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Submissions from entities in the United Nations system and elsewhere on their efforts in 2013 to implement the outcome of the WSIS

Submission by

United Nations Economic Commission for Europe

This submission was prepared as an input to the report of the UN Secretary-General on "Progress made in the implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society at the regional and international levels" (to the 17th session of the CSTD), in response to the request by the Economic and Social Council, in its resolution 2006/46, to the UN Secretary-General to inform the Commission on Science and Technology for Development on the implementation of the outcomes of the WSIS as part of his annual reporting to the Commission.

Progress made in the implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society at the regional and international levels

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I.   GENERAL OVERVIEW

1.   The United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) has concentrated its actions in implementing the outcomes of WSIS on development-related issues, and on finding solutions that use the Internet and other ITC tools to facilitate the achievement of development goals while dedicating special attention to sustainability-related concerns.

2.   While there has been considerable progress in improving the infrastructure and technological capacity of ITC in many of the UNECE's emerging economies there have been an increasing number of legal regulations and other restraints on the access to information especially politically sensitive content. In addition the widespread digital surveillance of web activities by some governments has raised fundamental questions regarding privacy and human rights. Thus, increasingly the constraints on the access to the world's information in parts of this region are political and not technological.

3.   The internet in many of the UNECE economies is not particularly robust and subject to potential disruptions; this is due largely to the fact that there are very few providers at their international frontiers. This is the case for the central Asian economies, especially Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan, the Caucasus, south-east Europe, the Baltics, and Belarus.

4.   The work of the UNECE to support the WSIS objectives is carried out at a sub-programme level. The UNECE relevant sub-programmes deal with sustainable energy, environment, economic cooperation and integration, housing and land management, statistics, trade and transport.

5.   The following sections describe the work done by the various UNECE sub-programmes to support individual WSIS Action Lines.

II.   OVERVIEW OF PROGRAMME-SPECIFIC ACTIONS

A.   ACTION LINE C1: THE ROLE OF PUBLIC GOVERNANCE AUTHORITIES AND ALL STAKEHOLDERS IN THE PROMOTION OF ICTS FOR DEVELOPMENT

1.   Economic Cooperation and Integration

6.   The Economic Cooperation and Integration subprogramme has been supporting the follow-up to WSIS targets mainly in Central Asia and Azerbaijan. It has taken the lead in establishing a Project Working Group on ICT for Development (2005-2007) and then a Project Working Group on Knowledge-based Development (2008 onwards) under the UN Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia (SPECA). These are attended by high-level government officials. A number of ICT related capacity-building activities have been implemented in support of these Project Working Groups.

7.   As part of the UNECE work on Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs), the Government of Azerbaijan is hosting the International Specialist Centre on PPPs in ICT/broadband affiliated to the UNECE International PPP Centre of Excellence.[1] The main objectives of the Specialist Centre in Baku, working under the auspices of UNECE, is to identify international PPP best practices in ICT/broadband to be used by countries in the preparation, structuring and implementation of infrastructure projects in the ICT sector.

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[1] For more information on the UNECE International PPP Centre of Excellence, please visit the Centre's website at: http://www.unece.org/ceci-welcome/areas-of-work/public-private-partnerships-ppp/icoeppp.html

2.   Trade

8.   The Trade subprogramme through the UNECE's United Nations Centre for Trade Facilitation and Electronic Business (UN/CEFACT), undertakes work aimed at facilitating national and international trade and business transactions. This includes the joint development by the public and private sectors of electronic business standards which are freely available to all. Its work supports the achievement of Millennium Development Goal 8 "to develop a global partnership for development". In particular, UNECE activities support Target 5, aiming at "making available benefits of new technologies, especially information and communications in cooperation with the private sector. The Single Window concept, which is promoted in UNECE's trade facilitation recommendations and is related to the automation of trade procedures, aims at eliminating the objective conditions conducive to corruption. It thus contributes to better governance of international trade.

