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Cooperation with other organizations and
Economic Commission for Europe bodies

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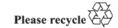
Submitted by the secretariat

I. Introduction

1.   This document maps cooperation under the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) subprogramme on Trade during 2021–2022. The first part provides an overview of collaborative efforts with development partners, while the second features an account of the areas and cooperation mechanisms underpinning these efforts.

2.   Sections covering activities by the United Nations Centre for Trade Facilitation and Electronic Business (UN/CEFACT) are for information only. This document also covers trade-related cooperation activities carried out in the context of the activities in response to the sixty-ninth Commission session on the topic of "Circular Economy and the Sustainable Use of Natural Resources".

II. Agricultural Quality Standards

3.   ECE continues to collaborate with the four other regional commissions – the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) and the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) – on issues related to food systems and food loss and waste. Over the past year, this included the development of a joint policy brief on transforming food systems, launched in connection with the Food Systems Summit held on 23 September 2021.[1] ECE also collaborated with the regional commissions in implementing the United Nations Development Account (UNDA) project for increased policy coherence and sustainability of national production and consumption patterns in North-South and South-South agriculture trade, implemented during February 2018 – December 2021, with a focus on the reduction of food loss and waste. Activities included analytical studies to assess and quantify the impact of trade requirements

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[1] https://unece.org/circular-economy/news/un-regional-commissions-launch-policy-brief-transforming-food-systems.

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on food loss, and an online training on sustainable walnut production for the central Asian region (September 2021).

4.   ECE continues to work closely with the European Commission to maintain the complete harmonization of marketing standards with ECE standards. It also cooperates with the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) Fruit and Vegetables Scheme to facilitate the common interpretation of ECE standards and their application in international trade. It cooperates with the Codex Alimentarius Committees on Fresh Fruits and Vegetables and on Processed Fruits and Vegetables in developing new commercial quality standards and maintaining existing ones.

5.   ECE also continues to work closely with the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations. Through the regional Issue-based Coalition (IBC) on sustainable food systems, which aims to advocate for and facilitate coordinated support for strengthening sustainable food systems in the region of Europe and Central Asia, ECE collaborates with FAO, the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), World Food Programme (WFP), World Health Organization (WHO), and World Metrological Organization (WMO) on sustainable food systems. Activities have included contributions to the forthcoming 2022 Regional Overview of Food Security and Nutrition in Europe and Central Asia, led by FAO and co-published with all IBC partners, and the joint organization of a webinar on "Sustainable Food Systems to Build Back Better in Europe and Central Asia", held as a side-event to the Regional Forum on Sustainable Development (RFSD) in April 2022.

6.   ECE also collaborated with the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) and the United Nations Forum on Sustainability Standards (UNFSS), which consists of ECE, FAO, International Trade Centre (ITC), United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), and UNCTAD, in the organization of a roundtable on Fostering Circularity in Food Trade (November 2021).

III.   Regulatory Cooperation and Standardization Policies

A.   Cooperation with international and regional organizations

7.   Through the Working Party on Regulatory Cooperation and Standardization Policies (WP.6), ECE is a permanent observer at the World Trade Organization (WTO) Committee on Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT). ECE participated in all official meetings of the TBT Committee. The work on market surveillance, conformity assessment, risk management and education on standardization are all key themes that are often on the table. The ECE secretariat is able to provide input on these as well as on the importance of gender-responsive standards.

8.   ECE strengthened cooperation with the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) in support of gender-responsive standards. UN-Women have been consulted and provided meaningful input into the work of the Gender-Responsive Standards Initiative. ECE supported UN-Women in the organization of a roundtable on Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 5 on gender equality during RFSD in April 2022.

9.   Collaboration with ITC continued on several initiatives. The ECE secretariat is working with ITC on the publication of a joint guidebook on integrating risk management in trade facilitation, which is planned to be issued in 2022.

10.   ECE continued to work closely with the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR) to promote the implementation of international standards as tools for the reduction of disaster risks, including health risks such as the current pandemic, particularly in the urban context. WP.6 actively participates in the ECE branch of the UNDRR work, representing the Trade subprogramme.

11.   At the regional level, the European Commission supports WP.6 activities, particularly in the area of market surveillance and gender-responsive standards. The European Committee for Standardization (CEN) and the European Committee for Electrotechnical Standardization (CENELEC) – the organizations that develop European Standards – have been vocal advocates of the Gender-Responsive Standards Declaration to their membership.

12.   The Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS), the Interstate Council for Standardization, Metrology and Certification (EASC) and the Eurasian Economic Commission (EEC) are also important partners. These organizations also report their and their member States' use of the WP.6 deliverables. A good deal of engagement comes from this region on specific initiative such as the Pipeline Safety Initiative, for which the members are relaunching discussions in view of a possible recommendation on the topic. Beyond the ECE region, close cooperation continued with the African Organization for Standardisation (ARSO), and a new partnership was established with the Standards and Metrology Institute for Islamic Countries (SMIIC).

B.   Cooperation with standard setting and quality infrastructure organizations

1.   Standardization policies

13.   The standardization community continues to support the work of WP.6. The Declaration for Gender-Responsive Standards and Standards Development has been signed to date by almost eighty organizations including: 50 national standards bodies from all continents; all major international standards organizations (the International Organization for Standardization [ISO], International Telecommunication Union [ITU], International Electrotechnical Commission [IEC]), voluntary sustainability standards organizations and regional standards bodies.[2]

14.   Another important area of ECE collaboration with over thirty standards bodies has been the portal "Standards for the SDGs". This online resource increases awareness of policymakers on how standards support the achievement of the goals and targets of Agenda 2030. It features a mapping tool, a repository of case studies as well as supporting training materials (https://standards4sdgs.unece.org/). The secretariat has been working with major international standards setting bodies to update this portal, such as ASTM International, CODEX, International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), IEC, International Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE), ISO and World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO). The resulting updated portal was relaunched on 11 March 2022 with over thirty thousand standards mapped and over forty new case studies.

