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COOPERATION WITH OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

DOCUMENT FOR INFORMATION

Note by the secretariat

The objective of this document is to:

- Highlight ongoing cooperation with other organizations and outline recent developments
- Make transparent the framework within which the Committee and its subsidiary bodies cooperate with other organizations.

Previous related documentation: TRADE/2003/16.

INTRODUCTION

The United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) enjoys well-structured cooperation and coordination with United Nations Headquarters and with other organizations within and outside the United Nations system.

In the current planning period (2004 to 2005), we are paying especial attention to strengthening cooperation with the other regional commissions of the United Nations, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) and the World Trade Organization (WTO), to maintain an environment that fosters intergovernmental policy dialogue.

At the regional level, we are promoting further economic integration through studies and capacity-building activities such as seminars, workshops and advisory services. In addition, we are working to strengthen the policies and institutions of transition economies for implementing sustainable development.

We continue to encourage the business community and non-governmental organizations to take part in all aspects of our work.

HIGHLIGHTS OF 2003/2004

Several high-level events were organized in cooperation with the European Commission and various international organizations within and outside the United Nations system. The most significant of these events were the following.

(a) UNCTAD-UNECE High-level Regional Conference for Transition Economies "ICT and E-Commerce Strategies for Development", Geneva, 20-21 October 2003

This Conference focused on the development of ICT, ebusiness and ecommerce in the transition economies and discussed appropriate policies and strategies that can enhance the capacities of these countries to use or even produce ICT-related technologies, primarily in the area of e-business and, in particular, etrade applications. Participants shared local, regional and global experiences in policy formulation and implementation of ICT and e-commerce strategies and discussed how to make transition and developing economies and their enterprises more competitive and able to produce and sell higher-value-added products and services through global e-marketplaces.

(b) The Geneva phase of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) (10-12 December 2003)

We contributed significantly to the organization of the first phase of the WSIS in Geneva by:

- Participating in the High-Level Organizing Committee (HLSOC) and in the UN Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) Task Force;
- Co-organizing the Bucharest Regional Preparatory Conference;
- Coordinating the input of all five United Nations regional commissions;
- Working closely with the WSIS Executive Secretariat to organize parallel events to the Geneva WSIS and a High-Level Roundtable on "ICT as a tool to achieve the Millennium Development Goals".

Our involvement in the WSIS process offered us a valuable opportunity to strengthen cooperation with a large number of United Nations and non-United Nations organizations, such as the WSIS Executive Secretariat, the United Nations ICT Task Force, UNCTAD, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the United Nations Development Programme, the International Telecommunication Union, the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, Eurostat, the World Bank and other regional commissions of the United Nations.

(c) Joint UNECE-OSCE Workshop on the Economic Dimension of Security in Europe, March 2004

Together with the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), the UNECE organized this joint Workshop to examine the implications of European Union enlargement for the economic dimension of security in the region. The workshop presented an opportunity for both organizations to discuss their respective roles in cooperating to implement the new OSCE Strategy Document for the Economic and Environmental Dimension.

COOPERATION WITH THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION

The European Commission regularly participates in and contributes to the UNECE's intergovernmental meetings and events. We also maintain regular, informal consultations with European Commission officials.

Our "Wider Europe" project, aimed at addressing the challenges and implications of EU enlargement for the UNECE region, particularly for transition countries, provided an opportunity for closer cooperation between the two organizations. For instance, the European Commission provided speakers and participated in two major "Wider Europe" workshops:

- EU Enlargement. Regulatory Convergence in Non-Acceding Countries held on 7-8 November 2003 in Athens;
- Transport Infrastructure Development for a Wider Europe held on 27-28 November 2003 in Paris.

COOPERATION WITH OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

The following two charts describe our current cooperation with other United Nations and international bodies under the two subprogrammes of the Committee for Trade, Industry and Enterprise Development. A list of the abbreviations used has been included at the end of the charts for ease of reference.

I. Cooperation on Trade Activities

Organization	Mechanisms for Cooperation	Current Cooperation
FAO Codex Alimentarius (Joint FAO/WHO Food Standards Programme)	 Meeting schedules are set in coordination between secretariats, Secretariats actively participate in relevant meetings. 	UNECE standards are circulated to the members of the Codex Committee for Fresh Fruit and Vegetables whenever a Codex Standard for the same or similar produce is developed.
ICC	 Memorandum of Understanding between the UNECE and the ICC Participation in meetings and seminars Participation in Groups of Experts Exchange of information Memorandum of Understanding 	 Participation in the UN/CEFACT TBG15 (ITPWG) and Legal Group (where they offered their Guidelines on Online Dispute Resolution as the basis for work in this area) Many Chambers of Commerce host UNECE Multiplier Points Joint organization of the elections of the special committee under the 1961 European Convention on International Commercial Arbitration Discussions on standardization of the documentary credit form.
IEC, ITU and ISO (see also ISO and ISO Technical Committee 154)	Memorandum of Understanding between UNECE, IEC, ISO and ITU.	 Cooperation and coordination between the secretariats Each organization acts as secretary to the MoU Management Group on a rotating basis Management meetings twice a year between the secretariats, the expert groups and international user groups Summit meetings by the Memorandum of Understanding Management group on coordination and standardization issues.
ISO (see also ISO Technical Committee 154 and IEC, ITU and ISO)	Memorandum of Understanding between UNECE, IEC, ISO and ITU.	 ISO attends all WP.6 meetings and annual seminars Participation in the MoU