B.   ACTION LINE C2: INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION INFRASTRUCTURE

1.   Economic Cooperation and Integration

9.   The Economic Cooperation and Integration subprogramme organized the International Conference on Knowledge-based Development and Innovative Entrepreneurship in Baku, Azerbaijan on 24 and 25 November 2011. One of the substantive sessions discussed the role of Public-Private Partnerships (PPP) in financing ICT infrastructure development. It considered the question of using PPPs as one model for bridging the gap between existing and required ICT infrastructure needs. The Conference provided a platform for discussions and a broad exchange of experiences and lessons learned among ICT policymakers, representatives of business, academics and other experts and practitioners.

2.   Transport

10.   As its annual flagship event, UNECE jointly organised with the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), a one day workshop entitled "Intelligent transport systems in emerging markets – drivers for safe and sustainable growth". The workshop took place in Geneva, Switzerland on 27 June 2013, and was focused on ITS in emerging markets and its impact on road safety.

11.   The workshop targeted Information Communications Technology (ICT) and transport policy makers and regulators, as well as representatives of the ICT, consumer electronics, automobile, transport and insurance sector.

12.   The objectives of the workshop were to review the status quo of intelligent transport systems including the technology, applications, regulatory frameworks, standards. It also identified barriers to adoption, challenges and how they can be overcome, and highlighted the benefits of ITS particularly for road safety. Finally the workshop discussed the issue of distraction. UNECE is committed to placing Intelligent Transport Systems (ITS) on the agendas of policymakers. ITS are a main element in shaping the future of sustainable mobility. See www.unece.org/trans/theme_its.html.

13.   As part of its efforts to promote dialogue and synchronise the pace of development of ITS solutions between the policy and technology/business worlds, the secretariat participated at the 17th IRF World Meeting & Exhibition that took place on 11 November 2013 in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. The main focus of the presentation was to alert key stakeholders from the private sector to the fact that the deployment of ITS solutions is not simply a matter of technology but, rather, requires institutional, policy and organizational rearrangements. If not thought through, ad hoc and incremental individual rearrangements could lead to a fragmented and sub-optimal ITS landscape across the world, thus undermining the efficiency and potential contributions of ITS to

sustainable mobility. It is therefore imperative to think through the policy, institutional and organizational challenges ahead, both at the national and international levels.

C.   ACTION LINE C3: ACCESS TO INFORMATION AND KNOWLEDGE

1.   Sustainable Energy

14.   The Sustainable Energy subprogramme provides on-line access to reports, background documents, official documents, publications, studies (such as the "Energy Series"[2]). It also disseminates electronically reports, recommendations and results of the study: "Underground Gas Storage in Europe and Central Asia" to primary users and stakeholders in UNECE member states. Finally, it maintains an "online bookshelf" in selected fields of its work (see http://www.unece.org/energywelcome/publications.html).

15.   During the past year, the Sustainable Energy subprogramme has also introduced and tested the concept of virtual intergovernmental conferences, in which some of the intergovernmental meetings and expert group sessions were organized as 'hybrid' meetings with a mixed physical and virtual presence of participants.

2.   Environment

16.   Activities under the Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters (Aarhus Convention) are currently focused on improving public access to environmental information as required by articles 4 and 5 of the Convention and its active dissemination to the public, including through electronic information tools. To facilitate this work, the Task Force on Access to Information was established under auspices of the Working Group of the Parties to the Convention.[3] In the current intersessional period, the Task Force has focused its work, inter alia, on assessing the implementation of Recommendations on the more effective use of electronic information tools to provide public access to environmental information adopted through decision II/3 of the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention[4] and developing guidance for national nodes of the Aarhus Clearinghouse Mechanism for environmental democracy[5] that facilitates the exchange of information between diverse parties and stakeholders. In addition, public access to environmental information regarding products and genetically modified organisms as well access to environmental information in land management and spatial planning, agriculture as well as water supply and wastewater treatment sector, nuclear sector, e-justice initiatives were considered.

