RECENT DEVELOPMENTS

New Projects and Finalizing of projects

Four new projects have been approved since the last report (see next page for brief description):

- A Recommendation project on Information Portals (supporting WTO TFA article 1;
- A White Paper project on the transfer of negotiable financial instruments (e.g. Bill of Lading), using Blockchain to demonstrate implementation and in collaboration with UNCITRAL;
- A White Paper project on Digital ID for Trade Facilitation;
- A Reference Data Model project to support all Cross-Border Management (regulatory) procedures.

Several other projects have been recently finalized and will be presented to the 26th Plenary:

- The revision of Recommendation 33 (Single Window);
- The revision of Recommendation 5 (INCOTERMS) prepared in collaboration with the ICC;
- A White Paper on Core Principles of Single Window;
- Four Executive Guides (on Waste Management, Data Quality, Smart containers and Smart Connectivity)

eB-MoU MG meeting

The Electronic Business MoU Management Group met in early December. UN/CEFACT's work was well represented and occupied a key place in the discussions. This MoU between IEC, ISO, ITU and UNECE provides an opportunity for information sharing between these standards-setting bodies and encourage collaboration between the working groups in a view of avoiding duplication of efforts. The full report of the meeting will be made available to the 26th Plenary.

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

1st Meeting of the Advisory Group on Advanced Technologies in Geneva, 30 January 2020

Following the Plenary decision in April 2019 to establish an Advisory Group on Advanced Technologies, the foundation meeting will take place on 30 January. This first meeting will establish the group, set forth a Program of Work and instate a chairperson and eventually vice chairs. The meeting is also being prepared with presentations from key stakeholders on key issues that should be addressed by this group. Agenda, registration and relevant documents are available on the website here.

3rd Meeting of the Team of Specialists on Sustainable Fisheries in Geneva, 4 February 2020

The third meeting of the Team of Specialists on Sustainable Fisheries will be held in Geneva on 4 February. Agenda, registration and relevant documents are available on the website here.

35th UN/CEFACT Forum in Geneva, 28 April – 1st May 2020

The week-long Forum will host the regular UN/CEFACT working group meetings as well as an event on the Friday, 1st May in partnership with UNCTAD and the ITC. The Forum will also be taking place at the same time as the UNCTAD eCommerce week, which should allow an increase in visibility and participation. More information will be progressively made available on the website here.

26th Session of the UN/CEFACT Plenary in Geneva, 4-5 May 2020

The 26th Session of the UN/CEFACT Plenary will present over thirty documents during this two-day meeting, including three recommendations (all revisions of existing deliverables), two white papers and five e-business standards. There will also be elections of Vice Chairs as all incumbents' terms come to a close at this meeting; the call for candidates will be announced in early February and candidatures must be received directly from the relevant Mission to the UN in Geneva to the UNECE secretariat no later than 45 days prior to the meeting. All documents and relevant information will be progressively made available on the website here.

36th UN/CEFACT Forum

We are still considering locations for the 36th Forum in the autumn of 2020; if you would like to propose a location, please don't hesitate to contact the secretariat.

UN/CEFACT ACTIVE PROJECTS

The following projects are currently active as of January 2020 within UN/CEFACT; participation in their development is welcome. Your assistance as Head of Delegation / Mission in Geneva to suggest experts for these projects is most welcome.

ITPD – Readiness for emergency relief importation project is being done jointly with UN OCHA to provide guidance on measures to be taken to facilitate importation of emergency relief items.
SWD – Core Principles for Operation of Single Window is exploring the essential role of Single Windows in an economy and the potential risks that could disrupt the system. Will resume shortly.
SWD – Information Portals recommendation project will develop guidance on minimum requirements and establishment of such portals in support of the WTO TFA article 1 obligations.

SC+P – Cross Industry Invoice BRS Repository is establishing a template and a repository of implementation models of the UN/CEFACT CII standard. Project resuming after a short break.
SC+P – Transfer of MLETR Titles project shall develop guidance on the electronic exchange of negotiable financial instruments (e.g. Bill of Lading) and demonstrate implementation with Blockchain.
A+A – Accounting and Audit Reference Data Model will propose a harmonized data set across multiple standards in this field.
T+L – IMO FAL Mapping project shall create an XML version of the FAL messages which have traditionally been transmitted through UN/EDIFACT messages, in support of the IMO FAL updates.
T+L – Cross Industry Supply Chain Track and Trace project is proposing a general standard for physical track and trace of assets, compatible with all existing Supply Chain and T+L standards.
INS – Healthcare Reimbursement Claim will produce the required messages and structures between health care providers and private insurance.
ISCO – RDM2API project is exploring the methodology to move from reference data model standards of UN/CEFACT to Application Programming Interfaces to help standardize this step of digitization.
ISCO – API Town Plan project is putting together an internal guidance on how UN/CEFACT can best approach and eventually roll out the standardization of Application Programming Interfaces.

eGOV – Cross border inter-ledger exchange for Preferential CoO using Blockchain project is proposing to develop guidance and standards for inter-ledger exchanges.
eGOV – Internet of Things for Trade Facilitation project will prepare two White Paper to describe the base principles of this technology and the potential need for standards.
eGOV – Digital Identity for Trade Facilitation project will prepare two White Papers to explore existing Digital ID systems as well as providing guidance on the development of such systems
eGOV – Cross Border Management Reference Data Model (CBM-RDM) project will produce a comprehensive subset of the UN/CCL to support all regulatory procedures at the border.
ENV – Waste Management and Waste Analysis aims to define electronic data formats for waste management related data such as analysis results, physical and chemical properties, hazardousness…

T+T – Business Standards for Sustainable Tourism project builds upon the Green Paper on Sustainable Tourism and shall produce definitions standards an guidelines on the topic.
T+T – Experience Program Technical Artefacts project is aiming to develop the necessary technical deliverable to allow the exchange of E.P. information as outlined in the Green Paper.
AGRI – eQuality Certificate project is continuing its work in order to develop an implementation guide.
AGRI – eCert Implementation Guide project will create a guidance document to assist countries to implement this cornerstone standard.
AGRI – Sustainable Textile and Leather Traceability and Transparency will produce a recommendation and electronic standards to enable sustainable value chains in this sector.

M+T – Header Envelope project should be published shortly.
M+T – Message Construction Guideline project shall explain how to design an XML user message using MA, MBIE and QDT under the rules of CCTS, CCBDA and NDR.