REVIEW OF THE BUREAU AND REGIONAL RAPPORTEURS’ ACTIVITIES SINCE THE TWENTY-NINTH PLENARY & WHITE PAPERS

Documents:

  - For information

  - For information

- 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
Bureau and Regional Rapporteurs

Item 6
(15:00 – 17:00)

BUSINESS REQUIREMENTS SPECIFICATIONS & TECHNICAL STANDARDS

Documents:

- **BRS on Product Circularity Data Use Case**
  - For information

- **BRS on Digital Product Conformity Certificate Exchange**
  - For information

- **BRS on Trade Finance Documentary Credit Process.**
  - For information

- UN/CEFACT Core Component Library (versions 23B and 24A) ([https://www.unece.org/cefact/codesfortrade/unccl/cccl_index.html](https://www.unece.org/cefact/codesfortrade/unccl/cccl_index.html))


- UN/LOCODE Directory (versions 2023-1 and 2023-2) ([http://www.unece.org/cefact/locode/welcome.html](http://www.unece.org/cefact/locode/welcome.html))

- UN/CEFACT JSON-LD Web Vocabulary ([https://vocabulary.uncefact.org](https://vocabulary.uncefact.org))

- All UN/CEFACT e-business standards ([https://unece.org/trade/uncefact/mainstandards](https://unece.org/trade/uncefact/mainstandards))

- Open-source GitHub environment ([https://github.com/uncefact](https://github.com/uncefact))

- UN/CEFACT reference data models (RDMs) ([https://unece.org/trade/uncefact/rdm](https://unece.org/trade/uncefact/rdm))
Sustainable and Digital Trade Facilitation Week | 8-12 July 2024 | Geneva

Bureau Overview

BUREAU REPORT OF DEVELOPMENTS:
BUREAU OVERVIEW – CHAIR SUE PROBERT

Item 6
(15:00 – 17:00)

Sue PROBERT
Chair

Nancy NORRIS
Hanane BECHA
Liliana FRATINI PASSI
Allakbar HEYDAROV
Nurbek MAKSUDOV

Steve CAPELL

Sue Probert
Chair UN/CEFACT

Steve Capell,
Principal, Architecture & Strategy,
OnSource Pty Ltd
Australia

Hanane Becha,
Independent Senior/Project Lead & Standards Advisor,
Founder & CEO, Digital Trade, SAG France

Allakbar Heydarrav,
Chief Inspector, Division of International Trade Actors,
Department of Customs Monitoring and Trade Facilitation,
State Customs Committee
Azerbaijan

Liliana Fratini Passi,
Managing Director, CBI
Italy

Nateik Maloustov,
Head of Representative Office,
Counsellor on WTO Issues, Ministry of Economy and Commerce
Kyrgyz Republic

Nancy Norris,
Senior Director, ESO and Digital Trade,
Ministry of Energy, Mines and Low Carbon Innovation
Canada
Policy recommendations and standards

- **1 new recommendation: Rec No. 49**: Transparency at Scale (Ongoing Consultation)
- **2023 Summary of ECE Trade Facilitation Recommendations**
- **7 updates to e-business standards**: UN/EDIFACT directories, UN/LOCODE directories, UN CCL, XML Schema Library, Global supply chain and MMT RDM, JSON-LD Web Vocabulary

Advisory services & technical assistance

- **2023 UN Global Survey** on Digital and Sustainable Trade Facilitation
- **7 reports and executive guides** at 30th Plenary
- Update of UN TFIG e-learning platform
- **30+** capacity-building missions in 15 countries (e.g. Azerbaijan, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Türkiye, Ukraine, and Uzbekistan)

Communication and outreach

- Mentioned in **564 articles & 271 tweets** with 1.4 billion social media impressions
- Biannual newsletters, nearly 20 news pieces and press releases
- LinkedIn page gaining **3,184 followers**
- Contribution to **50+** high-level events (e.g. organised by CRFM/CARICOM/CDB/WTO Technical Workshop, European Commission, ICC DSI, UNCITRAL, UNCTAD, and others)

For more information on the survey: bit.ly/unglobalsurvey2023
For publications: uneco.org/publications/trade/cefact
A new partnership between IMO, the World Customs Organization, UNECE and the International Standards Organization has been signed to support this increased maritime digitalization.