17.   While there are other initiatives promoting Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers (PRTRs), the UNECE Protocol on PRTRs to the Aarhus Convention is the only legally binding instrument on these registers to ensure minimum standards for equal rights and transparency in the use of environmental data. It offers a solid legal framework for enhancing public access to information and moving towards sustainable and environmentally sound development for present and future generations. PRTRs allow access to specific environmental information for everybody, with virtually no restrictions. Free web-based access to geo-referenced environmental data empowers the public, decision makers in government and industry, scientists and journalists to make informed choices.

18.   The following are examples of UNECE managed web portals that provide access to environmental information and knowledge:

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[2] http://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/energy/se/pdfs/cmm/pub/BestPractGuide_MethDrain_es31.pdf
[3] http://www.unece.org/env/pp/tfai.html
[4] http://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/env/pp/a_to_i/1st_meeting/ece.mp.pp.2005.2.add.4.e.pdf
[5] http://aarhusclearinghouse.unece.org/

- The UNECE Environmental Policy website[6], which provides information on all UNECE environmental activities; and
- The PRTR global portal[7], which provides information on activities from countries and organizations around the world. PRTR.net is a joint venture of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), Grid Arendal and UNECE and is a remarkable example of inter-organizational cooperation.
- The Aarhus Clearinghouse Mechanism[8] which is dedicated to promoting the exchange of information and good practice in implementation of the Aarhus Convention and Principle 10 of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development.[9]

19.   The Aarhus secretariat also manages and maintains electronic databases that include jurisprudence relevant to the Convention10 and national implementation reports11 that are regularly submitted to the respective Meetings of the Parties.

20.   In addition, the 'PRTR cost model'12 is a tool to assess the cost involved in the implementation of the Protocol on Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers (Protocol on PRTRs) to the Aarhus Convention The cost model enables the development of detailed estimates of the magnitude of costs of monitoring emissions (releases) of substances, contained in the annex to the Protocol, to different environmental media (air, water and land) in order to assist Parties to the Protocol with its implementation.

21.   The UNECE Industrial Accident Notification (IAN) System is a web-based tool for notifying of accidents with transboundary effects and seeking international assistance, linking into national and international emergency and civil contingency centres. The System was upgraded in 2012. Currently, tests are taking place to make sure that the System is fully operational. The link to the System will be published as soon as it becomes available, presumably in the first quarter of 2014.

22.   THE PEP Clearinghouse, updated for easier access, is a web-based portal for information related to sustainable transport and mobility. A product of the Pan-European Programme on Transport, Health and Environment (THE PEP), the Clearinghouse provides information (uploaded and downloaded by users) on sustainable transport policies, legislation, research and good practices with a particular focus on countries in Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia as well as South-Eastern Europe. It addresses in particular the needs of national and local authorities as well as transport planners in the design, communication and implementation of sustainable transport policies. The Clearinghouse is accessible at http://www.thepep.org/CHWebSite/ in English, French and Russian languages.

3.   Housing and Land Management

23.   The Working Party on Land Administration (WPLA) developed a wiki to publicize its activities and to facilitate coordinated planning for it and for other international agencies working with land administration and land management. https://www2.unece.org/wiki/display/HLMWPLA/Home

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[6] http://www.unece.org/env/welcome.html

[7] www.prtr.net

[8] http://aarhusclearinghouse.unece.org/

[9] Principle 10 reads as follows: "Environmental issues are best handled with participation of all concerned citizens, at the relevant level. At the national level, each individual shall have appropriate access to information concerning the environment that is held by public authorities, including information on hazardous materials and activities".

