards Initiative	GRSI Coordinator
Tuesday, 8 November		
10:00–10:30	Item 8 (a): Report on capacity-building	Secretariat
10:30–11:00	Item 8 (c): Programme of work for 2023	WP.6 Chair
11:00–13:00	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
13:00–15:00	Break	
15:00–18:00	Item 9: Panel discussion: digital and green transformations and their relation to regulatory cooperation and standardization policies (part 1)	WP.6 Chair and invited speakers
Wednesday, 9 November		
10:00–12:30	Item 9: Panel discussion: digital and green transformations and their relation to regulatory cooperation and standardization policies (part 2)	WP.6 Chair and invited speakers
12:30–13:00	Item 8 (b): Working Party terms of reference	WP.6 Chair
13:00–15:00	Break	
15:00–16:00	Item 10: Other business	WP.6 Chair
16:00–18:00	Item 11: Adoption of the report	Secretariat