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Economic Commission for Europe

Executive Committee

Centre for Trade Facilitation and Electronic Business

Thirtieth session
Geneva, 11 and 12 July 2024
Item 1 of the provisional agenda
Adoption of the agenda

Annotated Provisional Agenda for the Thirtieth Session[1, 2]

To be held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva
starting at 10:00 a.m. on Thursday 11 July 2024, in Salle III.

I. Provisional agenda

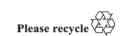1. Adoption of the agenda.

2. Elections.

A. High-level substantive segment – Policy dialogue

3. Policy dialogue on the role of climate-smart connectivity and digital trade and transport corridors in support of regional and global integration and sustainable development.

B. General segment – Overview of United Nations Centre for Trade Facilitation and Electronic Business activities

4. Matters arising since the twenty-ninth Plenary.

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[1] Please note that as part of its move to paperless meetings, the secretariat does not distribute paper copies of meeting documents. Before the session, documents may be downloaded from the ECE website at https://unece.org/trade/cefact/uncefact-30th-plenary.

[2] All delegates are requested to complete the INDICO online registration form available here: https://indico.un.org/event/1007104/. Upon arrival at the Palais des Nations, delegates should obtain an identification badge at the UNOG Security and Safety Section, located at the Pregny Gate (14, Av. de la Paix). In case of difficulty, please contact the secretariat by telephone (ext. 73254). For a map of the Palais des Nations and other useful information, see the website: https://www.ungeneva.org/en/about/practical-information.

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C. Substantive segment – Technical dialogue and deliverables

5. Technical dialogue on global solutions for digital, sustainable and resilient value chains in support of the green and digital transformations.

6. Review of the Bureau and Regional Rapporteurs' activities since the twenty-ninth Plenary:

    (a) White papers for information;

    (b) Business requirements specifications for noting;

    (c) Technical standards for noting.

7. Updates from the Team of Specialists on Environmental, Social and Governance Traceability of Sustainable Value Chains in the Circular Economy.

8. Updates from the Advisory Group on the United Nations Code for Trade and Transport Locations.

D. Continuation of the general segment – Overview of United Nations Centre for Trade Facilitation and Electronic Business activities

9. Cooperation with international organizations, standard-setting bodies, and other Economic Commission for Europe bodies.

10. Program of work of the United Nations Centre for Trade Facilitation and Electronic Business for 2025-2026.

11. Review of the United Nations Centre for Trade Facilitation and Electronic Business structure, mandate, terms of reference and procedures.

12. Follow-up to the evaluation of the Economic Cooperation and Integration subprogramme and the Trade subprogramme by the Office of Internal Oversight.

13. Other business.

14. Adoption of decisions and the draft report of the thirtieth Plenary.

II. Annotations

Opening

The provisional agenda and timetable for the thirtieth Plenary of the United Nations Centre for Trade Facilitation and Electronic Business (UN/CEFACT) has been prepared by the Bureau in consultation with the secretariat. It is based on the decisions adopted at the twenty-ninth session of the Plenary. This session will provide simultaneous interpretation into English, French and Russian.

Item 1. Adoption of the agenda

Document title	Document symbol	
Annotated Provisional Agenda for the Thirtieth Session	ECE/TRADE/C/CEFACT/2024/1	For decision

The UN/CEFACT Chair, with the assistance of the secretariat, will present the annotated provisional agenda for decision and will inform the Plenary of any proposed changes.

Item 2. Elections

Document title	Document symbol	
Consolidated United Nations Centre for Trade Facilitation and Electronic Business Mandate and Terms of Reference	ECE/TRADE/C/CEFACT/2017/15	For information

Delegations who are physically present will elect the Chair for the UN/CEFACT Bureau for the period 2024-2027.

Delegations are encouraged to refer to the *Consolidated UN/CEFACT Mandate and Terms of Reference* (ECE/TRADE/C/CEFACT/2017/15) adopted at the twenty-third Plenary, and particularly to section D on the role and responsibilities of the Bureau and its Chair and section E on the election procedures.