[10] http://www.unece.org/environmental-policy/treaties/public-participation/aarhus-convention/envpptfwg/envppatoj/jurisprudenceplatform.html

[11] http://apps.unece.org/ehlm/pp/NIR/index.asp

[12] The cost model files are available at http://www.unece.org/environmental-policy/treaties/public-participation/protocol-on-prtrs/areas-of-work/envppprtrcb/prtr-cost-model.html

In 2012 and 2013, the WPLA undertook a comprehensive survey of member States' land administration and land management systems. This included gathering data on the existence of transparent and accessible land and property data and on the ease of use of e-services for property registration and other customer services. The outcomes of this survey are in the forthcoming ECE publication *Survey on Land Administration Systems*.

4.   Trade

24.   In 2012, in the framework of the UNECE trade subprogram, a new activity on "education on standardization" was launched (joint project between UNECE Working Party on Regulatory Cooperation and Standardization Policies and UN/CEFACT) . It foresees the promotion of standards-related matters (including information standards) by encouraging governments and educational institutions to include standardization into the curricula of universities and vocational training programmes for governmental officials. Through its capacity-building activities in the transition economies in the area of trade facilitation and electronic business, including the implementation of Single Window mechanisms for export, import and transit clearance, UNECE contributes to better dissemination of information on trade procedures, rules and legislation.

25.   The Guide for Trade Facilitation Implementation, published in English in 2012, was also translated into Russian, French, Spanish and is currently being translated into Arabic. TFIG is a publicly available web-based interactive information tool on the various recommendations, standards, guides and other related resources available from all key international organizations (UNECE, UNCTAD, WCO, World Bank, OECD, ICC, etc.) in the trade facilitation area. The Guide also provides links to the available instruments from all key organizations that support implementation of the trade facilitation measures under discussion at the World Trade Organization - see http://tfig.unece.org/pdf_files/wto-map/map.html. TFIG was developed by UNECE with contributions from its UN Centre for Trade Facilitation and Electronic Business (UN/CEFACT), and financial support from the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency, SIDA. TFIG can be accessed directly online at: http://tfig.unece.org.

D.   ACTION LINE C4: CAPACITY BUILDING

1.   Economic Cooperation and Integration

26.   The information and communication technologies (ICT) have been a key driver for enhanced competitiveness and sustainable development in past decades. These technologies, if efficiently applied, and if supported by appropriate policies, have the potential to transform the society, enabling innovation and productivity increase, thus reducing the poverty. At the same time, their application gives rise to a variety of legal and regulatory challenges for policymakers.

27.   Within the framework of the UN Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia, ECID has been actively supporting capacity-building of policymakers of the transition economies for their endeavour to reform existing legal frameworks to meet new legal challenges related to ICT. The Seminar on ICT Policy and legal Issues for the Heads of Ministries and Agencies of Turkmenistan, organized in Ashgabat in June 2012 is an example of such supports in this area. So far, ECID organized the similar high-level national and regional events on ICT policy and legal issues in Azerbaijan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan. These capacity-building events allowed policymakers better prepare issues related to legal certainty, security, protection and deterrence against ICT related crimes and other challenges associated to ICT. ECID produced a publication, "ICT Policy and Legal Issues for Central Asia – Guide for Policymakers" (United Nations, ECE/CECI 1) to supplement these efforts.

2.   Environment

28.   The Environment subprogramme (Aarhus secretariat) manages a database of capacity building activities from around the world on Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers (PRTR, available at http://apps.unece.org/ehlm/pp/NIR/RLsearch.asp) (see paragraphs. 45-46 below). The Aarhus secretariat encourages National Focal Points and stakeholders to contribute to the capacity building activities database as this greatly facilitates information exchange and the planning of future activities. Via the www.prtr.net website anyone can use this database of capacity building activities, including National Focal Points and stakeholders who wish to add information.

