

UN/CEFACT REPORT TO HEADS OF DELEGATION

December 2023

1. Recent developments

41st UN/CEFACT Forum – 2-5 October 2023

The [41st UN/CEFACT Forum](#) took place from 2 to 5 October 2023 in Bangkok, Thailand. Co-hosted with ESCAP, this Forum gathered over 500 trade facilitation experts from over 60 countries both in-person and online. The Forum's overarching theme focused on digital and green transformations as well as climate action for sustainable development, aligning with recent decisions by member States at the Commission sessions of ECE and ESCAP. Among key areas of focus was the adoption of digital technologies to enable streamlined and efficient supply chain processes.

29th UN/CEFACT Plenary session – 9-10 November 2023

The [29th UN/CEFACT Plenary](#) held on 9 and 10 November 2023 gathered nearly 60 participants from 22 UN Member States reviewed and endorsed the UN/CEFACT deliverables produced since the last Plenary. Those included the ECE Recommendation No.48 on Private Sector Participation in National Trade Facilitation Bodies, the latest versions of key UN/CEFACT standards, reports on activities of the UN/LOCODE Advisory Group and the Team of Specialists on ESG Traceability of SVC in the CE as well as updates from various UN/CEFACT domains.

In addition, this session marked the successful election of six UN/CEFACT Vice-Chairs nominated by Australia, Azerbaijan, Canada, France, Italy, and the Kyrgyz Republic for the term of 2023-2026 as well as three Regional Rapporteurs from Brazil, Japan, and Senegal to promote UN/CEFACT activities in Latin America, Asia and the Pacific, and Africa during 2023-2025.

3rd Meeting of the Team of Specialists (ToS) on Environmental, Social and Governance Traceability of Sustainable Value Chain – 23 November 2023

The 3rd Meeting of Team of Specialists (ToS) on Environmental, Social and Governance Traceability of Sustainable Value Chains took place on the 23rd of November 2023. This multi-stakeholder, collaborative and cross-sectoral dialogue convened 50 experts from +20 countries in Geneva and 40 experts online, to forge international collaboration and synergies. Interoperability of information exchange is one of the key needs identified to scale up access to ESG data in value chains. The draft UNECE Recommendation No. 49 on 'Transparency at Scale' will aim to scale traceability, transparency and trusted information exchange. Learn more about the UNECE Team of Specialists [here](#).

UN/CEFACT Standards maintenance and update

UN/CEFACT has recently published the UN Core Component Library (UN/CCL) [23A](#) and accompanying XML Schema Library [23A](#), the United Nations rules for Electronic Data Interchange for Administration, Commerce and Transport (UN/EDIFACT) [23A](#), the United Nations Code for Trade and Transport Locations (UN/LOCODE) [2023-2](#) release, and the UN/CEFACT [JSON-LD Web Vocabulary](#). The streamlined presentation of UN/CEFACT standards is available [on this webpage](#).

2. Save the dates

2024 Meeting of UN/LOCODE Advisory Group – 6 - 7 May 2024 (Hamburg, Germany)

Aiming for a better service to the UN/LOCODE user community and the sustainable development of UN/LOCODE, the ECE secretariat strives to meet growing demands with limited resources. The UN/LOCODE Advisory Group will meet on 6 and 7 May to discuss progress on its activities since 2023.

42nd UN/CEFACT Forum – 8-10 July 2024 (Geneva, Switzerland)

From 8 to 10 July 2024, the 42nd UN/CEFACT Forum will be held in Geneva, Switzerland, back-to-back with the 30th UN/CEFACT Plenary. Aimed at reinvigorating partnerships, demonstrating the impact and relevance of key UN/CEFACT instruments as well as making progress on key deliverables, this Forum will bring together experts from the public and private sectors to engage in interactive thematic discussions, seminars, and roundtables. The registration details will be communicated closer to the date.

30th UN/CEFACT Plenary – 11-12 July 2023 (Geneva, Switzerland)

30th UN/CEFACT Plenary will review policy recommendations on trade facilitation, e-business standards and deliverables in support of green and digital transformations in the region of the ECE as the outcomes of the seventieth session of the ECE. Elections for UN/CEFACT Chair for the period 2024-2027 will be held. The announcement to submit nominations for the Chair elections will be circulated no later than three months prior to the Plenary.

4th Meeting of the ToS on ESG Traceability of Sustainable Value Chains in the Circular Economy – 3 October 2024 (Geneva, Switzerland)

The fourth session will make progress on developing guidelines on ESG monitoring and reporting as well as supporting countries in developing ESG traceability policies for agri-food, textile, and minerals value chains

3. UN/CEFACT active projects

The following projects are currently active as of December 2023 within UN/CEFACT; participation in the projects is welcome and encouraged.

