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Economic Commission for Europe

Steering Committee on Trade Capacity and Standards

Working Party on Regulatory Cooperation and Standardization Policies (WP.6)

Thirty-fourth session

Geneva, 26(pm)–28 August 2024

Item 1 of the provisional agenda

Adoption of the agenda

Provisional agenda for the thirty-fourth session*

To be held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva starting at 15:00 on Monday 26 August 2024, in Room VIII as an in-person meeting.

I. Provisional agenda

1. Adoption of the agenda.
2. Matters arising.
3. Group of Experts on Risk Management in Regulatory Systems.
4. Team of Specialists on Gender-Responsive Standards.
5. Advisory Group on Market Surveillance.
6. Ad Hoc Team of Specialists on Standardization and Regulatory Techniques.
7. Programme of work:
 - (a) Report on capacity building;
 - (b) Programme of work for 2025;
 - (c) Activities of other Economic Commission for Europe bodies and other international organizations of interest to Working Party 6.
8. Panel discussion: Quality infrastructure helping to prevent a green and digital divide – identifying challenges for capacity development for sustainable trade in developing economies.

* This document has not been edited by a professional editor. The session will be held in person on 26(pm) to 28 August 2024 from 10:00 to 13:00 and from 15:00 to 18:00. Simultaneous interpretation between English, French and Russian will be provided in the room. Delegates are requested to register online at <https://indico.un.org/event/1007223/>. The session documents will be made available progressively at <https://unece.org/trade/wp6/wp6-34th-2024>. Please note that as part of its move to paperless meetings, the secretariat does not distribute paper copies of meeting documents. Additional information for delegates, including a map of the Palais des Nations meeting rooms, is available at: <http://www.unece.org/meetings/practical.html>.



9. Other business.
10. Adoption of the report.

II. Annotations

1. Adoption of the agenda

<i>Title of document</i>	<i>Document symbol</i>	<i>For information/decision</i>
<i>Provisional agenda for the thirty-fourth session</i>	ECE/CTCS/WP.6/2024/1	For decision

The *Provisional agenda for the thirty-fourth session* of WP.6 was approved by the Bureau. It is based on the decisions adopted at the previous sessions. It is presented to member States for an approval decision.

The WP.6 Chair, with the assistance of the secretariat, will present the provisional agenda for adoption and will inform the annual session of any proposed changes.

2. Matters arising

<i>Title of document</i>	<i>Document symbol</i>	<i>For information/decision</i>
<i>Report from the Bureau of Working Party 6</i>	ECE/CTCS/WP.6/2024/INF.1	For information
<i>The Basics of Quality Infrastructure for Trade</i>	ECE/TRADE/478	For information
<i>Report of third annual forum: Quality infrastructure for trade and the digital and green transformation</i>	ECE/CTCS/WP.6/2024/3	For decision

The secretariat will report on recent developments in the Steering Committee on Trade Capacity and Standards and other activities within the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) of relevance to WP.6.

The WP.6 Chair will present a report (ECE/CTCS/WP.6/2024/INF.1) on activities during this past period as well as strategic directions for the months to come. This document is presented to member States for information.

In 2022 and 2023, WP.6 organized conferences on the basics of quality infrastructure for trade. These aimed to provide a baseline understanding of the various elements of quality infrastructure and the contributions of WP.6. The outcomes of the conference were summarized in a publication (ECE/TRADE/478) which is presented to the member States for information. The publication will strengthen outreach, increasing the general public's knowledge and awareness of relevance and impact of WP.6.

In 2023, the Commission endorsed the theme of "digital and green transformations for sustainable development in the ECE region" (see E/ECE/1504). WP.6 has integrated this theme into its workflows and hosted a series of conferences during its third annual forum (2–5 April 2024) on this theme, which highlight the importance of green and digital transformations for quality infrastructure and the contributions of WP.6 in this area. The report (ECE/CTCS/WP.6/2024/3) is presented for a noting decision.

Member States will have an opportunity to ask questions and provide comments.

