

Report by the Chair of the Steering Committee on Trade Capacity and Standards (SCTCS)

Mr. Zdenko Lucić (Croatia)

UNECE Executive Committee, 135th session

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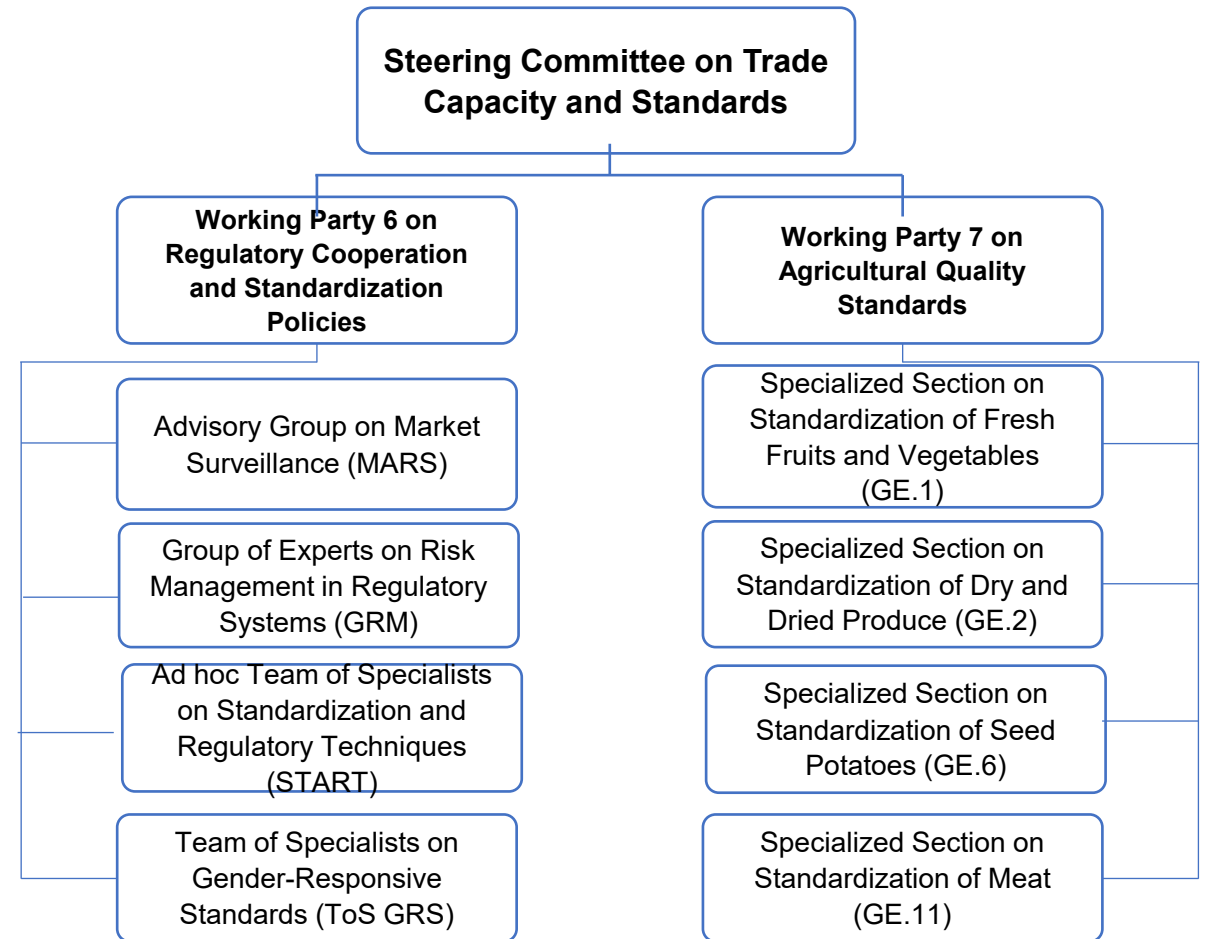
About the Steering Committee on Trade Capacity and Standards



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The **Steering Committee** is an intergovernmental body that **oversees** and **guides** the development of **international norms and standards**, **procedures and best practices** to:

- **reduce the costs** associated with export and import processes;
- **increase the efficiency, predictability and transparency** of trade regulations and procedures and the movement of **goods and services**.



Steering Committee on Trade Capacity and Standards: relevance



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Supports promoting international trade for SDGs (some ECE member States facing trade fragmentation despite evolving positive trend for global trade)

Responds to specific challenges of ECE programme countries (e.g. integration into global value chains, accession to the WTO)

Harnesses opportunities of emerging developments (e.g. technological transformations) to support member States' priorities.



Achievements over the past twelve months: key highlights



SCTCS and RPBT Studies

- **Regional Conference on the Circular Economy**, jointly with CICPPP (26 June 2024): spotlight on the agri-food and textiles value chains;
- Undertaken **RPBT Studies**: Armenia, Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan;
- A joint SCTCS session with WTO and WBG on the relevance of the **services sectors** for ECE membership.



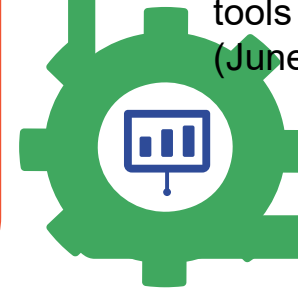
WP 6 on Regulatory Cooperation and Standardization Policies

- WP6 Forum focusing on **digital, green transformations**, including AI (April 2024);
- A new document on **regulatory compliance of products with embedded AI** or other technologies.



WP 7 on Agricultural Quality Standards

- Adoption of the **new portfolio of standards** (e.g. certain small fruits, inshell pecans, sweet potatoes);
- A joint **assessment** with OECD on the use and impact of the **ag. quality standards**;
- A **joint training workshop** with UNDP, OECD and Hilfswerk International on “Agricultural quality standards: methods and tools for inspection and sampling” (June 2024, Uzbekistan).



Way Forward: priority areas for the Committee



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Work on cross-cutting topics: circular economy, digital transformations, resilient infrastructure

Normative and capacity-building work under WP6 and WP7

New RPBT Studies (Azerbaijan and Turkmenistan) and related capacity-building activities

Emerging area on the services trade: exploring avenues and collaborations

Resource mobilization in line with the member States requests at SCTCS sessions

Response to the OIOS evaluation and liquidity crisis



Thank you!

More information is available on the UNECE website:

<https://unece.org/trade/sctcs-about>

Contact us: ece-sctcs@un.org



The Executive Committee is invited to approve:

- (a) the Programme of work of subprogramme 6 on Trade for 2025, as contained in document ECE/CTCS/2024/13;
- (b) the Programme of work of the Working Party on Regulatory Cooperation and Standardization Policies (WP.6), as contained in document ECE/CTCS/WP.6/2023/14;
- (c) the Programme of work of the Working Party on Agricultural Quality Standards (WP.7), as contained in document ECE/CTCS/WP.7/2023/25; and
- (d) the revised terms of reference of the of the Working Party on Agricultural Quality Standards (WP.7), as contained in document ECE/CTCS/WP.7/2023/3/Rev.1.