15.   WP.6 also partners closely with IEC in support of two sectoral initiatives, respectively on equipment used in environments with an explosive atmosphere and on cybersecurity. The first of these benefits from the support of the IEC System for Certification to Standards Relating to Equipment for Use in Explosive Atmosphere (IECEx) and of the Government of Germany through the National Metrology Body of Germany (Physikalisch-Technische Bundesanstalt – PTB) and the other from the IEC Conformity Assessment Board (CAB).

16.   The Group of Experts on Risk Management in Regulatory Systems (GRM) benefits from a partnership with the ISO Technical Committee (TC) 262 on Risk Management, and WP.6 is a member of the Strategic Alliance and Regulatory Group (STAR), which provides strategic advice to the ISO Committee on Conformity Assessment (ISO/CASCO). The British Standards Institution (BSI) has recently taken up the Chair of the Gender-Responsive Standards Initiative. The START-Ed Sectoral Initiative on Education and Standardization is since Spring 2020 in liaison with the ISO Technical Committee (TC) 232 on Education and Learning Services.

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[2]   See complete list of signatories at: https://unece.org/gender-responsive-standards-initiative.

2. Metrology and other areas of the national and international system of quality infrastructure

17. WP.6 works in partnership with national, regional, and international institutions that lay the foundations of the quality infrastructure systems. In this area, the closest partner is the German Physikalisch-Technische Bundesanstalt (PTB), which is also the major donor of the extrabudgetary projects on "Usage and Uptake of Voluntary Standards" and "Standards for the SDGs".

18. Other close partners in this area are the Bureau International des Poids et Mesures (BIPM), International Committee of Weights and Measures (CIPM), the International Accreditation Forum (IAF), IEC, the International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (ILAC), the International Organization of Legal Metrology (OIML), the International Committee for Legal Metrology (CIML), ISO, ITU and UNIDO. The cooperation entails e.g. mutually shared expertise and support to technical assistance and participation in meetings, as appropriate. WP.6 provided an update on its activities and the transition to a more digital environment to the Congrès International de Métrologie in Lyon on 9 September 2021.

19. Since 2010, the Working Party 6 has been a member of the "International Network on Quality Infrastructure" (previously Network on Metrology, Accreditation and Standardization for Developing Countries [DCMAS]), which includes: BIPM, CIML, CIPM, IAF, IEC, ILAC, ISO, OIML, ITU, and UNIDO, the World Bank and WTO. The cooperation includes e.g. shared expertise and mutual participation in meetings.

3. Cooperation with academia

20. Cooperation with academia continued in 2021–2022. The WP.6 secretariat is preparing the foundation to create a focal point network of academia experts. The proposal is to ensure that education on standardization is integrated into curricula of non-technical students so that they are prepared with a base knowledge of the requirements and expectations when they enter the workforce. This network should be established in the second half of 2022 and provide the basis for enhanced cooperation with academic institutes and technical training institutes.

IV. Trade Facilitation

21. ECE is part of the United Nations Inter-Agency Cluster on Trade and Productive Capacity. The cluster, which is led by UNCTAD, was established in 2007 to create synergies between productive capacity-building and trade development under the United Nations "Delivering as One" initiative.

22. ECE and UNCTAD jointly drafted a Functional Specification for an electronic Conformity Certificate Management System for Fresh Fruit and Vegetables. In drafting this specification experts from the German competent authority provided input and support. An outline of the document was presented to the seventy-sixth session of the Working Party on Agricultural Quality Standards (WP.7) held on 15–17 November 2021. The purpose of the document is to provide a specification for an electronic conformity certificate management system that can be made available to competent authorities. The specification describes the high-level end-to-end business process for requesting, processing and issuing conformity certificates. The processes are defined in a generic way which would have to be adapted to the specific national workflows and legal environments. At present, the specification focuses on essential processes for export clearance. Procedures for import clearance and other, additional processes, may be included later. If there is sufficient support by parties, ECE and UNCTAD will seek funding for the development and deployment of such a system.

23. The ECE secretariat has developed its role in the multi-stakeholder eTrade for All[3] platform. The ECE secretariat has participated in the UNCTAD eTrade for All initiative to

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[3] eTrade for All is an initiative to help developing countries assess challenges and opportunities, to leverage the potential of eTrade for sustainable and inclusive development, connect with potential

publish a series of reports about the impact of COVID-19 on e-commerce along with other United Nations regional commissions (UNRCs). In this effort, the ECE secretariat published a Regional Report on Post-Pandemic COVID-19 Economic Recovery: E-Commerce and Trade Facilitation, highlighting the role of trade facilitation in enhancing e-commerce in the economies in transition amongst the ECE member States.

24.   ECE has continued to support the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) Secretariat and its member States in the fight against illegal wildlife trade through the development of the eCITES standards and through the organization of workshops to support countries in their efforts to digitalize CITES permits. ECE recently developed jointly with the CITES Secretariat guidelines and best practice for national management authorities to implement cross-border exchange of electronic CITES permits. This document has been approved by the relevant UN/CEFACT and CITES working groups and will be presented to the next CITES Conference of Parties as a new international standard. To support member States in the implementation of electronic permit exchanges ECE and ESCAP host the Task Force for CITES electronic permit exchange which is open to member State administrations. The eCITES BaseSolution as an automated permit management system option is now available to Parties for implementation.

