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### Centre for Trade Facilitation and Electronic Business

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Item 10 of the provisional agenda

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

## United Nations Centre for Trade Facilitation and Electronic Business Programme of Work for 2025-2026\*

Submitted by the Bureau

### *Summary*

This document presents the United Nations Centre for Trade Facilitation and Electronic Business (UN/CEFACT) Programme of Work (PoW) for 2025-2026.

Document ECE/TRADE/C/CEFACT/2024/7 is submitted to the thirtieth session of the Plenary for approval.

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\* The present report was submitted to the conference services for processing after the deadline for technical reasons beyond the control of the submitting office.



## I. Introduction

1. This document presents the Programme of Work (PoW) of the United Nations Centre for Trade Facilitation and Electronic Business (UN/CEFACT) for 2025-2026.
2. It is submitted by the UN/CEFACT Bureau to the thirtieth session of the Plenary for discussion and approval and will be subsequently submitted for approval to the Executive Committee (EXCOM) of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (ECE).
3. It is consistent with the streamlined project-oriented management approach adopted at the Plenary's eighteenth session in February 2012 and the associated revised foundation document, updated during the twenty-fourth session: the *Consolidated UN/CEFACT Mandate and Terms of Reference* (ECE/TRADE/C/CEFACT/2017/15).<sup>1</sup> The PoW for 2025-2026 also aligns with the *UN/CEFACT Prospective Directions* (ECE/TRADE/C/CEFACT/2016/20/Rev.1).<sup>2</sup>
4. Activities are driven by the expressed needs of United Nations Member States and the recommendations of the ECE EXCOM. They are aligned with the ECE cross-cutting priority goals focusing on promoting the circular economy, sustainable use of resources, digital and green transformations for sustainable development, and other United Nations objectives such as climate action and those of the 2030 Agenda.
5. Hosted in the Economic Cooperation and Trade Division (ECTD) of the ECE, UN/CEFACT is one of ECE's subsidiary intergovernmental bodies. Within the United Nations framework, under the Economic and Social Council, ECE serves as the focal point for trade facilitation recommendations and electronic business standards. These cover all the steps of the supply chain process, encompass all modes of transport and industry actors, and facilitate information flows across borders and between regulatory systems on the national, regional and global levels.
6. UN/CEFACT provides a forum for public and private sector experts to work together, under the guidance of its Plenary, Bureau and secretariat, to develop a body of freely available recommendations, standards and guidance materials that can help reduce regulatory and procedural barriers to trade. Its experts conduct projects within the Plenary-approved PoW, using a transparent methodology and the Open Development Process (ODP)<sup>3</sup>, respecting the Intellectual Property Rights Policy<sup>4</sup> and adhering to its Code of Conduct.<sup>5</sup>
7. Among the key advantages of UN/CEFACT work is the inclusiveness of the standard development process to which all the stakeholders can contribute. This inclusiveness empowers United Nations Member States with decision-making authority to review and approve the resulting recommendations, standards and tools, through a broad intergovernmental process. Perhaps the most significant advantage of these globally implemented deliverables is their availability free of charge, for use by the global community of trade actors and operators.

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<sup>1</sup> See document ECE/TRADE/C/CEFACT/2017/15 at

<https://documents.un.org/api/symbol/access?s=ECE/TRADE/C/CEFACT/2017/15&l=en>.

<sup>2</sup> See document ECE/TRADE/C/CEFACT/2016/20/Rev.1 at [ECE/TRADE/C/CEFACT/2016/20/Rev.1 at https://unece.org/sites/default/files/2023-10/ECE\\_TRADE\\_C\\_CEFACT\\_2016\\_20E\\_Rev1\\_prospective\\_directions.pdf](https://unece.org/sites/default/files/2023-10/ECE_TRADE_C_CEFACT_2016_20E_Rev1_prospective_directions.pdf).

<sup>3</sup> See document ECE/TRADE/C/CEFACT/2016/17 at [https://unece.org/sites/default/files/2023-12/ECE\\_TRADE\\_C\\_CEFACT\\_2016\\_17E\\_ODP.pdf](https://unece.org/sites/default/files/2023-12/ECE_TRADE_C_CEFACT_2016_17E_ODP.pdf).

<sup>4</sup> See document ECE/TRADE/C/CEFACT/2010/20/Rev.2 at [https://unece.org/sites/default/files/2023-12/ECE\\_TRADE\\_C\\_CEFACT\\_2010\\_20E\\_Rev2\\_UpdatedIPRpolicy.pdf](https://unece.org/sites/default/files/2023-12/ECE_TRADE_C_CEFACT_2010_20E_Rev2_UpdatedIPRpolicy.pdf).