A. High-level substantive segment – Policy dialogue

Item 3. Policy dialogue on the role of climate-smart connectivity and digital trade and transport corridors in support of regional and global integration and sustainable development

In recent years, the topic of climate-smart connectivity has become increasingly relevant for United Nations Member States. This includes ECE programme countries. For example, amidst the twenty-first century crises disrupting supply chains and escalating logistics costs, the United Nations Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia (SPECA) participating States adopted the *Roadmap for the Digitalization of Multimodal Data and Document Exchange Along the Trans-Caspian Transport Corridor, Using United Nations Legal Instruments and Standards*[3] at the 2023 SPECA Summit. This roadmap leverages United Nations legal instruments and standards, including the *Customs Convention on the International Transport of Goods under Cover of TIR Carnets (TIR Convention)*, the *Convention on the Contract for the International Carriage of Goods by Roads (CMR Convention)* and the *UN/CEFACT Package of Standards*. The shift towards the digital exchange of data and documents can improve efficiency, reduce costs, enhance transparency, enable better accessibility and data analysis, and in so doing, it has the potential to foster greener and more inclusive economies.

Building on recent developments in the ECE region and beyond, this policy dialogue will bring together policymakers, private sector representatives and the international community to explore the potential of the digital transition for regional and global connectivity. It will reflect on the role of international, regional and national initiatives, as well as ECE legal instruments and UN/CEFACT standards to enhance facilitation procedures along trade and transport corridors while also helping address the pressing need to reduce carbon emissions. Key takeaways of this policy dialogue will contribute to the discussions at the 2024 United Nations Climate Change Conference (UNFCCC COP 29), which will take place from 11 to 22 November 2024 in Baku, Azerbaijan.

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[3] The Roadmap pursues the following vision statement for the region, with global relevance: "From 2027 onwards, economic operators and all competent authorities in the SPECA participating States will start to use electronic freight transport data from economic operators in line with relevant United Nations legal instruments and standards, including the UN/CEFACT package of standards. Data will be interoperable between sectors and the relevant modes of transport along the Trans-Caspian transport corridor, with a view to increasing the efficiency of data exchange and the movement of goods across borders". The Roadmap was adopted by the SPECA Summit, Baku, 24 November 2023. Available at https://unece.org/speca/speca-digitalization-roadmap; and ECE/TRADE/C/CEFACT/2024/INF.1.

The discussion will be informed by findings and recommendations emerging from the 2023 edition of the UN Global Survey on Digital and Sustainable Trade Facilitation as well as the ECE and SPECA regional reports on digital and sustainable trade facilitation.

Document title	Document symbol	
Digital and Sustainable Trade Facilitation ECE Regional Report 2023	*ECE/TRADE/483*	For information
Roadmap for the Digitalization of Multimodal Data and Document Exchange Along the Trans-Caspian Transport Corridor Using United Nations Legal Instruments and Standards	*ECE/TRADE/C/CEFACT/2024/INF.1*	For information
UN/CEFACT Package of Standards	*ECE/TRADE/C/CEFACT/2024/INF.2*	For information

The above deliverables are presented to the Plenary for information. Delegations will have an opportunity to clarify questions and provide comments on the topics raised.

B. General segment – Overview of United Nations Centre for Trade Facilitation and Electronic Business activities

Item 4. Matters arising since the twenty-ninth Plenary

Document title	Document symbol	
Matters Arising Since the Twenty-Ninth Plenary	ECE/TRADE/C/CEFACT/2024/3	For information
Report of Economic Commission for Europe Regional Adviser	ECE/TRADE/C/CEFACT/2024/INF.3	For information

The ECE secretariat will report on *Matters Arising Since the Twenty-Ninth Plenary* and the activities of the ECE Economic Cooperation and Trade Division Regional Adviser. These documents provide a summary of UN/CEFACT activities in the period of 2023-2024, including normative work, policy advice and capacity-building.

The above deliverables are presented to the Plenary for information and delegations will have an opportunity to clarify questions and provide comments on these documents.

C. Substantive segment – Technical dialogue and deliverables

The sixty-ninth and seventieth Commission sessions focused on the topics of "Promoting circular economy and sustainable use of resources" and "Digital and green transformations for sustainable development" in the ECE region and beyond. Member States invited subsidiary bodies to replicate and scale up existing approaches that facilitate broad and effective use of the appropriate instruments, including through capacity-building and knowledge-sharing activities.

This segment will include a technical dialogue on fostering sustainable and resilient value chains, which will provide updates on deliverables in support of the ECE strategic priorities. In this connection, UN/CEFACT has made progress on several initiatives, including (i) a draft policy recommendation on transparency at scale in value chains, outlining solutions for digital product passports; and (ii) a study on trade of second-hand clothing, providing global and regional perspectives, with a focus on the European and Latin American regions.