TPF – [Recommendation on Engaging the Private Sector in National Trade Facilitation Bodies \(NTFB\)](#) developed a [Recommendation No.48](#), approved at the 29th Plenary of UN/CEFACT.

TPF/AGRI – [Digital Product Conformity Certificate Exchange](#) project developed a [White Paper on Product Conformity Certificate Exchange](#), presented to the 29th Plenary of UN/CEFACT.

SWD – [Information Portals](#) has published its [Recommendation](#) and [eBusiness standard](#).

SWD – [Single Window Assessment Methodology](#) has prepared a [white paper](#) to help evaluate the level of development of Single Window, presented to the 29th Plenary of UN/CEFACT.

SWD – [Guidelines on Establishing Regional Single Window](#) – will produce a white paper addressing the establishment of a regional single window

BUY – [Transfer of Model Law on Electronic Transferable Records Compliant Titles](#) project has prepared a [white paper on the electronic exchange of negotiable financial instruments](#), presented to the 29th Plenary, and will develop reference implementation and Annex.

BUY – [Digital Transit Accompanying Documents](#) is developing a white paper on digitization of document requirements for goods and transit.

BUY – [Cross Industry Invoice \(CII\) Light Version](#) project will develop a subset of the CII as a generic invoice that would be used as a simplified basis for international trade operations.

T+T – [Travel Agency and DMC API RDM](#) completed a Reference Data Models (RDM) and will develop APIs specifications to cover the travel agency, Destination Managing Company (DMC) and Destination Managing Organization (DMO).

T+T – [API Transformation of EPs Technical Artefacts with Sustainability Claims](#) project is developing and updating an API version of EPs technical artefacts, technical artefacts for sustainability claim, and other related BIEs and codes.

SHIP – [Dangerous Goods](#) project will develop the eBusiness standards and Business Requirements Specifications for this process.

SHIP – [International Maritime Organization \(IMO\) Convention of Facilitation of International Maritime Traffic \(FAL\) Mapping](#) project shall create an XML version of the FAL messages.

T+L – [Buy Ship Pay Data Exchange Structures for Trade Finance Facilitation](#) will develop a white paper, four Business Requirement Specifications and six business standards

T+L – [Geofencing Facilities](#) will produce a white paper that will provide insights and guidelines for implementing effective geofences.

T+L – [Parcel Goods Traceability in Last-Mile Delivery](#) aims to define and create white papers on the best practices in implementing service framework for seamless traceability in last-mile delivery.

The following projects are currently active as of December 2023 within UN/CEFACT; participation in the projects is welcome and encouraged.

A+A – [Accounting and Audit Reference Data Model](#) will propose a harmonized data set.

eDATA – [Cross border inter-ledger exchange for Preferential Certificate of Origin using Blockchain](#) project is proposing to develop reference implementation for inter-ledger exchanges of preferential Certificate of Origin.

eDATA – [UN/CEFACT Chain](#) project is developing guidance on relevant framework/mechanism.

eDATA – [Digital Identity Standardization for Trade Facilitation](#) aims to develop two white papers; on inventory of existing identification schemes, authentication, and authorization approaches in global trade networks and on assessing how a global identification scheme can be integrated into core component library.

eDATA – [Data Governance for Trade Facilitation](#) will produce a white paper that focuses on studying existing Data Governance and presenting best practices for existing systems that can act as a guide for future implementation.

eDATA – [Transparency at Scale: Digital Solutions for Trust, Resilience and Sustainability – Verifiable Credentials in Supply Chains](#) will deliver a new recommendation on the implementation of scalable supply chain traceability, transparency and trust frameworks.

CBM – [Digital Corridor](#) will create a white paper for exchange of data through multimodal digital corridors.

AGRI – [Extension Textile and Leather BRS Part 2: Use case and CCBDA data structure supporting product circularity](#) will update and publish the Textile and Leather BRS.

AGRI – [Sustainable Development and Circular Economy RDM](#) will provide an RDM as a view on the top-level BSP RDM.

AGRI – [Critical Minerals Traceability and Sustainability](#) will deliver a recommendation, BRS, and a standard to support national policy makers, CRM industry actors, and traceability technology providers on the topic.

ENV – [Waste Management and Waste Analysis](#) aims to define electronic data formats for waste management data

SPEC – [Methodology to Subset RDM Based Messages](#) aims to develop a subset (and children subset(s)) of the RDM based master messages that would be used as a simplified basis for international trade operations.

F&P – [Check IBAN Open Finance Use Case](#) – aims to develop an information exchange standard for the Check IBAN open finance use case
