



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

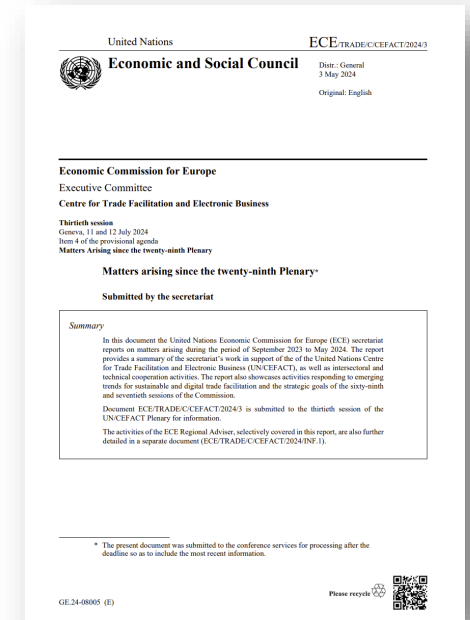
Documents:

- *Matters Arising Since the Twenty-Ninth Session*
(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

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- Showcases activities responding to the **circular economy, digital & green transformations, sustainability and climate action.**
- Aligns to the strategic goals of the **sixty-ninth and seventieth sessions of the Commission.**
 - Trends in sustainable and digital trade facilitation
 - Contribution to Economic Commission for Europe strategic goals
 - Intersectoral activities
 - Technical cooperation activities
 - Cooperation with other organizations



Trends in sustainable and digital trade facilitation

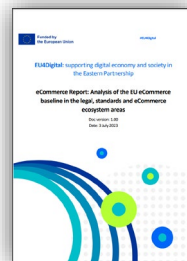
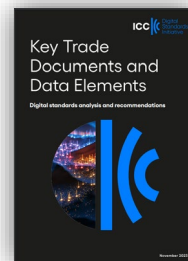
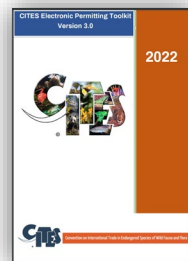
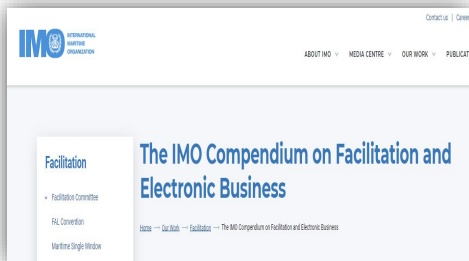
- UN/CEFACT aligns its activities with the ECE's priority themes: the circular economy, sustainable use of natural resources, and digital and green transformations.
- Importance of **sustainability and green advance technologies, producing trade facilitation related policy recommendations.**
- UN/CEFACT work directly responds to **SDG 8, 12 and 17**

Role of UN/CEFACT Standards and Recommendations

- UN/CEFACT is offering **digital solutions, promoting electronic information exchange, and encouraging automation.**
- Trade facilitation policies, **e-business standards, policy advice, and technical cooperation**
- SDGs support on decent work, responsible consumption, and global partnerships

Technical cooperation activities and corporation with other organizations

- Enhanced the cooperation and partnership for sustainable and digital trade facilitation
- Wide referencing of UN/CEFACT recommendations, standards and solutions in international flagship publications & Sustainability Pledge within the garment and footwear sector



Examples of referencing UN/CEFACT tools :

- IMO Compendium
- CITES Electronic Permitting Toolkit v3.0
- ICC DSI report Key Trade Documents and Data Elements
- EU4Digital eCommerce Report