3.   Trade

29.   During the past year, the UNECE has provided a wide range of advisory services e.g. at Cross-Border workshops on trade facilitation, Single Window (for export and import procedures) and data harmonization in Bishkek, Moscow and Odessa. The secretariat, in cooperation with the Commission of the Customs Union of Belarus, Kazakhstan and the Russian Federation organized a trade facilitation conference on the Single Window in Moscow 7-8 April 2011. Following joint studies and a series of seminars with the Inter-parliamentary Assembly of EurAsEC (the EurAsian Economic Community), trade facilitation and, in particular, work on Single Window was included in the EurAsEC work plan. The UNECE Regional Adviser supported the development of a project on a Port Community System (a local Single Window) in the Ports of Odessa Region, Ukraine. The project created an innovative electronic tool for streamlined clearance of goods passing through the ports. In 2013, a seminar and three working group meetings were organized.

30.   UNECE also worked with its sister organisation, the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP) to strengthen the United Nations Network of Experts for Paperless Trade in Asia and the Pacific (UNNExT). This is a community of experts from developing countries and transition economies in the Asia and Pacific region who are involved in the implementation of electronic trade systems and trade facilitation. UNECE and UNESCAP supported the UNNExT Briefing Series, including a Regional Meeting of Central Asian countries in Kuala Lumpur, the Asia Pacific Trade Facilitation Forum, a Peer Review of the Mongolian Single Window Master Plan, a Workshop, "Towards a Single Window Environment," in Nepal, national workshops on Business Process Analyses in Cambodia, Mongolia and Nepal as well as regional workshops for Central Asian countries in Bangkok and Astana.

31.   Based on the success of the excellent collaboration in this area during the recent past between UNECE and ESCAP, and indeed all of the other UN regional commissions (UNRCs), the Executive Secretaries of all five UNRCs have launched the Joint UN Regional Commission approach to trade facilitation, to provide a unified voice and approach on Trade Facilitation matters. In support of this initiative, UNECE submitted and received approval for a United Nations Development Account project to assist developing and transition economies from all five regional commissions to participate in global supply chains.

32.   In the framework of the UNDA project the following events were held : international trade facilitation conference "transforming global trade: single window and supply chains in the next decade" (Geneva, 12-13 December 2011), five regional capacity-building workshops in various regions: Middle East (Jordan, May 2013), South East Asia (Thailand, July 2013), UNECE region (Kyrgyzstan, July 2013 and Belarus, October 2013), Latin America (Chile, September 2013). These workshops allowed to bring awareness of UNECE (UNCEFACT) and other RCs's tools and instruments on trade facilitation and e-business and to train public officials in their use. The concluding (for the project) trade facilitation forum was organized in Bangkok on 18-19 November 2013.

33.   Under the project two global studies (on information requirements for supply chains and on interoperability of single window mechanisms) and four regional studies on specific region-related issues were

prepared (they are available on the "joint UNRCs approach to TF" website ' a joint platform of UNRCs to promote trade facilitation and information exchange standards and practices) see: http://www.unece.org/tradewelcome/capacity-building-for-trade-facilitation/joint-unrcs-approach-to-trade-facilitation.html.

34.   The first event under this project took place in December 2011. This event, "Connecting International Trade: Single Windows and Supply Chains in the Next Decade", was attended by over 200 leading representatives from governments, business and relevant international organizations. This event looked at the latest trends, opportunities and technologies for Single Window and information exchange in global trade in order to identify efficient strategies, business models and policy approaches. It also supported the development of strategic priorities for more efficient and secure cross-border trade, in line with the on-going WTO negotiations in the Doha Round and allowed the participants to share experiences and lessons learned. In closing, the Conference requested the UN Regional Commissions to prepare a Road Map for the further development of Single Window and Supply Chain automation for cross border trade over the next decade.

35.   In connection with the project for the development of the Trade Facilitation Implementation Guide, UNECE obtained funds from the Swedish Development Agency, for dissemination and capacity building activities. In 2013, six regional workshops will be organized and conducted in all regions of the world, in collaboration with the other UN regional commissions and UNDP. The workshops target policy makers in charge of reform experts and experts in charge of capacity building programs for trade facilitation in developing and transition economies.

