



Importation of emergency relief
UN/CEFACT Policy recommendation

Meeting Minutes 3
Tuesday 14th May: 11–12pm and 3–4pm (CET)

Background: During the meetings of the Working Group on Customs and Humanitarian Relief, in the auspices of the Humanitarian Networks and Partnerships Week in Geneva in February 2019, discussions around streamlining importation and border clearances highlighted the need for a high-level policy recommendation for governments to enhance their readiness for the cross-border management of emergency relief. To this end, the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) and the UN Centre for Trade Facilitation and e-business (UN/CEFACT) have initiated a collaborative project to support Member States by producing a centralized policy recommendation and guidelines for Member States. On Tuesday 14th May the third meeting(s) of the project was held, with the objective to review and agree the draft outline and confirm next steps for contributors.

1. Attendees:

ECHO (Esther El-Haddad & Christian Di Schiena)*	GS1 (Rosalie Clemens & Elizabeth Board)
HELP Logistics (Alia Gharaibe, Niklas Jaeschke)	Trade Facilitation Consulting Ltd (Andrew Grainger)
UNCTAD (Constantin Ciuta)	UN/CEFACT (Lance Thompson & Virginia Cram Martos)
WFP (Bruno Vandemeulebroecke)	

* Technical issues prevented ECHO from staying in the web conference after initial connection

2. Key discussions points

a. Temporary Admission and Transit:

These two items should be separated into different sections. This update has been made in the draft policy outline v2.0.

b. Name of the project:

It was suggested that the name of the policy recommendation be along the lines of ‘Cross Border Management of humanitarian relief’. There were no objections to this suggestion. We will refer to the policy as this as we progress forward, however a final decision will be made before the final draft is completed. This update has been made in the draft policy outline v2.0.



c. Clear identification of all policy recommendations:

It was suggested that the document should include a summary of all policy implications for government. This section has been added in the draft policy outline v2.0, however at a later date maybe integrated into Part 1 of the document (Recommendations section).

d. More analysis required on pre-authorization of humanitarian actors:

It needs to be clear what the respective policy guidelines are for NGOs, UN Agencies, INGOs and other eligible humanitarian actors. Further analysis needs to be conducted on this, and this has been noted in draft outline v2.0.

e. Rapid onset vs slow onset natural disasters

It was raised that there are different considerations for rapid onset vs slow onset natural disasters. The scope of this policy recommendation is to extend to rapid onset natural disasters.

f. Long term multiple use licenses

It was suggested a section is added to cover the use of longer-term licenses instead of individual license requests per relief consignment. This update has been made in the draft policy outline v2.0.

3. Key outcomes from meeting

- Draft outline has been updated based on feedback received
- General agreement that the draft outline represents the goals and scope of the project
- Agreement on next steps (as below)

4. Next steps

- a. Distribute updated draft outline of policy recommendation and minutes
- b. Distribute word version of draft outline
- c. Contributors to enter key points against the sections they would like to be taken for consideration
- d. All contributors who have not yet done so need to complete [UN/CEFACT registration form](#) (selecting 'Int'l Trade Procedures' as Area of Interest)
- e. Contributors to return their key points in draft outline v2 by Thursday 23rd May
- f. Contributions to be centralized by OCHA by Friday 24th May and redistributed to all
- g. Review in meeting no 4 to be held Tuesday 28th May (we will run two sessions at 9.30am and 3pm CET)



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