25.   At the fourth meeting of the CITES Standing Committee Working Group on electronic systems and information technologies held online on 30 November 2021, the draft report of the Working Group reflects the conclusions of the discussions and the proposed recommendations to the Standing Committee. As requested, ECE provided comments on the draft report. It was mentioned that the CITES electronic permitting toolkit version 2.0 provides the technical specifications and standards and describes the business processes that can assist Parties in implementing their e-permitting systems. The toolkit has not been updated since version 2.0 was published in 2013. However, the toolkit requires updates and revisions to reflect the ongoing development of international standards. The CITES secretariat has, therefore, in consultation with the Chair of the Working Group and with generous funding from Switzerland, initiated the revision of this CITES e-permitting toolkit. The revision will take into account the development of new UN/CEFACT standards as well as new guidance produced by the CITES secretariat and be elaborated in consultation with members of the Working Group and other interested parties. It is expected that the revised toolkit will be available before the next meeting of the CITES Conference of the Parties.

26.   Blockchain/distributed ledger technology has been a major subject during this past period. UN/CEFACT and its secretariat have collaborated with other organizations to provide clarity and to explain the importance of clear semantic standards in this field. These include OECD, the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS), the Dutch Blockchain Coalition, the Government of Slovenia, the United Nations SDG Lab, and the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA) Division for Public Institutions and Digital Government (DPIDG).

27.   OECD has supported the promotion and dissemination of UN/CEFACT recommendations and standards for advanced technologies and due diligence in industry value chains by engaging the ECE secretariat in the finalization of publications, and hosting ECE to speak at events.

28.   OECD organized a workshop on the opportunities and challenges for exchanging electronic sanitary certificates for trade in animal products on 17 February 2022. To help inform discussions by providing a stocktake of the current situation for e-sanitary certification, a draft background report "Electronic sanitary certificates for trade in animal products: Opportunities and challenges" was circulated for comments before the workshop. Following on from the workshop this draft report will be revised and will be presented at the May 2022 Joint Working Party on Agriculture and Trade for discussion.

29.   In 2020, ECE concluded a multilateral partnership agreement with the International Maritime Organization (IMO), the World Customs Organization (WCO) and ISO in order to

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partners, learn about trends, and best practices, and access up-to-date e-commerce data. See (as of January 2020) https://etradeforall.org/.

help IMO to develop and maintain an electronic version of its FAL Convention. The first version of this IMO Reference Data Model was officially launched at the FAL Committee meeting in June 2021. The result is fully compatible with the three standards organizations' data models; a UN/CEFACT version of this data model will be published shortly.

30. As a pilot implementation of application programming interface (API), the ECE secretariat worked with IMO to explore the possibility of data exchange between the new United Nations Code for Trade and Transport Locations (UN/LOCODE) system and the new module in the Global Integrated Shipping Information System (GISIS), based on the API specification agreed at the Fourth Annual Meeting of the UN/LOCODE Advisory Group in 2020. It will facilitate the data synchronization of UN/LOCODE and its child code: the IMO Port Facility Number.

31. A concept paper was drafted jointly by the ECE and the FAO secretariats and approved at the fourth annual meeting of the UN/LOCODE Advisory Group as a general policy to support the inclusion and maintenance of all ports designated by the Agreement on Port State Measures (PSMA) in UN/LOCODE for the combat against illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing. The FAO secretariat reported on it at the third meeting of the Parties to PSMA from 31 May to 4 June 2021 and raised the discussion on guidance sought from the PSMA Parties on whether the UN/LOCODE should be introduced as a mandatory requirement when registering PSMA-designated ports in the FAO PSMA electronic system. Whilst several delegations were positive to it, one Party raised concerns. Therefore, the discussion will be diverted to the FAO Technical Working Group on Information Exchange (TWG-IE) scheduled in 2022.

32. Following the concept paper with FAO, the ECE secretariat drafted a study paper jointly with FAO on the use of UN/LOCODE for the FAO Global Record in support of combat against IUU fishing by expanding inclusion and maintenance of PSMA-designed ports in UN/LOCODE to the rest of Global Record ports. The FAO Global Record is to become the backbone of international fisheries management, as it provides the basis of fisheries information system and fleet records, to which all other information will have to be invariably connected. It is thus expected to support the implementation of PSMA.

33. ECE and Kyrgyzstan launched the National Trade Facilitation Roadmap 2021–2025, a comprehensive strategic framework to overhaul the country's trade facilitation reforms and in order to support the country's sustainable economic recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic. It provides a tool for all stakeholders to coordinate, monitor and track the implementation of all 59 activities covered. ECE also teamed up with the Kyrgyz Economic University to build expertise on trade facilitation, harnessing UN/CEFACT tools.

A. United Nations regional commissions joint approach to trade facilitation

34. The United Nations regional commissions (UNRCs) have taken a joint approach to trade facilitation, which was launched in Beirut in January 2010 by the executive secretaries of the five regional commissions, and subsequently endorsed by all five regional commissions. In 2015, they launched a Survey on Trade Facilitation and Paperless Trade. In 2021, ECE, jointly with the other regional commissions, conducted the "Fourth United Nations Global Survey on Digital and Sustainable Trade Facilitation", which covered 143 countries from the five regions of the world and whose preliminary results were presented at UNRCs joint event during a virtual global launch of the "United Nations Global Survey on Digital and Sustainable Trade Facilitation" in July 2021. The Global Report was released in January 2022. The ECE Regional Report was published in December 2021.

35. The Fourth United Nations Global Survey on Digital and Sustainable Trade Facilitation was even more relevant for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The implementation rates of the participating countries are calculated based on thirty-eight indicators for general trade facilitation measures that are part of the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA) provisions, along with additional measures on automation and cross-border paperless trade transaction, trade facilitation in times of crisis and measures attempting to gauge the inclusiveness of trade facilitation reforms. The latter ones focus on

trade facilitation for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), agriculture, women in trade and trade financing.

