

RECENT DEVELOPMENTS

Plenary Meeting February 16-17 2015

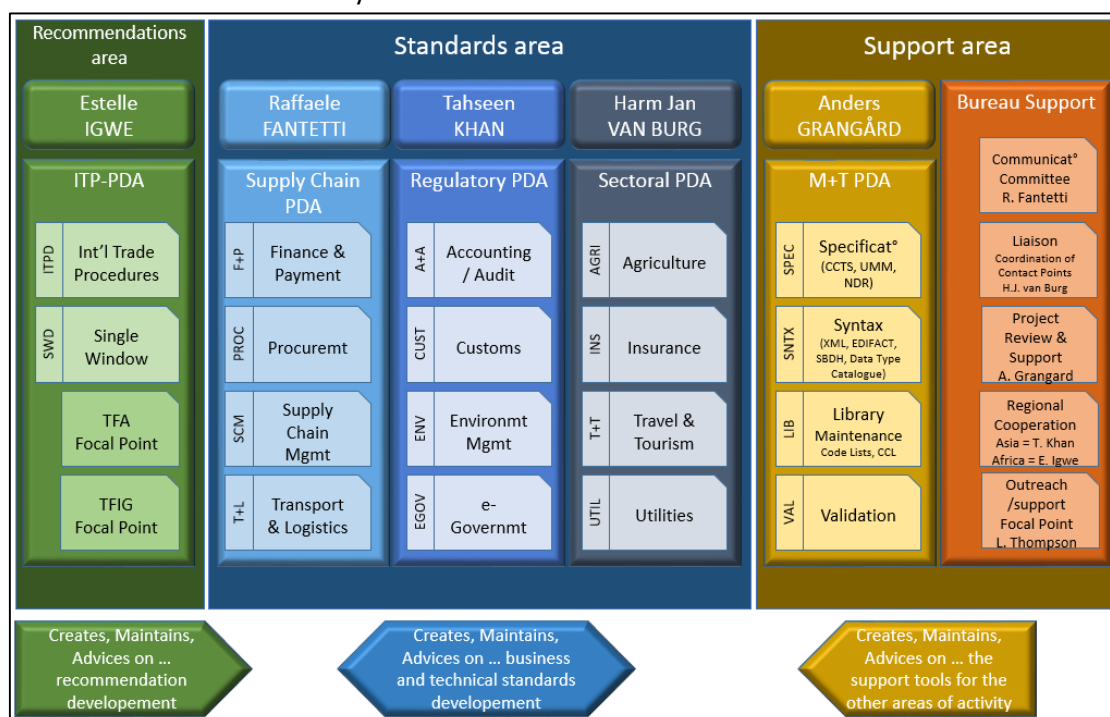
Attended by more than 67 participants from 27 countries from around the world, as well as delegations from Inter-Governmental and Non-Governmental Organizations, the 21st UN/CEFACT Plenary took a number of decisions, including the following:

- Election of the Chair for the period 2015-2018: Mr. Lance THOMPSON
- Approval of the Program of Work for the period 2015-2017 and of the Strategic Framework
- Provisional approval of Recommendation 40 on Consultation Approaches

Further information available at: <http://www.unece.org/index.php?id=36199#/>

Bureau Responsibilities

After bilateral and multilateral discussions, the Bureau members agreed to maintain the current PDA distribution of tasks for continuity:



Domains

A number of domains and focal points were created within the ITP-PDA (the International Trade Procedures Domain was reinstated, a Single Window Domain, a (WTO) Trade Facilitation Agreement Focal Point and a TFIG Focal Point were created to concentrate activities around these areas) and formalization of domains within the M&T PDA (a Specifications Domain, a Syntax Domain, a Library Maintenance Domain and a Validation Domain).

Bureau Support

A communication committee will be created with experts from each Domain to support the point “C (Promote)” of the Strategic Framework approved at the February Plenary 2015, led by Vice Chair Fantetti. As per the point “D (Cooperate, coordinate and collaborate)” of the same Strategic Framework, the liaison with external organizations will be reinforced with technical “contact points” under the leadership of Vice Chair Van Burg. The Project review and support which was provisionally presented to the Plenary has been created and under the responsibility of Vice Chair Grangård. Vice Chairs Igwe and Khan shall continue in their regional coordination roles with Africa and Asia respectively; the Bureau will consider creating similar coordination roles with other regions (Latin America, Middle East, North America and Europe) and work on Terms of Reference for this role.

ON-GOING WORK

The following projects are approaching a near-finalized stage and will shortly be requesting to enter to public review. Please ensure that any interested parties are aware of the ongoing work and that they send in any comments to the appropriate project teams:

- ITP-PDA, Revision of Recommendation 4
- ITP-PDA, Recommendation project on Public-Private Partnership in Trade Facilitation
- ITP-PDA, Recommendation project (Rec36) on Single Window Interoperability
- Sectoral-PDA, Electronic interchange of fisheries catch data
- M+T-PDA, Conformance Statement

The following projects are ongoing and would very much appreciate the involvement of experts from each region of the world:

- Supply Chain, Purchase Order project

UP-COMING WORK

25th UN/CEFACT Forum, Geneva April 20-24 2015

The 25th UN/CEFACT Forum will be held from April 20th to 24th at the Palais des Nations in Geneva. A number of on-going projects will meet and progress on their work, including:

- Within ITP-PDA, the Single Window Interoperability recommendation project, the Public-Private Partnership in Trade Facilitation recommendation project, the revision of Recommendation 4 on National Trade Facilitation Bodies project ...
- Within Supply Chain PDA, the Multi-modal transport project, Procurement review, Remittance advice revision, International trade / supply chain finance ...
- Within Regulatory PDA, the Trusted-Transboundary project, Accounting projects ...
- Within Sectoral PDA, the RASFF project, Small scaled lodging house projects ...
- Within Methodology and Technology PDA, the Conformance statement project, the Library review project...

All information related to the Forum will be posted to the following website: <http://www.unece.org/index.php?id=36194#/>

In parallel, there will be two large events. The first organized by the UNECE Secretariat and UN/CEFACT aiming to improve UN/LOCODE (generating, managing, using...) on Friday 24th. For more information, please visit: <http://www.unece.org/index.php?id=38907#/>

The second organized by the Global Facilitation Partnership on Trade and Transport (UNECE, UNCTAD, OECD and ITC) which shall examine how implementation of the WTO Trade Facilitation can best be coordinated and supported and how all actors can benefit from this on Wednesday 22nd. For more information, please visit: <http://www.unece.org/index.php?id=38738#/>

26th UN/CEFACT Forum, Marseille France November 2-6 2015

The 26th UN/CEFACT Forum will be held in Marseille France from November 2nd to 6th. Information concerning this forum will shortly be available on the UN/CEFACT website under the Meeting page.

Other ongoing work in the Bureau

The Bureau shall also be working on the notion of transparency and endeavoring to render the minutes more accessible to UN/CEFACT registered experts and Plenary members. The terms of reference of Domains as well as the validation of Domain Coordinators for the next two year period is being studied by the Bureau and is aimed to be finalized at the Forum of Geneva. The Bureau will then look at a possible revision of the Open Development Process.

For any further information, do not hesitate to contact the relevant Project Teams, the Secretariat or the Chair. Thank you for your continued support and participation. <http://www.unece.org/cefact.html>