Report on activities
up to the 23rd WP.6 session

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Vice Chair WP.6
UNECE – STCTS – WP.6
28/06/2024, Geneva
Election of officers of WP.6

For the period 2023-2025 (2 years)

**Chairperson**
- Heidi Lund (Sweden)

**Vice-Chairpersons**
- Gabrielle White (Canada)
- Davit Tkemaladze (Georgia)
- Marco Pangallo (Israel)
- Anthony Quinn (United States of America)
Meetings during this period and gender balance

**Graph 1:**
Proportion of women in the leadership of WP.6 (Bureau and its subgroups) as of October 2023.

**Graph 2:**
Proportion of women experts registered in WP.6 as of October 2023

**Graph 3:**
Proportion of active women experts (participating in meetings and webinars) in the subgroups of WP.6 during the period November 2022 to October 2023.

Excerpt from 2023 Bureau report: ECE/CTCS/WP.6/2023/INF.1
WP.6 Working Practices

• **Summary of working practices for the Working Party on Regulatory Cooperation and Standardization Policies** (ECE/CTCS/WP.6/2023/12)
  - Covers elections of subgroups, official meetings, membership, project development

• **Summary of practices for representation of and the use of titles within the Working Party on Regulatory Cooperation and Standardization Policies** (ECE/CTCS/WP.6/2023/13)
  - Covers representation and use of titles
Advisory Group on Market Surveillance

**Leadership**
- Chairperson: Jan Deconinck (Belgium); Vice-Chairpersons: Ivan Hendrikx (Belgium) and Lucy Salt (New Zealand)

**Activities** (full report in ECE/CTCS/WP.6/2023/3)
- Finalization and approval of the Revision of Recommendation K on Metrological Assurance of Conformity Assessment and Testing (ECE/CTCS/WP.6/2023/5)
- Webinar on 21/02/2023 on “Market surveillance role in combatting counterfeit products” (ECE/CTCS/WP.6/2023/4)
- Launch of the revision of Recommendation M on Use of Market Surveillance Infrastructure as a Complementary Means to Protect Consumers and Users Against Counterfeit Goods
Group of Experts on Risk Management in Regulatory Systems

Leadership
• Chairperson: Alexia Davison (UK); Vice-Chairpersons: Valentin Nikonov (Israel) and Donald Macrae (UK)

Activities (full report in ECE/CTCS/WP.6/2023/6)
• Webinar on 25 May 2023 featuring best practices with examples from EU DG TAXUD, Georgia, Greece, Mexico, New Zealand, Nigeria and NAPPO.
• Launch of the project on “Integrated risk management in single window systems”
Ad Hoc Team of Specialists on Standardization and Regulatory Techniques

Leadership
• Chairperson: Ronald Tse (Canada)

Activities (full report in ECE/CTCS/WP.6/7)
• Closure of the initiatives on earth-moving machinery and telecommunication
• Initiative on equipment for explosive environments – coordinating with IEC-Ex
• Initiative on pipeline safety planned to launch a project on harmonization of technical requirements of material used for the extraction and/or the transport of hydrogen and hydrogen-mixes
Team of Specialists on Gender-Responsive Standards

Leadership

• Chairperson: Michelle Parkouda (Canada); Vice-Chairpersons: Lucy Salt (New Zealand) and Stephanie Eynon (UK)

Activities (full report in ECE/CTCS/WP.6/2023/10)

• Webinar on 24 May 2023 featuring best practices with examples from ASTM International, Austria, COPANT, CEN/CENELEC, Rwanda, SMIIC

• Gender and salutation code list paper (ECE/CTCS/WP.6/2023/11)

• Publication on Why Gender-Responsive Standards are Better for Everyone (ECE/TRADE/474)

• Working on GRS-related gender action plans; a survey & repository of responses launched during this period
Team of Specialists on Gender-Responsive Standards

Currently 86 signatories to the ECE Declaration on Gender-Responsive Standards
Programme of Work for 2024

Activities outlined in the PoW are closely linked to the WP.6 mission statement (see ECE/CTCS/WP.6/2022/11, paragraph 5)

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

And does this by (see paragraph 6):