The segment will also feature an update from the UN/CEFACT Bureau and Regional Rapporteurs, and an overview of the reports from the Chairs of the Team of Specialists (ToS)

on Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) Traceability of Sustainable Value Chains in the Circular Economy and the United Nations Code for Trade and Transport Locations (UN/LOCODE) Advisory Group.

Item 5. Technical dialogue on global solutions for digital, sustainable and resilient value chains in support of the green and digital transformations

Document title	Document symbol	
Draft Recommendation No.49: Transparency at Scale	ECE/TRADE/C/CEFACT/2024/6	For information
Briefing Note on Draft Recommendation No.49, the United Nations Transparency Protocol and Digital Product Passport	ECE/TRADE/C/CEFACT/2024/INF.4	For decision
Economic Commission for Europe and Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean Study: Improving the Sustainability of Used Clothing: Global, European and Chilean Perspectives	ECE/TRADE/484	For information

The Plenary will have before it the *Draft Recommendation No.49: Transparency at Scale*, for discussion. This recommendation is undergoing a public review from 19 April until 19 June 2024 and the project team will share highlights from the feedback received during the consultation process as well as outline the next steps towards finalization of the document. The recommendation will be slated for adoption at the thirty-first Plenary in 2025.

Furthermore, the secretariat will present a short note outlining the key recommendations from the policy guidance on the implementation of traceability and transparency at scale through digital tools such as digital product passports and verifiable credentials. It will also share progress on the development of the implementation guidance material. These solutions will include the *United Nations Transparency Protocol (UNTP)*, which will be designed to ensure interoperability, and the *United Nations Digital Product Passport (UN DPP)*, which will be designed to meet disclosure requirements and to carry conformity credentials, sustainability information and other data about goods exchanged in value chain transactions.

Item 6. Review of the Bureau and Regional Rapporteurs' activities since the twenty-ninth Plenary

Document title	Document symbol	
United Nations Centre for Trade Facilitation and Electronic Business Bureau Report of Developments	ECE/TRADE/C/CEFACT/2024/4	For information
Report of the United Nations Centre for Trade Facilitation and Electronic Business Regional Rapporteurs	ECE/TRADE/C/CEFACT/2024/5	For information

The UN/CEFACT Chair and members of the Bureau will provide an overview of developments and deliverables since the twenty-ninth session including Bureau decisions, a summary of promotional activities and project activities.

The Regional Rapporteurs will report on activities related to UN/CEFACT in their respective regions. These discussions will set the stage for the subsequent agenda items.

(a)   White papers for information

Document title	Document symbol	
White Paper on Cross-Border Management of Trade	ECE/TRADE/C/CEFACT/2024/INF.5	For information
White Paper on Data Governance in Trade Facilitation	ECE/TRADE/C/CEFACT/2024/INF.6	For information
White Paper on Geofencing Facilities in Transport and Logistics	ECE/TRADE/C/CEFACT/2024/INF.7	For information
Digitization of Transit Accompanying Documents − Document Requirements for Goods in Transit	ECE/TRADE/C/CEFACT/2024/INF.8	For information

The above deliverables are presented to the Plenary for information and delegations will have an opportunity to clarify questions and provide comments on these documents.

(b)   Business requirements specifications for noting

The Plenary will have before it the following Business Requirement Specifications (BRSs) for noting, and delegations will have an opportunity to discuss these. An updated list of BRSs is available at Business Requirement Specifications (BRS) | UNECE

- BRS on Product Circularity Data Use Case;
- BRS on Digital Product Conformity Certificate Exchange;
- BRS on Trade Finance Documentary Credit Process.

(c)   Technical standards for noting

- UN/CEFACT Core Component Library (versions 23B and 24A) (http://www.unece.org/cefact/codesfortrade/unccl/ccl_index.html)
- UN/CEFACT XML Schema Library (versions 23B and 24A) (http://www.unece.org/cefact/xml_schemas/index)
- UN/EDIFACT Directory (versions D.23A and D.24A) (https://unece.org/uncefact/unedifact/2021-2022)
- UN/LOCODE Directory (versions 2023-1 and 2023-2) (http://www.unece.org/cefact/locode/welcome.html)
- UN/CEFACT JSON-LD Web Vocabulary (https ://vocabulary.uncefact.org)
- All UN/CEFACT e-business standards (https://unece.org/trade/uncefact/mainstandards)

All UN/CEFACT e-business context files, schemas, and OpenAPI specifications on:

- Open-source GitHub environment (https://github.com/uncefact)
- UN/CEFACT reference data models (RDMs) (https://unece.org/trade/uncefact/rdm)

The above deliverables have been developed in response to the outcomes of recent Commission sessions and Plenary discussions and are presented to the Plenary for information.