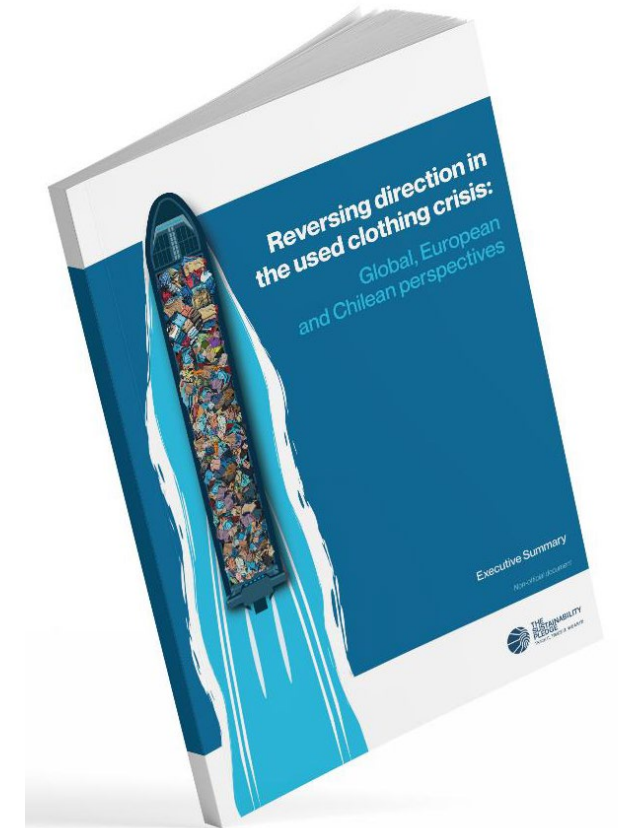
CALL-TO-ACTION

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Capacity-building, advisory and analytical activities of relevance

- **Trade facilitation technical assistance projects** for transition economies (Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan).
- **Business Process Analysis** (Kazakhstan and Kyrgyz Republic).
- **Trade Facilitation Roadmaps** (Kyrgyz Republic, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan).
- **Blockchain pilots for global value chains** (cotton, leather, wool and cashmere) piloted in Brazil, Chile, India, Egypt, India, Peru, Türkiye, Uzbekistan; carried out in cooperation with value chain actors in Denmark, Germany, France, Italy, Switzerland and UK.
- **Analytical work:** Joint UNECE-ECLAC Study on Reversing direction in the used clothing crisis: Global, European and Chilean perspectives, which formulates policy recommendations that improve the economic, social and environmental outcomes of global trade in used clothes.



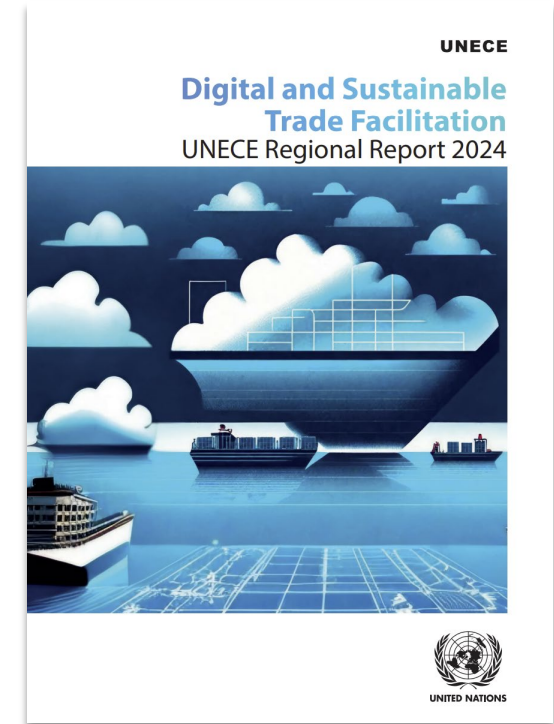
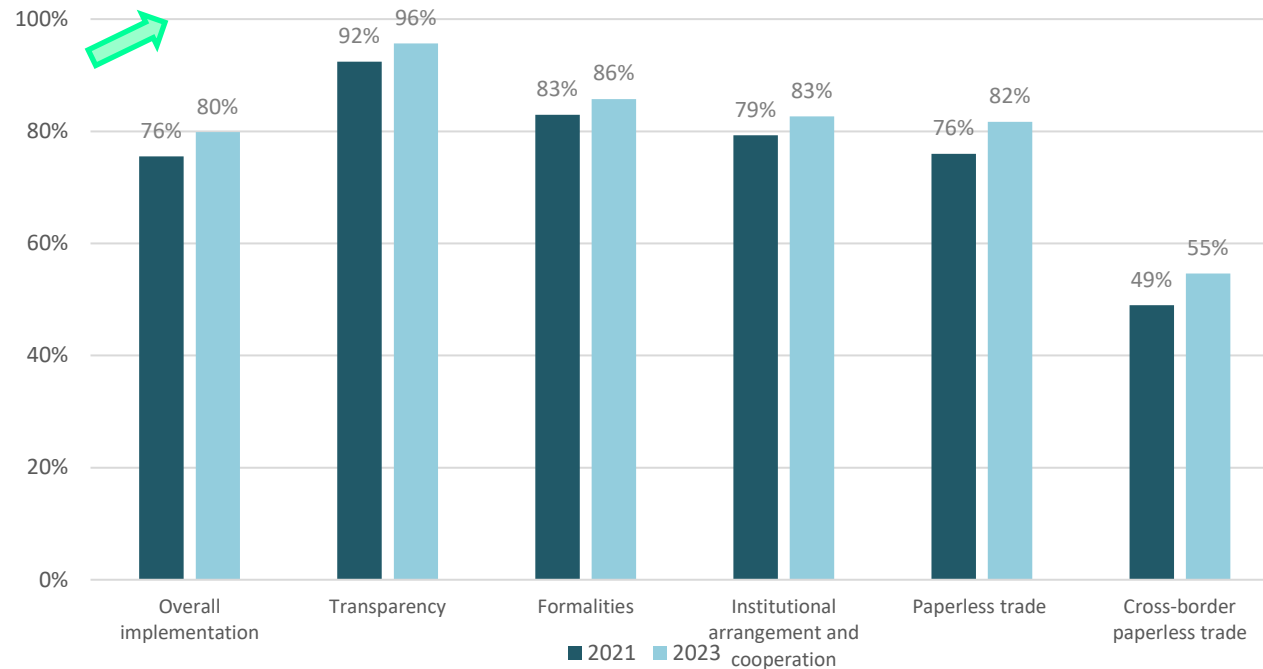
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Capacity-building, advisory and analytical activities of relevance