• Serving as a forum of exchange & promote discussion; developing guidance; maintaining liaison; organizing seminars & workshops; and providing trade-related capacity building & technical assistance in the field of regulatory cooperation & standardization policies
Conference
“How to target continuous compliance”

• Topic chosen in response to the high-level theme of the 70th Commission session on “Digital and green transformations”
• Conference concentrated mainly on artificial intelligence
• Speakers underlined the challenge such technologies have on regulating products and performing conformity assessment and market surveillance
• One of the main challenges is the potential for such products to evolve after entry onto the market, which reenforces the need for continuous compliance
• WP.6 is actively working to address these challenges
WP.6 work on artificial intelligence

• At the 23rd Annual Session of WP.6, a document on artificial intelligence was submitted (ECE/CTCS/WP.6/2023/9)

• It was suggested at that session to:
  • Develop a Common Regulatory Arrangement (CRA) based on Rec.L
  • Propose a declaration that agencies can sign to signify that they have the intention of working in line with the principles of the CRA

• The CRA and declaration have been completed and will be submitted to the 24th session of WP.6 on 26(pm) – 28 August

• The concept of the CRA & declaration were presented to the WTO TBT on 7 June.
Upcoming Meetings

WP.6 ANNUAL SESSION
Working Party on Regulatory Cooperation and Standardization Policies
26 – 28 AUGUST 2024  |  PALAIS DES NATIONS  |  GENEVA

For more information:
• [https://unece.org/trade/wp6](https://unece.org/trade/wp6)
• [regulatory.cooperation@un.org](mailto:regulatory.cooperation@un.org)
• Lance Thompson, Secretary WP.6
  • [lance.thompson@un.org](mailto:lance.thompson@un.org)
WP.6

Proposed decisions
The Steering Committee expressed its satisfaction with the work undertaken by the Working Party on Regulatory Cooperation and Standardization Policies (WP.6). It recognized the importance of quality infrastructure for reducing technical barriers to trade and


- Following decision 16 of the thirty-third session of WP.6, the Steering Committee endorsed the Programme of work of WP.6 in document ECE/CTCS/WP.6/2023/14. The Steering Committee invited WP.6 to continue implementing its programme of work and report to the 2025 session. The Steering Committee also called on donors and development partners to consider providing funding to offer demand-driven capacity-building in line with the programme of work of WP.6.

- Following decision 7 of the thirty-third session of WP.6, the Steering Committee endorsed the revision of Recommendation K on Metrological Assurance of Conformity Assessment and Testing in document ECE/CTCS/WP.6/2023/5.

- Following decision 12 of the thirty-third session of WP.6, the Steering Committee endorsed the publication Why Gender Responsive Standards are Better for Everyone (ECE/TRADE/474).
Proposed decision 2024-12

Following decision 17 of the thirty-third session of WP.6, the Steering Committee endorsed the extension of the mandates of WP.6 subgroups contained in the annexes of document ECE/CTCS/WP.6/2023/14 for a further two-year period:

- the Advisory Group on Market Surveillance (MARS) in annex III,
- the Ad Hoc Team of Specialists on Standardization and Regulatory Techniques (START) in annex IV,
- the Group of Experts on Risk Management in Regulatory Systems (GRM) in annex V and
- the Team of Specialists on Gender-Responsive Standards (ToS-GRS) in annex VI.
Proposed decision 2024-13

• Following up on decision 2023-06 of the Steering Committee, WP.6 finalized and approved in decision 14, its internal procedures in documents ECE/CTCS/WP.6/2023/12 and ECE/CTCS/WP.6/2023/13. The Steering Committee took note of these documents and commended WP.6 for its efforts to streamline and clarify its internal procedures.
Proposed decision 2024-14

• The Steering Committee took note of the publication *The Basics of Quality Infrastructure for Trade* (ECE/TRADE/478) and expressed its appreciation to WP.6 and its secretariat for its efforts to clarify the base principles of its work. It also took note that further “Basics” publications were planned and encouraged WP.6 and its secretariat to present these publications at future meetings of the Steering Committee.
Thank you

Marco Pangallo
Vice Chair WP.6

UNECE – Working Party 6
28/06/2024, Geneva