Since 2016, the IMO has been working to integrate electronic document concepts into the convention, collaborating with UN/CEFACT, WCO, and ISO.

UNECE has been cooperating to develop the IMO Reference Data Model, which is a key element of the IMO Compendium on Facilitation and Electronic Business.

- Actively participates in the IMO Expert Group on Data Harmonization (EGDH) set up by the Facilitation Committee, which is responsible for the technical maintenance and extension of the IMO Compendium.
World Customs Organization

- The WCO Data Model is designed to provide a complete set of data and data structures for Customs and related agencies, such as agriculture and environmental protection. The model can be used to develop messages incorporating export, import and transit operations particularly with regard to a Single Window project.

- UN/CEFACT Experts are regular contributors to the work of the WCO Customs data modelling project team (DMPT)
  - Maintains an active Liaison relation with WCO Data Modelling Project Team.
  - Specific contributions include alignment with standards-based supply chain (Buy-Ship-Pay) B2B data modelling thereby maximising data structure alignment between the trade and government sides of a Single Window.

- The MoU Management Group (MoU/MG) on 12-13 December 2023 in Geneva, the participating organizations took note of standards that are developed under the World Customs Organization (WCO) Data Model and discussed the alignment with the UN/CCL and RDMs.
  - UNECE CEFACT and WCO are working to fully harmonize their data models.

- The WCO, with the UNECE, ISO and other international standards development and trade related organizations will be collaborating on the joint UNTDED/ISO 7372 Update Project.
• 41st UN/CEFACT Forum: Held in Bangkok, Thailand from October 2-5, 2023, with over 300 trade facilitation experts from 61 countries.

• The theme focused on digital and green transformations and climate action for sustainable development.

• A four-day-long gathering, Emphasis on collaborative efforts among UN organizations and expert communities to support climate change mitigation and adaptation.

• Numerous side events included participation from partners like the Asian Development Bank, International Chamber of Commerce Digital Standards Initiative, International Trade Centre, leading think tanks, and academic institutions.
CURRENT PROJECTS:

**Check-IBAN Open finance use case** (approved by the Bureau in July 2023)

**Scope:**

The purpose of this project is to develop an information exchange standard for the Check IBAN open finance use case, to enhance cybersecurity and fraud detection measures within electronic business and international trade by immediately verifying the correct association between a given IBAN code and a certain Tax Code/VAT number.

**Deliverables:**

- Business Requirement Specification
- Optional: NDR (Naming and Design Rules); RSM (Requirements Specification Mapping)

**Forum outcomes and next steps:**

- The Finance & Payment domain discussed and approved the draft of the Business Requirement Specification of the Check-IBAN service
- The BRS will be now submitted to the UN/CEFACT Bureau for discussion and approval to go for public review
- During the next UN/CEFACT Forum, and according to the state of BRS approval procedure, the Finance & Payment domain will discuss whether moving forward to NDR (Naming and Design Rules) and RSM (Requirements Specification Mapping) of the Check-IBAN service.
CURRENT PROJECTS:

Accounting & Audit Reference Data Model

Scope:
This project will make it faster and easier to share tax, audit and accounting data seamlessly and reliably across different accounting systems, accounting standards and jurisdictions.

Current status:
• A proof of concept (POC) is in progress to validate a VAT/sales tax use case
• The POC demonstrates that VAT/sales tax data can be expressed in two standards (XBRL-GL and SAF-T)

Next steps:
• Collaborate with the EU Tax Observatory on a global minimum tax use case. Project deliverables fit with the missions of the EU Tax Observatory.
• Seek support from accounting bodies, associations and stakeholders to implement the deliverables
• Seek new experts
• Map and migrate mappings into GEFEG
Bureau overview – VC Norris

- Supply Chain and Procurement
  - Domain Coordinator: Edmund Gray

- Agriculture & Fisheries
  - Domain Coordinators: Gaelle Cheruy and Erik Bosker

- Green Travel & Tourism
  - Domain Coordinator: Sachin Mehta
    - Critical Raw Materials Supply Chain Transparency and Sustainability
    - Textile BRS Ext. (Rec 46)
    - SDCE RDM Update
    - Travel Agency and DMC API RDM
    - API ESP Claims
Bureau overview – VC Becha

**Vice Chair**: Dr. Hanane BECHA

**Domain Coordinator**: Amar More

**Project**: Cross-border multimodal digital corridors for regulatory related movement of consignment data and consignment status information for trade facilitation.

