

RECENT DEVELOPMENTS

27th UN/CEFACT Forum, 25 – 29 April 2016, Geneva

Some 140 experts from over 30 countries from around the world, coming from public administrations, non-governmental organizations and universities, made the 27th Forum a great success. Some key highlights include four “mini-conferences” that helped to attract new experts and foster fruitful discussions on key themes. These were:

- Trade and Transport Facilitation Monitoring Mechanisms (TTFMM) to support decision making, harmonize efforts in data collection and promote homogeneity for assessing and monitoring the effectiveness of policies and action plans to facilitate trade;
- Electronic Interchange of Fisheries Catch Data (FLUX) to support sustainable fisheries;
- Electronic Maritime Safety Regulatory Information Exchange Standards aiming to cover the current regulations and plan for future regulations such as the “Verified Gross Mass” messages now covered by its own UN/EDIFACT message “VERMAS”;
- Second Annual UN/LOCODE Conference which brought some interesting approaches to locating different types of locations not covered by UN/LOCODE (such as crop fields) followed by a workshop for UN/LOCODE Focal Points and finalizing the written terms of reference for this function.

But it wasn’t just about presenting our work and discussing solutions. The Forum was also very productive, especially in the Methodology and Technology area where over 200 data maintenance requests for UN/EDIFACT were successfully processed, proving that UN/EDIFACT is very much a living syntax that is constantly evolving to help implementation needs.

There was also fruitful exchange on project development which resulted in no less than six new project proposals, all of which will be seeking your and your delegations’ support in the coming months. These projects are:

- The TTFMM Recommendation Project (mentioned above under the “mini-conferences”). For more information on this project, please contact Mr. Somnuk KERETHO (sk@ku-inova.org);
- Women in Trade Facilitation White Paper Project which will study the role and challenges face by women in Trade Facilitation. For information, contact Ms. Paloma Turnes (pb737@georgetown.edu) → **This project is seeking HoD support;**
- Vocabulary associated to Single Windows and similar platforms which will attempt to provide clarity on the terminology associated to data-exchange platforms. For information, contact Mr. Abdulaye Basse (abasse@douanes.sn) → **This project is seeking HoD support;**
- Core Principles for the Operations of Single Windows Recommendation Project led by Mr. Richard Morton (richard.morton@ipcsa.international) will study the operational aspects and governance of Single Windows → **This project is seeking HoD support;**
- Library Publication Format Project will provide machine-processable format for the library content to enable easier integration by software of our deliverables. This project is being led by Mr. Chirstian Huemer (huemer@gib.tuwien.ac.at) → **This project is seeking HoD support;**
- Extension of Cross Industry Invoice Technical Artefacts project which will provide an updated CII Business Requirements Specification, the corresponding message assembly components based on the CCBDA and a new XML schema based on these. Contact Ms. Natascha Rossner for any further information (natascha.rossner@gs1fr.org).

The success of this Forum is mirrored in the very active participation of all UN/CEFACT experts and the project development which follows! We all look forward to the continued success and engagement of all parties in the months to come.

22nd UN/CEFACT Plenary, 21 – 22 April 2016, Geneva

The Plenary also met recently and were kept very busy with a number of core documents to review and approve. All of the documents presented were validated by the Plenary. These include a number of procedural documents on liaison, communication, Executive Guides, UN/LOCODE Focal Points, etc.

There is also an update to the Open Development Process (ODP) which is used for all project development within UN/CEFACT. Another very important document which was approved was the new strategy document entitled “Prospective Directions”. This will be the basis for all our internal work and will serve as a template for the Programme of Work that the Bureau will propose for the 23rd Plenary.

New Bureau Member and Revised Bureau Structure

The Plenary also elected a new Bureau member to fill the vacancy left by the election of the Chair in 2014. **Ms. Sue PROBERT** from the UK delegation, a long standing expert within UN/CEFACT, has been elected to take this position. With the entry of Ms. Probert into the Bureau, a small reorganization of Bureau responsibilities was agreed by the Bureau as follows (changes in red):

- International Trade Procedures PDA, Ms. Estelle IGWE with International Trade Procedures Domain, Single Window Domain, TFA Focal Point and TFIG Focal Point;
- **BUY/PAY PDA**, Mr. Raffaele FANTETTI with Finance & Payments Domain, Procurement Domain and Supply Chain Management Domain;
- **SHIP PDA**, **Ms. Sue PROBERT with Transport and Logistics Domain, UN/LOCODE Focal Point, Code List Focal Point and Validation Focal Point;**
- Regulatory PDA, Mr. Tahseen KHAN with Accounting and Audit Domain, Customs Domain, Environment Domain and e-Government Domain;
- Sectoral PDA, Mr. Harm Jan VAN BURG with Agriculture Domain, Insurance Domain, Travel and Tourism Domain and Utilities Domain; and
- **Methodologies and Technologies PDA**, Mr. Anders Grangård with Specification Domain, Syntax Focal Point and Library Maintenance Focal Point.

ONGOING WORK

Public Review / Calls for Comments

- The six new projects listed above will all be publishing shortly their Calls for Participation.
- The Background Research on Public Procurement Using International Standards has also recently published a Call for Participation. All interested parties are invited to contact the Project Lead, Mr. Raffaele Fantetti (raffaele.fantetti@mise.gov.it).
- The Proposed Recommendation on Public-Private Partnerships in Trade Facilitation has entered Public Review until 24 July 2016
 - <https://www2.unece.org/cefact/display/uncefactpublicreview/Public+Review%3A+Public-Private+Partnerships+in+Trade+Facilitation>

UPCOMING MEETINGS

28th UN/CEFACT Forum in Bangkok (THAILAND) – 26 – 30 September 2016

The Bureau and the Secretariat would like to thank UNESCAP, AFACT and the Thai delegation for their assistance in hosting the 28th UN/CEFACT Forum in Bangkok, Thailand. This event will be held in the building of UNESCAP.

29th UN/CEFACT Forum in Geneva (SWITZERLAND)

The dates for this are planned from 27 – 31 March 2017. This may change depending on room availability.

23rd UN/CEFACT Plenary in Geneva (SWITZERLAND)

This is planned for 3 – 4 April 2017, subject to room availability.

We are considering the locations for future Forums. If you would like to be a candidate for one of these, please contact the UNECE secretariat.

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>