<sup>5</sup> See document ECE/TRADE/C/CEFACT/2010/18/Rev.1 at [https://unece.org/sites/default/files/2023-12/ECE\\_TRADE\\_C\\_CEFACT\\_2010\\_18E-Rev1\\_RevisedCodeofConduct.pdf](https://unece.org/sites/default/files/2023-12/ECE_TRADE_C_CEFACT_2010_18E-Rev1_RevisedCodeofConduct.pdf).

8. Participation in UN/CEFACT is open to United Nations Member States, intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations recognized by the United Nations Economic and Social Council.

## II. UN/CEFACT vision, mission and objectives

9. The United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development<sup>6</sup> recognizes international trade as “an engine for inclusive economic growth and poverty reduction” and that it “contributes to the promotion of sustainable development” as well as the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

10. Trade facilitation and e-business serve as drivers for international trade, enhancing trade competitiveness, helping countries integrate into regional and global value chains, and ultimately promoting economic growth. They foster innovative and digital solutions like electronic single windows and the paperless trade systems promoted by UN/CEFACT, and they can create operating efficiencies and opportunities for sustainable, inclusive and resilient supply and value chains.

11. Trade facilitation and e-business can also bring significant benefits in both the environmental and social dimensions of sustainability. Fostering sustainable, inclusive and resilient international trade is especially important in the context of the escalating climate emergency and current conflicts impacting the global economic landscape.

12. The UN/CEFACT vision, mission and mandate are as follows:

(a) **Vision:** To “enable simple, transparent and effective processes for sustainable, inclusive and resilient global trade”;

(b) **Mission:** To “improve the ability of business, trade and administrative organizations from emerging, transition and advanced economies to trade products and relevant services sustainably and effectively”. The principal focus is on facilitating national and international transactions through the simplification and harmonization of processes, procedures and information flows in order to contribute to the sustainable, inclusive and resilient growth of global trade;

(c) **Mandate:** To “develop international policy recommendations, e-business standards and supporting tools for sustainable and digital trade facilitation” to foster worldwide coordination and cooperation in international trade, through a PoW of global relevance.

13. This is articulated around the following key **objectives**:

(a) To study, develop and enhance trade facilitation recommendations and e-business standards;

(b) To foster interoperability across the many existing, new and future technology platforms (in other words, the ability of these systems to exchange data) by acting as a semantic hub that advances the development of technology-neutral semantics, code lists, processes, reference data models, vocabularies, registries and best practice guides;

(d) To support United Nations Member States and stakeholders who wish to take full advantage of the UN/CEFACT family of standards and address their requirements in trade facilitation and electronic business;

(e) To monitor advanced and emerging technologies to ensure the continued relevance of UN/CEFACT work products; and

<sup>6</sup> Available at <https://sdgs.un.org/2030agenda>

(f) To increase the accessibility of UN/CEFACT products, especially to new actors involved in the development of open-source applications.

14. UN/CEFACT operates using the following **principles** to define the value of its outputs:

(a) Inclusiveness – The UN/CEFACT Open Development Process is consensus-driven, collaborative, open and transparent;

(b) Strategic alignment – The UN/CEFACT activities are aligned with the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the ECE priorities;

(c) Accessibility – All UN/CEFACT deliverables, developed and maintained by its community of experts, under the guidance of the Bureau and the secretariat, are publicly available, free of charge;

(d) Practicality – UN/CEFACT strives to define and deliver practical, useful ways to add value. It builds useable tools that facilitate global implementations;

(e) Collaboration – Whenever appropriate, UN/CEFACT will utilize and build upon related standards already completed and underway by UN/CEFACT and other organizations and initiatives;

(f) Effectiveness and impact – UN/CEFACT will measure and report its performance against meaningful key performance indicators (KPIs), including quantitative information on the use and impact of its deliverables; and

(g) Equity – UN/CEFACT strives to integrate emerging and transition economies into regional and global supply and value chains and create viable solutions for small actors in such economies.

