Agenda I 10 December 2024 I 14:00 - 15:30

SALA MARCO BIAGI I CNEL I ROME

REDEFINING GLOBAL TRADE: ADVANCING SUSTAINABLE AND CIRCULAR VALUE CHAINS FOR A GREENER FUTURE

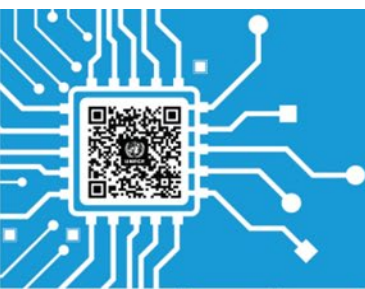|	
PROGRAMME OF WORK	**Planned result 2:** Fostering sustainability, transparency and resilience in value chains to support the green and digital transitions for the circular economy
POLICY DIALOGUE	**Moderator:** Nancy Norris, Chair, UN/CEFACT
ABOUT THE SESSION	Amid growing emphasis on accountability of sustainability claims and the challenge of addressing greenwashing, reliable and verifiable data has become crucial for building trust in global value chains. UNECE, through its UN/CEFACT program, has advanced key initiatives to tackle these issues. Recommendation No. 49 and tools such as the United Nations Transparency Protocol (UNTP) and Digital Product Passports (DPPs) provide comprehensive solutions to improve data interoperability, ensure credible sustainability reporting, and support the development of transparent, sustainable, and circular value chains.
14:00-14:10	**OPENING REMARKS** • **Elisabeth Türk**, Director, Economic Cooperation & Trade, UNECE
14:10-14:45	**ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION: THE EVOLVING REGULATORY CONTEXT FOR DUE DILIGENCE AND TRACEABILITY OF SUSTAINABLE VALUE CHAINS** • **Silke Obst**, Deputy Head of Unit, Directorate General for Internal Market, Industry, Entrepreneurship and SMEs, European Commission • **Margherita Bianchini**, Deputy Director General, Association of Italian Joint Stock Companies - ASSONIME, Italy • **Johannes Benjamin Helfritz**, Head, Strategic Projects - Digital Ecosystems, German Standardisation Organisation (DIN), Germany • **Lea-Ann B. Bigelow***, Director, Green Trade, Trade Policy & Programs, Customs & Border Protection, USA

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14:45-15:15	**ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION: THE RESPONSE – SUPPORTING INITIATIVES FOR THE WAY FORWARD** • **Christian Hudson***, Lead, European Commission G7 and G20 Environmental Diplomacy, GIZ • **Xiaoming Zhong**, Initiatives and Communities Specialist, Advanced Manufacturing and Supply Chains, World Economic Forum • **Paolo Gemma,** Chairman, Woking Part 2, ITU-T Study Group 5 on Environment, Climate Change and Circular Economy, ITU • **Susanne Guth-Orlowski**, Project Lead on UNECE Recommendation 49, UN/CEFACT
12:20-12:30	**CLOSING AND KEY TAKEAWAYS** • **Maria Teresa Pisani,** Chief ad Interim, Trade Facilitation Section, ECTD, UNECE • **Nancy Norris,** Chair, UN/CEFACT
	The asterisk * indicates remote participation
BACKGROUND AND QUESTIONS	In recent years, the demand for compliance with environmental, social and governance (ESG) standards in global value chains, supported by traceability and transparency, has increased dramatically, driven by consumers, investors, and regulatory bodies requiring verifiable claims for products placed on markets. This policy dialogue will explore the evolving policy and regulatory context at global, regional and national levels; the challenges and opportunities that due diligence requirements pose for industry actors in target industries for the green and digital transitions (e.g. agri-food, textiles, critical raw materials); and the response through supporting initiatives, standards and instruments of lead players. These include the ongoing development of UNECE Recommendation No. 49 for Transparency at Scale, accompanied by its United Nations Transparency Protocol (UNTP) and Digital Product Passports (DPPs). **Guiding questions** ▪ How has the relevant policy, regulatory context been evolving recently, for compliance with ESG standards along global value chains and verifiable claims? ▪ What are the challenges, opportunities and incentives for industry actors to meet due diligence and traceability requirements? ▪ How can UNECE Recommendation 49, with its supporting UNTP for DPPs tools, enable the necessary harmonized data exchange? ▪ What key initiatives are needed to scale traceability and transparency solutions globally, and how can collaboration enhance their impact?
DOCUMENTS	[UN/CEFACT Recommendation 49](): Transparency at Scale