Responded by **48** participating member States in 2023, implementation of trade facilitation improved in most measures since 2021, with overall implementation rate in the region rising **from 76% in 2021 to 80% in 2023**.

**Digital and Sustainable Trade Facilitation:
Global Report 2023**



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Intersectoral Activities

- **Trade Barriers and Circular Economy:** Within the ECTD, UN/CEFACT contributed to removing trade barriers and promoting the circular economy. It also worked on capacity-building with the Committee on Innovation to enhance technology use, like blockchain, in transition economies such as Uzbekistan.
- **Transport Collaborations:** UN/CEFACT collaborated with the Sustainable Transport Division on transport facilitation, road transport, and dangerous goods. Supported the SPECA countries in digitalizing the Trans-Caspian Corridor and worked on the eCMR standard.
- **Environmental and Energy Synergies:** The secretariat fostered synergies with the Environment and Sustainable Energy Divisions under the “sustainable use of natural resources” theme. UN/CEFACT tools support various environmental conventions and standards. Joint activities included contributions to the Working Group on Transforming the Extractive Industries and participating in Aarhus Convention capacity-building workshops.

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Technical cooperation activities and cooperation with other organizations

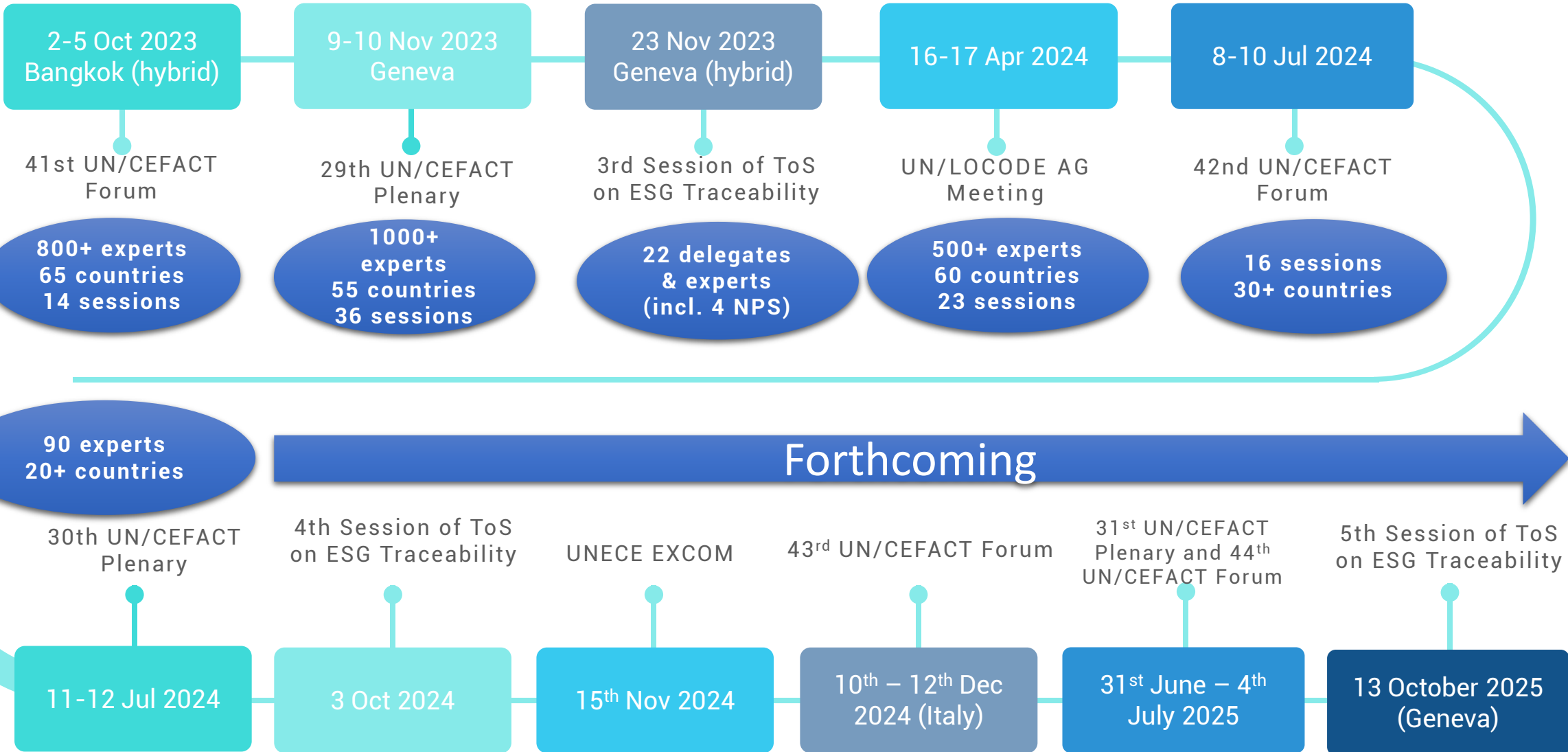
- At the global level, UN/CEFACT and the ECE secretariat collaborated with many international organizations
 - IEC-ISO-ITU-UNECE Electronic Business Memorandum of Understanding, UNRCs, and other UN agencies like **UNCTAD and ITC**.