36.   Following a request from the European Commission Task Force on Greece (TFGR), UNECE experts assisted the Greek Government in the design and development of a comprehensive strategy and road map for trade facilitation. The road map (www.mindev.gov.gr/wp-content/uploads/2012/06/Greece_Trade_Facilitation_Strategy_Roadmap_Oct-2012.pdf) contains a series of actions designed to identify and overcome regulatory and procedural bottlenecks and obstacles to Greek exports. It is estimated that the proposed measures could reduce time to export by 50% and costs by 20% by the end of 2015, thus leading to a 10% increase in export value and 80,000 new jobs.

37.   At the request of the TFGR, UNECE will continue to support the Greek government in the implementation of the road map through to 2015. UNECE experts assisted Greek authorities in a pilot project to analyse and simplify export process for specific agricultural products. Similar analyses in other sectors and other related projects are planned for 2014. Overall responsibility for implementation the Trade Facilitation Strategy lies with the Greek authorities and a high level steering group has been created to oversee and manage the reform process.

4.   *Housing and Land Management*

38.   The WPLA organizes a series of workshops on current issues in land administration and land management. In particular, "Collaborating for Secure Ownership", hosted by Sweden, focused on how e-government solutions can be used to make public services more efficient and user friendly. Another workshop, "Land Administration in Central Asia", hosted by Kyrgyzstan, discussed, inter alia, how technologies such as Geographic Information Systems can be used to develop and maintain land registration and mapping systems.

5.   Gender

39.   UNECE Gender and Economy program collaborates with the Golda Meir Mount Carmel International Training Centre (MCTC) in Haifa and Israel's Agency for International Development Cooperation (MASHAV) in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in organizing training workshops for professional women from Eastern Europe, South Caucasus and Central Asia. These workshops focus on two main topics: support systems for

women entrepreneurs at national and local levels regarding information and communication technologies (ICTs).

40.   Since the first jointly organised workshop in 2006, over 300 women entrepreneurs from government institutions and SME support agencies, NGOs dealing with small business support and development, women's business associations and academia have received training on ICTs.

41.   These workshops contribute to capacity building and provide support, guidance and managerial tools to women entrepreneurs on the use of information communication technologies in doing business. The workshops discusses how the new technologies can influence small business management and in what ways women entrepreneurs can both benefit from and cope with the challenges of ICTs. Participants acquire new skills and knowledge on how to analyze the role of ICTs in small business management, widen their knowledge of support systems for small-scale entrepreneurs as a tool for regional and local development, get acquainted how to set up and expand technological incubators.

E.   ACTION LINE C5: BUILDING CONFIDENCE AND SECURITY IN THE USE OF ICTs

1.   Housing and Land Management

42.   In 2011, the Housing and Land Management subprogramme published a "Study on the Challenges of Fraud to Land Administration Institutions". This publication presents the results and conclusions drawn from the analysis of a survey on online access to land-registration information that was distributed among UNECE member States. The study consolidates and presents good practices in the detection and prevention of fraud in land registration systems in UNECE countries and, in particular, the protection of information against misuse by fraudsters. The study is available in English and Russian on the UNECE website, at http://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/hlm/documents/Publications/fraud.study.e.r.pdf.

2.   Trade

43.   In 2013, the secretariat continued to work closely with the expert groups of the Regional Commonwealth in the field of Communications (RCC). The Secretariat helped RCC experts to prepare a project on "Transboundary trust space" (i.e. on the validation of e-documents).

44.   The open dialogue on this project, among RCC and UN/CEFACT, allowed identifying areas of mutual interest. The RCC decided to cooperate with UN/CEFACT in revising the UNECE Recommendation number 14 on authentication of trade documents by means other than signature. The secretariat believes that this kind of cooperation could be the way forward to involve transition economies in the practical work of the UNECE.