3. Group of Experts on Risk Management in Regulatory Systems

<i>Title of document</i>	<i>Document symbol</i>	<i>For information/decision</i>
<i>Report of activities under the Group of Experts on Risk Management in Regulatory Systems 2023–2024</i>	ECE/CTCS/WP.6/2024/4	For decision
<i>Survey on integrated risk management in single window systems: Best practices and challenges</i>	ECE/CTCS/WP.6/2024/5	For decision
<i>Initial findings on the survey on integrated risk management in single window systems</i>	ECE/CTCS/WP.6/2024/INF.2	For information

The Group of Experts on Risk Management in Regulatory Systems (GRM) was established in 2011 as a high-level and international partnership in the field of risk management. The report of this group (ECE/CTCS/WP.6/2024/4) is presented to member States for an endorsement decision.

The GRM has been working on the application of *Recommendation V on Addressing Product Non-Compliance Risk in International Trade* and its model on integrated risk management in relation to single window systems. The survey (ECE/CTCS/WP.6/2024/5) is presented to member States for a noting decision and the initial findings of a preliminary sampling (ECE/CTCS/WP.6/2024/INF.2) is presented for information.

Member States will have an opportunity to ask questions and provide comments.

4. Team of Specialists on Gender-Responsive Standards

<i>Title of document</i>	<i>Document symbol</i>	<i>For information/decision</i>
<i>Report of activities of the Team of Specialists on Gender-Responsive Standards 2023–2024</i>	ECE/CTCS/WP.6/2024/6	For decision
<i>Guide for standards-related gender action plans</i>	ECE/CTCS/WP.6/2024/7	For information

The Gender-Responsive Standardization Initiative was launched in 2016 and was approved by the ECE Executive Committee as a Team of Specialists on Gender-Responsive Standards (ToS-GRS) in September 2022. The ToS-GRS aims to help support the implementation of the sustainable development goal “Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls” (SDG 5) through gender-responsive standards. The report of this group (ECE/CTCS/WP.6/2024/6) is presented to member States for an endorsement decision.

Providing guidance to standards development bodies on how to implement gender-responsive standards is a core activity of the ToS-GRS. The guide (ECE/CTCS/WP.6/2024/7) provides a summary of methodologies and elements which could be integrated into gender actions. This initial guide, which will be further enhanced over the coming period, is presented to member States for information.

Member States will have an opportunity to ask questions and provide comments.

5. Advisory Group on Market Surveillance

<i>Title of document</i>	<i>Document symbol</i>	<i>For information/decision</i>
<i>Report of activities under the Advisory Group on Market Surveillance 2023–2024</i>	ECE/CTCS/WP.6/2024/8	For decision
<i>Revision of Recommendation M: the Use of Market Surveillance Infrastructure as a Complementary Means to Protect Consumers against Counterfeit Goods</i>	ECE/CTCS/WP.6/2024/9	For decision
<i>Recommendation K on Metrological Assurance of Conformity Assessment and Testing, Third Edition</i>	ECE/TRADE/482	For information

The Advisory Group on Market Surveillance (MARS) was established in 2003 to be a forum for discussion about market surveillance, to increase transparency and visibility of the chain of control and to promote best practices. The report of this group (ECE/CTCS/WP.6/2023/8) is presented to member States for an endorsement decision.

The *Recommendation M* was approved and published in 2007. It makes the case to involve market surveillance agencies in the protection and enforcement of intellectual property rights. The MARS completed its revision of this document (ECE/CTCS/WP.6/2024/9) and presents it to member States for an endorsement decision.

At the thirty-third annual session, member States endorsed the revision of *Recommendation K*. This document was reformatted into a publication (ECE/TRADE/482) and is presented to member States for information.

Member States will have an opportunity to ask questions and provide comments.

