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ENTERPRISE DEVELOPMENT

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Item 14 of the provisional agenda

DRAFT TWO-YEAR PROGRAMME OF WORK FOR JUNE 1999-JUNE 2001

Note by the secretariat

1. The present note contains, in an annex, a draft programme of work prepared by the secretariat. Priorities were agreed in 1998 by the Committee for Trade, Industry and Enterprise Development (see Report of the second session, 22 September 1998: UN/ECE/TRADE/222, annex II) and will be reviewed in 2000 as input to the budgeting process for the next biennium. This programme of work takes into account the deliberations of the Committee at its second session and the decisions taken by the Commission at its fifty-third session. It is recalled that, as a result of the reform of the Economic Commission for Europe, the General Assembly, at its fifty-third session, approved a revised structure for the programme of work, which is reflected in the annex to this document.

2. The Committee is expected to further reconsider the structure of its programme of work and the prioritization of its activities in the light of the decisions taken by the Commission at its fifty-fourth session in May 1999.

3. Taking into account the provisions of Commission decisions B (49) and C (49), the Committee may wish to note the information given below on secretariat resources (the budget is subject to approval by the General Assembly and the figures given below are subject to change).

TRADE FACILITATION

4. The United Nations programme budget for the biennium 1998-1999 provided a total of US\$ 3,105,100 for the UN/UN/ECE work on trade facilitation and standardization of perishable produce and quality development.

5. Under the UN/ECE reform this work programme was integrated into Trade, Industry and Enterprise Development. As a result, there will no longer be a separate budget allocation beginning in the biennium 2000-2001. As from 1 January 2000, all activities supervised by the Committee will be financed from Programme 07 of the UN/UN/ECE budget.

TRADE, INDUSTRY AND ENTERPRISE DEVELOPMENT

6. The United Nations programme budget for the biennium 1998-1999 provided a total of US\$ 3,629,800 for UN/ECE work under this subprogramme.

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Annex

**DRAFT TWO-YEAR PROGRAMME OF WORK
FOR JUNE 1999-JUNE 2001**

1. The Committee for Trade, Industry and Enterprise Development is responsible for **Programme 07: Trade, Industry and Enterprise Development**. This programme is carried out by the Committee and its subsidiary bodies. These subsidiary bodies are: the United Nations Centre for the Facilitation of Procedures and Practices in Administration, Commerce and Transport (UN/CEFACT), the Working Party on the Standardization of Perishable Produce and Quality Development, the Working Party on International Contract Practices in Industry (which has requested that its name be changed to the Working Party on International Legal and Commercial Practice), the Working Party on Technical Harmonization and Standardization Policy. In addition, there are two Ad hoc Groups of Experts (one on steel and one on the chemical industry) that report to the Committee.
2. In addition to its programmatic functions, the Committee works with the above, diverse groups of trade-related subsidiary bodies in order to coordinate their work, develop new activities, and identify areas of joint interest where synergies may be found through the exchange of expertise and joint activities.

A. TRADE FACILITATION

3. Description: This part of the work programme is carried out by the United Nations Centre for the Facilitation of Procedures and Practices for Administration, Commerce and Transport (UN/CEFACT). It will develop solutions to support the efficient exchange of products and relevant services across global markets by identifying and defining simple, transparent and effective:

- Processes
- Procedures
- Information flows
- Data requirements
- Techniques.

These will be based on the best practices in trade facilitation and electronic business and on internationally agreed information and communication technologies and standards.