### **III. Planned results for 2025-2026**

15. The planned results for 2025-2026, as described below, are closely aligned with the United Nations 2030 Agenda and ECE cross-cutting priority themes focusing on the circular economy, sustainable use of natural resources and the digital and green transformations for sustainable development. These themes reflect the growing consensus among governments and industries about the importance of sustainability and circularity across value chains. They also acknowledge the growing focus on leveraging advanced technologies and digital transformation to mitigate supply chain disruptions and to strengthen responses to future economic crises. At the same time, they recognize the importance of building the necessary capacity of smaller actors, enabling them to fully realize their potential. The planned results are articulated below:

#### **A. Planned result 1: Enhancing digital connectivity for climate-smart trade and transport corridors to foster global and regional integration**

16. UN/CEFACT will continue to contribute to multimodal digitalization projects through the development and update of ECE trade facilitation policy recommendations and UN/CEFACT standards, which are instrumental to advancing digitalization of multimodal data and documentary exchanges along climate-smart trade and transport corridors.

17. The shift towards the digital exchange of data and documents can improve efficiency, reduce costs, enhance transparency and enable better accessibility and data analysis. In so doing, it has the potential to foster regional and global connectivity for greener and more inclusive economies. To support such work, UN/CEFACT will carry on its partnerships with

other ECE subsidiary bodies such as the ECE Inland Transport Committee, and relevant international organizations (further detailed in Section G below).

18. UN/CEFACT will pursue its research and guidance work on harnessing the potential of advanced technologies for digital connectivity. These include Web3 technologies that enable data self-sovereignty through decentralization, such as verifiable credentials, decentralized identifiers, blockchain/distributed ledger technology, the internet of things, artificial intelligence, application programming interfaces and similar topics. UN/CEFACT will also examine cybersecurity issues related to e-business standards.

19. UN/CEFACT will ensure the sustainability and maintenance of its supporting flagship information exchange standards, such as the UN/CCL<sup>7</sup> and its Reference Data Models (RDMs), UN/EDIFACT<sup>8</sup>, UN/LOCODE, UNTDED<sup>9</sup> and the UN/CEFACT code lists. This will involve raising additional extrabudgetary resources and obtaining the necessary assistance from the ECE Information Support Unit to address the access challenges that the migration to a new version of the ECE website has created for the user community.

20. UN/CEFACT will integrate decarbonization efforts into its digital connectivity initiatives by developing standards and frameworks that support the tracking and reporting of carbon emissions throughout the supply chain. This will help identify opportunities for reducing carbon footprints and ensure transparency in environmental impact reporting. To address the risk of greenwashing, UN/CEFACT will establish guidelines and verification mechanisms that ensure the authenticity and accuracy of sustainability claims made by supply chain actors. This will involve creating robust protocols for data validation and audits.

## **B. Planned result 2: Fostering sustainability, transparency and resilience in value chains to support the green and digital transitions for the circular economy**

21. UN/CEFACT will strengthen its contribution to the ECE cross-cutting themes of enabling the green and digital transformations for the circular economy, including in critical sectors such as agrifood and fisheries, critical raw materials (CRM), textiles and clothing. It will do so by conducting research and analysis on trade trends, developing policy recommendations and guidelines and establishing information exchange standards for verifiable and trusted claims on environmental, social and governance (ESG) compliance along value chains.

22. These transformations are of great relevance to the work of UN/CEFACT and its subsidiary bodies. UN/CEFACT recognizes the interlinkages between such transformations, for example, in CRM supply chains, which are essential to enabling an economic shift to digitalization and a circular economy. Many components of digital systems are built using CRMs, such as solar panels, wind turbines, electric vehicles and energy-efficient lighting. Despite the increasing demand for these materials, CRM supply chains remain opaque, enabling unsustainable practices by individual trade actors.

23. In this context, UN/CEFACT will focus on the use of innovative technical solutions to increase supply chain transparency and resilience, including through the development of a United Nations Transparency Protocol for Digital Product Passports, which contain verifiable data on sustainable practices of supply chain actors. This information would be attached to a shipment of goods as it moves along the supply chain. This pattern of data exchange will be

<sup>7</sup> United Nations Core Component Library (UN/CCL).

<sup>8</sup> Electronic Data Interchange for Administration, Commerce and Transport (UN/EDIFACT).

<sup>9</sup> United Nations Trade Data Element Directory (UNTDED aka ISO 7372).

developed in a manner that is equally applicable to other long, complex supply chains, such as textiles and agriculture.