36.   The Fourth Global Survey was conducted in close collaboration with other global and regional bodies engaged in trade facilitation and digital trade like UNCTAD, the International Chamber of Commerce (ICC) and EEC. The five regional commissions have jointly developed an online portal (www.untfsurvey.org) to help countries visualize and compare the implementation of measures across regions and economies. ECE also created a brochure presenting the main findings of the survey, that was published in February 2022.[4]

37.   The Fifth Global Survey will be launched in January 2023. The results of the Fifth Survey will be expected to be available in summer 2023.

B.   Cooperation with other regional bodies

38.   The ECE secretariat has been cooperating with several European Commission Directorate-Generals (DGs) over the past years.

- ECE has actively participated in the Directorate-General for Mobility and Transport (DG MOVE) Digital Transport and Logistics Forum (DTLF) subgroup workshops since 2019, studying the documentary requirements in transport and logistics and their dematerialization. The UN/CEFACT Multimodal Transport Reference Data Model (MMT RDM) has been chosen by the subgroup 1 as the basis for this group's semantic standards.

- The Directorate-General for Taxation and the Customs Union (TAXUD) has supported UN/CEFACT work on recommendations. TAXUD and the European Union (EU) member States were active in the revision of Recommendation No. 33 on establishing a Single Window, and how this will apply to a Regional European Single Window. TAXUD has also taken an interest in the semantic data models which UN/CEFACT can provide and assisting to consolidate information from multiple government agencies.

- The Directorate-General for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries (DG MARE) has engaged in work with the ECE Team of Specialists on Environmental, Social and Governance Traceability of Sustainable Value Chains in the Circular Economy and has funded communication activities to support the dissemination of the Fisheries Language for Universal Exchange (FLUX) standard.

- The ECE secretariat is also engaging with the Directorate-General for International Partnerships (INTPA; prior to January 2021 – DG for Cooperation and Development [DG DEVCO]) and the Directorate-General for Environment (DG ENV) on work related to sustainability and circularity of value chains in the textile and leather sector in EU member States and other regions of the world.

- ECE also actively participated in the work of the EU Multi-Stakeholder Platform on Information and Communication Technology (EU MSP ICT). This initiative is conducted under Directorate-General for Informatics (DG DIGIT). EU MSP ICT publishes an annual rolling plan which details the needs of all EU agencies and also presents the available standards from standards development organizations. The UN/CEFACT standards are well positioned in the 2021 Rolling Plan.

C.   Electronic Business Memorandum of Understanding and ISO technical committees

39.   The signatories to the Electronic Business Memorandum of Understanding (eb-MoU) – ECE, ISO, ITU and IEC – met several times in 2021 to discuss developments and topics of joint interest. Webinars have been organized on key topics such as the Internet of Things,

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[4] See https://unece.org/sites/default/files/2022-02/UNECE_Brochure_RegReport2021.pdf.

accessibility, and traceability. ECE is chairing the eB-MoU from December 2021 to December 2022.

40. The ECE secretariat has closely followed the official category-A liaisons with ISO TCs. These include ISO TC 46 (Information and documentation), ISO TC 154 (Processes, data elements and documents in commerce, industry and administration), and the category-B liaison with ISO TC 68 (Financial services).

41. The ECE secretariat and UN/CEFACT Chair have taken an active role in the ISO TC 154 Joint Working Group 1 on Electronic Data Interchange for Administrations, Commerce and Transport (EDIFACT) syntax and the Joint Working Group 8 on logistical data content; in the latter, ISO is reusing the semantic data models of UN/CEFACT in order to standardize logistics business processes.

V. Follow-up to the sixty-ninth Commission session

42. The sixty-ninth session of ECE (21–22 April 2021) was dedicated to the topic of fostering "Circular Economy and the Sustainable Use of Natural Resources". In response, the ECE Economic Cooperation and Trade Division (ECTD) pooled its efforts to mainstream circularity and the sustainable use of natural resources in the existing relevant work streams and foster the discussion in the ECE region, as appropriate and subject to available resources.

43. The Economic Cooperation and Trade Division launched a project "Accelerating the Transition towards a Circular Economy in the ECE region" (2021–2024), funded by 13th tranche of UNDA. The project implementation involves policy research and analysis on a wide range of trade-related topics, such as the trade and circular economy nexus, improving traceability of products along international value chains, innovation-enhancing procurement, institutional arrangements for circular economy, financing and waste management for circular economy and sustainable use of natural resources. Under the project ECTD brings together key circularity players, such as the Ellen MacArthur Foundation, the Finnish Innovation Fund (Sitra), Chatham House, UNIDO, UNEP, ITU, Cambridge Judge Business School – University of Cambridge, and the Lund University. With a view to further fostering cooperation, ECTD launched the Circular STEP (Stakeholder Engagement Platform), which will facilitate exchanges of experience and best practices and engage stakeholders in the circular economy transition. The platform will unite Governments, private sector, academic and research institutions, civil society, and other actors from all 56 member States.