**Project Leader**: Charles Edwards

**Deliverable**: A white paper on digital multimodal corridors, their implementation methodologies, benefits and case studies of existing cross border digital multimodal corridors implementation.
Bureau overview – VC Becha

**Vice Chair**: Dr. Hanane BECHA  
**Domain Coordinator**: David Roff

Current Projects:
- IMO FAL Mapping Project Update
- IFTDGN Dangerous Goods Project Update
- Buy/Ship/Pay Data Exchange structures for Trade Finance Facilitation
- ISO7372 – UNTDED review

Finalized project:
- Geofence Paper Project
T&L Involvement in Working Groups:

**DTLF (Digital Transport and Logistics Forum) for eFTI with EU**
- **Objective:** Contributing to digital exchange of Freight Transport Information (eFTI) across Europe.
- **Approach:** Data model based on UN/CEFACT MMT; enriched with requested data elements to meet eFTI requirements.

**IMO EGDH (Electronic Data Gathering, Analysis, and Harmonization) – Maritime Single Window**
- **Objective:** Facilitating streamlined data submission and clearance procedures in maritime transport.
- **Collaboration:** Working under the partnership agreement between IMO, ISO, UNECE, WCO.

**ICC DSI Trade Finance Related Initiatives**
- **Objective:** Advancing standards and practices in international trade finance.

**SPECA region DID commit to Digitalization based on MMT** with a focus on rail in the first phase.

**ISO TC 154**
- **Objective:** Developing harmonized electronic Bill of Lading (eBL) using blockchain technology.
- **Focus:** Standardizing aligned eBL for effective data exchange to enhance efficiency in digital documentation for global trade.
Bureau overview – VC Hanane Becha

T&L Working Towards the Future of Trade

• Actively shaping the future of trade with a vision for green, digital, and sustainable practices.

• Organized a mini conference showcasing latest trends and emerging technologies in global trade.

Key Discussions:

1. Negotiable Cargo Documents: Streamlining trade processes and reducing paper usage.

2. IoT Technology in Trade: Transforming management of refrigerated cargo and enhancing supply chain visibility.

3. Artificial Intelligence (AI) in Supply Chain Management: Optimizing processes and driving efficiency.

4. Carbon Footprint Calculation: Importance of ESG considerations in trade and exploring frameworks for calculating and reducing carbon footprints.
Bureau overview – VC Heydarov

International Trade Procedures Domains:

• Single Window Domain
  • Co-Domain Coordinator – Neelima Pamulapati,
  • Co-Domain Coordinator - Joaquín Eugenio González Galván

Current Work
- Detailed outline of the White Paper on “Guidelines for Establishing a Regional Single Window” is ready.
- Continue working on finalizing the paper before the next forum

Future Work
- Promote SWAM to gather feedback from countries adopting it.
  - Pakistan’s adoption is in Progress
  - Ongoing discussions with AAEC (African Alliance for e-Commerce) and Brazil.
- Update the template to include SWAM-related questions.
  - Revive the Single Window Repository.
- Plan to survey and assess the need to revise Recommendation 36.
Bureau overview – VC Maksutov

International Trade Procedures

Domains:

- Trade Procedures Facilitation Domain
  - Domain Coordinator – Kevin Atkinson

Completed Projects:

- Data governance for trade facilitation (P1117)
- Digital transit accompanying documents (P1112)
- Digital Product Conformity Certificate Exchange (P1126)

Ongoing projects

- Transparency at scale (P1122)
- Facilitating Export Control and Compliance Procedures

New Project to be approved

- Revision of the Recommendation 18.
Methodology and Technology Programme Development Area

Domains:

- **eData Domain**
  - Domain Coordinator – Nis Jerpersen: Presented “Digital Identity in Trade” draft white paper at this forum – including its relationship to UN Transparency protocol (UNTP).

