



**UN/CEFACT**

# **UN/CEFACT's Vision and Strategy for e-Business Standards**

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**UNITED NATIONS CENTRE FOR TRADE FACILITATION AND ELECTRONIC BUSINESS**  
Under the auspices of United Nations Economic Commission for Europe

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The UN Centre for Trade Facilitation and Electronic Business

*Its objective is to contribute to the growth of world trade by making practical contributions to trade facilitation and e-Business which measurably benefit developed, transition, and developing economies, and their enterprises, irrespective of the size of the enterprise.*

*Established in Geneva in 1997, it has a global remit and encourages close collaboration between public organisations and private business.*



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The UN Centre for Trade Facilitation and Electronic Business

*Its vision is to develop and promote simple,  
transparent, effective processes for global  
commerce*



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The UN Centre for Trade Facilitation and Electronic Business

- The Plenary is made up of delegations from UN member states and accredited international organisations representing the public and private sectors e.g. World Customs Organisation, International Association of Ports and Harbours, ISO, ITU, EAN International
- All delegations have the same rights e.g. An international organisation has the same rights as a member state
- This is a very special feature which emphasises the critical need for close collaboration between public organisations and private business



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The UN Centre for Trade Facilitation and Electronic Business

- Trade Facilitation work started in 1960 and has resulted in over 25 UN Recommendations to governments covering best practice in international trade, the rationalisation of global trade procedures, and the development and use of international codes
- Electronic Business work started in 1975 and has resulted in UN Recommendations to governments covering the global EDI standard – UN/EDIFACT – and the legal aspects of e-Commerce and e-Business.
- Business Process Information Modelling is the basis of the Centre's approach to both Trade Facilitation and e-Business



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# UN/CEFACT & Trade Facilitation

Simple, Transparent, Effective Processes for Global Commerce

- ❑ Trade facilitation is *much* more than the simplification of Customs or Transport procedures. It covers the global supply chain and payment processes
- ❑ There is great value in modelling these processes using advanced modelling techniques (BCF/UMM) and using the models to drive the rationalisation of both official and commercial trade procedures
- ❑ ICT implementations based on international standards have proven to bring major benefits to advanced and developing countries of all sizes



## Some of the results of UN/CEFACT and its predecessor, UNECE Working Party 4 (WP.4)

- ❑ 32 Recommendations to governments covering policy, best practice, eLegal agreements, and many fundamental codes
- ❑ United Nations Layout Key ( UNLK)
- ❑ United Nations Trade Data Element Directory (UNTDED)
- ❑ United Nations Location Code (UNLOCODE)
- ❑ UN/EDIFACT – the first global e-Business Standard
- ❑ ebXML – the Web compatible e-Business standard
- ❑ UN/CEFACT's Modelling Methodology (UMM)
- ❑ The Reference Model for the International Supply Chain
- ❑ Business Collaboration Framework (BCF)



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The UN Centre for Trade Facilitation and Electronic Business  
Overview of Work programme in eBusiness

- **Methodologies:** The Open Development Process (ODP), the UN/CEFACT Modelling Methodology (UMM)
- **Frameworks:** The Business Collaboration Framework (BCF)
- **Syntax:** UN/EDIFACT, XML, OO-eB
- **Data Dictionaries:** UN/TDED, UN/EDIFACT, Simpl-edi, Core Components
- **Code Lists:** UNTDED, UN/EDIFACT, UN/Locode
- **Messages:** UN/EDIFACT
- **Schemas & DTD's:** XML & ebXML
- **Legal Aspects:** e-Business/e-Commerce agreements, Codes of Practice, Certification Agencies, Alternative Dispute Resolutions; some IPR issues





*UN/CEFACT's Strategy for e-Business standards*



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The UN Centre for Trade Facilitation and Electronic Business

- UN/CEFACT's core expertise lies in understanding business processes and their information components
- That expertise came out of developing UN/EDIFACT, and no other organisation worldwide can claim the same level of expertise in attributing definitions to business information
- But UN/CEFACT initiated and led the development of ebXML



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The UN Centre for Trade Facilitation and Electronic Business

- UN/CEFACT's experience and ability to bring together world-class experts and match trends in information technology with business requirements, in an open and transparent way gives it a unique viewpoint
- That viewpoint and the recognition which technology trend is just around the corner has allowed UN/CEFACT to identify a fundamentally different way to current approaches to information exchange requirements



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The UN Centre for Trade Facilitation and Electronic Business

*Its objective is to develop and promote a technology and implementation neutral approach to the exchange of global business requirements*



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Therefore, the strategy is to:

- ❑ model, analyse and rationalise business processes;
- ❑ develop business semantics (core components) that are technology neutral; and
- ❑ use current and emerging technologies to structure and transfer the business information.



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To implement the strategy we have had to re-structure our organisation and adopt a workflow approach to our deliverables



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## Main Work Groups

There are five Groups, three operational and two in support:

### **Operational Groups**

- International Trade and Business Processes Group (TBG)
- Information Content Management Group (ICG)
- Applied Technologies Group (ATG)

### **Support Groups**

- Techniques and Methodologies Group (TMG)
- Legal Group (LG)

All groups meet together twice a year in the UN/CEFACT Forum. The first Forum was in September 2002 in Geneva and the third one will be held in Seoul from 15 to 19 September





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SIMPLE, TRANSPARENT AND EFFECTIVE PROCESSES  
FOR GLOBAL BUSINESS