RECENT DEVELOPMENTS

Ratification of the WTO-TFA

On 22 February 2017, the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA) was officially ratified. https://www2.unece.org/cefact/display/themepressdemo/WTO+Trade+Facilitation+Agreement

As per its "Perspective Directions" strategy document, UN/CEFACT remains dedicated to deliver standards and guidance material which will help countries to comply with their TFA obligations. Many deliverables and standards exist already, such as Rec1 (UN Layout Key), Rec4 (National Trade Facilitation Bodies), Rec18 (Facilitation Measures), Rec33, Rec34, Rec35, Rec36 (on different aspects of Single Window), Rec40 (Consultation Approaches), as well as our technical and e-Business deliverables such as the UN/Core Component Library, UN/EDIFACT, UN/LOCODE, UN/TDED, Code Lists, BRSs and individual eBusiness standards.

Reminder that the Trade Facilitation Implementation Guide website (TFIG) provides a mapping of deliverables from UN/CEFACT and other organizations to each article of the WTO-TFA. This website also provides a itineraries, domains and instruments to help countries and businesses to implement trade facilitation measures and eBusiness standards. http://tfig.unece.org/

During the 29th Forum, we will discuss the possibility of future guidance and eBusiness standards as well as how to best communicate on our deliverables to ensure that countries are aware of these.

You will have also received the Joint Global Survey on Trade Facilitation and Paperless Trade from the UN Regional Commissions; your responses are in advance appreciated on or before 31 March 2017. https://www.unece.org/tradewelcome/outreach-and-support-for-trade-facilitation/joint-unrcs-approach-to-trade-facilitation.html

Preparations for the Plenary

The documents for the Plenary are available on the event website under the tab "Documents." http://www.unece.org/index.php?id=44087#/

Best efforts have been made to list all e-Business standards and all guidance material developed over the past year. If you have questions on any of these documents, please contact the Secretariat or a Bureau member. The Bureau will also be encouraging the creation of two groups of experts for UN/LOCODE and for Sustainable Fisheries (See Quarterly Report of December 2016).

Experts that would like to attend the Plenary are reminded that they must have expressed approval from their Head of Delegation.

Elections 2017

Eight candidates came forward for the Vice Chair elections: Mr. Raffaele FANTETTI (IT), Mr. Anders GRANGARD (SE), Mrs. Estelle IGWE (NG), Mr. Tahseen KHAN (IN), Mr. Colin LAUGHLIN (CA), Mrs. Sue PROBERT (UK), Mr. Harm Jan VAN BURG (NL) and Mr. Ian WATT (AU). The current Bureau welcomes them and feels that there is sufficient work within the Bureau for eight Vice Chairs, so encourages the Plenary to elect all eight candidates.

There are also two candidates for Regional Rapporteurs: Mr. Ibrahima DIAGNE (African-region) and Dr. Wanawit AHKUPUTRA (Asian-region).

Head of Delegation support

The Bureau would like to kindly remind the Heads of Delegation that they play an essential role within the organization. This is not just their oversight and approval during the Plenary, but also the country support that for project proposals. According to our Open Development Process for project development, all projects that will produce a published deliverable require a minimum of three HoD support. Our experts are very motivated and we are engaged in furthering our standards and guidance deliverables notably to help WTO TFA implementation. Your assistance is greatly appreciated in the future.

ONGOING WORK

Projects in Public Review

The **Purchase Order Financing Request** project (Finance & Payment Domain) is in Public Review until 26 April. The final draft for public review as well as the comment template are at: https://www2.unece.org/cefact/display/themepressdemo/Public+Review%3A+Purchase+Order+Financing+Request

The **Procedures for Reference Data Model & Associated Artefacts Publication** project (Methodology & Technology Domain) is in Public Review until 29 March. Final draft and comment template at: https://www2.unece.org/cefact/pages/viewpage.action?pageId=13173318

Project Development

A joint UN/CEFACT / Oasis project was launched on February 2nd entitled "**Header/Envelope Document Exchange Project**" (Methodology & Technology Domain). This project aims to create a single technological guidance for both organizations for the header/envelope of messages. Information at: https://www2.unece.org/cefact/pages/viewpage.action?pageId=13173158

The **Cross-Industry family of deliverables** (cataloguing, quotation, ordering, delivering and remittance advice) are currently being updated to align with the Supply Chain Reference Data Model and Core Component Business Document Assembly (Supply Chain Domain). This project was launched on 18 January. Information is available at: https://www2.unece.org/cefact/display/uncefactpublic/Extension+of+Cross+Industry+Technical+Artefacts

A **Pipeline Data Carrier** project has been launched early December (Transport & Logistics Domain). The project seeks to create guidance on the principle of data pipelines (being studied within the EU) and provide a technical model based on the Multi-Modal Transport Reference Data Model. Information at: https://www2.unece.org/cefact/display/themepressdemo/Pipeline+Data+Carrier

A **Traceability Framework** project has been launched early December (Agriculture Domain). This project will develop a high level design for traceability systems for regulated goods in international trade. https://www2.unece.org/cefact/display/themepressdemo/Traceability+Framework

UPCOMING MEETINGS

29th UN/CEFACT Forum in Geneva, Switzerland

27 to 31 March 2017.
Meeting of all of the Domains and the Project Teams as well as the following:

- **Reference Data Model mini-conference**, 27 March, afternoon
  "Anticipating and following technological trends in eBusiness data exchanges"
- **Sustainable Agriculture mini-conference**, 28 March, all day
- **Ensuring Legally Significant Trusted Transboundary Electronic Interactions mini-conference**, 29 March 2017, all day
- **UN/LOCODE 3rd annual conference**, 29 to 31 March.
- **Single Window Evolution mini-conference**, 31 March, morning

https://www.unece.org/index.php?id=44084#/

23rd UN/CEFACT Plenary in Geneva, Switzerland

3 to 4 April 2017.
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.
https://www.unece.org/index.php?id=44087#/