 - WTO TFA implementation, such as the joint session during UNCTAD eWeek 2023
 - FAO on utilizing UN/LOCODE to combat IUU fishing and supported CITES in fighting illegal wildlife trade
 - In e-business, ECE has coordinated with ISO, IEC, and ITU under the ebMoU, focusing on standards like privacy by design, semantic harmonization, and AI
 - Dematerialization and digital trade standards, leading to partnerships with ISO technical committees, ICAO, and IMO
 - Facilitated alignment with organizations like GS1
 - New joint working group between **ECE and ISO Technical Committee 154 (ISO TC 154/JWG9)**
- Regionally, the ECE secretariat has collaborated with European Commission directorates such as DG MOVE, DG ENV, DG GROW, DG INTPA, DG TAXUD, and others to advance sustainability and circularity, multimodality and connectivity, in various sectors and support EU regulations on transport and trade.





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CB in trade facilitation - focused on ECE mandate; improve integration into the world & ECE regional economy, and achieving the SDGs:

- Implementing UN/CEFACT standards & RDMs to digitalize data and document exchange along the supply chain in a standardized way. In 2023-2024: 16 transition economies received assistance to implement TF and e-business standards to improve efficiency.
- Assisting countries in the WTO-accession process: notably, the WTO TFA. Readiness assessments done in AZ & UZ; we started in TM. UZ national TF roadmap being finalized.
- Support for SPECA: notably for the Trans-Caspian digitalization roadmap developed in 2023, with input from the ECTD and Transport Divisions of ECE.