4. UN/CEFACT will:

(a) Continue to carry out analyses of business processes and identification of constraints to more effective processes and develop, in the context of UN/CEFACT, value chain analysis. It will continue the development of a model of the International Trade Transaction (ITT);

- (b) Develop recommendations aimed at the facilitation of international trade transactions through the rationalization and simplification of related procedures and their information flows;
- (c) Continue the revise existing recommendations and, in particular: Recommendations 18 (Facilitation measures related to international trade procedures), 8 (Unique Identification Code Methodology) and 11 (Documentary Aspects of the International Transport of Dangerous Goods);
- (d) Develop recommendations for trade documents suitable for reproduction and transmission from electronic and manual systems based on the UN Layout Key;
- (e) Develop and maintain UN/EDIFACT as a key component of electronic commerce and as a key element in the integration of electronic commerce with internal corporate systems and data. This activity includes the maintenance, development and publication of UN/EDIFACT messages, their supporting directories, and their audit; the EDIFACT syntax in accordance with the process defined by the International Organization for Standardization (ISO), the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) and the UN/UN/ECE Memorandum of Understanding; the UN/EDIFACT message design rules; guidelines and proposals to support harmonization of UN/EDIFACT implementations; promotion and awareness of UN/EDIFACT;
- (f) Improve UN/EDIFACT by automating its maintenance process, as well as by defining, developing and implementing new working tools;
- (g) Evaluate different technologies and work towards the development of the future generation of EDI messages;
- (h) Specify and make recommendations for a modelling technique, methodology and associated procedures for UN/CEFACT, including an implementation plan for the modelling technique selected by UN/CEFACT;
- (i) Develop proposals and recommendations for code sets and code structures to support business processes and procedures;
- (j) Take steps to improve the maintenance of UN/CEFACT code lists, in particular, the UN location code list (UN/LOCODE) and the codes in the UN Trade Data Elements Directory (UNTDDED);
- (k) Publish UN/CEFACT code lists on the Internet;
- (l) Identify and evaluate legal constraints that affect procedures and practices in international administrative, commercial and transport transactions. Propose and recommend practical solutions to these legal constraints, when appropriate in cooperation with organizations such as the International Chamber of Commerce (ICC) and the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL);

(m) Develop practical legal guidelines and recommendations to assist the advancement of electronic commerce. Cooperate with the legal work of other international bodies in the field of electronic commerce;

(n) Cooperate to ensure the effective implementation of the MoU on International Standardization with ISO, IEC and the participating international user groups, and encourage other bodies, such as the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), to participate in the MoU;

(o) Develop and maintain working relationships with other international organizations such as the World Trade Organization (WTO), the World Customs Organization (WCO) and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD);

(p) Strengthen effective cooperation and information exchange between the United Nations regional commissions, as well as with other relevant United Nations agencies, especially the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD).

5. Work accomplished: The migration from the old Working Party 4 structure to the new CEFACT structure was finalized as planned in September 1998. Four revised or new trade facilitation recommendations were approved by the March 1999 CEFACT Plenary (Rec. 4: National Trade Facilitation Bodies; Rec. 12: Measures to facilitate Maritime Transport Documents Procedures; Rec. 15: Simpler Shipping Marks; and a recommendation on Pre-Shipment Inspection (PSI)). Two new UN/EDIFACT directories have been published. A new Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) has been signed between UN/ECE, ISO and IEC and a first meeting of the MoU management group has been held. A seminar on trade facilitation and international business was organized in connection with the March 1999 CEFACT Plenary.

6. Special activities for 1999/2000:

(a) To participate in the informal discussions being held in WTO to assess the scope for binding rules on trade facilitation.

(b) To develop an effective programme for the promotion of CEFACT and implementation of its recommendations and standards.

7. Duration: 1999-2001

8. Priorities: See document UN/ECE/TRADE/222, annex II.

B. STANDARDIZATION OF PERISHABLE PRODUCE AND QUALITY DEVELOPMENT

9. Description: The Working Party on the Standardization of Perishable Produce and Quality Development prepares and revises standards, recommendations and interpretative brochures for the marketing and control of the commercial quality of selected perishable produce moving in international trade between and to UN/UN/ECE member countries. To this end it has five specialized sections on: Coordination of Standardization of Fresh Fruit and Vegetables; Dry and Dried Produce (Fruit); Meat; Seed Potatoes; and Early and Ware Potatoes. Workshops are organized in the form of informal meetings of rapporteurs for particular standards being drawn up or revised (seed potatoes, meat) and on the harmonization of standards and control procedures in countries in transition. The Working Party maintains close cooperation with FAO and OECD.