Organization ISO Technical Committee 154 (see also ISO and IEC, ITU and ISO)	Mechanisms for Cooperation Regular Working Group Meetings Plenary meetings once a year.	 Current Cooperation UNECE is Secretary to ISO Technical Committee 154 UNECE is the maintenance agency of the ISO 7372 Standard (Trade Data Element Directory) The MoU for UNECE to be Secretary of an ISO Technical Committee is unique of its kind.
ITC	 Active participation in and contribution to each other's programmes Member of the informal interagency group for trade facilitation (ITC, WTO, UNCTAD, UNECE). 	 An informal agency group on trade facilitation meets regularly Presentations on trade facilitation to ITC seminars ITC has arranged parallel workshops during CTIED Forums Exploring ITC's contribution to training on trade facilitation, especially for transition countries.
(WSIS)	UNECE is the Focal point for WSIS in the region	Organized a joint side event on e-Business Standards for the Information Society at the WSIS Regional Preparatory Conference, Bucharest.
OECD Scheme for the application of international standards for fruit and vegetables	Meeting schedules are set up in coordination between secretaries and secretariats actively participate in each other's relevant meetings.	 UNECE standards are adopted by the OECD The UNECE meetings, the OECD Plenary meeting and both secretariats work closely on updating and interpreting the standards.
OECD (2)	Participation in the meetings organized by the UNECE Working Party on Technical Harmonization and Standardization Policies	Participation in the UNECE International Seminar on Regional Experiences on good Governance for Regulatory Practices (Geneva, 10-11 November 2003)

Organization	Mechanisms for Cooperation	Current Cooperation
Regional Commissions	Meetings;Joint projects.	 Mediterranean project (UNECE, ESCWA and ECA) Coordination meetings with all four regional commissions on trade facilitation Upcoming Trade and Environment project for 2004-2005 (all regional commissions)
UNCTAD	 Participation in each other's meetings, seminars and forums; Mutual contribution to projects: experts, publications; Member of the informal interagency group for trade facilitation (ITC, WTO, UNCTAD, UNECE). 	 UNCTAD participates in the UN/CEFACT Trade Procedures Working Group UNECE supports the Czech technical assistance cooperation managed by UNCTAD UNCTAD provides assistance to the UNECE Russian timber project: UNECE provided support to the UNCTAD secretariat for relevant work with the Trade Point programme UNCTAD participated in the UNECE e-Mediterranean seminar UNECE participates in the work of the UNCTAD/FAO/IFOAM International Task Force on Harmonization (in organic agriculture)
UPU	Cooperation in the framework of UPU Electronic Postmark (EPM) project.	Application of EPM signatures in UNeDocs electronic trade documents. Development of an Internet Web Service demonstrating automated validation of a trade document and UPU electronic signature. The prototype was demonstrated at the WSIS, Geneva 2003.
UN ICT Task Force	Focal point for UNECE and coordinating point for all regional commissions	 Participate in regional meetings on ICT for Development in transition countries Web sites are linked.
UNIDO	Meetings, participation in seminars	 Joint meetings with other organizations regarding trade facilitation implementation Participation by UNECE in UNIDO Trade Facilitation and e-business conference in Damascus

Organization	Mechanisms for Cooperation	Current Cooperation
WCO	Memorandum of Understanding between UNECE and WCO.	 Participates actively in UN/CEFACT meetings and expert groups Possible participation with UNECE in an elearning project Participation by UNECE in work on the G7 Customs dataset. UNECE participates in the WCO Task Force on Trade Facilitation and Security as well as in related follow-up activities WCO is contributing to UNECE work on the Supply Chain Model WCO is contributing to UNECE work on the Single Window Recommendation. UNECE will present draft Single Window Guidelines and Recommendation at WCO PTC in March 2004 UNECE presented the UNeDocs project to WCO in May as a possible tool for advance information. UNECE will follow up with WCO regarding implementation issues Joint UNECE/WCO conference on trade facilitation and security in November 2003; Contributes training to the UNECE e-Mediterranean project.
WTO	 Member of the informal interagency group for trade facilitation (ITC, WTO, UNCTAD, UNECE); Trade Division and WTO staff meet regularly beyond the interagency group. UNECE has observer status at the WTO Committee on Technical Barriers to Trade 	 WTO was a partner in organizing the first and second UNECE Forums on Trade Facilitation (2002 and 2003) WTO representatives regularly attend meetings of CTIED subsidiary bodies UNECE Trade Division attends some WTO committee sessions (on the part of the United Nations regional commissions) UNECE will assist WTO with training seminars and conferences in transition economies UNECE has agreed to work with WTO on the implementation of Trade Facilitation WTO attends UN/CEFACT ITPWG-TBG15 meetings

Organization	Mechanisms for Cooperation	Current Cooperation	
World Bank		 UNECE joined the Global Facilitation Partnership (GFP) steering committee in November 2003. UNECE also contributed significant material to the GFP Website WB participates actively in UN/CEFACTS TBG 15 (ITPWG) meetings Participation with UNECE in the Mediterranean project The TTFSE programme of the World Bank promotes the implementation of United Nations standards on trade facilitation, particularly in the area of standardization of trade documents Supported the International Forum on Trade Facilitation; Supports SECI project. 	