Delegations will have an opportunity to clarify questions and provide comments on these documents.

Item 7. Updates from the Team of Specialists on Environmental, Social and Governance Traceability of Sustainable Value Chains in the Circular Economy

Document title	Document symbol	
Report of the Team of Specialists on Environmental, Social and Governance Traceability of Sustainable Value Chains in the Circular Economy on its Third Session	ECE/TRADE/C/CEFACT/2024/8	For endorsement

The Plenary will have before it the *Report of the Team of Specialists on Environmental, Social and Governance Traceability of Sustainable Value Chains in the Circular Economy on its Third Session* for endorsement.

Delegations will have an opportunity to clarify questions and provide comments on these documents.

Item 8. Updates from the Advisory Group on the United Nations Code for Trade and Transport Locations

Document title	Document symbol	
Report of the United Nations Code for Trade and Transport Locations Advisory Group on its 2024 Meeting	ECE/TRADE/C/CEFACT/2024/9	For endorsement
Programme of Work 2024-2025 of the Advisory Group on the United Nations Code for Trade and Transport Locations	ECE/TRADE/C/CEFACT/2023/23	For information
Decisions Relating to the United Nations Centre for Trade Facilitation and Electronic Business	ECE/EX/2024/L.3	For information

At the twenty-ninth session, the Plenary adopted the *Programme of Work of the UN/LOCODE Advisory Group* and decided to extend its mandate for the period 2024-2025 (Plenary decision 23-20). The 132nd meeting of the Executive Committee on 13 February 2024 approved the program of work as well as the extension of its mandate, as contained in document ECE/TRADE/C/CEFACT/2023/23, for the period 2024-2025 (ECE/EX/2024/L.3).

The Plenary will have before it for endorsement and information the *Report of the UN/LOCODE Advisory Group on its 2024 Meeting* held in Hamburg, Germany on 16 and 17 April 2024.

Delegations will have an opportunity to clarify questions and provide comments on these documents.

D. Continuation of the general segment – Overview of United Nations Centre for Trade Facilitation and Electronic Business activities

Item 9. Cooperation with international organizations, standard-setting bodies, and other Economic Commission for Europe bodies

Delegates will be briefed on the activities of international organizations, standard-setting bodies, and other ECE bodies on matters of potential interest to UN/CEFACT. Representatives from partner organizations will be invited to highlight synergies and discuss

current and future activities of relevance with the aim to enhance cooperation and further coordinate efforts in advancing sustainable and digital trade facilitation.

Item 10. Program of work of United Nations Centre for Trade Facilitation and Electronic Business for 2025-2026

Document title	Document symbol	
United Nations Centre for Trade Facilitation and Electronic Business Program of Work 2025-2026	ECE/TRADE/C/CEFACT/2024/7	*For decision*

The Plenary will have before it the *UN/CEFACT Programme of Work 2025-2026* (ECE/TRADE/C/CEFACT/2024/7) for decision. The programme of work is closely aligned with ECE cross-cutting priority themes focusing on the circular economy, sustainable use of natural resources and the digital and green transformations for sustainable development. It outlines priorities for the coming years, including the focus on sustainable, transparent and resilient value chains as a driver for green and digital transformation. It stresses the importance of maintenance and development of UN/CEFACT outputs and explores opportunities for measurement of their impact and relevance.

Delegations will have an opportunity to clarify questions and provide comments on the document.

Item 11. Review of the United Nations Centre for Trade Facilitation and Electronic Business structure, mandate, terms of reference and procedures

Document title	Document symbol	
Proposed Amendments to the Consolidated United Nations Centre for Trade Facilitation and Electronic Business Mandate and Terms of Reference (Section D – The Bureau)	ECE/TRADE/C/CEFACT/2024/10	For decision

The secretariat and the Bureau will present the *Proposed Amendments to the Consolidated United Nations Centre for Trade Facilitation and Electronic Business Mandate and Terms of Reference (Section D – The Bureau)* for consideration and a subsequent decision on the way forward. Such amendments pertain to the governance structure of the UN/CEFACT Bureau and its responsibilities.