10. Work accomplished: Several standards for fresh fruit and vegetables and the standard layout for fresh fruit and vegetables were revised. A new standard for dried apples was adopted. Recommendations on in-shell hazelnuts and hazelnut kernels were adopted for a two-year trial period. Work on the revision of the standards for early and ware potatoes continued. A revised standard for seed potatoes was adopted. A draft standard for beef was presented to the May 1999 meeting of the Specialized Section on standardization of meat.

11. Special activities for 1999/2000:

- (a) Elaboration of new standards for dry and dried produce, fresh fruit and vegetables and meat;
- (b) Revision of selected standards and recommendations: publication of revised standards for fresh fruit and vegetables, dry and dried fruit and early and ware potatoes on the World Wide Web. Review of the standard for seed potatoes. Preparation of a draft standard for beef carcasses and cuts;
- (c) Workshops on harmonization of standards and control procedures for perishable produce in countries in economic transition;
- (d) Interpretation of the provisions concerning quality tolerances in the standards for fresh fruit and vegetables;
- (e) Investigation of quality assurance systems for perishable produce;
- (f) Creation and updating of a homepage on the World Wide Web containing up-to-date information on the work of the Working Party.

12. Duration: 1999-2001

13. Priorities: See document UN/ECE/TRADE/222, annex II.

C. TECHNICAL HARMONIZATION AND STANDARDIZATION POLICIES

14. Description: The Working Party on Technical Harmonization and Standardization Policy reviews developments in the field of standardization at international, regional and national levels, issues recommendations relating to technical harmonization and standardization and organizes meetings and workshops. These activities are undertaken with a view to promoting industrial and enterprise development and trade by: encouraging the international harmonization of standards and technical regulations; removing or gradually reducing technical barriers to trade; and promoting scientific and technological cooperation through the development of policies for standardization and related activities. The Working Party actively cooperates and exchanges information with relevant international and regional standardization organizations, and particularly the International Organization for Standardization (ISO).

15. Work accomplished: At its eighth session in May 1998 the Working Party considered measures to further improve cooperation in the UN/ECE region on standardization-related issues in the areas of coordination, harmonization, conformity assessment, metrology, quality policy and competitiveness. It reviewed possible modalities for fostering cooperation among UN/ECE member States on technical harmonization issues and decided to prepare a new draft of an international agreement on these issues, taking into account the recommendations made by the Committee at its December 1997 session. A workshop on the implementation and use of international standards has been organized for May 1999, in conjunction with the Working Party's annual session.

16. The Working Party considered the issue of transposition and use of international standards at the national level and decided to continue its activities in that area. It also supported the idea of preparing guidelines on methodology for measuring procedures.

17. In the light of the decisions by the Commission in April 1998, the Working Party prioritized its activities and adopted a revised programme of work for 1998-2002.

18. Special activities for 1999/2000:

- (a) To prepare the revision of the UN/ECE Standardization List;
- (b) To prepare and discuss a new draft of an intergovernmental agreement on technical harmonization;
- (c) To prepare a report, based on a questionnaire, on the implications of ISO 14000 (environmental management) standards in the UN/ECE region. This project will be carried out in cooperation with the ad hoc Group of Experts on the Chemical Industry;
- (d) To organize/sponsor workshops on standardization-related issues.

19. Duration: 1999-2001

20. Priorities: See document UN/ECE/TRADE/222, annex II.

D. TRADE AND INVESTMENT PROMOTION

D1. ANALYSIS OF RECENT AND PROSPECTIVE TRADE AND INVESTMENT TRENDS, POLICIES AND PROBLEMS, INCLUDING DISCUSSION THEMES FOR THE COMMITTEE'S ANNUAL SESSIONS

21. Description: The Committee shall contribute to trade and investment promotion in the UN/ECE region by developing information useful to policy makers and to firms interested in trade and investment and by promoting the exchange of such information and experiences among interested private-sector participants and trade-policy officials. The secretariat will report to the Committee on the level of activity in trade promotion that can be undertaken with the available resources and other sources of finance and assistance. The Committee will review annually the work of the Working Party on International Contract Practices in Industry (WP.5) and other trade-promotion activities. The Committee will consider and, where agreed, endorse selected topics for seminars and workshops to be undertaken under its auspices, as well as the subjects of new guides.