24. UN/CEFACT will work closely with relevant international partners and United Nations Members States, including larger consuming economies, that have enacted supply chain due diligence requirements for imported goods. One important initiative involves the United Nations Secretary-General Working Group on Transforming the Extractive Industries for Sustainable Development.<sup>10</sup>

25. UN/CEFACT will tailor its policy recommendations and other deliverables to align with cross-border compliance requirements, which impact downstream supply chain actors all the way to the raw materials used to create product components (e.g. lithium for batteries, cotton for textiles and wheat for bread). UN/CEFACT will ensure that the protocol it develops for Digital Product Passports aligns with similar mechanisms being developed by Member States to provide greater transparency to consumers about the sustainability of the products they consume and to track the circularity of products as they are recycled and reused.

26. To support decarbonization efforts, UN/CEFACT will develop standards and guidelines for tracking and reducing carbon emissions within supply chains. This will include guidelines for carbon footprint reporting and mechanisms for verifying reductions in greenhouse gas emissions. UN/CEFACT will address the issue of greenwashing by implementing stringent verification processes and standards for environmental claims made by companies. This will ensure that sustainability efforts are genuine and verifiable, thereby enhancing consumer trust and market integrity.

### **C. Planned result 3: Increasing implementation of international legal instruments – the World Trade Organization Trade Facilitation Agreement**

27. The UN/CEFACT sustainable and digital trade facilitation mission supports the objectives and implementation of international legal instruments.

28. Among such international legal instruments is the World Trade Organization (WTO) Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA), which references and emphasizes the importance of several topics covered by ECE trade facilitation policy recommendations (such as single windows and national trade facilitation bodies) and encourages the use of international data exchange standards.

29. Recommendations, standards and other deliverables developed by UN/CEFACT can be used by governments and businesses to implement trade facilitation policies and regulations at the international, regional and national levels. In particular they support the implementation of important aspects of the WTO TFA. The agreement specifically encourages WTO members to follow best practices in the form of international standards and to participate in the development and review of these standards. UN/CEFACT will continue to develop further deliverables to support implementation of the WTO TFA, to help achieve the United Nations SDGs and to help advance trade facilitation in general.

30. Activities within UN/CEFACT will concentrate on this trade facilitation role, specifically with projects that support the following:

- (a) WTO TFA Article 1 on publication and availability of information;
- (b) WTO TFA Article 7 on release and clearance of goods;

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<sup>10</sup> More info is available at <https://www.unep.org/events/working-group/transforming-extractive-industries-sustainable-development>.

(c) WTO TFA Article 8 on border agency cooperation;

(d) WTO TFA Article 10 on formalities connected with importation, exportation and transit; these include the single window concept, streamlined formalities and documentation requirements, and the use of international standards;

(e) WTO TFA Article 12 on customs cooperation; and

(f) WTO TFA Article 23 on institutional arrangements, specifically national trade facilitation committees.

31. UN/CEFACT aims to facilitate trade even beyond the WTO TFA, and particularly paperless trade for digital connectivity at the regional and global level. Examples of legal instruments directly supported by UN/CEFACT tools include the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL) Model Law on Electronic Transferable Records (MLETR)<sup>11</sup>, or the European Union Regulation on Electronic Freight Transport Information (eFTI)<sup>12</sup> and EU Maritime Single Window (EMSW). In this vein, UN/CEFACT will build on its achievements in the past years and further advance various methods of data exchange, including “push” and “pull” methods.<sup>13</sup> Overall, it will aim to enable a harmonized approach to the use of prevailing and emerging technologies in trade facilitation through its semantic standards.

32. In the realm of trade finance, UN/CEFACT will not only develop and maintain data standards for digital trade finance instruments but also explore how advanced technologies, such as blockchain, can be leveraged to enhance the interoperability of trade finance platforms. Specifically, this includes improving processes for electronic Bill of Lading (eBL) data and title transfer between platforms. This initiative aims to improve transparency and efficiency in trade finance, fostering a more integrated and streamlined global trading system. Ultimately, these efforts seek to create transparent, efficient, and secure trade finance solutions that support sustainable trade practices and ensure financial flows align with environmental and social governance criteria.

#### **D. Planned result 4: Building capacity of trade actors through technical cooperation and outreach**

33. When developing its deliverables, UN/CEFACT will collaborate with international trade actors, including governments, the cross-border trade business community, experts and the technology community, with the goal of producing useable, impactful and implementable trade facilitation recommendations and guidance and e-business data exchange standards to support digital and sustainable trade.