Summary table: Cooperation with other organizations

Organization	Mechanisms for cooperation	Current cooperation
ARSO (African Organization for Standardisation)	Declaration for Gender-Responsive Standards and Standards Development.	ARSO is a signatory to the Declaration for Gender-Responsive Standards and Standards Development and actively participates in the relevant meetings of the Gender-Responsive Standards Initiative group.
ASTM International	Declaration for Gender-Responsive Standards and Standards Development.	ASTM is a signatory to the Declaration for Gender-Responsive Standards and Standards Development and actively participates in the relevant meetings of the Gender-Responsive Standards Initiative group.
BIPM (International Bureau of Weights and Measures)	Regular working group meetings.	BIPM actively participates in the meetings of WP.6.
Chatham House	Active participation in meetings / contributions to analytical work.	Environment and Society Programme of the Royal Institute of International Affairs Chatham House actively contributes to the development of the policy paper on financing for circular economy and sustainable management of natural resources.
Codex Alimentarius Commission	Collaboration on standard development.	ECE standards are circulated to the Codex Committee on Fresh Fruits and Vegetables, the Codex Committee on Processed Fruits and Vegetables and the Codex Alimentarius Commission. Mutual participation in the relevant meetings to share information and enhance cooperation.
	"Standards for the SDGs" Portal.	CODEX have mapped their standards to SDGs and provided these for publication on the ECE "Standards for the SDG" Portal.
Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS), CIS Euro-Asian Interstate Council for Standardization, Metrology and Certification (EASC)	Regular working group meetings.	Participate in WP.6 meetings and use WP.6 International Model on Regulatory Harmonization.
EEC	ECE-EEC MoU with annual Programme of Action.	There are regular contacts and information exchange between WP.6 and EEC on best practices in regulatory cooperation and market surveillance activities.
		Following up on a long-standing cooperation on trade facilitation and the Single Window with the Customs law department of EEC, ECE carried out capacity-building on Single Window in the digital economy.
Electronic Business Memorandum of	eB-MoU between ECE, IEC, ISO and ITU.	ECE, IEC, ISO and ITU met several times to discuss developments and topics of joint interest. Webinars have been organized on key topics such as e-business and

Organization	Mechanisms for cooperation	Current cooperation
Understanding (eB-MoU) between ECE, IEC, ISO, ITU		blockchain (22 October 2021). ECE is chairing the eB-MoU from December 2021 to December 2022.
		Ongoing cooperation and coordination between the secretariats. Management meetings on average every three months between the secretariats.
		One annual meetings of the MoU Management Group on coordination and standardization issues with the secretariats, the individual working groups within the four signatory organizations as well as the international user groups.
		ITU and ECE co-organized a session during the Regional Forum on Sustainable Development in March 2021 on Digital Transformation for Sustainable Development Goals in the Wake of COVID-19.
Ellen McArthur Foundation	Active participation in meetings / contributions to analytical work.	Contributed to the regional policy dialogue "Harnessing trade and economic cooperation for the transition to a circular economy in UNECE region" (online) in October 2021.
		Contributed to the roundtable: Circular Economy – Fostering Circularity in Food Trade (online) in November 2021.
		Peer reviewed the draft template for the national thematic gap analysis for circular economy, to be shared with project countries in Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia under a UNDA project. Also supported mapping of experts for policy paper on institutional arrangements for circular economy and sustainable management of natural resources.
European Commission (EC)	Regular working group meetings.	EC participates in all the annual sessions of WP.6, providing input into the work and updates on its own activities. EC also participates in activities related to market surveillance, regulatory cooperation and risk management.
		EC closely cooperates, harmonizes its legislation with marketing standards with ECE standards and attends the annual meetings of WP.7 and its Specialized Sections.
European Committee for Standardization (CEN) and European Committee for Electrotechnical Standardization (CENELEC)	Declaration for Gender-Responsive Standards and Standards Development. "Standards for the SDGs" Portal.	CEN/CENELEC is a signatory to the Declaration for Gender-Responsive Standards and Standards Development and actively participates in the relevant meetings of the Gender-Responsive Standards Initiative group.
		CEN/CENELEC are preparing to submit the mappings of their standards to SDGs for including in the WP.6 "Standards for the SDGs" Portal.

Organization	Mechanisms for cooperation	Current cooperation
European Union DG MOVE	ECE is an observer in DTLF.	UN/CEFACT Multimodal Transport Reference Data Model has been chosen as the semantic standards for DTLF data requirements. Since 2019, ECE has participated regularly in the DTLF subgroup workshops, studying the documentary requirements in transport and logistics and their dematerialization.
European Union DG TAXUD	DG TAXUD organizes regular meetings of the member States' Single Window Implementation group.	TAXUD has been supportive of UN/CEFACT work on recommendations. TAXUD and the European Union member States were active in the revision of Recommendation No. 33 on establishing a Single Window, and how this will apply to a Regional European Single Window.
European Union DG MARE	ECE Team of Specialists on Environmental, Social and Governance Traceability of Sustainable Value Chains in the Circular Economy.	DG MARE has engaged in work with the ECE Team of Specialists on Environmental, Social and Governance Traceability of Sustainable Value Chains in the Circular Economy and has funded communication activities to support the dissemination of the FLUX standard.
European Union DG INTPA and DG ENV	Enhancing transparency and traceability of sustainable value chains in the garment and footwear sector project, jointly implemented by ECE through its UN/CEFACT and ITC with financial support from DG INTPA.	The ECE secretariat is engaging with DG INTPA and DG ENV on the work to advance the sustainability and circularity of value chains in the textile and leather sector in European Union member States and other regions of the world. The project created a multi-stakeholder policy dialogue platform engaging with more than 200 experts, representing 190,000 companies globally, around more than 30 countries. The project is implemented in close cooperation with ITC, OECD, UNEP, UNCTAD, the International Labour Organization (ILO), the United Nations Global Compact, CITES, government institutions and the private sector (business associations and private companies), academia, think tanks and non-governmental organizations. The pilot to harness the potential of blockchain technology for due diligence and traceability in cotton and leather value chains involves suppliers, manufacturers, brands, standard setting bodies and technology solution providers.
	Active participation in meetings / contributions to analytical work.	Representative from the Directorate-General for Environment.
		Directorate B – Circular Economy & Green Growth contributed to the regional policy dialogue "Harnessing trade and economic cooperation for the transition to a circular economy in UNECE region" (online). They also contributed to mapping of experts for development of policy papers on digital solutions for circular economy acceleration.
		ECE showcased circular economy related work at the virtual Networking Village at the Annual Conference "Towards a new normal: Sustainable products for sustainable consumption" (online). This activity was coordinated with the Directorate-General for Environment Unit B1 – Circular Economy, Sustainable Production and Consumption