22. For the Committee's annual sessions, the Bureau, in cooperation with the secretariat, will define specific subjects for discussion under the general theme decided upon by the Committee. The secretariat will then prepare discussion papers on these subjects and will arrange a round table or panel discussion on these subjects in consultation with the Bureau. The secretariat will coordinate with other international organizations as appropriate. It may also prepare special studies and notes on other subjects selected by the Committee, giving special attention to the conditions for expanding the trade of the transition economies. The Committee will receive a report from the UN/ECE Regional Adviser on small and medium-sized enterprise development regarding current work in this important area.

23. Work accomplished: During the first half of 1999, the secretariat finalized for publication the study on "Evaluating the role and impact of norms, standards and regulations in international trade, in particular the economies in transition, both on global and sectoral levels" which had been mandated by the then Committee on the Development of Trade at its forty-fifth session. A round table on "The Polish Experience of Transition: Accomplishments and Problems" was organized for the third session of the Committee.

24. Special activities for 1999/2000:

- (a) A round table on a theme to be selected by the Committee will be organized for the fourth session of the Committee;
- (b) The study and other work done in 1998-1999 on "Evaluating the role and impact of norms, standards and regulations in international trade, in particular in the economies in transition, both on global and sectoral levels" will be edited and revised to form a substantive contribution to the November 1999 Münster process meeting.

25. Duration: 1999-2001

26. Priorities: See document UN/ECE/TRADE/222, annex II.

D2. PREPARATION AND REVISION OF GUIDES RELATING TO INTERNATIONAL TRANSACTIONS

27. Description: The Working Party on International Contract Practices in Industry (which has requested that its name be changed to the Working Party on International Legal and Commercial Practice) will continue to prepare guides and documents in line with its new method of work agreed at its forty-fifth session (TRADE/WP.5/59), although it will not drop its former work, such as the updating of previous guides, as may be appropriate. The Working Party will provide advice to individual Governments of the countries in transition on laws that could improve the investment environment in their countries and, in this context, will work with WTO and other international organizations. The Working Party will continue to take measures to involve the business community.

28. Work accomplished: In October 1998 the Working Party held a Forum, with over 250 participants, on the "Protection and Enforcement of Intellectual Property Rights in the Countries of Central and Eastern Europe and the CIS", with the participation of WIPO, WTO and EU. The UN/UN/ECE BOT (Build-Operate-Transfer) Group published Part I of its Guidelines entitled Public-Private Partnerships: A New Concept for Infrastructure Development. The Real Estate Advisory Group (REAG) launched the Terre Initiative to obtain private- and public-sector financial support for its work, finalized its guide for publication and held a Conference on "Economic Opportunities through Developing Real Estate Markets in Central and Eastern Europe and the CIS", in Prague on 14 and 15 April 1999. An informal meeting of invited experts was held in Prague in September 1998 to review the European Convention on International Commercial Arbitration of 1961 and made recommendations to the Working Party at its October 1998 meeting.

29. Special activities for 1999/2000:

- (a) The Working Party agreed to hold its next Forum on the "Practical Implications on Business of Competition Law, including Questions of State Aid, in the Transition Economies" and to seek the cooperation of the European Union in this activity. If appropriate, the proceedings from this forum will be published;
- (b) The UN/UN/ECE BOT Group plans to publish Part II of its Guidelines in the second half of 1999;
- (c) The Real Estate Advisory Group plans to undertake an advisory mission to Lithuania;
- (d) If approved by the Committee, the Advisory Group on the Protection of Intellectual Property Rights will make plans for its first advisory mission;
- (e) In addition, the Committee will be asked to approve an informal advisory group to undertake an in-depth review during 1999 of the use of the European Convention on International Commercial Arbitration of 1961 and to draft a final set of recommendations as to its possible revision;

30. Duration: 1999-2001

31. Priorities: See document UN/ECE/TRADE/222, annex II.

D3. TRADE FINANCE

32. Introduction: The Committee may wish to consider having a distinct trade finance activity under Trade and Investment Promotion. Related activities were previously included under C1 and C2, however, the bureau would like to suggest to the Committee that they be placed under a separate heading for the reasons outlined below.