F.   ACTION LINE C6: ENABLING ENVIRONMENT

1.   Economic Cooperation and Integration

45.   The Economic Cooperation and Integration subprogramme organized a capacity-building seminar on ICT policy and legal issues in Ashgabat, Turkmenistan in June 2012. The seminar aims to support the creation of enabling legal environment to allow the country to develop its information economy including ICT systems and applications

2.   Trade

46.   Since 2010, the secretariat has been organizing in Russia conferences on information standards with the latest (INFOSTANDART -2012) held in October 2012. These events provide for a discussion of not only

Russian issues but also of the experiences and problems of government and business in the Customs Union (i.e. including Belarus and Kazakhstan) as well as discussion on relevant UN/CEFACT tools and approaches. The participants (every year around 150-180) noted that this event has become a platform for a dialogue on e-related matters between interested stakeholders in Russia and in Customs Union countries and it was decided to hold it annually.

G. ACTION LINE C7: ICT APPLICATIONS

1. C7.B e-Business (Trade)

47.   Since 1989, UNECE has developed and maintained electronic business standards through the United Nations Centre for Trade Facilitation and Electronic Business (UN/CEFACT)[13]. Among the most well-known and used of these standards is the United Nations Electronic Data Interchange Standard (UN/EDIFACT). This standard facilitates the exchange of information in many areas, including transport, customs, government and business procurement, just-in-time manufacturing and finance. UN/CEFACT also issues and continues to develop a host of data codes for exchanging information, including the United Nations Location Code (LOCODE) which has more than 60000 entries and is used by transport and postal authorities around the world. Among its other recommendations are the United Nations Layout Key for Trade Documents; the Single Window Recommendation (Number 33), launched in 2004 to enhance the efficient exchange of information between trade and government; and a Core Component Library (CCL) and related products.

48.   Recent key deliverables from UN/CEFACT include the Cross Industry Invoice which has become the basis of the European Core invoice implementation guidelines that the European Committee on Standardization (CEN) published in September 2011. UN/CEFACT also issued two new recommendations to support the implementation of the International Trade Single Window (Recommendation 34 on Data Simplification and Standardization for International Trade and Recommendation 35 on Establishing a legal framework for international trade Single Window) and several updates of its key standards, such as UN/EDIFACT and UN/LOCODE.

49.   In addition, revisions of UN/CEFACT Recommendation 5 "Abbreviations of Incoterms®" (ECE/TRADE/C/CEFACT/2011/5) and Recommendation 12 "Measures to facilitate Maritime Transport Documents" (ECE/TRADE/C/CEFACT/2011/4) were approved and progress was made on a draft Recommendation 36 on Single Window Interoperability. The UNECE secretariat worked with the Russian branch of ICC and contributed to the release of a new Incoterms guide in Russian (proofreading, preparation of promotion materials).

2. C7.C e-Learning (Environment)

50.   UNECE developed in collaboration with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) a 3-hour online training platform on introduction to industrial accidents. The online training course "Introduction to Industrial Accidents: Prevention, Preparedness and Response" is designed for anyone wishing to improve their knowledge of industrial accidents. It was published in 2013 and is available in English, French and Russian at http://www.unece.org/env/teia/pubs/onlinetraining2013.html.

3. C7.F e-Environment (Environment)

51.   In May 2013, the Environment subprogramme (Aarhus secretariat) in collaboration with UNITAR and the OECD sent a joint message to national focal points and stakeholders throughout the world providing up-to-

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[13] http://www.unece.org/cefact/index.html

date information on available electronic tools for Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers (PRTR). The tools include the PRTR global portal (www.prtr.net), PRTR Learn (http://prtr.unitar.org the UNECE Public Participation website (http://www.unece.org/env/pp/welcome.html), and the Aarhus Clearinghouse for environmental democracy (http://aarhusclearinghouse.unece.org/).

