



12 July 2017
Ref.: 2017/ECTD/TTE2

Mr. Aleksandr Sazanov
sazanov@nucrf.ru

Subject: Way forward for the Project entitled
“Ensuring Legally Significant Trusted Transboundary Electronic Interaction”

Dear Mr. Sazanov,

Following up on the Bureau letter reference 2016/ECTD of 10 November 2016 (attached) and the response from the project team “Ensuring Legally Significant Trusted Transboundary Electronic Interaction,” the Bureau would like to provide you an official update on the current status of this project for which you are Project Leader. Based on the position stipulated in the update, the following actions were initiated by the UN/CEFACT Bureau:

1. An international conference on the subject was organized, during the last UN/CEFACT Forum in Geneva in March 2017, in consultation with all stakeholders, including UNCITRAL and UNESCAP, to debate on the way forward.
2. The input received from the international conference was discussed at length during the subsequent UN/CEFACT Bureau meetings, to firm up our position. As a result, it was felt appropriate that at this stage a white paper (against a Recommendation) on the subject would be the best document. A draft white paper so prepared by the Bureau will be shared with the project team for finalizing the white paper.
3. Based on the analysis included in the white paper, and as indicated in our above referred letter of 10.11.2016, the Bureau and Secretariat have decided to launch work on an international convention/framework agreement on the subject. Such international convention/framework agreement could be developed by an inter-governmental body, whose purpose would be to negotiate the convention/framework agreement. The inter-governmental body could be the UNCEFACT Plenary, or an ad-hoc intergovernmental group of countries interested in the project and convened for this work. It is also decided that an independent group of experts, including project membership, should prepare a draft position paper to define the scope of the convention/framework agreement and explore supporting arguments and possible alternatives to a convention/framework agreement. The position paper should also explore and consider

relevant legal instruments developed or adopted by other organizations. For example, it was suggested to explore the possibility to add the aspect of “Ensuring legally Significant Trusted Transboundary Electronic Interaction” as an amendment to the Regional Framework Agreement on Facilitation of Cross-border Paperless Trade in Asia and the Pacific, which however would also be a lengthy process.

4. Bureau also felt that as we go along with the international convention, and if found appropriate, the white paper may be the basis for a UNCEFACT recommendation.

In view of above, the Bureau suggests that you may discuss the above referred issues, especially those mentioned in paragraphs 3 and 4, with your project members so that the Bureau, with support from the Secretariat, can move forward.

Yours sincerely,



Lance Thompson,
Chief of UN/CEFACT Support Unit

on behalf of the UN/CEFACT Bureau