33. The lack of adequate trade-finance infrastructures in transition economies and the important obstacle this presents to investment and trade has been highlighted as a result of the holistic or systemic approach to development by the Build-Operate-Transfer (BOT) and Real Estate Advisory Groups. There are also a number of important procedural issues related to trade finance, such as the use of documentary credits, which link trade-finance issues to trade facilitation. In addition, there is an important need for the development of better contacts between finance "players" in developed market economies and those in transition economies. Therefore, the Bureau believes that the Committee should place more emphasis on trade-finance infrastructure issues and place this activity directly under itself. The importance of this area is further reflected in the interest that external donors have shown in contributing to the work in this area.

34. Description: The Committee shall contribute to improving the ability of enterprises in the region to develop their trade-finance capacities in support of investment and trade. It will also strengthen effective cooperation and information exchange in this area between the United Nations regional commissions, other relevant United Nations agencies and other international organizations.

35. Work accomplished: In February 1999 a Forum was held in Geneva on innovative finance and investment issues. In conjunction with a number of capacity-building events (see F), special efforts were made to encourage contacts between "financial players" from developed market and transition economies. The publication "Trade Finance in Transition Economies: Practical Ways to Support Exports and Imports" was translated into Russian, using extrabudgetary resources, and has been disseminated in the Russian Federation and elsewhere in the CIS.

36. Special activities for 1999/2000:

- (a) One, and if resources permit, two trade finance workshops will be held;
- (b) In February 2000 a Forum on Innovative Trade Finance and Investment will be held in Geneva with extrabudgetary funding. The proceedings will be published based on input to the workshops, as resources permit.

37. Duration: 1999-2001

38. Priorities: See document UN/ECE/TRADE/222, annex II.

E. ENTERPRISE DEVELOPMENT

39. Description: Work in enterprise development focuses on cross-sectoral issues of particular concern to countries in transition. It does this by providing policy and practical assistance in the drawing up and implementation of strategies that can support the development of private entrepreneurship in industry and the service sector in a national economy or in those economic sectors where UN/ECE already has existing contacts. The extension of its established programme to promote appropriate institutional frameworks for enterprise development, in cooperation with the regional advisers for trade and investment promotion and SME development, permits the selection of cross-sectoral activities of interest to the region as a whole. There is ongoing cooperation and information exchanges with relevant international and regional standardization organizations.

40. The Enterprise Development work programme is organized into two strands: (i) Entrepreneurship and Small and Medium-sized Enterprise (SME) Development and (ii) Competitiveness in Basic Industries. In the first strand, a number of directions are being explored, while three areas in particular suggest themselves: best practices regarding entrepreneurship and enterprise development; restructuring the entrepreneurial fabric, particularly in the service sectors; and SME activities, mainly in countries in transition. For the second strand, as proposed in the 1997 Plan of Action, these activities will be carried out in support of: sustainable development; restructuring and privatization to promote better competitiveness; and statistical and information services including work on the chemical and steel industries .

41. Work accomplished : To determine the areas where UN/ECE could most profitably utilize its unique advantages, a "Compilation on enterprise development programmes of international organizations" (TRADE/1999/9) was prepared. It was used as a basis for a paper on Strategic Directions for Enterprise Development (TRADE/1999/10) prepared for the Committee's approval at their session 8-10 June 1999. Work on converting the strategy into a work programme for enterprise development is currently under way.

42. In the basic industry strand, the two newly created ad hoc groups of experts on the chemical industry and on steel adjusted their ongoing activities to be in line with lower resource allocations and the directions provided for in the Plan of Action. The statistical database in the chemical industry was streamlined according to the suggestions of a specially designated Task Force on Chemical Industries, while the implementation of the orientations of the Task Force on Steel is under discussion.

