

Minutes

Virtual conference meeting #6 – Policy Recommendation Subgroup

25/09/2020, WebEx, 15:30 CET

Participants (42): Tarun Kumar Agrawal (KTH Royal Institute of Technology), Rahul Bhajekar (Global Organic Textile Standard (GOTS), Sara Cavagnero (Northumbria University), Yvonne Chileshe (ACP Secretariat), Lena Coulibaly (GS1), Virginia Cram-Martos (Triangularity, UN/CEFACT project expert), Ella Cullen (Minespider), Aurelien Debeyer (AQC), Julia del Valle (OECD), Claudia Di Bernardino (lawyer, UN/CEFACT project expert), Simonetta di Tommaso (Italian Ministry of Economic Development (MiSE), Angelika Duckenfield (AQC), Christian Ecker (Minespider), Antoinette Fionda-Douglas (Heriot Watt University / Beira Moda Ltd), Maurizio Gazzola (United Nations Office of Information Technology), Miriam Geelhoed (Modint), Gustavo Gonzalez-Quijano (COTANCE), Marianne Gratia (Belgian NCP to the OECD - Belgium Federal Public Service Economy), Enrico Iacovizzi (Fur Europe), Ana Díaz Ibarra (Inditex), Viktoria Kanar (Re-Fresh Global), Merel Krebbers (H&M), Cyril Liance (Belgian NCP to the OECD - Belgium Federal Public Service Economy), Tal Madhala (Chain Ops), Jan Merckx (Independent expert), Francesco Mirizzi (EIHA), Prem Nair (United Nations Office of ICT), Hania Othman (SmartB), Lucía Patiño (Inditex), Andrea Redaelli (UN/CEFACT project expert), Francesca Romana Rinaldi (Bocconi University, UN/CEFACT project expert), Paul Roeland (Clean Clothes Campaign), Melissa Rusinek (Independent expert), Cesare Saccani (ICMQ), Mauro Scalia (EURATEX), Nina Shariati (Independent expert), Paul Stockall (IFTF), Evonne Tan (Textile Exchange), Georgina Tayler (Hecho por Nosotros), Deborah Taylor (UN/CEFACT project expert), Ben Vanpeperstraete (Freedom Fund), Madison Wilcox (ITC)

UNECE Secretariat: Maria Teresa Pisani, Olivia Chassot, Olga Kharitonova **Co-leading Experts:** Virginia Cram-Martos, Francesca Romana Rinaldi

| Agenda item | Discussion | Comments / Status | Action / Decision |
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| <p>Reminder: Timeline and key milestones <i>Maria Teresa Pisani</i></p> | <p>2020</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - June-September: informal review by experts - October: drafts to be submitted for public review – intergovernmental UN/CEFACT Open Development Process for 60 days <p>2021</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - January-March: Translation (EN, FR, RU), formatting and publication - April 19-20: Discussion and adoption during UN/CEFACT Plenary and launch at UNECE 69th session. The 69th UNECE session will be focused on circular economy, and this project was identified as important contribution to the | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clarification was requested as to the preparation for and foreseen duration of the pilot for leather. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The secretariat will consult the experts of the Subgroup 3 in preparation for the pilot for leather; its duration will depend on to what extent the work on it can be built upon the ongoing pilot for cotton. |