- **Specification Domain**
  - Domain Coordinator – Hisanao Sugamata: Launch of linked data vocabulary & shapes project – to publish UN/CEFACT outputs in semantic web formats.

- **CCL Library Maintenance & Validation**
  - Focal Point Coordinators: Ms. Mary Kay Blantz (LIB), UN CCL 23B released for publication. UN/CCL 24A is completing validation and pending publication to UNCCL page.
  - Mr. Hidekazu Enjo (VAL)

- **UN/EDIFACT Directories**
  - Focal Point: Mr. Gait Boxman. EDIFACT libraries pending DMR review – which is delayed till September.

- **UN/CEFACT JSON-LD Web Vocabulary**
  - Focal Point: Kseniya Shychko. Buy-Ship-Pay data model and codes update based on UNCCL 23B will be published to vocabulary.uncefact.org as a JSON-LD linked data vocabulary by end July.
Regional Rapporteurs

Item 6
(17:00 – 18:00)

Hisanao Sugamata,
Regional Rapporteur to UN/CEFACT for the Asia-Pacific region
(HOD of Japan)
ISO TC154
AFACT Technology and Methodology Executive Chairperson,
Director of the Supply Chain Information Study Group
Japan

Nogaye Toure Diagne,
Rapporteur to UN/CEFACT for the Sub-Saharan African region
Programme Coordinator,
African Alliance for E-Commerce
Senegal

Eduardo Leite,
Rapporteur to UN/CEFACT for the Latin American and the Caribbean region
Compliance and Foreign Trade Consultant
Brazil
Regional Rapporteurs

• In 2023 the 30th UN/CEFACT plenary session Mr. Hisanao Sugamata is reelected for the Regional Rapporteur for Asia-Pacific.

• The main focus in the Asia-Pacific region is to ensure that data communication occurs smoothly, cost-effectively and safely between trading partners and related stakeholders for the sustainable development, especially given the growth of global supply chains utilizing e-business.

• Activities in the Asia-Pacific region conducted by the Asia Pacific Council for Trade Facilitation and Electronic Business (AFACT).
Regional Rapporteurs - AFACT Activities (17:00 – 18:00)

• A midterm meeting in the first half of the year and a plenary in the latter half of the year are held annually. All members are welcome to attend, share experiences and knowledge and identify key strategic issues.

• Meetings are conducted by the Host country each year:
  - Year 2018: Bangladesh
  - Year 2019: Thailand
  - Year 2020: Malaysia
  - Year 2021: Malaysia
  - Year 2022: Japan
  - Year 2023: Japan & Chinese Taipei
  - Year 2024: Korea

  Pandemic Period:
  Meetings were held online.
AFACT Working Groups

• Trade Facilitation Working Group
  Started the data pipeline project which would study the possibility to establish the data pipeline for the trade facilitation in Asia Pacific region in response to the UN/CEFACT project “Buy/Ship/Pay Data Exchange structures for Trade Finance Facilitation”.

• Sustainable Development & Circular Economy Working Group
  Introduced 3 projects as follows:
  - Carbon Footprint Verification & Tax Project
  - Agriculture ESG (Ecology, Social and Governance) Project
  - MaaS (Mobility as a Service) Project

• Travel, Tourism and Leisure Working Group
  Vitalize the UN/CEFACT TT&L projects (Sustainable Tourism, Experience Programs) in Asia and Pacific region.
eASIA Award

• The AFACT organized the eASIA Award event on the 1st of December, 2023 and 6 significant projects were awarded as follows.