6. Ad Hoc Team of Specialists on Standardization and Regulatory Techniques

<i>Title of document</i>	<i>Document symbol</i>	<i>For information/decision</i>
<i>Report on activities under the Ad Hoc Team of Specialists on Standardization and Regulatory Techniques 2023–2024</i>	ECE/CTCS/WP.6/2024/10	For decision
<i>Overarching common regulatory arrangement for the regulatory compliance of products and/or services with embedded artificial intelligence or other digital technologies</i>	ECE/CTCS/WP.6/2024/11	For decision
<i>Declaration for technical regulation of products with embedded artificial intelligence</i>	ECE/CTCS/WP.6/2024/12	For decision
<i>Revision of Recommendation L on an International Model for</i>	ECE/CTCS/WP.6/2024/13	For decision

*Product/Service Conformity
Based on Transnational
Regulatory Cooperation*

*Report of the 5 April 2024
conference on harmonizing
regulatory requirements on
pipeline security for hydrogen*

ECE/CTCS/WP.6/2024/INF.3 For information

The Ad Hoc Team of Specialists on Standardization and Regulatory Techniques (START) was established in 1999 with an aim to promote international regulatory cooperation on product technical regulations. These regulations define safety and health requirements which may be unique to the needs and circumstances of each country which can result in higher compliance costs when approaching multiple markets. Several initiatives have been launched to support the ECE *Recommendation L on an International Model for Transnational Regulatory Cooperation Based on Good Regulatory Practice* with common regulatory arrangements (CRA) for telecom, cybersecurity, earth-moving machinery, equipment for explosive environment and pipeline safety. Education on standardization has also been a focus of WP.6 since the publication of the *Recommendation I on Education on Standards-Related Issues* in 1970 and its update in 2012. The report of this group (ECE/CTCS/WP.6/2024/10) is presented to member States for an endorsement decision.

The WP.6 Bureau launched a project on the regulatory compliance of products and/or services with embedded artificial intelligence (AI) or other digital technologies. Each of the subgroups have contributed to this work and together, they have developed the *Overarching CRA* on the topic (ECE/CTCS/WP.6/2024/11) aiming to achieve harmonization of technical regulations on products with embedded AI. As suggested at the thirty-third session, this *Overarching CRA* is accompanied by a *Declaration* (ECE/CTCS/WP.6/2024/12) that Government agencies can sign to notify their adoption of the principle of the overarching CRA and thus contribute to greater harmonization. Member States are requested to bring further adjustments to these two documents over the next six months with an objective of pledging to sign the *Declaration* at a launch in the summer of 2025. The *Overarching CRA* and its *Declaration* are presented to member States for an endorsement decision.

The START has completed its work on the revision of *Recommendation L* which updates the guidance in order to clearly include systems, processes and services (which were only inferred in the previous version), removes Annex B on the establishment of a registry and specialized groups to follow the CRAs, and suggests a change in the title to clarify that this guidance is about product/service conformity. The resulting recommendation text (ECE/CTCS/WP.6/2024/13) is presented to member States for an endorsement decision.

The START has also advanced its work on a CRA for trunk pipeline safety in relation to hydrogen in cooperation with the ECE Sustainable Energy Division Hydrogen Task Force. A joint conference on the topic was organized on 5 April 2024. The report of this conference (ECE/CTCS/WP.6/2024/INF.3) is presented to member States for information.

Member States will have an opportunity to ask questions and provide comments.

7. Programme of work

(a) Report on capacity building

Following up on previous extra-budgetary projects which aimed to support the implementation of the SDG 5, the secretariat proposes to increase support to specific standards development bodies to develop and implement gender action plans and mainstream gender throughout the other quality infrastructure agencies (metrology, market surveillance, technical regulations, conformity assessment).

Member States will have an opportunity to clarify questions and provide comments.

(b) Programme of work for 2025

<i>Title of document</i>	<i>Document symbol</i>	<i>For information/decision</i>
<i>Programme of work of the Working Party on Regulatory Cooperation and Standardization Policies for 2025</i>	ECE/CTCS/WP.6/2024/14	For decision

Member States will have before them a draft programme of work for 2025. This document has been reviewed and endorsed by the WP.6 Bureau as well as the subgroup leadership. The document (ECE/CTCS/WP.6/2024/14) is presented to member States for an approval decision.

Member States will have an opportunity to clarify questions and provide comments.

