30th UN/CEFACT Plenary - Adopted Decisions:

Item 1. Adoption of the Agenda

**Plenary decision 24-01:**

The Plenary adopted the Revised Annotated Provisional Agenda for the Thirtieth Session (ECE/TRADE/C/CEFACT/2024/1/Rev.1).

Item 2. Elections

**Plenary decision 24-02:**

To align the terms of the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Bureau of UN/CEFACT, the Plenary decided that the next re-election of the entire Bureau (Chair and Vice-Chairs) will be held in 2026.

**Plenary decision 24-03:**

The Plenary expressed appreciation for the dedication, guidance and work of the outgoing Chair of UN/CEFACT from the United Kingdom, Ms. Sue Probert, and elected by acclamation Ms. Nancy Norris, the Chair candidate from Canada, for the period 2024-2026.

Noting a vacant position in the Bureau, resulting from the election of the Vice-Chair Ms. Nancy Norris as Chair, the Plenary decided to open a call for nominations in view of its next session of 2025.

Item 3. Policy dialogue on climate-smart connectivity and trade and transport corridors in support of regional and global integration and sustainable development.

**Plenary decision 24-04:**

The Plenary welcomed the policy dialogue on climate-smart connectivity and trade and transport corridors and highlighted its relevance to inclusive and resilient regional and global integration and sustainable development.

In response to the 70th Commission session and building on existing UN/CEFACT work supporting multimodal data exchange along supply chains, the Plenary encouraged the development of a policy recommendation and accompanying implementation instruments to support United Nations Member States in enhancing digital and sustainable trade facilitation along trade and transport corridors.

Item 4. Matters arising since the twenty-ninth Plenary.

**Plenary decision 24-05:**

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 ECE 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 resource to existing and new projects.

Item 5. Technical dialogue on global solutions for digital, sustainable and resilient value chains in support of the green and digital transformations.

Plenary decision 24-06:

As a response to the outcomes of the 70th Commission session, the Plenary welcomed the technical dialogue on digital, sustainable and resilient value chains, and highlighted its relevance to inclusive and resilient value chains and sustainable development.

The Plenary acknowledged progress on ECE Recommendation No.49: Transparency at Scale (ECE/TRADE/C/CEFACT/2024/6), and on its accompanying global solutions including the United Nations Transparency Protocol for Digital Product Passports (DPP) and requests that the project team enters into exchange with national, regional DPP standards initiatives regarding scoping and to avoid incompatibilities, wasted efforts, and envisage a global framework. It also took note of the next steps towards the finalization of these and related deliverables in view of its next session of 2025.

Furthermore, the Plenary recognized the importance of effective coordination among international initiatives in this sphere, which is directly related to the ECE strategic priorities of the digital and green transformations to advance the circular economy in the ECE region and beyond.

Item 6. Review of the Bureau and Regional Rapporteurs’ activities since the twenty-ninth Plenary.

Plenary decision 24-07:

The Plenary took note of the UN/CEFACT Bureau Report of Developments (ECE/TRADE/C/CEFACT/2024/4) and Report of the UN/CEFACT Regional Rapporteurs (ECE/TRADE/C/CEFACT/2024/5).

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:

The Plenary took note of the white papers, business requirements specifications 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 efforts 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.

Item 7. Updates from the Team of Specialists on Environmental, Social and Governance Traceability of Sustainable Value Chains in the Circular Economy

Plenary decision 24-09:
The Plenary expressed satisfaction with the work undertaken by the Team of Specialists on Environmental, Social and Governance Traceability of Sustainable Value Chains in the Circular Economy.

It recognized the importance of the team’s work in support of due diligence and verified environmental, social and governance (ESG) credentials in the value chains of priority sectors for the digital and green transition, including agrifood, critical raw materials and garment and footwear, and endorsed the report on its third session (ECE/TRADE/C/CEFACT/2024/8). Furthermore, the Plenary called on donors and development partners to consider providing additional funding for this important workstream.


