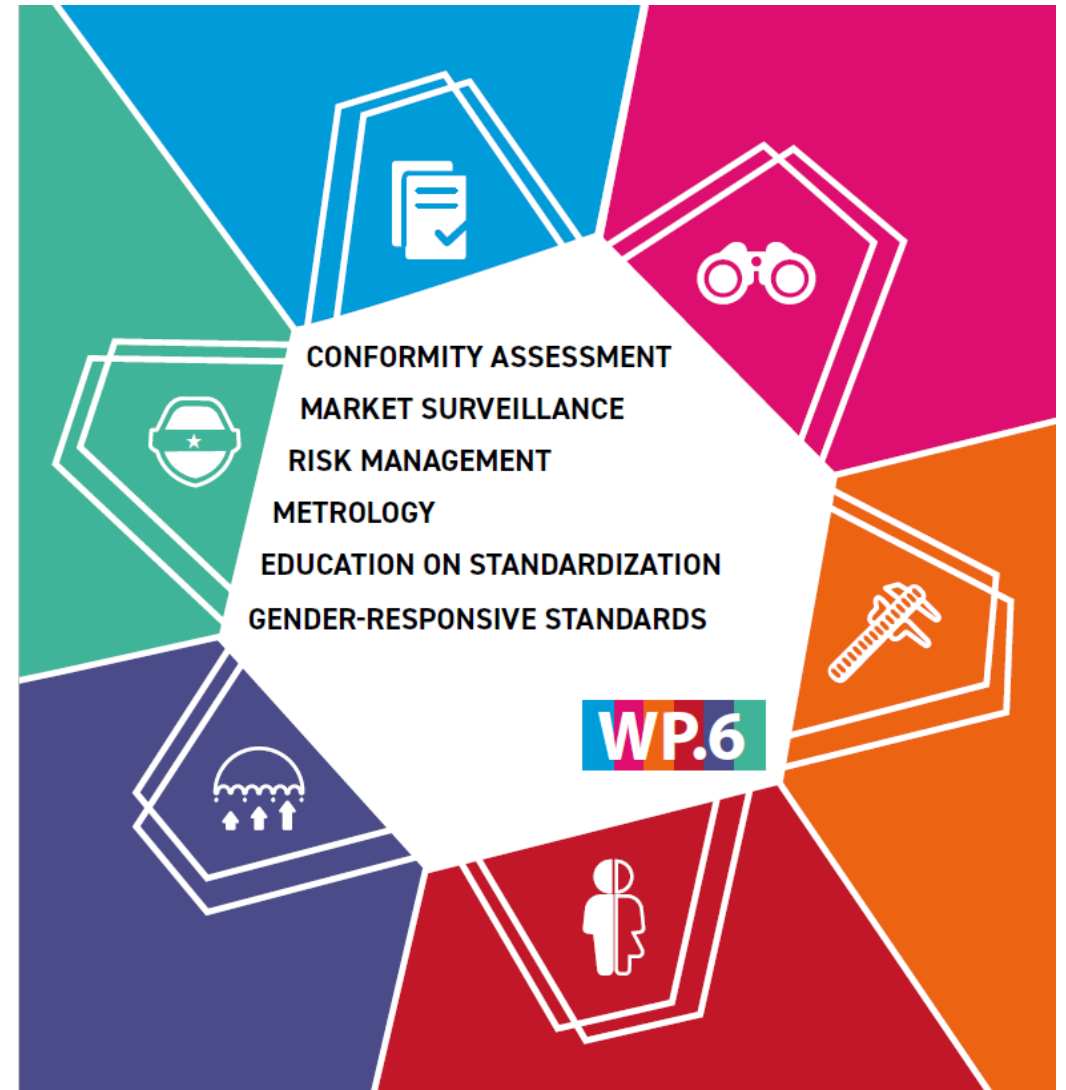


Working Party on Regulatory Cooperation and Standardization Policies

Presentation of WP.6

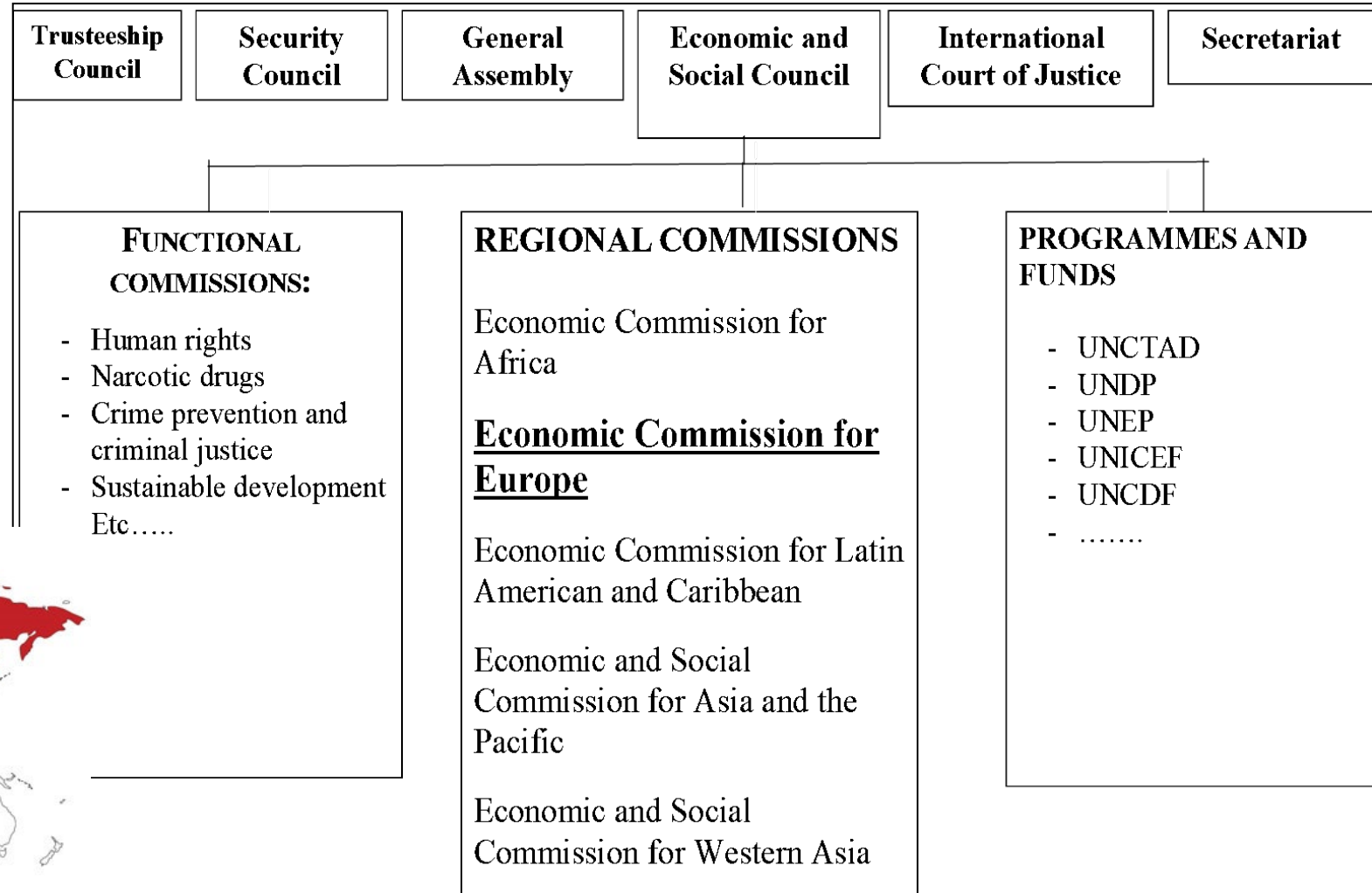
As of December 2023



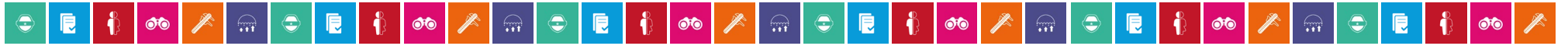
Lance THOMPSON
Secretary WP.6 / Economic Affairs Officer
lance.thompson@un.org

UNECE – [Working Party 6](#)

UN ECOSOC



Economic Commission for Europe



Committee on
Environmental Policy

Inland Transport
Committee

Conference of European
Statisticians

Committee on Innovation,
Competitiveness and
Public-Private
Partnerships

Committee on
Sustainable Energy

**Steering Committee on
Trade Capacity and
Standards**

Committee on Forests
and the Forest Industry

Committee on Housing
and Land Management

UNECE Economic Cooperation and Trade Division (ECTD) in a Nutshell



One Vision: Harnessing Economic Cooperation and Trade for the SDGs

Two Sub-programmes

- Sub-programme 4: Economic Cooperation and Integration
- **Sub-programme 6: Trade**



Three Thematic Intergovernmental Areas

- **SCTCS – Trade Capacity and Standardization**
- UN/CEFACT – Trade Facilitation and Electronic Business
- CICPPP – Innovation, Competitiveness and PPPs

Four Sections

- **Market Access Section**
- Trade Facilitation Section
- Cooperation and Partnerships Section
- Innovative Policies Development Section



Mission Statement

Working Party on Regulatory Cooperation and Standardization Policies



- WP.6 aims to promote regulatory cooperation, standardization policies and activities which contribute towards reducing technical barriers to trade, promoting sustainable development in all its dimensions including, for example, gender equality, climate and environmental protection, circular economy and the adaptation to new technologies.



Quality Infrastructure



“The system comprising the organizations (public and private) together with the policies, relevant legal and regulatory framework, and practices needed to support and enhance the quality, safety, and environmental soundness of goods, services, and processes”

Source: International Network of Quality Infrastructure (INetQI)