34. Through the ECE secretariat, UN/CEFACT will also provide policy advice and dialogue and offer demand-driven technical assistance and capacity-building in the ECE region and beyond, including through extrabudgetary funding. It will do this in partnership with relevant actors for international cooperation, such as the members of the TFA Annex D+ group of organizations, which include the International Trade Centre (ITC), United Nations Trade and Development, the World Bank, World Economic Forum (WEF), World Customs Organization (WCO) and WTO.

<sup>11</sup> More info at [https://uncitral.un.org/en/texts/ecommerce/modellaw/electronic\\_transferable\\_records](https://uncitral.un.org/en/texts/ecommerce/modellaw/electronic_transferable_records).

<sup>12</sup> More info at <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/EN/legal-content/summary/electronic-freight-transport-information.html>.

<sup>13</sup> A “push” method of sharing data would be to send an electronic message to a business partner. A “pull” method of sharing data would be to allow the business partner to directly interface with your own computer system and pull the desired data from your system.

35. Through the ECE secretariat, UN/CEFACT will work, together with relevant international organizations, standard-setting bodies and other ECE bodies to provide advisory services and guidance to emerging and transition economy countries, and their trade actors adopting its recommendations, standards and best practices. Guidance material will be adapted to different target audiences to make current deliverables more comprehensible and widely accessible.

36. UN/CEFACT will engage in technical cooperation activities and advisory services in support of implementing UN/CEFACT deliverables and will raise awareness through outreach and communication in the following ways:

(a) It will organize training sessions, seminars/webinars and capacity-building workshops to inform stakeholders about UN/CEFACT deliverables, to encourage their participation in UN/CEFACT activities and to assist governments and other stakeholders in the use of UN/CEFACT deliverables and best practice recommendations, providing targeted support to small actors in emerging economies;

(b) It will focus efforts and resources on a smaller number of highly relevant, strategically aligned projects by examining the relevance and impact of existing and proposed projects using meaningful KPIs (see Section F) and by reviewing and updating existing strategy and governance documentation;

(c) It will prepare implementation guidelines for UN/CEFACT deliverables at the policy, operational and technical levels;

(d) It will engage in targeted outreach to other relevant organizations on specific issues, to encourage wider contributions to its work and to encourage reuse of UN/CEFACT e-business data exchange standards;

(e) It will engage with national trade facilitation bodies to help disseminate the work of UN/CEFACT and to stimulate the interest of relevant experts and users; and

(f) For those projects exploring the use of advanced technologies (e.g. Web3 and blockchain technology), UN/CEFACT will align project delivery processes with existing, highly successful methodologies and tools used by the global open-source community. The decentralized nature of such emerging technologies requires ongoing input and testing by a diverse set of global actors. UN/CEFACT will explore opportunities to update its ODP to possibly accommodate this style of project delivery.

37. Health pandemics, geopolitical instabilities and related supply and value chain disruptions have brought increased awareness to the benefits of trade facilitation and electronic data exchange. To maintain the smooth flow of trade and trade-related services, UN/CEFACT continues its trade facilitation and e-business project work to dematerialize information flows at borders, to allow for electronic, risk-based control procedures and to support relief efforts related to pandemics.

38. To ensure sustainable recovery from the pandemic, and in line with the Commission's priorities, UN/CEFACT will support United Nations Member States in strengthening their trade capacity and their transition to a digital and green economy. More broadly, UN/CEFACT will support developing economies and countries with economies in transition by developing, maintaining and publishing appropriate UN/CEFACT data exchange standards and ECE trade facilitation recommendations.

## **E. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development – direct impact**

39. UN/CEFACT will continue in its objective to strengthen the sustainability, inclusiveness and resilience of trade and supply and value chains operations by directly contributing to the achievement of the following SDGs:



**(a) Decent work and inclusive economic growth (SDG 8)**

40. UN/CEFACT will enhance access to regional and global markets through trade facilitation and digital connectivity, particularly for vulnerable trade actors in emerging and transition economies. Through its work, UN/CEFACT provides trade actors and operators around the world with trade facilitation policy recommendations, e-business data exchange standards and guidance, allowing them to implement more efficient trade and e-business processes, ultimately helping to create the right conditions for economies to thrive. This has the potential to strengthen labour conditions and create better jobs;

**(b) Responsible consumption and production (SDG 12)**

41. UN/CEFACT will prevent and mitigate negative environmental and social impacts; reduce food loss; provide e-business data exchange standards for the movement of waste; and enhance ESG traceability and transparency in supply and value chains in critical sectors in order to inform and advance more responsible business models and consumer choices;