Organization	Mechanisms for cooperation	Current cooperation
FAO	Activities and events related to sustainable agricultural practices and trade as well as sustainable food systems, including food loss/waste, and food loss prevention.	FAO has been joint organizer and convener of several conferences and events to disseminate knowledge and strengthen impact of measures related to sustainable agricultural practices, trade and food loss and waste prevention. Recent example: Regional Forum for Sustainable Development Peer learning round table – cluster 1 – People: Session 1–2: Accelerating SDG progress in the time of a pandemic: improving food systems to make healthy diets accessible to all.
	Issue-based Coalition (IBC) on sustainable food systems.	
	ECE collaborates with FAO Regional Office for Europe and Central Asia on the Regional Overview of Food Security and Nutrition in Europe and Central Asia in 2022.	ECE contributed to the FAO Regional Overview of Food Security and Nutrition in Europe and Central Asia in 2022.
Geneva Trade Platform	Co-organization of online events on trade-related themes.	Harnessing e-commerce post-COVID-19: Opportunities and Challenges for Transition Economies, February 2021.
International Air Transport Association (IATA)	Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to strengthen the support to developing countries seeking to implement WTO TFA.	Joint promotion of the use of international recommendations and standards and best practices in trade facilitation and electronic business.
		Joint outreach activities to support countries in their implementation of such recommendation and standards – subject to available resources.
		ECE participated in meetings of the IATA group on location codes, further promoting the convergence of the IATA airport codes and UN/LOCODE which is widely used by all other means of transport and administrations.
ICAO	"Standards for the SDGs" Portal.	ICAO have mapped their standards to SDGs and provided these for publication on the ECE "Standards for the SDGs" Portal.
ICC	Memorandum of Understanding on cooperation between ECE and ICC.	Participation in the Trade Procedures Facilitation Working Group of UN/CEFACT.
	Cooperation with ICC-Ukraine.	Support for trade facilitation in Ukraine, notably through the Interagency Working Group on Trade Facilitation and Logistics of Ukraine, chaired by ICC-Ukraine.
IEC	Regular working group meetings.	IEC is a signatory of the WP.6 Declaration for Gender-Responsive Standards and Standards Development and regularly participates in the meetings of the WP.6 Gender-Responsive Standards Initiative.
	Declaration for Gender-Responsive Standards and Standards Development.	
	"Standards for the SDGs" Portal.	IEC have mapped their standards to SDGs and provided these for publication on the ECE "Standards for the SDGs" Portal.

Organization	Mechanisms for cooperation	Current cooperation
		The IECEE attends ECE meetings and participates in the work of the Group of Experts on Risk Management in Regulatory Systems. Work has been initiated on cybersecurity in cooperation with the IEC Conformity Assessment Board.
		WP.6 works with IEC, its Conformity Assessment Board and its three Conformity Assessment Systems (IECEE, IECEx and IECQ) and its TC 31 on the project on equipment for explosive atmospheres.
		IECEx organizes yearly international conferences in collaboration with ECE.
IEEE	"Standards for the SDGs" Portal.	IEEE have mapped their standards to SDGs and provided these for publication on the ECE "Standards for the SDGs" Portal.
IMO	Partnership Agreement. Active participation in meetings.	ECE concluded in 2020 a partnership agreement with IMO to help them to develop and maintain their e-business standards needs related to the FAL Convention. The first version of the IMO Reference Data Model on this topic was launched at the June 2021 FAL Committee meeting. The UN/CEFACT equivalent standard was published shortly after that.
INetQI (International Network on Quality Infrastructure) (previously "Network on Metrology, Accreditation and Standardization for Developing Countries" [DCMAS])	Joint coordination group between BIPM, CIPM, IAF, IEC, ILAC, OIML, CIML, ISO, ITU, UNIDO, WTO and the World Bank.	WP.6 is a founding member of the "International Network on Quality Infrastructure" and participates in all of the meetings of this group.
ISO	Regular working group meetings.	ISO attends all WP.6 meetings and seminars.
(See also ISO TCs below and eB-MoU above)	Declaration for Gender-Responsive Standards and Standards Development.	ISO is a signatory of WP.6 Declaration for Gender-Responsive Standards and Standards Development.
	"Standards for the SDGs" Portal.	ISO actively participates in all WP.6 Gender-Responsive Standards Initiatives meetings and events.
		ISO have mapped their standards to SDGs and provided these for publication on the ECE "Standards for the SDGs" Portal.
		The ECE secretariat delivers presentations on the WP.6 activities in the context of ISO/CASCO.