**Plenary decision 24-10:**


It recognized the group's critical role in facilitating global trade and transport logistics and endorsed the report from its 2024 meeting (ECE/TRADE/C/CEFACT/2024/9).

Additionally, the Plenary took note of the EXCOM Decisions relating to the UN/CEFACT (ECE/EX/2024/L.3) to extend the mandate of the UN/LOCODE Advisory Group for the period 2024–2025.

The Plenary noted the funding proposal and will explore modalities to mobilize additional resources to support the UN/LOCODE system enhancement (UNLOCODE-AG/2024/INF.5).

**Item 9. Cooperation with international organizations, standard-setting bodies, and other Economic Commission for Europe bodies**

**Plenary decision 24-11:**

Noting the synergies between activities of the relevant international organizations, standards setting bodies as well as working parties and sectoral committees within the ECE, the Plenary recommended that UN/CEFACT continues to enhance cooperation and further coordinate efforts in advancing sustainable and digital trade facilitation.

**Item 10. Program of work of United Nations Centre for Trade Facilitation and Electronic Business for 2025-2026.**

**Plenary decision 24-12:**

The Plenary approved the UN/CEFACT Program of Work 2025-2026 (ECE/TRADE/C/CEFACT/2024/7), noting the prioritization and streamlining of efforts and stronger focus on: i) enhancing digital connectivity for climate-smart trade and transport corridors; ii) fostering sustainable, transparent and resilient value chains; iii) increasing implementation of international legal instruments; and iv) building capacity of trade actors across supply chains.

The Plenary invited United Nations Member States, donors and development partners to support the secretariat and the Bureau in mobilizing resources for the implementation of the UN/CEFACT Program of Work.

**Plenary decision 24-13:**
The Plenary approved the proposal by the secretariat and Bureau to rename the Trade Facilitation Section providing secretariat support to UN/CEFACT, as the Digital and Sustainable Trade Facilitation Section.

**Item 11. Review of the United Nations Centre for Trade Facilitation and Electronic Business structure, mandate, terms of reference and procedures**

**Plenary decision 24-14:**

The Plenary took note of the proposed amendments for the Consolidated UN/CEFACT Mandate and Terms of Reference (ECE/TRADE/C/CEFACT/2024/10), stressing the importance of continued consultation between the United Nations Member States, the extended Bureau, and the secretariat.

The Plenary referred to paragraph 37 of the Consolidated UN/CEFACT Mandate and Terms of Reference (ECE/TRADE/C/CEFACT/2024/10) and advised the Bureau to consider activating proposed mechanisms to support its activities, including for the enhancement of the UNCEFACT governance, as necessary.

The Plenary further requested the Bureau and the secretariat to report on operational challenges, if any, to the next Plenary.

**Item 12. Follow-up to the evaluation of the Trade subprogramme and the Economic Cooperation and Integration subprogramme by the Office of Internal Oversight Services.**

**Plenary decision 24-15:**

The Steering Committee welcomed the report on progress made on implementing the recommendations of the evaluation of subprogramme 4 and subprogramme 6 (implemented by the ECE Economic Cooperation and Trade Division, (ECTD)) undertaken by the Office of Internal Oversight (OIOS) (ECE Executive Committee informal document no. 2023/21), notably on a technical cooperation request tracking mechanism.

The Plenary also invited its Bureau to work with the secretariat on the implementation of the recommendations and to report back in 2025; and called on member States and development partners to work with the secretariat in support of the implementation of the ECE strategies on resource mobilization, partnerships, and technical cooperation.

**Item 14. Adoption of decisions and the draft report of the thirtieth session**

**Plenary decision 24-16:**

The Plenary approved the decisions of UN/CEFACT at its thirtieth session. The Plenary requested that the secretariat distribute the report to all Geneva Permanent Representations and the UN/CEFACT Bureau for subsequent approval, in line with the Guidelines on procedures and practices for ECE bodies.