Category 1: Smart Governance and Management
- Mobile e-Certified Notice Project for Public Sector: Transformation for Inclusive Society
- New TaiPAY – To connect, To empower, To transform

Category 2: Digital Transformation for SMEs
- Digital Receipt Solution that Uses NFC Tags to Receive Information without Transmitting Personal Data
- Digital Trade Infrastructure “Trade Waltz” ~ Linking Japan and Asia trade and encouraging SMEs to access global trade

Category 3: Sustainability and Circular Economy
- Mobility as a Service, Kaohsiung MeNGo – The Opportunities for the Digital Transformation of Public Transportation Service
- Facilitating the carbon inventory to reduce GHG emissions with the cloud management system, Vital NetZero
1. Contact Brazilian Government Departments that can encourage experts to join UN/CEFACT.

2. Compile the information received and send a report to UN/CEFACT (Waiting for the government's response).

3. Contact Latin American countries, publicize the work carried out by UN/CEFACT, encourage the participation of experts and sending an introductory guide.
Expected Results

• Assertive communication.

By sending guidelines to Latin American countries, we inform which bodies may be interested and how to get involved. In this way, the information is sent efficiently, and each country can decide where it wants to participate by going straight to the information that suits it.

• Insights for Governance and Digital Strategy.

Making this analyses of public governance and comparing information between countries will generate insights to improve trade (facilitation) policies and digitalization strategies.
Activités et Projets coordonnés par le Rapporteur

Organisation de la 14\textsuperscript{è} réunion de l'Assemblée Générale, 19 au 21 Mars 2024 à Pointe Noire:

Bureau Exécutif renouvelé comme suit: Président de l’AG : M. Warsama Mouhoumed Bouh Guirreh, Directeur Général de DPCS, République de Djibouti ; Président du Comité Exécutif : M. Youssef Ahouzi, Directeur Général de Portnet, Maroc ; Vice-présidents: M. Jonathan OFORI, Mozambique ; M. Mor TALLA DIOP, Sénégal ; Président du Comité Technique: Abdoullahi Faouzi, Cameroun, Trésorier : Amadou MBAYE DIOP

Conférence internationale des guichets uniques (10ème édition) organisée le 20 mars 2024 à Pointe Noire en République du Congo:

- S’inspirer des recommandations internationales à l’instar de celles formulées par UNCEFACT sur les cadres juridiques pour matérialiser l’engagement politique ;
- Intégrer l’IA pour faciliter la mise en œuvre des projets d’interopérabilité au sein des GU
- Susciter l’engagement politique des Etats afin d’accompagner les initiatives de l’IA ;

Nogaye Toure Diagne, Rapporteur to UN/CEFACT for the Sub-Saharan African region
Webinaire sur la signature électronique dans l’environnement des Guichets Uniques, 14 décembre de 9h30 à 12h30 GMT, Organisé en partenariat avec le Pan Asian e-Commerce Alliance (PAA), et l’Asia PKI Consortium, Ce webinaire a permis à l’UN/CEFACT de partager ses travaux sur les normes et standards internationaux. Ce fut également l’occasion de partager les expériences de pays d’Asie, d’Afrique et d’Amérique Latine

- Promouvoir la reconnaissance mutuelle des certificats numériques ;
- Encourager les pays à faire évoluer leurs législations relatives aux transactions électroniques.
- Amener les Etats à instaurer une confiance mutuelle en matière de Signature électronique ;
- Organiser des sessions d’information sur les normes et standards existant en matière de signature électronique
Rapprochement avec des Organisations Internationales

- **Financement de ITFC**

  A la suite de plusieurs réunions avec le département en charge du commerce de l’ITFC (Islamic Trade Finance Corporation), la proposition de projet de dématérialisation intégrale du CO dans 5 pays de l’UEMOA (Cote d’Ivoire, Togo, Mali, Sénégal, Burkina Faso) a été validée à hauteur de 240.000 USD, la signature de cet accord tripartite s’est tenue à Riyadh le 29 avril 2024, en marge de la célébration de la 50e anniversaire de la Banque Islamique de Développement.

- **Discussion avec le Pan African Chamber of Commerce (PACCI)**

  PACCI entend signer une convention avec l’AACE dans le but de renforcer les capacités des acteurs du Secteur Privé Africain sur les questions de Guichet Unique et de facilitation des échanges.