Organization	Mechanisms for cooperation	Current cooperation
		A partnership has been established with the ISO Committee on Consumer Policies (COPOLCO).
	Regular working group meetings.	ECE is a voting member in the ISO 3166 Maintenance Agency (alpha-2 country code).
ISO TC 154 on Processes, data elements and documents in commerce, industry, and administration	Category-A liaison. Regular Working Group Meetings.	ECE maintains a category-A liaison with ISO TC 154, ensuring compatibility of standards and avoiding unnecessary overlaps.
		Joint Working Group 1 on ISO 9735 Standard (EDIFACT application-level syntax rules) is a joint group between ISO and ECE.
		Joint Working Group 8 on logistic data contents and process is a joint group between ISO and ECE.
		Several items have been advanced during this period such as a new standard for e-commerce logistics (ISO DIS 23354), UN/EDIFACT syntax and the use of blockchain for the exchange of negotiable bills of lading (PWI5909).
		TC154 participates in the working group meetings of UN/CEFACT.
ISO TC 68 on Financial Services	Category-B liaison.	ECE maintains a category-B liaison with ISO TC 68, sharing information on ongoing work and avoiding unnecessary overlaps. Active participation in the ISO TC 68 meetings.
ISO TC 127 on Earth-Moving Machinery	Regular working group meetings.	TC 127 participates in and supports the WP.6 sectoral regulatory project "Earth-Moving Machinery Initiative".
ISO TC 262 on Risk Management	Regular working group meetings.	Regular coordination, information exchange and activities in risk management with support to the WP.6 Group of Experts on Risk Management in Regulatory Systems.
		An ISO/TC 262 member is also co-coordinating the WP.6 Group of Experts on Risk Management in Regulatory Systems.
ITC	ECE, UNCTAD and ITC MoU for delivering coordinated outreach and support activities to help the developing countries implement WTO TFA.	ITC collaborates with ECE on the dissemination and development of training material on trade facilitation, ITC works with ECE on the dissemination of ECE agricultural quality standards and capacity-building activities.
	Regular working group meetings.	ITC participates in the WP.6 Group of Experts on Risk Management in Regulatory Systems meetings and events.

Organization	Mechanisms for cooperation	Current cooperation
		WP.6 is working with ITC on the publication of a joint guidebook on integrating risk management in trade facilitation, which will be issued in 2022.
ITU	Declaration for Gender-Responsive Standards and Standards Development.	ITU is a signatory to the Declaration for Gender-Responsive Standards and Standards Development and actively participates in the relevant meetings of the Gender-Responsive Standards Initiative group.
Lund University Circular Center	Active participation in meetings / contribution to analytical work.	Participated in the national webinar targeting MSMEs in Romania.
OECD	Regular working group meetings.	WP.6 secretariat actively participates in the OECD International Organizations Partnership network.
	Participation in meetings.	The Agro-food Trade and Markets Division of the Trade and Agriculture Directorate of OECD contributed to discussions at the roundtable: Circular Economy – Fostering Circularity in Food Trade (online) in November 2021.
OECD Fruit and Vegetables Scheme	Regular working group meetings.	Meeting schedules are set up in coordination between secretaries which actively participate in each other's relevant meetings.
	Standards development.	OECD develops explanatory brochures on ECE standards.
		ECE and OECD work closely on updating and interpreting the standards.
OIML	Studies on Regulatory and Procedural Barriers to Trade.	Collaboration with OIML in assisting the countries implement recommendations emerging from the national studies on regulatory and procedural barriers to trade in the area of metrology.
Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE)	Contributions to analytical work.	ECE contributes to trade-related parts of reviews and activities under the OSCE economic dimension, drawing on the recommendations emerging from the studies on Regulatory and Procedural Barriers to Trade and the work of the Trade subprogramme.
	Joint activity.	ECE worked with OSCE on training courses in Belarus, Kyrgyzstan, Republic of Moldova.
Pan American Standards Commission (COPANT)	Declaration for Gender-Responsive Standards and Standards Development.	COPANT is a signatory to the Declaration for Gender-Responsive Standards and Standards Development and actively participates in the relevant meetings of the Gender-Responsive Standards Initiative group.
Regional commissions of the United Nations	Meetings.	Coordination meetings of ECE with the other four regional commissions on trade and on trade facilitation.

Organization	Mechanisms for cooperation	Current cooperation
	Capacity-building. Joint projects. Collaboration on trade facilitation in common member States and joint support for the Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia (SPECA).	ECA, ECE, ECLAC, ESCAP and ESCWA cooperated in implementing the UNDA project for increased policy coherence and sustainability of national production and consumption patterns in North-South and South-South agriculture trade, which ended in December 2021.
		ECE supports and cooperates with ESCWA on food loss and waste solution for increased sustainability and food security.
		ECE and ESCAP support actively the United Nations activities with SPECA.
		ECE Regional Adviser collaborated in the preparation and will collaborate on the future implementation of the UNDA 11th tranche and project financed by the Russian Federation for trade facilitation in the transition economies.
Sitra	Active participation in meetings / contributions to promoting ECTD work.	ECTD collaborated with Sitra to co-organize a session on "Trade in circularity: Perspectives of developing and transition economies" during the Trade and Sustainability Hub in December 2021. Sitra also included ECTD in multiple events at the World Circular Economy Forum side events.
SMIIC	Declaration for Gender-Responsive Standards and Standards Development.	SMIIC is a signatory to the Declaration for Gender-Responsive Standards and Standards Development and actively participates in the relevant meetings of the Gender-Responsive Standards Initiative group.
UNCTAD	ECE, UNCTAD and ITC have a MoU for delivering coordinated outreach and support activities to help the developing countries implement WTO TFA. ECE is also a signatory to a MoU with the Global Facilitation Partnership (GFP) since 2005. It is a core partner and Steering Committee member of GFP, along with the World Bank, WCO, UNCTAD, UNIDO, OECD and the International Road Transport Union (IRU). eTrade for All Initiative.	ECE and UNCTAD cooperate closely on providing support to countries in the implementation of WTO TFA. This includes participation in each other's workshops on the topic.
		ECE is collaborating with UNCTAD in the delivery of training in sustainable agricultural trade.
		Joint activities and participation in each other's meetings, seminars and forums, joint organization of seminars and mutual contribution to projects.
		ECE published the Regional Report on Post-Pandemic COVID-19 Economic Recovery: E-commerce and Trade Facilitation under this initiative. The report explores the impact of the pandemic on e-commerce in the transition economies as well as sets out recommendations for enhancing trade facilitation and e-commerce in these economies.