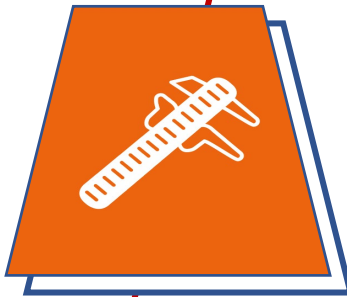
Quality Infrastructure



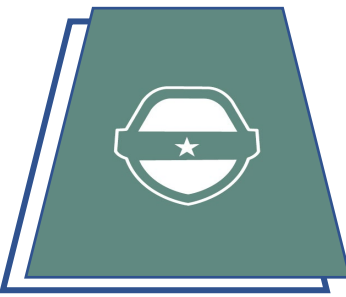
National Regulatory Framework on QI



International Standardization



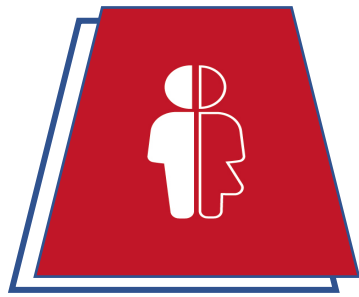
Metrology



National Technical Regulations



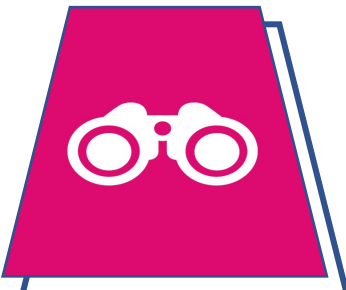
Accreditation



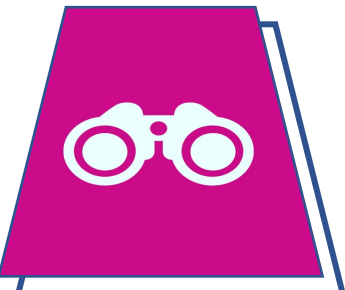
Gender Responsive Standards



International Regulatory Cooperation



Conformity Assessment



Market Surveillance



Risk Management

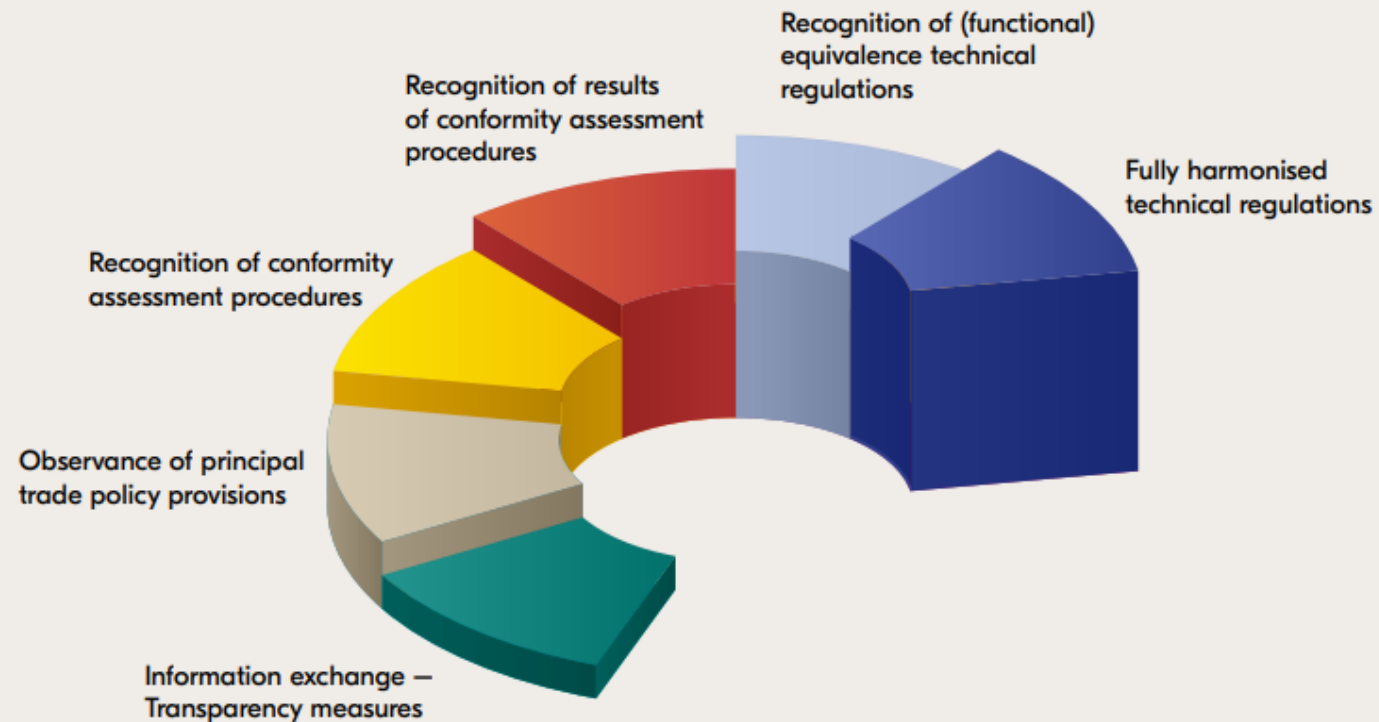


Education on Standardization

Quality Infrastructure: International Regulatory Cooperation



Different levels of regulatory cooperation



Source: Felinda Wennerberg
National Board of Trade Sweden (2022)