**(c) Partnerships (SDG 17)**

42. UN/CEFACT will harness the role of trade as a powerful engine for development, as trade is well-recognized as one of the key means of implementation listed under Goal 17, encompassing three specific targets: (i) the promotion of a universal, rules-based, open, non-discriminatory and equitable multilateral trading system (Target 17.A); (ii) the increase of developing countries' exports (Target 17.B); and (iii) the removal of trade barriers for market access for least developed countries (17.C);

43. Through its activities to enhance sustainable and digital trade, UN/CEFACT also indirectly contributes to other SDGs, including SDG 2 on zero hunger, SDG 9 on industry, innovation and infrastructure, SDG 13 on climate action, SDG 14 on life below water, and SDG 15 on life on land.

**F. Measurement of impact and value of UN/CEFACT outputs**

44. UN/CEFACT will develop an assessment framework for the ongoing measurement of the impact and value of its outputs in the following ways:

(a) By the mapping of the scope of each UN/CEFACT project to the United Nations SDGs to show the extent to which each project contributes to each SDG;

(b) By developing an impact assessment framework that will allow value metrics to be collected for every project to show how much measurable value each project contributes against each metric; and

(c) By streamlining and focusing project activities to facilitate cross-domain cooperation and to create a wider range of outputs that are comprehensible to a wider user community.

45. Specifically, the impact assessment framework may cover metrics on the number of experts involved in projects, the number of Member States/trade actors/standard-setting organizations adopting or implementing the UN/CEFACT trade facilitation policy recommendations and e-business data exchange standards, and the number of times content is accessed through the UN/CEFACT web pages or media coverage for project activities and deliverables.

46. UN/CEFACT will report on the programme performance against objectives and targets for the 2025-2026 timeframe.

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

47. In order to ensure the alignment of the guidance provided by United Nations bodies, in the spirit of the “One United Nations” principle, and in an effort to foster stronger ties, UN/CEFACT works closely with the ECE EXCOM, its secretariat and other bodies of the ECE and the United Nations and collaborates with international trade policy development and normative organizations and standard-setting bodies.

48. Such collaborations include UNCITRAL; UN Trade and Development; ITC; WCO; WTO; International Organization for Standardization (ISO); United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO); International Telecommunication Union (ITU); Universal Postal Union (UPU); International Maritime Organization (IMO); International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO); United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP); International Labour Organization (ILO); Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD); European Commission; Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO); CITES (the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora) and its electronic permitting system, and the secretariat of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm (BRS) Conventions.

49. For example, the ECE secretariat will coordinate with the WCO on the future mapping and harmonization of their respective cross-border trade data models.

50. To effectively fulfil its mandate of global outreach, UN/CEFACT will also seek to enhance, through its ECE secretariat, collaboration with all the United Nations Regional Economic Commissions, United Nations Resident Coordinators, and United Nations Country Teams. This will include conducting a global and regional survey on trade facilitation and paperless trade and maintaining the United Nations Trade Facilitation Guide (TFIG).

51. Through its ECE secretariat, UN/CEFACT will engage with other organizations to ensure the alignment of its work with that of other organizations, to announce its projects in a timely manner (in order to avoid duplication of efforts) and to find ways to further enhance cooperation, including through the establishment of bilateral agreements. An important vehicle for this is the memorandum of understanding on e-business (ebMoU) between the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC), the ISO, and the ITU. Cooperation will also be pursued through joint activities with the WCO and the International Chamber of Commerce Digital Standard Initiative (ICC DSI).

## **G. Maintenance and development of existing guidance and standards**

52. UN/CEFACT will monitor the continued relevance of its deliverables through its domains and project teams. The objective of such reviews shall be to confirm that the deliverables are still relevant in their business contexts. The review shall also check for coherence with other current UN/CEFACT deliverables.

53. UN/CEFACT will prioritize the review of all its trade facilitation policy recommendations, which require updating to reflect existing and emerging requirements, as well as any of its e-business data exchange standards, which may have been affected by process/technological changes.

54. All UN/CEFACT e-business data exchange standards deliverables will continue to be based on the foundational International Supply Chain Reference Model (ISCRM)<sup>14</sup> and the

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<sup>14</sup> See UN/CEFACT, International Supply Chain Reference Model (ISCRM), 2013. Available at <https://fig.unecce.org/domains/business-process-analysis-domain/business-process-analysis/utilization-of-a-reference-model/international-supply-chain-reference-model-iscrm/>.

