UN/CEFACT Project Proposal

Project Name:	United Nations Trade Data Elements Directory Review		
Date submitted:	26 March 2024	Proposed by:	Dr. Hanane BECHA
Relevant SDG targets:	Maintaining the United Nations Trade Data Elements Directory (UNTDED), standardized library of data elements, supports **SDG 9** (Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure) by facilitating efficient transport and logistics operations. Standardized data enable better monitoring (SDG 17) and reporting of key performance indicators, supporting sustainable development goals related to economic growth **(SDG 8),** to ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns **(SDG12)**, sustainable cities **(SDG 11)**, climate action **(SDG 13)**, promoting peaceful and inclusive societies, provide access to justice for all, and build effective, accountable, and inclusive institutions at all levels **(SDG 16)** and partnerships **(SDG 17)**.		

The UNTDED is a comprehensive catalog of standardized data elements used in international trade transactions. Its relevance to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) can be elucidated by examining how it contributes to specific SDG targets. The project work will include a detailed analysis of how UNTDED supports various SDG targets and the underlying justifications:

SDG 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth
Sustain per capita economic growth in accordance with national circumstances. UNTDED standardizes trade data, facilitating smoother and more efficient international trade processes. This reduces administrative burdens and transaction costs, promoting increased trade volumes and economic growth.Efficient trade processes enhance market access for businesses, leading to economic diversification and growth.
It promotes development-oriented policies that support productive activities, decent job creation, entrepreneurship, creativity, and innovation. By streamlining data exchange in international trade, UNTDED continues to support policies that foster entrepreneurship and innovation through easier access to global markets. Standardized trade data lowers barriers to entry for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), encouraging innovation and job creation.

SDG 9: Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure
UNTDED develops quality, reliable, sustainable, and resilient infrastructure to support economic development and human well-being. UNTDED facilitates the creation of robust digital trade infrastructure, enhancing the reliability and efficiency of trade networks. Efficient data exchange systems are fundamental to modern trade infrastructure, promoting resilient and sustainable economic development. UNTDED increases the access of small-scale industrial and other enterprises to financial services, including affordable credit, and their integration into value chains and markets.

UNTDED improves transparency and reliability in trade transactions, making it easier for SMEs to integrate into global value chains and access financing. Standardized data provides better insights for financial institutions, reducing risks and enabling better access to credit for SMEs.

SDG 12: Responsible Consumption and Production
UNTDED encourages companies, especially large and transnational companies, to adopt sustainable practices and to integrate sustainability information into their reporting cycle.
UNTDED includes elements that can capture sustainability-related data, encouraging companies to report on their environmental impact as part of their trade documentation. Standardized sustainability data in trade documents promotes transparency and accountability, driving companies towards more sustainable practices.

SDG 16: Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions: Substantially reduce corruption and bribery in all their forms. UNTDED enhances the transparency and traceability of international trade transactions, making it more difficult for corrupt practices to occur. Clear and standardized trade data reduces the opportunities for corruption by increasing the visibility of transactions to regulatory bodies.
Develop effective, accountable, and transparent institutions at all levels. The use of UNTDED in trade documentation helps create more accountable and transparent trading systems, supporting the development of effective institutions.
Standardization promotes consistency and clarity in trade processes, which is essential for the accountability of institutions overseeing international trade.

SDG 17: Partnerships for the Goals
Promote a universal, rules-based, open, non-discriminatory, and equitable multilateral trading system under the World Trade Organization.
UNTDED supports the creation of a universal and rules-based system for trade documentation, facilitating non-discriminatory and equitable trade practices. Standardized data elements promote fairness and transparency in international trade, aligning with the principles of a multilateral trading system.

Significantly increasing the exports of developing countries, by simplifying and standardizing trade documentation, UNTDED helps developing countries integrate more effectively into global trade networks, boosting their export capacities. Standardized processes reduce the complexity and cost of exporting for developing countries, enabling them to compete more effectively in international markets.