Quality Infrastructure: IRC – WP.6 references

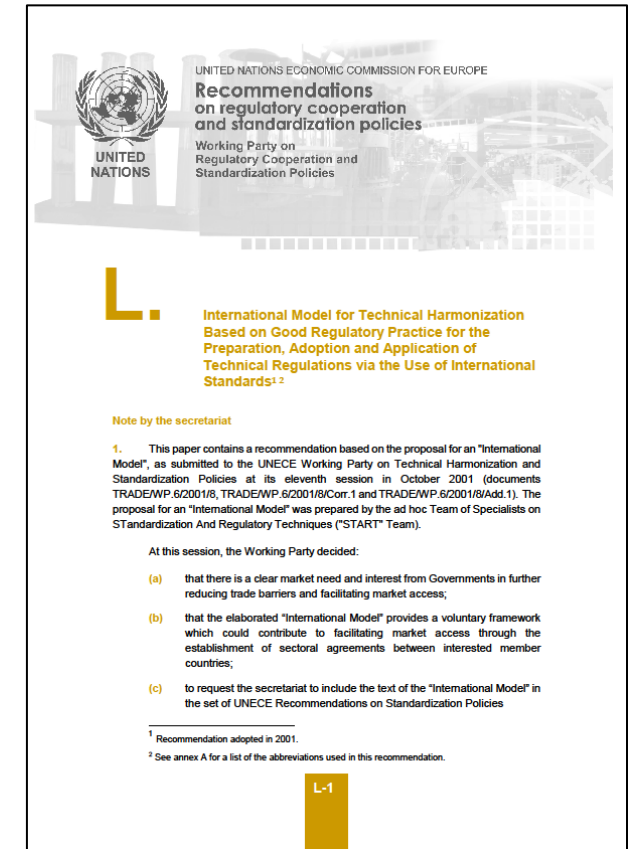


- Recommendation L on International Model for Transnational Regulatory Cooperation Based on Good Regulatory Practice
- Recommendation G on Acceptance of Conformity Assessment Results
- Recommendation K on Metrological Assurance of Conformity Assessment and Testing
- Recommendation F on the Creation and Promotion of International Agreements on Conformity Assessment
- Recommendation E on the Treatment of Imported Products, Processes and Services
- Recommendation C on International Harmonization of Standards and Technical Regulations
- Recommendation B on Coordination of Technical Regulations and Standardization

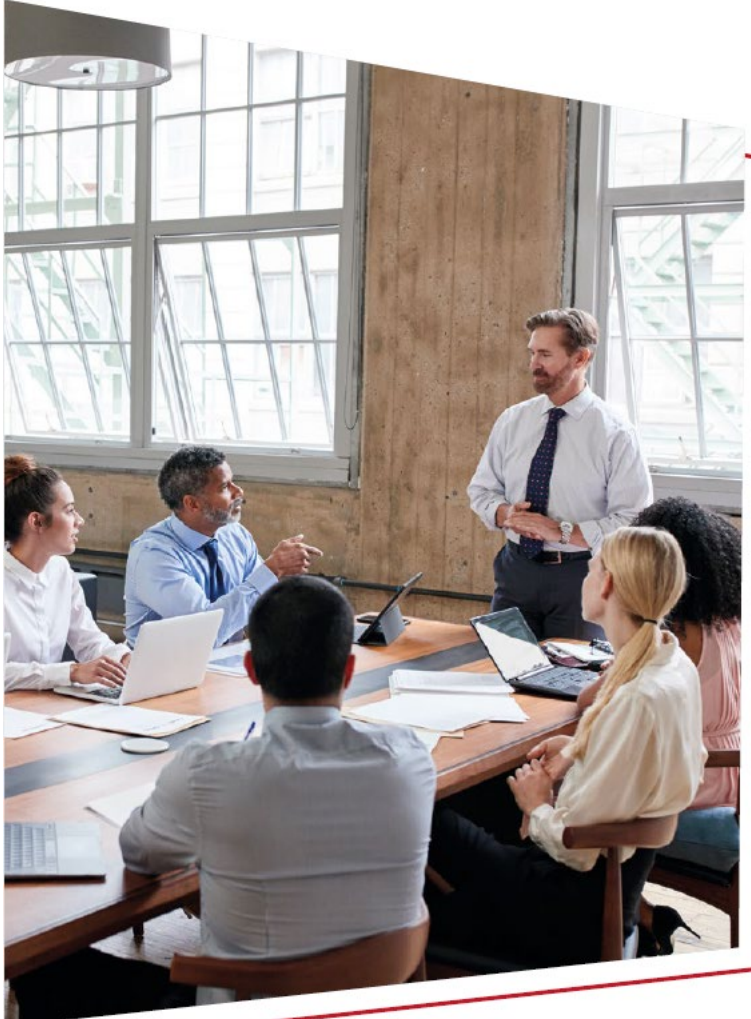
Regulatory Cooperation: WP.6 Recommendation L



- A set of tools that countries can use to harmonize their technical regulations and regulatory systems
- Can be implemented in any sector at a bilateral, regional or global level
- Builds on the principles of the WTO TBT Agreement but goes further
- Forms the basis of regulatory cooperation in the Customs Union



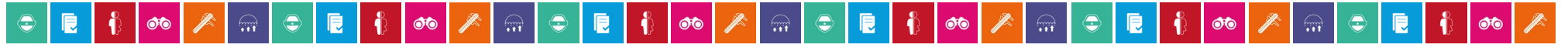
Quality Infrastructure: Standardization



“Document, established by consensus and approved by a recognized body, that provides, for common and repeated use, rules, guidelines or characteristics for activities or their results, aimed at the achievement of the optimum degree of order in a given context.”

Source: ISO/IEC Guide 2, 2004, Standardization and related activities – General Vocabulary, paragraph 3.2.

Quality Infrastructure: Standardization – International references



- WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement (WTO TFA)
- WTO Agreement on Technical Barriers to Trade (WTO TBT)
- Annex 3 of the WTO TBT Agreement: Code of good practice for the preparation, adoption and application of standards
- The Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (WTO SPS)
- WCO Kyoto Revised Convention

Quality Infrastructure: Standardization – WP.6 references



- Recommendation T on Standards and Regulations for Sustainable Development
- Recommendation J on Definitions
- Recommendation H on Presentation of UNECE Recommended Standards and Harmonized Technical regulations
- Recommendation D on Reference to Standards
- Recommendation B on Coordination of Technical Regulations and Standardization
- Recommendation A on Further Developments in International Cooperation on Technical Harmonization and Standardization Policies

Quality Infrastructure: National Technical Regulations



- Document which lays down product characteristics or their related processes and production methods, including the applicable administrative provisions, with which compliance is mandatory. It may also include or deal exclusively with terminology, symbols, packaging, marking or labelling requirements as they apply to a product, process or production method.