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| <p>1. Progress - Draft Policy Recommendation (Part I) <i>Maria Teresa Pisani</i></p> <p>Highlights from experts' consultation, <i>Maria Teresa Pisani</i></p> | <p>circular economy field. The plan is to launch also the Call to Action with already submitted commitments by member States.</p> <p>Update on the main developments in the Policy Recommendation, Part I: the revised structure was presented with a brief description of each section.</p> <p>The section F (actual Recommendation) is structured along five cluster areas: norms and standards; incentives; R&D; awareness and education of consumers; multi-stakeholder collaboration initiatives.</p> <p>Summary of main comments that had been provided was presented. These included: expanding target audience to wider ecosystem of actors; linkage between transparency and traceability (TT) and circularity (a prominent aspect but challenging to cover, therefore a subgroup on circularity was set up under the project); need to stronger emphasize human rights, worker rights etc. and a need to emphasize challenges faced by subcontractors, informal and small producers that TT could bring, as well as the ways in which they can be addressed.</p> <p><i>Reference documents:</i> <i>Presentation "Background presentation for the call 25-09-2020.pdf;</i> <i>Policy Recommendation Part I and Part II (draft 23 September 2020)</i> CUE Space</p> | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The secretariat and the core project team will continue addressing the comments sent by the experts for the Policy Recommendation, Part I. • Experts are invited to send their inputs and comments on the Policy Recommendation, Part I by 15/10 to the secretariat. |
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| <p>2. Progress - Draft Guidelines, Policy Recommendation (Part II) <i>Virginia Cram-Martos</i></p> | <p>Presentation of the purpose and the revised structure of the Guidelines.</p> <p>Purpose: provide instructions to stakeholders who are responsible for the actual implementation of the Policy Recommendation.</p> <p>The guidelines consist of six sections: Introduction; Traceability principles; Key traceability system concepts; Cost allocation and incentive systems; Supporting role of advanced technologies; Creating inclusiveness in traceability systems. The section “Key traceability system concepts” is the largest one. It includes brief definitions of the eight included concepts (e.g. Claim) and provides further explanation for each of them.</p> <p>The section “Action plan” was moved to the annex, and it needs more input from the experts.</p> <p>The last section devoted to the matters of inclusiveness in traceability systems has not been developed to the desirable extent. Asked for comments on how to incorporate differentiated approach.</p> <p><i>Reference documents:</i> <i>Presentation “Background presentation for the call 25-09-2020.pdf;</i> <i>Policy Recommendation Part I and Part II (draft 23 September 2020)</i> CUE Space</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consider shortening the guidelines. • Consider revising the document based on a premise that the users will already be familiar with the underlying concepts. • Agreement needed on the conceptual link between notions “traceability” and “claim” – are they separate or intertwined; according to the United Nations Global Compact definition of traceability these notions cannot be separated.¹ | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The secretariat and the core project team will aim at shortening the document by taking where possible a high-level approach to technical matters; at the same time, it is essential to make sure that all the important aspects are covered and the implementing parties have the necessary information on how to put into action the Policy Recommendation. • The secretariat and the core project team will double check the conceptual basis of notions of “traceability” and “claim”. • Experts are invited to provide inputs on the Guidelines by 15 October, and specifically on the section “Creating inclusiveness in traceability systems” and annex “Action plan”. |
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¹ See United Nations Global Compact Office (2014). A Guide to traceability. Available from: <https://www.unglobalcompact.org/library/791>.

Enhancing Transparency and Traceability of Sustainable Value Chains in the Garment and Footwear Sector

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| <p>3. Progress - draft Annex 4 Call to Action; Highlights from experts' consultation <i>Francesca Romana Rinaldi</i></p> | <p>The Call to Action has been revised based on the feedback from the experts. The new elements include: a short summary to create a link with the Policy Recommendation, since the Call to Action is going to be a stand-alone document; clarification that the commitment can come from new and existing initiatives and can be public, private or mixed, as well as from civil society initiatives (e.g. shadow strategy).</p> <p>Some elements related to monitoring were added: the stakeholders taking upon themselves the commitment to action are asked to link their initiatives to relevant goals and targets of the United Nations 2030 Agenda; they are also asked to indicate, if available, KPIs for the action. The template also includes questions on good practices, and strategic engagement and public awareness in support of the action.</p> <p><i>Reference documents:</i> <i>Presentation "Background presentation for the call 25-09-2020.pdf;</i> <i>Call to Action.pdf (draft 23 September 2020)</i> (CUE Space)</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need to clarify how the Policy Recommendation, Guidelines and the Call to Action are linked and complement each other. • Consider that the initiatives that are already being implemented might not fall exactly under the scope of the Call to Action which is linked to that of the Policy Recommendation. • Consider that the purpose of the Call to Action is to keep track of the initiatives and raise new commitments to be able to report to the sector on a periodic basis to describe the developments and achievements, facilitate sharing of good practices, experiences and lessons learnt. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Experts are invited to provide inputs on the Call to Action by 15 October. |
| <p>4. Next steps and experts' subgroup input <i>Maria Teresa Pisani</i></p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meeting #7 Subgroup 1, 29 October 2020 at 15:30 CET (WebEx teleconference) • Third Multi-stakeholder Policy Dialogue: 23-24 November, Geneva | | |