43. In 1998, the following reports were published: Annual Bulletin of Trade in Chemical Products; Annual Bulletin of Steel Statistics for Europe, America and Asia; Annual Bulletin of World Trade in Steel and the quarterly bulletins of advance statistics on steel; Annual Review of the Steel Market in 1997 and prospects for 1998.

44. The following activities were carried out: a study tour of the Chemical Industry in Portugal; a Pilot Project Demonstrating the Environmental Cleanup of Selected Sites Polluted by Chemicals (part of the ongoing CHEMISEED Regional

Project); a CD-ROM of the CHEMLEX Databank on chemical legislation (a project primarily financed by the European Commission); and a seminar on Economic Aspects of Clean Technology, Waste Management and Energy in the Steel Industry.

45. Special activities for 1999/2000:

Entrepreneurship and SME development

46. Best practice regarding enterprise development:

- (a) The secretariat will initiate the development of a mechanism to disseminate experiences gained in enterprise development by the numerous international, regional and national agencies and organizations. This will be done in cooperation with, for instance, the Central European Initiative (CEI) and the SME programme of the UN/UN/ECE Coordinating Unit for Operational Activities.
- (b) As a UN/UN/ECE enterprise development contribution to the United Nations Year of Older Persons 1999, the concept of an accessible living environment will be expanded to the central European countries, inter alia through a workshop on private-sector entrepreneurship in improving the quality of life of the elderly (and disabled).
- (c) A forum on the Internet and enterprise development in the transition economies will be organized to identify priorities for enabling them to participate fully in the opportunities offered by electronic commerce.

47. Restructuring of the entrepreneurial fabric:

- (a) Enterprise development will be enhanced through the promotion of cooperation between science parks/technopoles. Consultations and a seminar on the legislative and normative bases will be organized with a view to defining the practical solutions and developing best practice guidelines for the use of science parks in transition countries.
- (b) A pilot activity may focus on environmental services to the chemical industries in central Europe, as appropriate.
- (c) Business incubators, growth poles and related regional enterprise development in mono-company estates in the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) will be addressed through work on a concept that could be applied to one or two case-study regions through promoting best practice for regional enterprise development.

48. Promotion of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) is primarily carried out in UN/UN/ECE by the Coordinating Unit for Operational Activities. The work programme includes three basic areas: (a) guidelines, papers and information on SMEs; (b) seminars and workshops; and (c) development of SME programmes and cooperation with sub-groupings and international organizations.

Competitiveness in basic industries

49. Sustainable development:

- (a) A sixth Experts Meeting of the pilot project demonstrating the environmental clean-up of selected sites polluted by chemicals will be held and the secretariat will prepare a document summarizing the experience accumulated so far.

- (b) The Compendium of Soil Clean-up Technologies and Soil Remediation Companies will be updated.
- (c) UN/UN/ECE will continue the collection of data and update the CHEMLEX databank, assuming extrabudgetary resources can be obtained.
- (d) A Seminar on Methods of Analysis, Methodology of Treatment and Remediation of Polluted Soils will be organized.
- (e) Under the Regional Environmental Management Centre for the Chemical Industry, a further three events are planned for 1999, including a Workshop on ISO 14000 Implementation in the Chemical Industry of Countries in Transition.
- (f) A Workshop on Radioactive Contaminated Metallurgical Scrap will be organized jointly by UN/ECE, the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and the Federation of the Steel Producers of the Czech Republic.

50. Restructuring and privatization:

- (a) A round table on barriers to industrial restructuring resulting from overmanning in steel companies will be organized in Geneva in connection with the ad hoc Meeting on the Steel Market.
- (b) A report will be prepared in cooperation with the representatives of the steel-producing countries and the EU Commission.
- (c) A Seminar on the structure of steel consumption is to contribute to bringing production capacities in the sector more in line with expected market demand at the world level.
- (d) A study tour of China's steel industry will be organized with the objective of defining lessons relevant to the restructuring of older, basic industries in Europe.