Source: WTO Agreement on Technical Barriers to Trade, Annex 1.

Standards ≠ Regulations



- Compliance with standards is not mandatory
- Implementation of a standard is proved by a document: a test report or a certificate
- Implementation of a technical regulation may be checked by a public authority: for example an inspection agent, or a market surveillance officer that audits a company's premises

Quality Infrastructure: Metrology



Metrology is the science of measurement and its application.

- **Scientific metrology**, realization and dissemination of units (“metrological traceability”), and research to be able to measure ‘better’
- **Legal metrology**, legal or regulatory requirements
 - those affected have conflicting interests, or don't have the competence or the possibility to evaluate the reliability of the measurement results
 - legal evidence is needed of measurement reliability
 - health & safety require reliability of measurement
- **Industrial metrology**, measurements on the shop floor, or out in the field, instrumentation

Source: BIPM

Quality Infrastructure: Metrology – WP.6 references



- Recommendation K on Metrological Assurance of Conformity Assessment and Testing



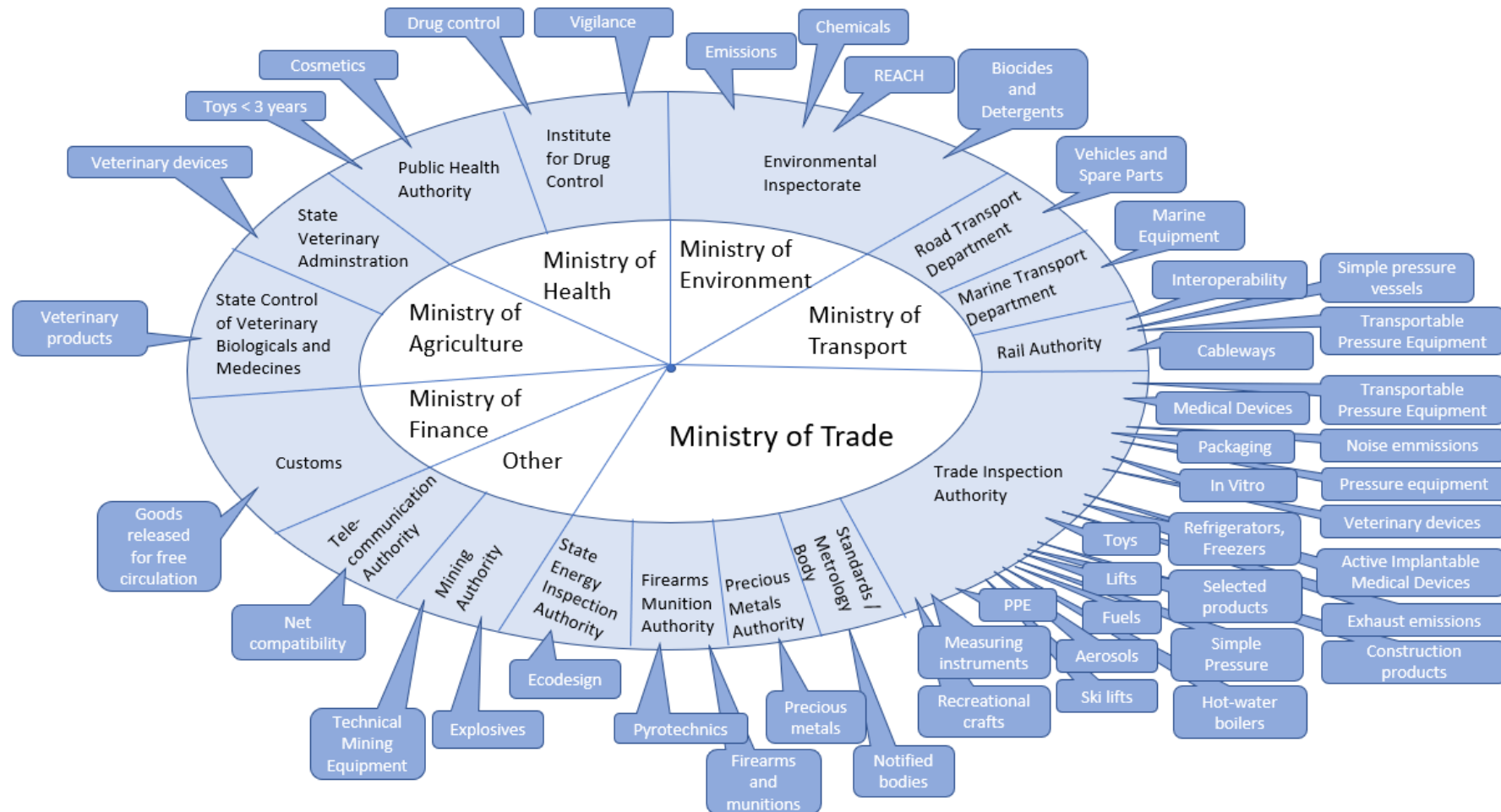
Quality Infrastructure: Market Surveillance



- Market surveillance is the set of activities carried out and measures taken by designated authorities to ensure that products comply with the requirements set out in relevant legislation and do not endanger health, safety or any other aspect of public interest protection.



Quality infrastructure: Complexity of national market surveillance



Quality Infrastructure: Conformity Assessment



- All products must conform to applicable regulations before being sold on the market. The manufacturer is responsible to ensure that these regulations are respected prior to being put on the market. This is the essence of conformity assessment.