Assistance to transition economies to implement TF and the TFA (SDG 17.10)

- E.g., two major developments in 2023-24 to which the RA had contributed:
 - SPECA Roadmap for the Digitalization of Multimodal Data and Document Exchange along the Trans-Caspian Corridor Using UN Legal Instruments and Standards;
 - pilot testing of digital railway consignment note along the Trans-Caspian corridor, using the UN/CEFACT semantic standards and Multimodal Transport Reference Data Model
- Capacity building:
 - UNDA14 project – support for implementation of the Trans-Caspian digitalization roadmap; assistance to implement the UN/CEFACT standards in the countries neighbouring EU, as the eFTI Regulation that uses the standards.
 - Pilot projects on testing the digital prototype of the CIM/SMGS consignment note
 - Assessment of Uzbekistan's readiness to implement the WTO TFA
 - Guide for NTFCs on how to use international (UN/CEFACT) TF standards published.

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SPECA: ECE helped develop the Roadmap for digitalization of multimodal data and document exchange along the Trans-Caspian Corridor, using UN/CEFACT standards and UN legal instruments, adopted by the SPECA Presidents, Baku, 24 Nov. 2023

Governments will create an enabling environment to realize the vision (for the UN/CEFACT standards):

2024

- Governments and business will take part in digitalizing B2B supply chain data exchange based on UN/CEFACT standards

2025

- Operators will participate in pilot projects using the UN/CEFACT standards: port community systems and others

2026

- Economic operators use electronic data exchange on documents accompanying goods using UN/CEFACT standards;
- Customs authorities and economic operators may use eCMR with the use of the UN/CEFACT standards;
- Economic operators participate in pilot projects for operational supply chain data exchange.