(c) Activities of other Economic Commission for Europe bodies and other international organizations of interest to Working Party 6

Delegates will be briefed about activities of other international organizations on matters of interest to WP.6. Representatives from other international organizations will be invited to highlight areas for potential further cooperation with WP.6 as well as current and future activities of relevance. This will include topics of international regulatory cooperation, conformity assessment, accreditation, metrology and others.

Member States will have an opportunity to clarify questions and provide comments.

8. Panel discussion: Quality infrastructure helping to prevent a green and digital divide – identifying challenges for capacity development for sustainable trade in developing economies

Products are integrating more and more digital aspects. This has the advantage of offering enhanced services to administrations and consumers as well as new functionalities in products. At the same time, member States have committed to global sustainability objectives, necessitating new capabilities and processes in the national trade administration to efficiently address green transformations. WP.6 has already explored the benefits and challenges of digital innovations in products, notably during its thirty-third annual session (see ECE/CTCS/WP.6/2023/2), concentrating specifically on embedded artificial intelligence in products; it also looked at the green and digital transformation from multiple aspects during its third annual forum (see ECE/CTCS/WP.6/2024/3).

As the technological development is extremely fast, there is a further risk that green and digital transformations may exacerbate existing differences between developed and transitional/developing economies (i.e. the digital divide and the green divide could potentially widen).

This panel discussion will explore the current needs and challenges related to new policy priorities such as green and digital transition related to compliance and technical regulation of industrial goods. It will further invite transitional and developing economies to speak about the challenges that they face with a perspective of identifying areas that require capacity building and technical assistance related to quality infrastructure to address for example, traceability, product marking, circularity, compliance with international standards addressing digital and green transition.

Member States and attendees of the panel will have an opportunity to clarify questions and provide comments.

9. Other business

Member States will discuss any other business raised, including the tentative dates of its thirty-fifth session in 2025 (8–10 September 2025).

10. Adoption of the report

<i>Title of document</i>	<i>Document symbol</i>	<i>For information/decision</i>
<i>Report on the thirty-fourth session of the Working Party on Regulatory Cooperation and Standardization Policies</i>	ECE/CTCS/WP.6/2024/2	For decision

Member States will be invited to adopt the decisions and draft report of its thirty-fourth session.

III. Tentative timetable

<i>Time</i>	<i>Agenda item</i>	<i>Introduced by</i>
Monday, 26 August		
15:00–16:00	Opening	WP.6 Chair and invited speakers
16:00–16:10	Item 1: Adoption of the agenda	WP.6 Chair
16:10–17:10	Item 2: Matters arising	WP.6 Chair and secretariat
17:10–18:00	Item 7 (a): Report on capacity building	Secretariat
Tuesday, 27 August		
10:00–10:15	Opening of day 2	WP.6 Chair and secretariat
10:15–11:15	Item 3: Group of Experts on Risk Management in Regulatory Systems	GRM Chair
11:15–12:15	Item 4: Team of Specialists on Gender-Responsive Standards	ToS-GRS Chair
12:15–13:00	Item 5: Advisory Group on Market Surveillance	MARS Chair
13:00–15:00	Break	
15:00–16:00	Item 6: Ad Hoc Team of Specialists on Standardization and Regulatory Techniques	START Chair
16:00–16:30	Item 7 (b): Programme of work for 2025	WP.6 Chair
16:30–18:00	Item 7 (c): Activities of other United Nations Economic Commission for Europe bodies and other international organizations of interest to Working Party 6	Secretariat and invited speakers
Wednesday, 28 August		
10:00–15:00	Item 8: Panel discussion: Quality infrastructure helping to prevent a green and digital divide – identifying challenges for capacity development for sustainable trade in emergent economies	WP.6 Chair and invited speakers
13:00–15:00	Break	
15:00–16:30	Item 8: Panel discussion: Quality infrastructure helping to prevent a green and digital divide – identifying challenges for capacity development for sustainable trade in emergent economies	WP.6 Chair and invited speakers
16:30–16:45	Item 9: Other business	WP.6 Chair
16:45–18:00	Item 10: Adoption of the report	Secretariat