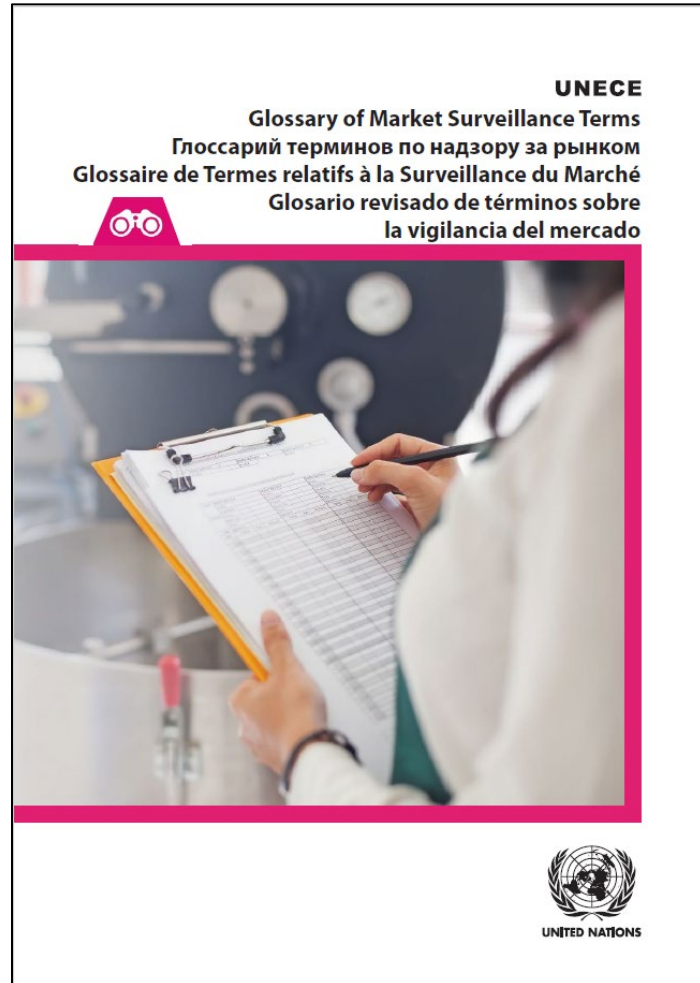
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Characteristic: Class ##
Characteristic: ####
www.exampleltd.co.uk/DOP

Quality Infrastructure: Market Surveillance – WP.6 references



- Recommendation M on Use of Market Surveillance Infrastructure as a Complementary Means to Protect Consumers and Users against Counterfeit Goods
- Recommendation N on Good Market Surveillance Policies and Practices
- Recommendation S on Applying Predictive Risk Management Tools for Targeted Market Surveillance
- Template for exchanging information between Market Surveillance Agencies
- Multilingual Glossary of Market Surveillance Terms
- Market Surveillance in the ECE Region

Multilingual glossary of market surveillance terms



- Purpose: to promote better understanding & harmonize terms used
- Main sources used: ISO standards/EU regulations /WTO documents
- English, French, Russian, Spanish
- Updated in 2022/2023:
 - <https://unece.org/trade/publications/glossary-market-surveillance-terms-ecetrade389rev1>

Quality Infrastructure: Risk Management



- Risk management aims to safeguard against hazards that stem from the quality of products and services – or lack thereof – that have the potential to cause harm or damage the health and safety of consumers and the environment.
- Standards and technical regulations are – among other things – risk mitigation tools and they should be proportionate to risks they were set out to address.
- Development and enforcement of regulations require application of the state-of-the-art risk management tools.

Quality Infrastructure: Risk Management – WP.6 reference



- Recommendation P on Crisis Management within a Regulatory Systems
- Recommendation P on Risk Management in Regulatory Systems v2
- Recommendation R on Managing Risk in Regulatory Frameworks
- Recommendation S on Applying Predictive Risk Management Tools for Targeted Market Surveillance
- Recommendation T on Standards and Regulations for Sustainable Development
- Recommendation V on Addressing Product Non-Compliance Risk in International Trade
- Risk Management in Regulatory Frameworks (ECE/TRADE/390)
- Standards and normative mechanisms for disaster risk reduction
- Managing Risk for Safe, Efficient Trade: Guide for Border Regulators (Joint UNECE – ITC)

Gender-responsive standards



- Standards Development is generally dominated by men and standards have typically been produced to be “gender neutral” or “unisex.”
- The lack of balanced participation and the lack of gender-responsive standards has resulted in unnecessary health and safety risks for women and girls and led to standards having unequal impacts and/or unintended consequences such as negative financial impacts or lower quality of life.
- Historically, standard-setting bodies have operated without a policy for mainstreaming gender in their activities and in the management of their organizations.