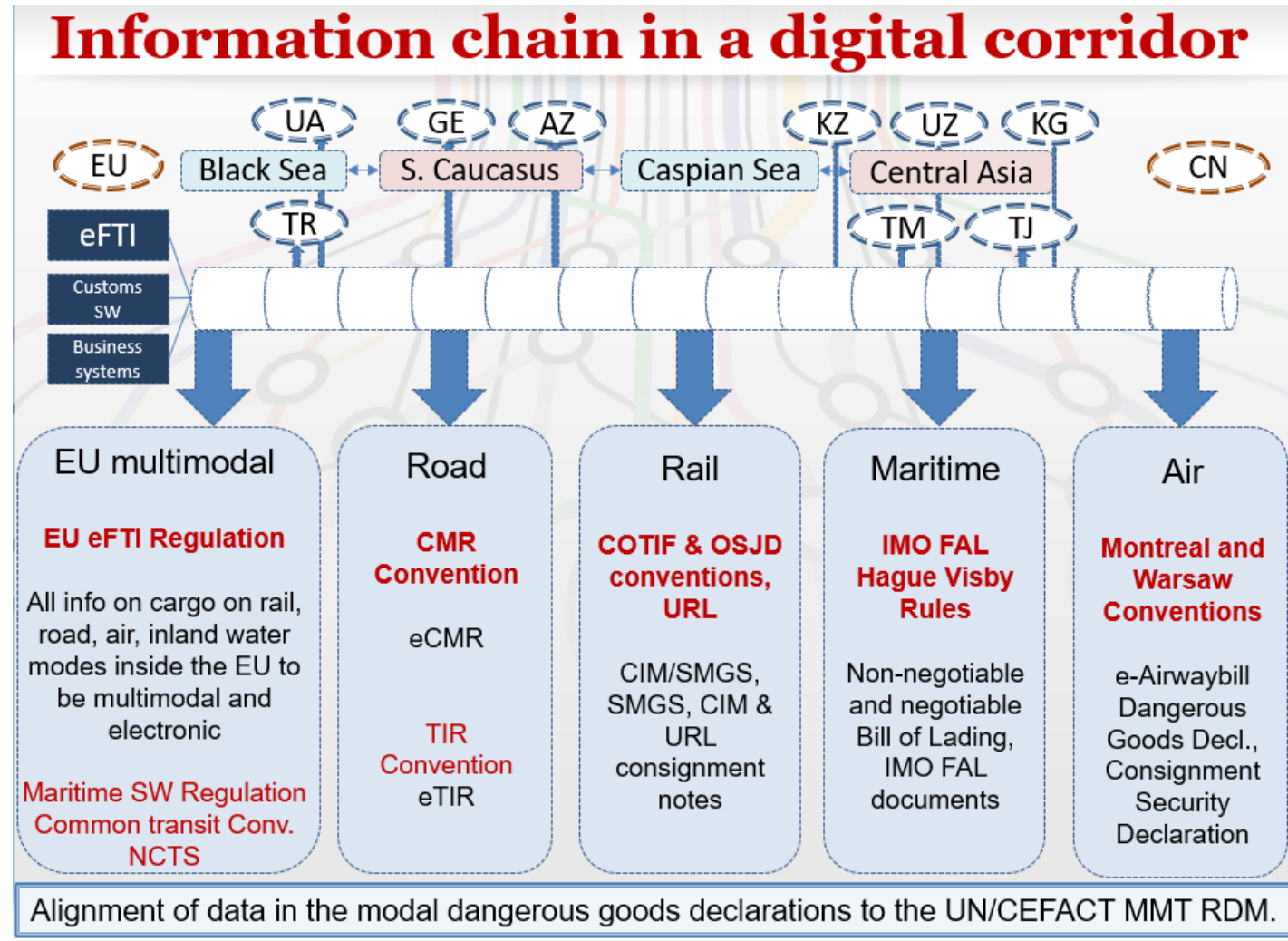
2027

- Economic operators and authorities to use rail data exchange based on the Unified Railway Law and UN/CEFACT
- Economic operators may use digital air cargo documents with application of the UN/CEFACT standards;
- Economic operators in all countries may use the operational supply chain data exchange.

2028

- New action plan to be agreed
- The SPECA Governments will convene meetings of experts to elaborate on the implementation details.
- The implementation of this Roadmap will have a strong capacity-building component,
- SPECA Governments recognize the value added of implementing the Roadmap - work with UNECE to mobilize funds.





