INVITATION TO PARTICIPATE IN THE CALLS TO ACTION

UN/CEFACT has launched two calls to action to invite stakeholders to submit their commitments to using UN/CEFACT standards.

In support of all UN/CEFACT standards, a Call to Action for Improved Digitalization Through the Use of UN/CEFACT Standards was approved for use by the 27th Plenary. This Call recognizes the importance of digitalization to improve processes, save time, reduce rekeying data and reduce human contact. It also underlines the important role that UN/CEFACT standards (international, clear and freely available) play. Any stakeholder can submit a commitment to record future plans or past achievements of digitalization with the use of UN/CEFACT standards. More information on the website.

As part of its work on Traceability for Sustainable Garment and Footwear, UNECE has launched "The Sustainability Pledge" inviting governments, garment and footwear manufacturers and industry stakeholders to pledge to apply our toolkit of measures and take a positive step towards improving the environmental and ethical credentials of the sector. More information on the website.

Both of these calls to action shall assist in providing a greater visibility on the use and usefulness of UN/CEFACT standards.

RECENT DEVELOPMENTS

UN/CEFACT 27th Plenary, 19-20 April 2021

UN/CEFACT held its 27th session meeting in a hybrid format allowing all Heads of Delegation and UN-based Missions who desired, to participate remotely on 19-20 April 2021. During this session, five recommendations, a White Paper, two Calls to Action and a dozen e-business standards were presented and approved. All documents and the finalized report are available on the Plenary webpage. Two major decisions during this meeting: the approval of the 2021-2022 Programme of Work and the establishment of a Team of Specialists on Environmental, Social and Governance Traceability of Sustainable Value Chains in the Circular Economy. These will both be presented to the UNECE Executive Committee on 8 July 2021 for final validation.

UN/CEFACT 36th Forum, 26 April – 7 May 2021

During this Forum, the use of the virtual event was enhanced in order to allow all domains to meet with more time slots. Each domain was able to meet and in many cases advance their project development work. Key sessions were also held on application programming interfaces, traceability within all domains and communication. All presentations from the event (nearly four dozen) are available on the event webpage. The event was very successful with 43 different events and 474 participants from 55 countries – the top three originating countries were Switzerland, USA and France. A webinar was held during this Forum on Single Window and COVID-19, exploring how such trade facilitation mechanisms have helped and could further help during such pandemics.

Leadership

The Bureau would like to thank Mr. Harm Jan van Burg for temporarily returning to the Bureau during the absence of Vice Benno Slot, as he previously covered the same Programme Development Area responsibilities.

With the retirement of Mr. Frans van Diepen, the bureau appointed two new domain coordinators for the Agriculture, Fisheries and Agri-food Domain: Erik Bosker and Gaëlle Cheruy Pottiau.

SAVE THE DATES

UN/CEFACT 37th Forum, tentatively scheduled virtually from 4-15 October 2021.

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 – Engaging the Private Sector in NTFBs shall provide further guidance, complimentary to Rec4 and 40. New

SWD – Information Portals has completed its recommendation and now working on eBusiness standard. BRS currently out for Public Review until 9 August 2021.

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.
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.
BUY – Automotive project will develop the subsets of the supply chain messages for the automotive industry. Despatch Advice BRS and Scheduling BRS currently out for Public Review until 9 August 2021.
BUY – eNegotiation project will propose eBusiness standards for the negotiation process.

SHIP – Dangerous Goods project will develop the eBusiness standards for this process.
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 – Transport Modal Views of MMT is providing modal specific (rail, road, air, inland waterway, sea) for procedures in line with the MMT-RDM. New

PAY – Open Finance for Trade Facilitation project will create a White Paper guidance on the subject.

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.

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

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.

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…

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 – UN/CEFACT Chain project is developing guidance on relevant framework/mechanism.
eDATA – Artificial Intelligence for Trade Facilitation will prepare White Papers on this topic. New

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.

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.