52.   Recent improvements to the PRTR global portal include:

- A mechanism for PRTR National Focal Points and stakeholders to add data to the PRTR capacity building activities database;
- Integration between PRTR.net and PRTR Learn;
- Updates made in 5 languages: English, Russian, French, Spanish and German;
- A mechanism to provide feedback on the website to the Aarhus secretariat.

53.   UNECE developed and launched during 2013 its Green Economy Toolbox to respond to the request of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (4-6 June 2012), also known as Rio+20 Conference, to provide toolboxes and good practices for policies on greening the economy in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication.

54.   The Toolbox offers numerous UNECE tools from the fields of environmental protection, energy, education, finance, housing, innovation, standards or transport to support the transition to green economy. All tools have been then indexed by: (i) recipients they are directed to, (ii) green economy goals they are pertaining to, (iii) economic or social sectors they address, and (iv) the various roles they can serve, in order to enable the Toolbox users to identify tools of interests to them in a simple and efficient way.

55.   The Toolbox was developed together with the new UNECE Green Economy website offering immediate answers to questions users may have about green economy such as:

   a.   What does green economy mean

   b.   What are the main purpose and related objectives of green economy

   c.   How can we achieve the transition to green economy

H.   ACTION LINE C8: CULTURAL AND LINGUISTIC DIVERSITY

1.   Sustainable Energy

56.   Most of the contents of the sustainable energy webpages are available in the 3 official ECE languages (English, French and Russian). In addition, some studies (e.g. the "Energy Series") have been translated into Chinese, Arabic and Spanish. Moreover, a continued effort has been made to achieve an appropriate gender balance at capacity-building workshops held in the field, in particular among the participants sponsored by UNECE.

I.   ACTION LINE C11: INTERNATIONAL AND REGIONAL COOPERATION

1.   Economic Cooperation and Integration

57.   The Economic Cooperation and Integration subprogramme has been supporting the follow-up to WSIS targets mainly in Central Asia and Azerbaijan. It has taken the lead in establishing a Project Working Group on

ICT for Development (2005-2007) and then a Project Working Group on Knowledge-based Development (2008 onwards) under SPECA programme. These are attended by high-level government officials. A number of ICT related capacity-building activities have been implemented in support of these Project Working Groups.

2.   Statistics

58.   Participants from around 40 national and international statistical organisations attended a meeting on the Management of Statistical Information Systems held simultaneously in Paris and Bangkok by we conference link in April 2013. The meeting was organised by the UNECE Statistical Division, in cooperation with the statistical office of the European Union (Eurostat), OECD and UN-ESCAP. Delegates were particularly interested in the opportunities and challenges offered by "Big Data", and the potential for significant efficiency savings through shared software development, facilitated by a Common Statistical Production Architecture (released in December 2013). The UNECE has also continued to develop and promote standards for statistical data and metadata, including a Common Metadata Framework, a Generic Statistical Business Process Model, a Generic Statistical Information Model, and standards for data and metadata exchange. The activities above are overseen by a High-Level Group for the Modernisation of Statistical Production and Services, comprising the heads of ten national and international statistical organisations.

3.   Trade

59.   Particular attention was focussed on regional cooperation, in particular among countries with economies in transition. In the CIS region UNECE is working closely with Regional Commonwealth in the field of Communications (its members are CIS ministries of communications) and CIS Interstate Council on Standardization, Metrology and Certification (unites standardization bodies of CIS states) with a view to promote UNECE standards and approaches among stakeholders and at the same time to identity concerns of these countries and to bring them to the attention of the relevant UNECE groups of experts.

60.   A series of training courses (which includes modules on information standards) at the OSCE Border Management College (Dushanbe) was continued with sessions in 2013.

61.   In 2013, UNECE continued its support to trade facilitation and electronic business in the Customs Union of Belarus, Kazakhstan and Russia with three capacity-building events and a number of advisory missions.