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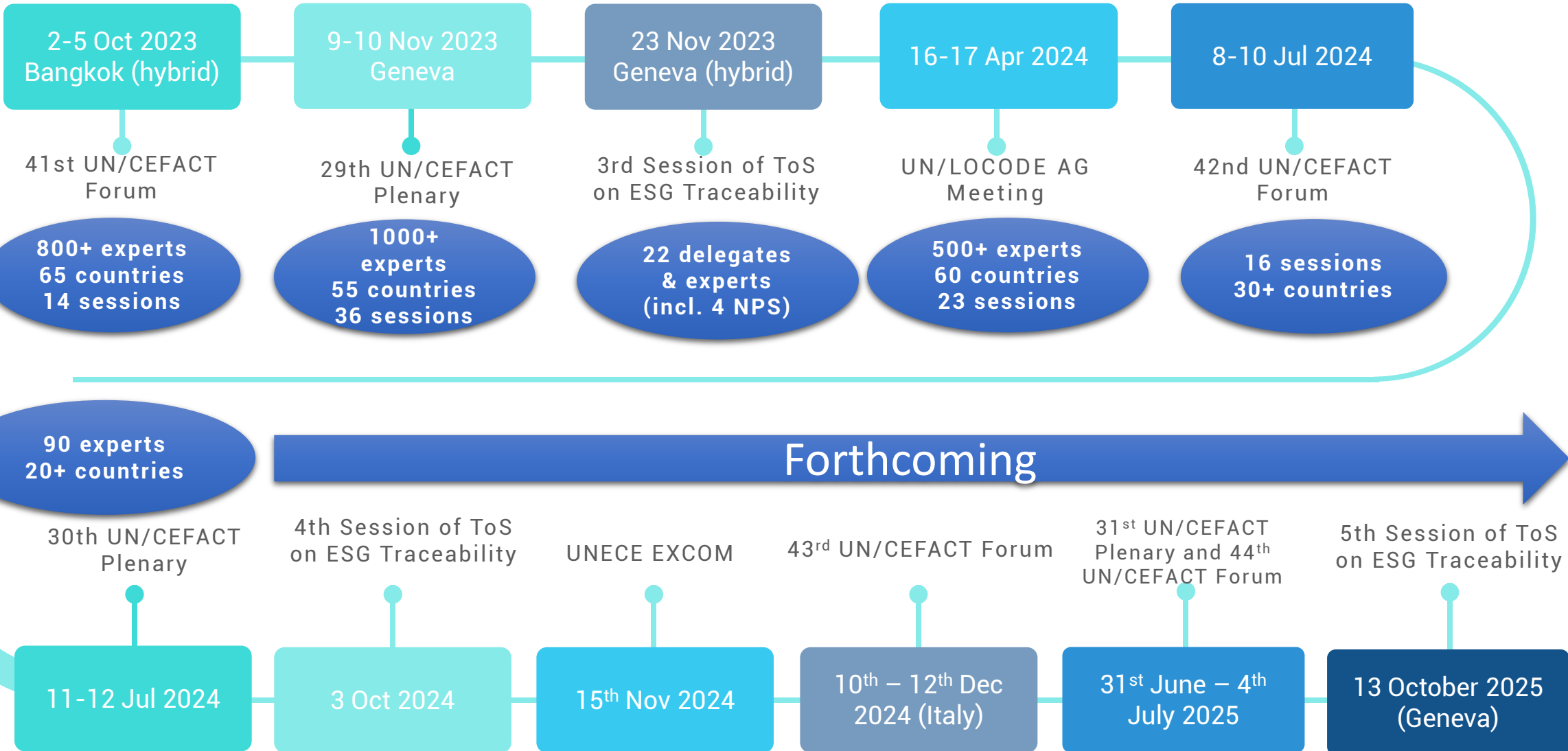
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<p>1. Standards developed for the digitalization of information across global supply chains:</p>	<p>2b. Standardized data exchanges to support cross-modal cargo transfers – package of standards for digitalization of multimodal data exchange</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • eCMR • Cross Industry Invoice • Cross Industry Delivery • Cross Industry Catalogue • Cross Industry Quotation • Cross Industry Remittance Advice • Cross Industry Scheduling • Cross Industry Ordering Process • Material Safety Data Sheet Details (MSDS) • Contract Financial Execution Management • Market Research Information • eCERT (sanitary-phytosanitary certificates and basis for other certificates): aligned to the Buy-Ship-Pay Reference Data Model • Numerous agricultural certificates, accounting, and other documents 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inland water transport contract document (IWT “Bill of Lading”; CMNI consignment note; etc.) • Maritime waybill • CIM/SMGS and SMGS consignment notes • Unified Railway Law (URL) consignment note • CIM/SMGS Wagon List (+Commercial Act, etc.)
<p>2a. Standards for logistics data and document exchange published in October 2020</p>	<p>2c. Air cargo and dangerous goods documents:</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provisional booking • Firm booking • Booking confirmation • Shipping instructions • Waybill • Status report • Status request • Packing list • Verified Gross Mass (VERMAS) document • International Forwarding and Transfer documents • Smart container information • eCMR (International road consignment note) • RASFF (Rapid Alert for Security of Food and Feeds) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Airwaybill • Dangerous goods declaration • Consignment security declaration <p>Electronic version of the FIATA multimodal Bill of Lading launched in 2022; work ongoing on three other FIATA documents</p>



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Proposed Plenary decision:

Plenary decision 24-05 to be noted:

- The Plenary welcomed the report of the secretariat, Matters Arising since the Twenty-Ninth Session (**ECE/TRADE/C/CEFACT/2024/3**) and the Report from the Economic Commission for Europe Regional Adviser (**ECE/TRADE/C/CEFACT/2024/INF.3**).
- The Plenary acknowledged the relevance of UN/CEFACT work in supporting the digital and green transformations for climate action and sustainable development and advancing the 2030 Agenda.
- The Plenary requested that the secretariat and its Regional Adviser present a consolidated report on activities and flagship projects, focusing on impact and relevance, at the next Plenary in 2025. Furthermore, the Plenary invited potential donors to contribute additional resources to existing and new projects.