COVID-19 IMPACTS

There's no escaping the main headline in most news around the world; the COVID-19 pandemic has had an impact on the work of UN/CEFACT – both negatively and positively. In order to ensure the security of all participants, we had to postpone both the 35th Forum and the 26th Plenary Session. The business-critical decisions from the Plenary (elections, approval of recommendations and of the sub-group Terms of Reference) were successfully completed through a virtual, informal consultation and a silence procedure approval.

With the vast majority of experts tele-working, many UN/CEFACT experts have had some additional time to help progress active projects; we have therefore seen a significant peak in project activity.

As we slowly move back to a "new-normal" working environment, we are making best efforts to find clear solutions for a Forum and Plenary before the end of 2020 and will keep you informed.

The **Advisory Group on Advanced Technologies** has been working on a report underlining how our standards have helped during this pandemic; the report should be published shortly.
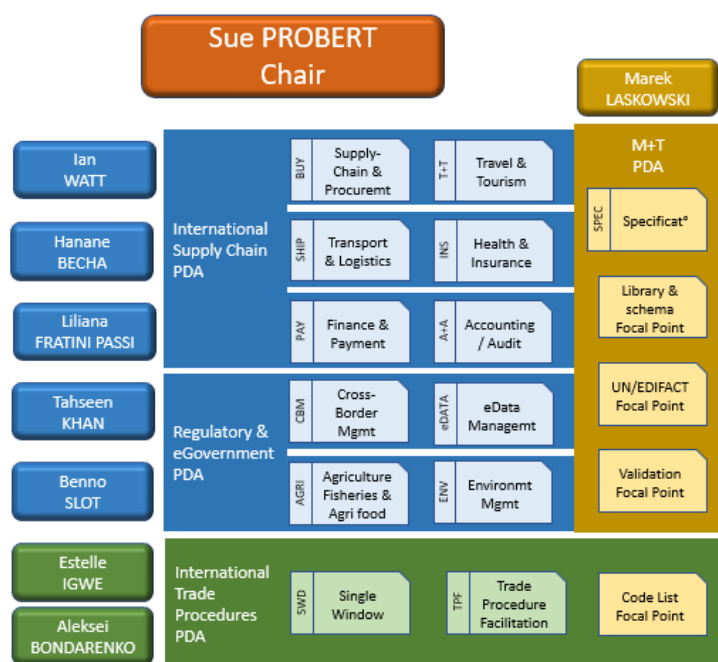
RECENT DEVELOPMENTS

New Bureau structure

With the appointment of eight Vice Chairs to the UN/CEFACT Bureau, the PDA responsibilities have been reorganized. The new structure is in the diagram to the right.

The Sectoral PDA has been merged with the Regulatory PDA and the distribution of Domains has been slightly rethought. A key new Focal Point has been created to work on Code Lists, pending the identification of an appropriate coordinator.

The current Bureau and the UNECE secretariat would like to thank the exiting Vice Chairs for their professionalism and contributions to UN/CEFACT: Mr. Harm Jan van Burg, Mr. Raffaele Fantetti and Mr. Anders Grangård.

Launch of a call for candidates for Domain Coordinator and Focal Point roles

Domain Coordinators are a key element of the smooth functioning of UN/CEFACT; the full extent of the roles and responsibilities is defined on the website. The Bureau appoints experts to this support function for two-year mandates. The next term has just been announced on the UN/CEFACT website. Candidatures are welcome until 10 July filling out the relevant candidature form. For any questions or to submit the forms, don't hesitate to contact the Secretary of UN/CEFACT: Lance Thompson.

Project developments since the last HoD Report

Several new projects were launched since the last report (Business standard for acknowledgement-error message; recommendation on minimum standards for ship agents in partnership with UNCTAD; a new blockchain white paper project looking into the technology infrastructure, a pandemic crisis recovery white paper, business standard for packing list, Forwarding/Transport messages, business standard for dangerous goods, Rapid Alert for Safety of Food and Feed BRS).

The Data Pipeline Project was completed and published pending the XML schema from version 20a.

UN/CEFACT ACTIVE PROJECTS

The following projects are currently active as of June 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.

TPF – Readiness for emergency relief importation project is being done jointly with UN OCHA to facilitate importation of emergency relief items. – currently out for Public Review.

TPF – Pandemic Crisis Recovery will develop a white paper for situations like the COVID-19 pandemic. New

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.

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. Finalizing drafting phase.

BUY – Packing List will develop an eBusiness standard for this process. New

BUY – 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.

BUY – 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. New

BUY – 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. New

SHIP – Forwarding/Transport message project will develop a suite of eBusiness standards ranging from booking, status, waybill and shipping instructions. New

SHIP – Dangerous Goods project will develop the eBusiness standards for this process. New

SHIP – 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.

SHIP – Ship Agent Minimum Standard Recommendation aims to provide updated guidance from the UNCTAD 1988 version of the same UNCTAD/ST/SHIP/13. Developed in partnership with UNCTAD. New

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.

INS – Healthcare Reimbursement Claim – messages between healthcare providers & private insurance.

A+A – Accounting and Audit Reference Data Model will propose a harmonized data set.

CBM – 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.

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 with implementation.

AGRI – Sustainable Textile and Leather Traceability and Transparency will produce a recommendation and electronic standards to enable sustainable value chains in this sector.

AGRI – Rapid Alert for Safety of Food and Feed project will develop the BRS for this process. New

eDATA – Cross border inter-ledger exchange for Preferential CoO using Blockchain project is proposing to develop guidance and standards for inter-ledger exchanges.

eDATA – 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.

eDATA – 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

eDATA – Blockchain White Paper developing guidance on relevant framework/mechanism.

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…

M+T – 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.

M+T – 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.

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. – currently out for Public Review.

M+T – Acknowledge-Error message project updates UN/EDIFACT APERAK & creating XML equivalent. New