51. Statistics and information services: The reviews on steel and the chemical industry will include the:

- (a) Annual Review of Chemical Industries;
- (b) Annual Review of the Steel Market;
- (c) Biennial Study on Iron and Steel Scrap;
- (d) Directory of Chemical Producers and Products;

and the three bulletins:

- (e) Annual Bulletin of Steel Statistics for Europe, North America and Asia;
- (f) Annual Bulletin of World Trade in Steel; and the
- (g) Quarterly Bulletin of Advanced Statistics on Steel.

52. Duration : 1999-2001

53. Priorities: See document UN/ECE/TRADE/222, annex II.

F. INFORMATION AND CAPACITY BUILDING

54. Introduction: The Committee may wish to consider having a distinct programme element for information and capacity building. Related activities were previously

included under other programme elements, however, the bureau would like to suggest to the Committee that they be placed under a separate heading for the reasons outlined below.

55. The work done under the Committee, including its publications and recommendations, is of potential interest to more than one ministry in a country and, within the private sector, to a wide range of companies, including some small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs). Unfortunately, the vast majority of these potential "clients" for the Committee's work are not aware either of the existence of Committee or of the work it has undertaken. To improve this situation, within the limited budgetary resources available within the United Nations, the bureau proposes that a priority be given to further development of the Committee's Internet World Wide Web site. In addition, the bureau believes it would be very useful to "multiply" the distribution of information from the Committee and its subsidiary bodies by identifying national organizations that would be willing, at a country level, to take on a large part of this "awareness" task.

56. Under capacity-building, special initiatives based on extrabudgetary resources can incorporate work from a number of the Committee's subsidiary bodies and are another method for promoting awareness of this work and encouraging the implementation of the Committee's recommendations, norms and best practice guidelines. While some projects clearly have a primary link to one or another subsidiary body, others fit better under the umbrella of the Committee given the wide range of expertise called upon.

57. Description: The Committee will develop better and improved methods for disseminating its existing work to the private and public sectors, particularly in the countries in transition. In particular, it will initiate a network of national contact points (hereafter referred to as "multiplier points"), with the objective of encouraging these organizations to promote the use of UN/ECE guidelines, norms, standards and recommendations among interested private-sector participants and trade-policy officials. It will also develop and maintain information on its work on the Internet World Wide Web with cross-reference "links" to the most relevant related work of other organizations. With the support of extrabudgetary funding, it will contribute to improved trade performance by putting together programmes for capacity and trade-contact building which draw upon the work undertaken in all areas under the Committee, i.e. trade facilitation, enterprise development, trade finance, investment promotion and agricultural standards, with an emphasis on extending UN/ECE guidelines, norms, standards and recommendations for the benefit of economies in transition. In addition, and to the extent that resources permit, specific materials, seminars and workshops will be developed for, and in cooperation with, the "multiplier points".

58. Work accomplished: Under this part of the work programme, the secretariat is currently implementing an extrabudgetary activity at the request of the Russian Federation entitled "Capacity Building to Improve Trade Finance and Investment Prospects for the Russian Timber Sector". The purpose of this activity is to improve the Russian forest sector's trade performance by contributing specific trade-facilitation, export-finance and investment components for the development of the sector. In September 1998, a workshop on Trade Finance and Investment, an

expert meeting on Improved Customs and Trade Procedures and an Inter-regional Congress on trade finance for the Forest Industry were organized in St. Petersburg, Russian Federation.

59. Special activities for 1999/2000:

- (a) A model framework for cooperation with "multiplier point" organizations will be developed;
- (b) At least one potential "multiplier point" will be identified in each transition economy and initial contacts will be taken;
- (c) The secretariat will establish and update an Internet World Wide Web site containing information on all of the Committee's ongoing work, as well as that of its subsidiary bodies;
- (d) The following meetings will be organized with extrabudgetary funding: expert meetings on improved customs and trade procedures, workshops on trade finance and investment prospects, and a congress for enterprise development in the timber industry.

60. Duration: 1999-2001

61. Priorities: See document UN/ECE/TRADE/222, annex II.