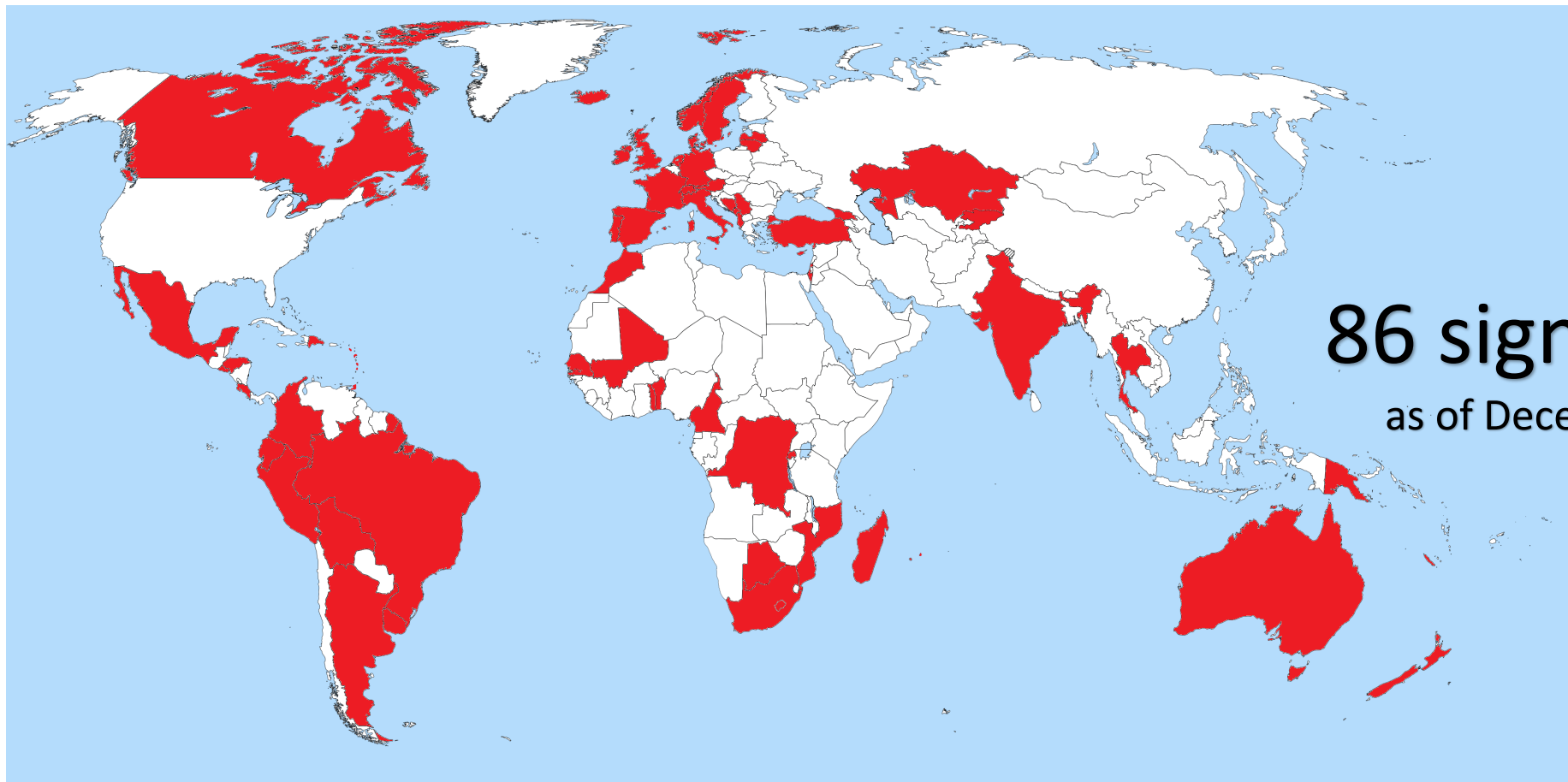
Gender-responsive standards WP.6 references



- Recommendation U on Gender-Responsive Standards
- Declaration on Gender-Responsive Standards and Standards Development and signatory database
- Case study repository of standards-related gender action plans
- Guidelines on Developing Gender-Responsive Standards



Signatories of the Declaration for Gender-Responsive Standards and Standards Development



86 signatories
as of December 2023

Education on Standardization



- Standards permeate our everyday lives. Any product and service we use is built on the basis of one or many standards. Be it a simple coffee machine or a complex energy plant, “there is a standard for that!”.
- More importantly, standards help build a safer and more sustainable and resilient planet Earth. This is why it is so important to make sure that new generations are aware of what standards and regulations are and how they can be used to meet global goals and targets



Education on Standardization WP.6 references



- Recommendation I on Education on standards-related issues
- Concept note for the Workshop on “Introducing standards-related issues in educational curricula”, including a proposed model programme on standardization
- International Trade, standards and regulation module
- Bringing Standardization in University Curricula: Making the Case
- <https://learnqi.unece.org>

Education on Standardization WP.6 Model Programme



- 1) Standardization basics
- 2) Benefits of standardization for society
- 3) Standardization and companies
- 4) National legal and institutional framework for standardization
- 5) Regulatory policies and related institutional mechanisms
- 6) Managing risks through standards, regulations and regulatory impact assessments (RIAs)
- 7) Metrology
- 8) Conformity assessment and its place in business processes and the regulatory infrastructure
- 9) Market surveillance
- 10) Management system standards
- 11) International standardization
- 12) International trade, standards and regulations
- 13) Standardization of information requirements and supply chain
- 14) Standardization within a company (practical exercise)
- 15) Policy issues and challenges in standardization

Subgroups

Working Party on Regulatory Cooperation and Standardization Policies



MARS
Advisory Group
on Market
Surveillance



GRM
Group of Experts
on Risk
Management in
Regulatory
Systems



GRS
Team of
Specialists on
Gender-
Responsive
Standards



START
Ad-Hod Team of
Specialists on
Standardization
and Regulatory
Techniques



START-Ed
Initiative on
Education on
Standardization

Upcoming meetings in 2023

Working Party on Regulatory Cooperation and Standardization Policies



- MARS
 - 20/02; 4-5/04 (annual); 17/09
- GRM
 - 15/01; 2-3/04 (annual); 13/06; 12/09; 14/11
- GRS
 - 7/02; 3-4/04 (annual); 5/06; 11/09; 6/11
- START
 - 5/04
- START-Ed
 - 2/04