Organization	Mechanisms for cooperation	Current cooperation
UNDP	Meeting schedules are set up in coordination between secretariats. Joint organization of capacity-building events. Work plans coordinated with the country UNDP offices, United Nations country teams and with the UNDP regional hub in Istanbul.	Joint training and capacity-building activities in Central Asia to improve the countries' integration into agricultural supply chains. This includes organization of workshops, conducting studies, consultations, development of training material and implementation measures. UNDP participates and provides support for trade facilitation capacity-building activities and for SPECA activities.
UNEP	Active participation in meetings.	Active participation in UN/CEFACT conferences and meetings. Contributed to the regional policy dialogue "Harnessing trade and economic cooperation for the transition to a circular economy in ECE region" (online) in October 2021.
UNFSS	Meetings, joint activities.	Collaboration in the area of standardization.
UNIDO	UNIDO is a member of GFP. UNIDO is a member of the INetQI (see above). Contributed to analytical work.	Participation in joint meetings on trade facilitation implementation. UNIDO participates in WP.6 sessions. Contributed to mapping of experts on circular economy and sustainable use of natural resources.
United Nations Inter-Agency Cluster on Trade and Productive Capacity (FAO, ILO, ITC, United Nations Commission on International Trade Law [UNCITRAL], UNCTAD, UNDP, UNEP, UNIDO, UNOPS, WTO, and the five regional commissions)	The members of the Cluster assist in building the capacity in the areas of trade and productive policies, in supply side capacity; export capacity; capacity to implement trade and trade-related rules; disputes settlement capacity; negotiating capacity; as well as in research and analysis.	The Cluster designs and implements joint programmes. ECE has been involved in activities undertaken in its member countries.
UNDRR	Representation in the ECE delegation to UNDRR.	The WP.6 secretariat participates in the ECE delegation to UNDRR and reports on all activities of the Trade subprogramme related to disaster risk reduction. The experts within WP.6, notably within the Group of Experts on Risk Management in Regulatory Systems (GRM), punctually participate in coordinated events that contribute to the implementation of the "Sendai Framework for Action".

Organization	Mechanisms for cooperation	Current cooperation
UN-Women	Regular working group meetings.	UN-Women actively participates in the meetings and events of WP.6 Gender-Responsive Standards Initiative and support the Declaration for Gender-Responsive Standards and Standards Development.
WCO	ECE-WCO MoU signed in 2001.	UN/CEFACT secretariat and Chair participate in WCO Data Model Project Team meetings and strives to ensure that both the UN/CEFACT model and the WCO model remain compatible.
WIPO	"Standards for the SDGs" Portal.	WIPO have mapped their standards to SDGs and provided these for publication on the ECE "Standards for the SDGs" Portal.
Women Organizing for Charge in Agriculture and Natural Resource Management (WOCAN)	Declaration for Gender-Responsive Standards and Standards Development.	WOCAN is a signatory to the Declaration for Gender-Responsive Standards and Standards Development and actively participates in the relevant meetings of the Gender-Responsive Standards Initiative group.
World Bank (WB)	Support by WB to a variety of ECE capacity-building activities and reciprocal support from ECE to WB goals and objectives, particularly in trade and transport facilitation. ECE signed an MoU with WB/GFP in March 2005. ECE is a core partner and Steering Committee member of GFP, along with WB, WCO, UNCTAD, UNIDO, OECD and IRU.	ECE participates actively in and contributes substantial materials to the GFP website. WB participates in the meetings of the International Trade Procedures Programme Development Area of UN/CEFACT. WB has selected the ECE Single Window Recommendation as the base for its projects in this area. WB has recognized the importance of the UN/CEFACT e-business standards for agriculture and other regulatory processes.
WTO	Observer status in the WTO Committee on Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT). Gender-Responsive Standards Initiative guidance and meetings. "Standards for the SDGs" Portal. Observer status in the Committee on Trade and Development.	Representatives from WP.6 participated in all the meetings of the WTO TBT Committee and provided updates on each activity at each of them. WTO representatives regularly attend meetings of subsidiary bodies of the Steering Committee on Trade Capacity and Standards. The WTO Standards and Trade Development Facility (STDF) collaborates with ECE on the dissemination and development of training material for sustainable trade of agricultural products. WTO consults ECE on the guidance and deliverables of its Gender-Responsive Standards Initiative. The two work jointly on standards-related gender topics.

Organization	Mechanisms for cooperation	Current cooperation
		Support in identifying and mapping standards that can be used in support of the goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda, as well as in developing case studies of actual use of standards in support of sustainable development by national and local authorities.
	The United Nations Trade Facilitation Network is an inter-agency group comprising WTO and WB, ITC, UNCTAD and ECE. Collaboration with the WTO Chairs Programme. Participation in the WTO Trade and environmental sustainability structured discussions.	ECE works with WTO on the implementation of TFA in transition countries. ECE Trade Division attends some WTO committee sessions (as representative of the regional commissions of the United Nations) and WTO TFA Annex D+ organizations' meetings organized by TFA Facility. ECE briefed, upon invitation, at the WTO Committee on Trade and Environment. WTO representatives regularly attend the trade facilitation group of UN/CEFACT meetings.
60 national standards bodies	Declaration for Gender-Responsive Standards and Standards Development.	Signatories to the Declaration for Gender-Responsive Standards and Standards Development and actively participate in the relevant meetings of the Gender-Responsive Standards Initiative group.