Buy-Ship-Pay Reference Data Model, encompassing the key processes of global cross-border supply and value chains. Efforts will continue to be made to propose comprehensive solutions based on these end-to-end models. Gap analyses will be conducted to identify areas where additional trade facilitation guidance or data exchange standards are needed to cover the full set of international supply chain processes involved in cross-border and domestic trade for different sectors—particularly in the areas of pre-order instructions and post-delivery acknowledgement.

55. UN/CEFACT will continue to maintain and develop its key deliverables related to semantic interoperability. The semantics of business data exchange (i.e. the basic, common and shared meanings for business terms and information) are essential to the standardization and harmonization of business interactions across the world.<sup>15</sup> These include the following:

- (a) United Nations Trade Data Element Directory (UNTDDED aka ISO 7372)
- (b) United Nations Core Component Library (UN/CCL);
- (c) Electronic Data Interchange for Administration, Commerce and Transport (UN/EDIFACT) standard;
- (d) United Nations Code for Trade and Transport Locations (UN/LOCODE);
- (e) Trade-related code lists; and
- (f) Reference data models (RDMs) which provide logical groupings of information by sector and facilitate the reuse and dissemination of UN/CEFACT semantic work.

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<sup>15</sup> See Plenary document ECE/TRADE/C/CEFACT/2019/27 on the importance of semantic standards for trade facilitation.

## Annex I:

### UN/CEFACT deliverables to be implemented in the 2025-2026 timeframe

1. UN/CEFACT activities are implemented as part of the ECTD trade subprogramme. The table below lists all deliverables of the subprogramme for 2025 and planned UN/CEFACT deliverables for 2026.

<i>Category and subcategory</i>	<i>2025 planned</i>	<i>2026 planned</i>
<b>A. Facilitation of the intergovernmental process and expert bodies</b>		
<b>Parliamentary documentation</b> (number of documents)	<b>102</b>	
1. The Steering Committee on Trade Capacity and Standards	13	
2. The Working Party on Regulatory Cooperation and Standardization Policies	14	
3. The Working Party on Agricultural Quality Standards	60	
4. The United Nations Centre for Trade Facilitation and Electronic Business	15	12
<b>Substantive services for meetings</b> (number of three-hour meetings)	<b>96</b>	
5. The Steering Committee on Trade Capacity and Standards and its Bureau	4	
6. The Working Party on Regulatory Cooperation and Standardization Policies, its Bureau and related expert bodies	13	
7. The Working Party on Agricultural Quality Standards and its specialized sections	26	
8. The United Nations Centre for Trade Facilitation and Electronic Business and its specialized sections	53	53
<b>B. Generation and transfer of knowledge</b>		
<b>Field and technical cooperation projects</b> (number of projects)	<b>5</b>	
9. On enhancing usage and uptake of standards for sustainable development, gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls	1	
10. On food loss reduction in agriculture supply chains	1	
11. On enhancing usage and uptake of international policy recommendations, e-business standards and supporting tools for sustainable and digital trade facilitation, fostering sustainable, inclusive and resilient supply and value chains in critical sectors for the green and digital transitions	3	3
<b>Seminars, workshops and training events</b> (number of days)	<b>18</b>	
12. Workshops for policymakers and experts in low- and middle-income countries in the ECE region on trade procedures, supply chain management, conformity assessment and market surveillance, and women's entrepreneurship	6	
13. Seminars for standardization and inspection agencies and other stakeholders in transition economies and developing countries in the ECE region or beyond on ECE agricultural quality standards	3	
14. Seminars on trade facilitation-related standards, recommendations and guidelines	9	9
<b>Publications</b> (number of publications)	<b>9</b>	
15. On regulatory and procedural barriers to trade in a country to be decided	1	
16. On trade standard guidance in the following areas: quality infrastructure, risk management, education, sustainable development	2	
17. On mainstreaming a gender perspective in standards	1	
18. On agricultural trade, supply chains, and food loss and waste	1	
19. On sustainable and digital trade facilitation strategies, policy recommendations and standards	4	4
<b>Technical materials</b> (number of materials)	<b>8</b>	
20. Guidelines on cross-border trade	1	1
21. Training material and guidelines on trade standards and/or regulatory cooperation	2	

