

Bureau teleconference discussion notes and decisions

Sunday, 25 September 2016 (10:00-17:30)

Bangkok, Thailand

Participants:

Bureau present: Harm Jan van Burg, Raffaele Fantetti, Anders Grangård, Estelle Igwe, Tahseen A. Khan, Sue Probert, Lance Thompson (Chair)

Secretariat: Virginia Cram-Martos, Maria Rosaria Ceccarelli, Gianguglielmo Calvi, Yuri Saito

Agenda item	Discussion	Action/Decision
1. Roll-call	Quorum: 7 of 7 Bureau Members = quorum	
1a. Approve the agenda	Addition of Item 3c on Trusted Transboundary Electronic Interaction Project	Approved
1b. Approval of meeting report of 15 September 2016	Approved with modifications	Approved
2a. Programme of Work	<p>The secretariat has prepared a draft Programme of Work 2017 – 2018 based on input from the Domain Coordinators. The annex, containing the list of planned publications, will be prepared based on the activities listed.</p> <p>There will be a meeting in the afternoon of 27 September to go through the draft document. This will be announced at the Opening Session on 26 September and all experts will be invited to participate.</p> <p>The Bureau agreed that a revised draft should be shared with UN/CEFACT experts and Heads of Delegation prior to the Plenary session.</p>	Meeting on 27 September
2b. Preparation of ToR for use of UN slides, UN logo and UN titles	<p>Some rules/guidelines will be developed for UN/CEFACT experts on the use of the UN logo, titles, etc. The secretariat will prepare a first draft based on UN rules/guidelines.</p> <p>Once finalized, a meeting will be held (e.g. open Bureau meeting) to explain the rules/guidelines to UN/CEFACT experts.</p>	Secretariat to prepare a first draft of the document
2c. Code of Conduct: Plenary Bureau Adviser?	All experts participating in UN/CEFACT adhere to the UN/CEFACT Code of Conduct and should work in line with the UN/CEFACT Prospective Directions (strategy document). The secretariat noted that once the strategy (Prospective Directions) has been approved, all Bureau members must agree with it.	

	<p>Factual errors (e.g. in published articles) do need to be looked at based on the Code of Conduct.</p> <p>The role of the Plenary’s Bureau Adviser (para 3, Code of Conduct) is to assess if a UN/CEFACT expert’s action is in line with the Code of Conduct and, if necessary, request rectification.</p> <p>The Bureau accepts in principle the appointment of a Bureau Adviser for legal matters. Discussions are ongoing.</p>	
<p>3a. F+P – Trade & SC Finance w/ TF</p>	<p>The purpose of a Green Paper is to explore the landscape, whereas a Recommendation outlines recommended practice. If the work carried out under this project is to be developed into a UNECE Recommendation, the project team will work with the International Trade Procedures Domain.</p> <p>It was noted that this paper will be a good addition to the existing UN/CEFACT guidance materials to help plan for financing solutions. However, the project title, “Integrating Trade Finance & Supply Chain Finance into Trade Facilitation”, better reflects the content of the paper than the title of the document.</p> <p>The paper could be further aligned with UN/CEFACT work, for example on Single Window, the definition of Trade Facilitation, and the Buy-Ship-Pay Model. Comments will be sent in writing to the project team.</p> <p>There is a request to reproduce part of the Green Paper by an external entity as a research paper. There would be no fees to access the publication and it would be clearly indicated that it was done in cooperation with UN/CEFACT. This issue will be followed up by the secretariat.</p>	
<p>3b. ITPD – PPP-TF Project Exit</p>	<p>The draft document has undergone two Public Reviews and is aligned with the work of the PPP Section of UNECE. The document was also presented at the UNECE meeting on PPPs on 23 September in Bangkok.</p> <p>It was agreed that Annex 5 (functionalities of a Single Window) and Annex 6 (coordinated border management) should be removed from the document. The</p>	<p>Bureau Decision 1609031: Approval of “Recommendation on Public-Private Partnerships in Trade Facilitation” to go for intersessional approval with the removal of Annex 5 and Annex 6</p>

	<p>former was considered out of scope of the project; a new project will be proposed on the latter topic.</p> <p>The Recommendation on Public-Private Partnerships in Trade Facilitation (with the agreed modifications) will be sent to Heads of Delegation for intersessional approval in accordance with Plenary Decision 16-06.</p>	
<p>3c. eGOV – Trusted Transboundary Electronic Interaction Project</p>	<p>The secretariat reiterated that a Recommendation should be implementable; this is not the case of this draft document. Therefore, the suggested way forward is to use part of this document to develop a Recommendation that contains an agreed, technologically neutral definition of what constitutes a legally significant electronic transaction or of the different levels of authentication/qualification.</p> <p>The paper currently only describes one option: an international convention to create an international body. However, it is extremely difficult to achieve this. Therefore, the Recommendation could present different options, including the international convention.</p> <p>This work would be undertaken in close cooperation with bodies such as UNCITRAL, ESCAP and EU.</p> <p>As part of this work, an international conference could be convened to look at existing practices in bilateral and multilateral agreements for legally recognising the cross-border exchange of documents.</p>	
<p>3x Pending issues</p>	<p>The following project are pending: HoD support:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agri – Traceability Framework (missing 2 already has DE) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Work on getting HoD support during the Forum • T+L – e BOD (missing 2 & project proposal; already has AT) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ To be discussed during the Forum, particularly the global application of the project • T+L – e CMR (received AT, already had DE, NL, UA) • T+L – Pipeline (missing 3) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The project title was modified to better reflect the project content: Pipeline Data Structure Project <p>Calls for participation:</p>	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • M+T – Library Publication Formats (pending publication?) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ VC Grangård to follow up <p>Public review periods:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SCMD – SCRDM (public review ends 30 Oct) • ITPD – Rec1 rev (public review ends 20 Nov) • ITPD – Rec 36 (public review ends 20 Nov) <p>Should be going to Project Exit:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BUY/PAY – CII BRS+RSM (public review ended August 27th) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ VC Fantetti will follow up • SHIP – VERMAS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ VC Probert will follow up • Account – Journal Book Project (Public review ended 27 Jan) <p>Pending Bureau / Secretariat:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • REG – Trusted Transboundary Project <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ See Item 3c above 	
4a. UN/CEFACT 28 th Forum, Bangkok	The slides for the Opening Session were revised.	
4b. Thank you email sent by AACE for Andrea Hampton’s presentation	This item was postponed due to time constraints.	
4c. WCO / UN/CEFACT work on IMO FAL forms	This item was postponed due to time constraints.	
5a. Report on Liaison	This item was postponed due to time constraints.	
5b. Liaison activities from MoU/MG	This item was postponed due to time constraints.	
6a. Report from Secretariat	This item was postponed due to time constraints.	
7a. Report from Communication	This item was postponed due to time constraints.	
7b. News Brief for	The secretariat reported that the article prepared by the SCRDM project team was	

the Forum	<p>not accepted for publication by the UNECE Information Unit, as it was seen as too technical for a general audience.</p> <p>The text has instead been posted on the UN/CEFACT News page alongside the announcement of the Public Review (30 August 2016).</p> <p>The secretariat has prepared a generic News item on the Forum.</p>	
9a. Other business	The International Accounting Standards Board will be contacted regarding common areas of interest.	
Next Bureau meeting: 10 October 2016, 11 a.m. CET		