UNTDED plays a crucial role in advancing the SDGs by promoting efficient, transparent, and fair-trade practices. Its contribution spans multiple goals and targets, emphasizing the importance of standardized data in achieving

	sustainable and inclusive economic growth, infrastructure development, and institutional integrity. By reducing transaction costs, enhancing transparency, and supporting SMEs, UNTDED helps create a more equitable and sustainable global trading system.

(Please list all relevant Sustainable Development Goals and targets that this project relates to)

1. Project purpose
Required

The UNTDED was initially developed in 1990.

This project focused on developing standardize the data elements that are used in international trade transactions, enhancing efficiency, transparency, and consistency across global trade systems. By providing a common language for trade data, UNTDED simplifies the exchange of information between businesses and governments, reduces administrative burdens, and lowers transaction costs. This standardization promotes automation and interoperability of trade processes, leading to more efficient and reliable transactions. Furthermore, UNTDED enhances transparency and regulatory compliance, supporting efforts to combat illicit trade practices. By making trade processes more accessible, especially for developing countries, UNTDED fosters global economic growth and integration into international markets. Overall, UNTDED is essential for creating a more efficient, transparent, and fair international trade environment.

The project purpose is to update the list of the data elements, and adding any missing bridges/links, of the Trade Data Element Directory (UNTDED) which is used worldwide to facilitate trade and enhance semantic interoperability for governments and international organizations and businesses. UNTDED is also called ISO 7273. This project is a joint project with ISO under ISO/TC 154/JWG9.

2. Project scope
Required

• Update of the UNTDED with missing UN/EDIFACT Trade data elements
• Update of the 2005 Version of the UNTDED with backlog of DMRs and corrigenda
• Update of the UN/EDIFACT EDED with missing UNTDED data elements
• Update of the UNTDED bridges to the UN Code Lists (UNCL) plus code values
• Update of the textual introductory sections of the UNTDED
• Update of the UNCL code values with UNTDED ( ) and [ ] references

3. Project deliverables and 4. Exit Criteria
Required (check all that apply)
Please note that the Bureau may reassess and change a deliverable after its completion at its discretion.

	Project deliverables	Exit Criteria
☐	Policy Recommendation	Public Review logs demonstrating all comments have been satisfactorily resolved; Final document ready for publication.
☐	Business Requirement Specification	
☒	Technical Specification	
☐	White Paper	Final document ready for publication.
☐	Green Paper	
☐	Requirement Specification Mapping	
☐	Core Component Business Document Assembly	
☐	Guidelines	
☐	Executive Guide	

☐	Brochure	
☐	Entries/alignment to the Core Component Library	
☐	XML Schema	Final deliverable ready for publication.
☐	UN/EDIFACT message	
☐	Internal UN/CEFACT Document	Final document ready for Bureau approval.
☐	Other (specify)	

5. Impact analysis

Please indicate how these project deliverables will affect trade facilitation policies and regulations. Please highlight any anticipated / tangible results achieved. Indicate how the results and impact can be evaluated after the project is completed.

Maintaining and updating the UNTDED will continue to enable:

1. Streamline Trade: Aligning with current practices and regulations reduces trade barriers and harmonizes information requirements.

2. Enhance Interoperability: Compatibility with international standards facilitates smoother data exchange among stakeholders.

3. Efficient Trade Processes: Faster clearance times and reduced administrative burdens.

4. Cost Savings: Lower documentation and compliance costs for businesses.

5. Transparency: Standardized data promotes trust and reduces misunderstandings.

6. Project Team membership and required functional expertise

Membership is open to UN/CEFACT experts with broad knowledge in the area of:	in the area of international trade facilitation, electronic business, standardization, and interoperability. Members of both organizations: UN/CEFACT and ISO 7372

In addition, Heads of Delegations may invite technical experts from their constituency to participate in the work.
Experts are expected to contribute to the work based solely on their expertise and to comply with the UN/CEFACT Code of Conduct and Ethics and the policy on Intellectual Property Rights.
As a joint project, ISO experts will also contribute to this project.

7. HoD support

Required for Technical Standards, Business Standards and UNECE Recommendations. And at the request of the UN/CEFACT Bureau. A request for HoD support will be circulated to all HoDs in these cases. If you have verbal confirmation from specific delegations of their support, please list these here. Projects that require HoD support must obtain this within 6 months of Bureau provisional approval.