WP.6 FORUM

Working Party on Regulatory Cooperation and Standardization Policies

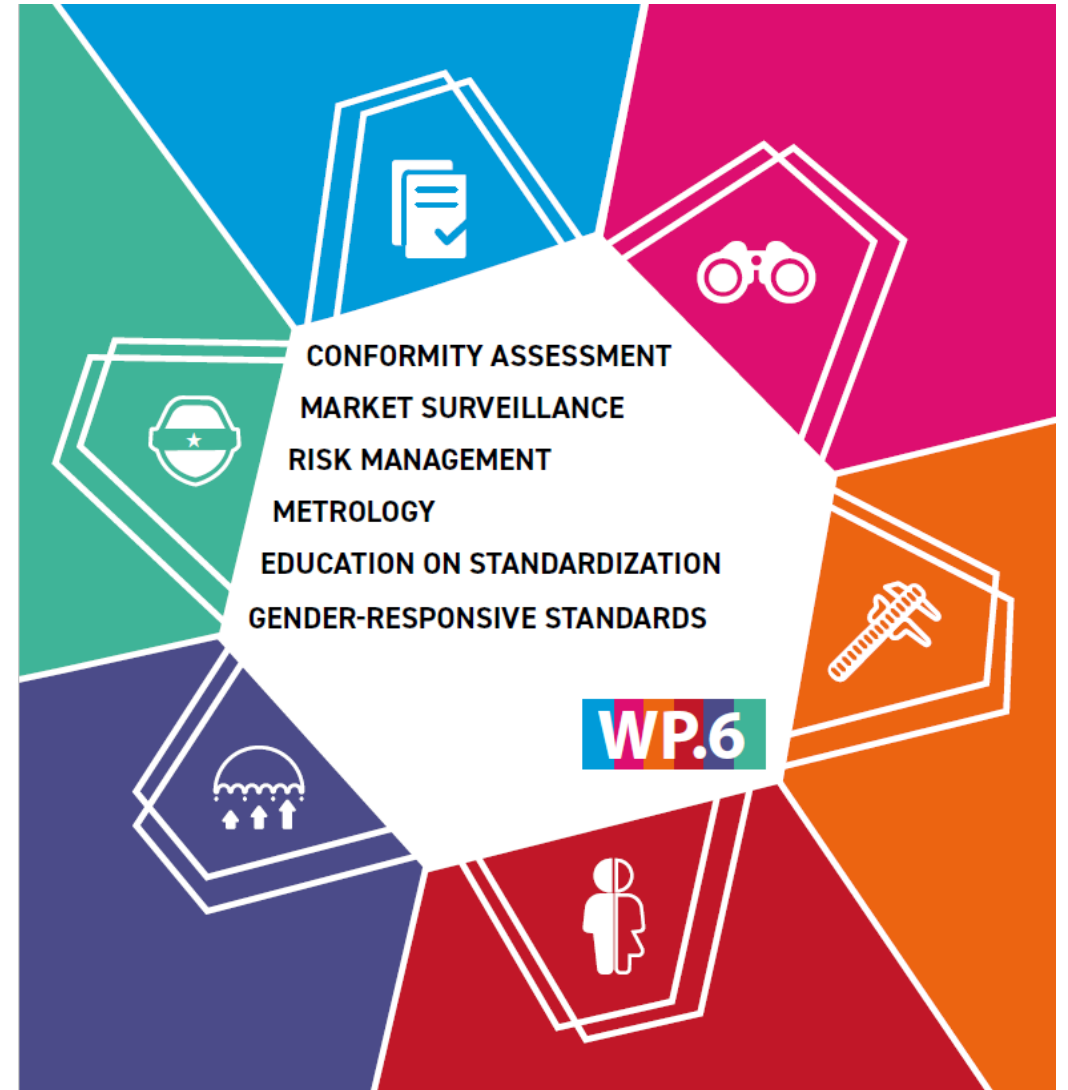
Geneva | 2 – 5 April 2024

WP.6 ANNUAL SESSION

Working Party on Regulatory Cooperation and Standardization Policies

Geneva | 26 – 28 August 2024

Working Party on Regulatory Cooperation and Standardization Policies



Merci ありがとうございました Hvala Ačiū
شكرا جزيلا Mahalo Дякую Teşekkür ederim
Рахмат Dankon ඔබට ස්තූතියි Sagbol Ευχαριστώ
Tack Çox sağ ol Dziękuję Ci Obrigado
მადლობთ תודה 감사합니다 धन्यवाद Dankon
Natur nuhun Баярлалаа Хвала вам Dankon
Tak skal du have Diolch Хвала вам
Спасибо Go raibh maith agat Faleminderit Paldies
Grazzi Dank je Рахмат сага Faafetai Благодаря ти
Grazie Mulțumesc Ačiū Danke Danke
Gracias 谢谢 සුභආඥා Takk skal du ha
Salamat Aitäh Dankie Þakka þér fyrir
Ви благодарам Dėkuji Köszönöm Дзякуй
धन्यवाद Gràcies Asante
Kiitos

Thank you

Lance THOMPSON
Secretary WP.6 / Economic Affairs Officer

UNECE – Working Party 6
12/01/2023, Geneva