- **Discussion avec IMO sur la sensibilisation de la Communauté de l’AACE**

  Il s’agira de sensibiliser et de renforcer les capacités des états membres sur la mise en place d’un guichet maritime tel que recommandé par l’organisation maritime internationale (OMI, Janvier 2024).
Perspectives

1. Poursuivre les activités de la convention signée avec ITFC de la Banque Islamique de Développement et la Commission de l’UEMOA, en Mai 2024;
   - Côte d’Ivoire (Utilisation du Module CO par les parties prenantes (Exportateurs, Industrie & Douanes)
   - Burkina Faso & Mali & Sénégal: dématérialiser la demande et le traitement du CO à travers le Guichet Unique du pays
   - Sénégal: outiller les acteurs (Douanes) aux points de sorties terrestres pour & Echanger le CO électronique avec le Mali
   - Togo : Assister le Ministère de l’Industrie à accéder à la plateforme de ECO de la Chambre de Commerce du Togo

2. Initier le projet d’échange de documents commerciaux entre le Maroc et le Sénégal;

3. Organiser le second comité Exécutif de l’AACE couplé à l’atelier hybride sur les typologies de GU (NSW, MSW, PCS, CCS) en partenariat avec l’OMI, IPSCA et UNCEFACT (rappel des normes et standards) , Nov 2024 à Casablanca au Maroc

4. Intégrer les données du commerce extérieur de la Côte d’Ivoire dans le hub de portail d’information commerciale;

5. Accompagner les membres de l’AACE ne disposant pas de module d’E-phyto afin de rejoindre l’initiative de GENS plateforme internationale de délivrance et de consultation de certificat phytosanitaire.

6. Adopter la stratégie de blockchain dans le projet AFTRA ;

7. Organiser un Webinaire sur les échanges de données de commerce extérieur (PAA, AAEC, UNCEFACT (Rappel des normes et standards);

8. Organiser la 11e de la conférence internationale sur les guichets uniques à Dakar en 2025 ;
SUGGESTION/RECOMMANDATION

- Faire participer davantage de pays africains (Experts provenant des Agences Gouvernementales et Communautés Economiques Régionales (CERs) dans les travaux de l’UNCEFACT pour une meilleure sensibilisation des acteurs politiques.

- Organiser des sessions d’information et de renforcement de capacité à l’endroit des acteurs politiques et du Secteur Privé, sur les normes et standards

- Rapprocher les 3 régions (Afrique, Asie, Amérique Latine) à travers l’organisation de Fora en vue de renforcer les activités de partage d’expérience sur les problématiques liées à la mise en œuvre des normes et Standards et la mise en place de projets d’interopérabilité

- Conduire des évaluations par les pairs afin de mieux sonder la mise en application des outils du CEFAC relativés à la dématérialisation des procédures, des formalités douanières de commerce extérieur, de transit et d’interconnexion de systèmes;

- Organiser les réunions du CEFAC dans un pays africain afin de sensibiliser davantage les Experts des régions sur l’importance de leur participation active aux groupes de travail;
REVIEW OF THE BUREAU AND REGIONAL RAPPORTEURS’ ACTIVITIES SINCE THE TWENTY-NINTH PLENARY

Proposed Plenary decision:

Plenary decision 24-07 to be noted:


- The Plenary requested that the Bureau and the Regional Rapporteurs present a consolidated report on activities and flagship projects, focusing on impact and relevance, at the next Plenary in 2025.

Plenary decision 24-08 to be noted:

- The Plenary took note of the white papers, business requirements specifications, publications and the data exchange standards presented by the UN/CEFACT Bureau and requested that they continue to be updated on a regular basis, emphasizing the importance of maintaining such standards and promoting their uptake at the global, regional and national levels. The Plenary appreciated the ICC DSI-UNECE joint call to action launched at the 42nd UN/CEFACT Forum, and invited policy makers and industry representatives to express their commitment to adopting digital standards. The Plenary requested the secretariat to report again in 2025 session and make an extra effort to seek for extrabudgetary funding for relevant activities.

- The Plenary emphasized the relevance of these activities to enhancing digital and green connectivity and highlighted their importance for capacity-building.