8. Geographical focus

The geographical focus of the project is global

9. Beneficiaries

The beneficiaries of the UNTDED standards are diverse and include various stakeholders involved in international trade, commerce, and e-business. Some of the primary beneficiaries include:

1. Governments: UNTDED helps governments streamline trade processes, reduce trade barriers, improve customs procedures, and enhance regulatory compliance. UNTDED helps governments to facilitate international trade, boost economic growth, and promote sustainable development.

2. Businesses (SMEs and large companies): Companies engaged in international trade benefit from UNTDED by simplifying and harmonizing trade procedures, reducing transaction costs, enhancing interoperability between different trading partners and systems, and accelerating the movement of goods across borders. Small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) particularly benefit from these standards as they enable them to compete more effectively in global markets.

3. Customs Authorities: Customs administrations use UNTDED to modernize their operations, automate customs procedures, improve risk management, enhance border security, and facilitate the smooth flow of goods across borders. Standardized electronic data exchange helps customs authorities efficiently process trade transactions, enforce regulations, and combat illicit trade activities.

4. Trade Facilitation Organizations: International organizations, trade facilitation bodies, industry associations, and standards-setting organizations leverage UNTDED to develop best practices, guidelines, and tools for improving trade facilitation, supply chain management, and e-business processes.

5. Technology Providers: Software developers, IT companies, and technology vendors use UNTDED into their products and solutions to enable seamless data interchange, interoperability, and connectivity between different trading partners, business systems, and electronic platforms.

The list of organizations that contributed to the current version UNTDED, using it and will be involved in this review includes the following:

CIT INTERNATIONAL RAILWAY TRANSPORT COMMITTEE
FIATA INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF FREIGHT FORWARDERS ASSOCIATIONS
IATA INTERNATIONAL AIR TRANSPORT ASSOCIATION
ICC INTERNATIONAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
ICS INTERNATIONAL CHAMBER OF SHIPPING
IMO INTERNATIONAL MARITIME ORGANIZATION
IRU INTERNATIONAL ROAD TRANSPORT UNION
OASIS ORGANIZATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF STRUCTURED INFORMATION STANDARDS
UIC INTERNATIONAL UNION OF RAILWAYS
UNCTAD UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT
UPU UNIVERSAL POSTAL UNION
WCO WORLD CUSTOMS ORGANIZATION
ISO INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR STANDARDIZATION

10. Initial contributions

The following contributions are submitted as part of this proposal. It is understood that these contributions are only for consideration by the Project Team and that other participants may submit additional contributions in order to ensure that as much information as possible is obtained from those with expertise and a material interest in the project. It is also understood that the Project Team may choose to adopt one or more of these contributions "as is".

List any initial contributions:

- Trade Data Elements Directory (TDED) UNTDED 2005/ISO 7372:2005
- Latest published CCL at time of project start
- ICC DSI Key Trade Document and Data Elements glossary

11. Resource requirements

Participants in the project shall provide resources for their own participation. The existence and functioning of the project shall not require any additional resources from the UNECE secretariat.

Any additional request:	Collaboration with the relevant organizations namely: CIT, FIATA, IATA, ICAO, ICC, ICS, IMO,IRU, OASIS, UIC, UNCTAD, UPU, WCO, ISO.

11. Proposed project leadership

(subject to Bureau approval)

Proposed project lead:	Dr. Hanane BECHA	E-mail:	hbdigitaltrade@gmail.com
Proposed Vice Chair:	Dr. Hanane BECHA	E-mail:	
Proposed domain			

11. Milestones (repeat for each deliverable, if different)

The following are draft milestones of the project.

	ODP Stage	Expected Completion Date	
Yes	Project Inception	1 month	
Yes / No	Requirements gathering	☐	1 month
Yes	Draft development	☐	3 months (Very quick)
		☐	6 months (Quick)
		☐	12 months (Normal)
		☐	18 months (Normal)
		☐	24 months (Long)
		☒	36 months (Very long)
Yes / No	Public Draft Review	☐	2 months
Yes	Project Exit	1 month	