<i>Category and subcategory</i>	<i>2025 planned</i>	<i>2026 planned</i>
22. Standards and guidelines on agricultural quality	4	
23. Training material and guidelines on sustainable and digital trade facilitation and electronic business	1	1
<b>Fact-finding, monitoring and investigating missions</b> (number of missions)	<b>3</b>	
24. Fact-finding missions on trade facilitation and electronic business, agricultural quality standards, regulatory cooperation and standardization, and regulatory and procedural barriers to trade	3	
<b>C. Substantive deliverables</b>		
<b>Consultation, advice and advocacy:</b> advisory services to government officials and other stakeholders in at least 10 ECE member States on trade facilitation and electronic business, agricultural quality standards, regulatory cooperation and standardization, and regulatory and procedural barriers to trade.		
<b>Databases and substantive digital materials:</b> ECE databases for sustainable and digital trade facilitation based on the biannual survey conducted jointly with UN Regional Commissions and United Nations Trade and Development; and annual release of updates to UN/CEFACT information exchange standards, including UN/CCL and BSP RDM, UN/EDIFACT, UN/FLUX, UN/LOCODE, UNTDED, and XML schema library and code lists.		
<b>D. Communication deliverables</b>		
<b>Outreach programmes, special events and information materials:</b> booklets, promotional materials, fact sheets and information brochures reaching at least all programme countries in the ECE region and beyond, and for more than 1,000 public and private sector experts.		
<b>External and media relations:</b> press releases, publication launch events and articles in external newsletters intended for government officials and experts working on trade.		
<b>Digital platforms and multimedia content:</b> website of the subprogramme.		

**Annex II:****Potential list of publications for 2025-2026****A. Recurrent publication**

<i>Item no.</i>	<i>Title</i>	<i>Mandate</i>	<i>Print and/or electronic</i>	<i>Size</i>	<i>No. of pages</i>	<i>Original language(s)</i>	<i>Translated language(s)</i>	<i>No. of copies and language(s)</i>
1	Summary of ECE Trade Facilitation Best Practice and Recommendations	ECE/TRADE/C/CEF ACT/2017/15/ para. 10	Electronic	A4	20	E	R	
2	Regional Report – United Nations Survey on Digital and Sustainable Trade Facilitation	ECE/TRADE/C/CEF ACT/2017/15/ para. 10	Print and electronic	A4	100	E	R	E-100 R-50

**B. Non-recurrent publications**

<i>Item no.</i>	<i>Title</i>	<i>Mandate</i>	<i>Print and/or electronic</i>	<i>Size</i>	<i>No. of pages</i>	<i>Original language(s)</i>	<i>Translated language(s)</i>	<i>No. of copies and language(s)</i>
3	Trade facilitation recommendation on transparency at scale	ECE/TRADE/C/CEFACT/2017/1 5/ para. 10	Print and electronic	A4	25	E, F, R		E-200 F-50 R-50
4	Trade facilitation recommendation on critical raw minerals	ECE/TRADE/C/CEFACT/2017/1 5/ para. 10	Print and electronic	A4	25	E, F, R		E-200 F-50 R-50
5	Trade facilitation recommendation on single window assessment	ECE/TRADE/C/CEFACT/2017/1 5/ para. 10	Print and electronic	A4	25	E, F, R		E-200 F-50 R-50
6	Trade facilitation recommendation on single windows and risk management	ECE/TRADE/C/CEFACT/2017/1 5/ para. 10	Print and electronic	A4	25	E, F, R		E-200 F-50 R-50
7	Trade facilitation recommendation – revision of Recommendation 8	ECE/TRADE/C/CEFACT/2017/1 5/ para. 10	Print and electronic	A4	25	E, F, R		E-200 F-50 R-50

<i>Item no.</i>	<i>Title</i>	<i>Mandate</i>	<i>Print and/or electronic</i>	<i>Size</i>	<i>No. of pages</i>	<i>Original language(s)</i>	<i>Translated language(s)</i>	<i>No. of copies and language(s)</i>
8	Trade facilitation recommendation – revision of Recommendation 16	ECE/TRADE/C/CEFACT/2017/1 5/ para. 10	Print and electronic	A4	25	E, F, R		E-200 F-50 R-50
9	Trade facilitation recommendation – revision of Recommendation 18	ECE/TRADE/C/CEFACT/2017/1 5/ para. 10	Print and electronic	A4	25	E, F, R		E-200 F-50 R-50
10	Trade facilitation paper on traceability	ECE/TRADE/C/CEFACT/2017/1 5/ para. 10	Print and electronic	A4	25	E	F, R	E-200 F-50 R-50