Delegations will have an opportunity to clarify questions and provide comments on this document, submitted to the Plenary for decision.

Item 12. Follow-up to the evaluation of the Economic Cooperation and Integration subprogramme and the Trade subprogramme by the Office of Internal Oversight

In 2022, the United Nations Office of Internal Oversight Services evaluated the relevance, effectiveness, coherence, sustainability, and integration of cross-cutting issues in ECE Subprogramme 4: Economic Cooperation and Integration, and Subprogramme 6: Trade of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe for the period 2018-2021. The evaluation was part of the UN secretariat's regular program periodically evaluating selected aspects of its operations. Delegates will be briefed on the progress of implementing the recommendations of the evaluation as they pertain to Subprogramme 6.

Item 13.   Other business

Delegations will be invited to raise other issues not previously addressed during the session.

Item 14.   Adoption of decisions and the draft report of the thirtieth session

Document title	Document symbol	
Report of the United Nations Centre for Trade Facilitation and Electronic Business on its Thirtieth Session	ECE/TRADE/C/CEFACT/2024/2	For decision

Delegations will be invited to adopt the decisions and the draft report.

Closing

III. Timetable

Time	Agenda item	Introduced by
Day 1 - Thursday, 11 July		
10:00 – 10:20	**Opening**	Secretariat
10:20 – 10:30	**Item 1:** Adoption of the agenda	Chair[*]
10:30 – 11:30	**Item 2:** Elections	Secretariat and Bureau
A. High-level substantive segment – Policy dialogue		
11:30 – 13:00	**Item 3:** Policy dialogue on the role of climate-smart connectivity and digital trade and transport corridors in support of regional and global integration and sustainable development	Secretariat
13:00 – 15:00	**Lunch break**	
B. General segment – Overview of United Nations Centre for Trade Facilitation and Electronic Business activities		
15:00 – 15:30	**Item 4:** Matters arising since the twenty-ninth Plenary	Chair and the secretariat
C. Substantive segment – Technical dialogue and deliverables		
15:30 – 17:00	**Item 5:** Technical dialogue on global solutions for digital, sustainable and resilient value chains in support of the green and digital transformations	Bureau and the secretariat
17:00 – 18:00	**Item 6:** Review of the Bureau and Regional Rapporteurs' activities since the twenty-ninth Plenary: (a) White papers for information; (b) Business requirements specification for noting; (c) Technical standards for noting.	Bureau and Regional Rapporteurs
Day 2 - Friday, 12 July		
C. Continuation of the substantive segment – Technical dialogue and deliverables		
10:00 – 10:15	**Item 7:** Updates from the Team of Specialists on Environmental, Social and Governance Traceability of Sustainable Value Chains in the Circular Economy	Team of Specialists Chair
10:15 – 10:30	**Item 8:** Updates from the Advisory Group on the United Nations Code for Trade and Transport Locations	Advisory Group Chair
D. Continuation of the general segment – Overview of United Nations Centre for Trade Facilitation and Electronic Business activities		
10:30 – 11:30	**Item 9:** Cooperation with international organizations, standard-setting bodies and other Economic Commission for Europe bodies.	Secretariat
11:30 – 12:15	**Item 10:** Program of work of the United Nations Centre for Trade Facilitation and Electronic Business for 2025-2026	Chair and the Bureau

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[*] When written on its own, "Chair" refers to the UN/CEFACT Chair.

Time	Agenda item	Introduced by
12:15 – 13:00	**Item 11:** Review of the United Nations Centre for Trade Facilitation and Electronic Business structure, mandate, terms of reference and procedures	Chair and the secretariat
13:00 – 15:00	**Lunch break**	
D. Continuation of the general segment – Overview of United Nations Centre for Trade Facilitation and Electronic Business activities		
15:00 – 15:30	**Item 12:** Follow-up to the evaluation of the Economic Cooperation and Integration subprogramme and the Trade subprogramme by the Office of Internal Oversight	Secretariat
15:30 – 16:00	**Item 13:** Other business	Chair
16:00 – 18:00	**Item 14:** Adoption of decisions and the draft report of the thirtieth session	Secretariat