Organization	Role and Division of Labour		Mechanisms for cooperation
and Field	Related activity of the partner organization	Relevant UNECE activity	
BDT/ITU and WSIS	Expertise on telecommunicati ons regulations	UNECE expert meeting on e-regulations analyses and disseminates information on best practice in regulation of e- business and related issues	The cooperating organizations contributed to the organization of UNECE side event at the WSIS. UNECE has signed an MoU on e-policy and e-regulation issues with ITU

Organization	Role and Division	on of Labour	Mechanisms for cooperation
and Field	Related activity of the partner organization	Relevant UNECE activity	
BSEC	Development of entrepreneurship and strengthening of cooperation among SMEs in the BSEC countries	Assistance to countries in transition in developing their national SME policies	 UNECE has drafted Terms of Reference for the new BSEC Working Group on SMEs and assisted BSEC in developing its programme of work UNECE assists BSEC in compiling internationally comparable statistics on SMEs in the BSEC countries UNECE has contributed to the drawing up of recommendations to Governments on the development of Entrepreneurship and a sustainable SME sector in the BSEC countries
CEI Secretariat	Working Group on SMEs	Assistance to countries in transition in developing their national SME policies	 UNECE assisted in establishing CEI Working Group on SMEs and in developing its new terms of reference and a programme of work UNECE experts participate in the relevant CEI meetings
CIS	Consultative Committee on Support and Development of Small Entrepreneurship in CIS Member States	Creation of favourable policy and regulatory environment for SME development in CIS countries	UNECE assisted in drafting the CIS Declaration "On SMEs at the Dawn of the 21st Century" to be approved at a future high-level ministerial meeting

Organization	Role and Division	on of Labour	Mechanisms for cooperation
and Field	Related activity of the partner organization	Relevant UNECE activity	
European Organization for Quality (EOQ) and European Foundation for Quality Management (EFQM)	Development of European quality standards (European Vision on Quality and European Business Excellence)	Implementation of international quality management systems in transition economies	Cooperation in development of quality management systems for SMEs and benchmarking of national quality award schemes.
EC, DG Information Society	6th Framework Programme, eEurope+, and other relevant programme elements aimed at developing the Information Society	Team of Specialists on Internet Enterprise Development produces surveys and analytical reports raising member States' awareness of the benefits and challenges of the emerging knowledge-based economy	Joint data collection and information exchange, joint meetings and expert panels, joint publications on e-economy and related issues
EBRD	Promotes Public Private Partnerships in financing and mitigating risk	UNECE Programme on PPP provides legal and regulatory advice; trains civil servants in negotiating projects and advises on pilot projects	 Organization of joint meetings. EBRD participates in the UNECE training seminars and capacity building
EBRD (2)	Provides assistance to enterprises to be restructured under the TurnAround Management programme (TAM Programme)	Provides a platform for discussion and disseminates the best practice on industrial restructuring in transition economies	EBRD TAM contributes to the UNECE meetings on industrial restructuring and benefits from the UNECE network in that area
ESCAP	Monitors the development of women's entrepreneurship and ICT in the ESCAP region	UNECE has developed a network focal points on women's entrepreneurship and ICT in central Asia	Joint project on "Equipping women for the digital economy"

Organization	Role and Division of Labour		Mechanisms for cooperation
and Field	Related activity of the partner organization	Relevant UNECE activity	
ICC	Data protection issues	UNECE develops methods of online dispute resolution and data protection	ICC consults UNECE on issues relating to the safe harbour agreement for data protection and participates in UNECE meetings on e-regulation
ILO Women's Entrepreneurship Development and Gender Equality (WEDGE)	Delivers publications on women's entrepreneurship worldwide and organizes training for new companies and SMEs managed by women entrepreneurs	UNECE analyses the gender-related data and economic trends and contributes the results of this analysis as an input to joint activities (meetings and publications)	 ILO -WEDGE participates in the Team of Specialists on Women's Entrepreneurship and the relevant UNECE meetings. Exchange of relevant information, Linked websites
ILO (2)	Develops a programme on socially responsible industry restructuring	Organization of meetings and publications under the TOS on industrial restructuring	Co-organization of meetings. ILO sponsors the speakers for the co-organized events. It also contributes to the elaboration of their work programme
ITC	E-Trade Programme Technical Assistance	Regional Network of E-Trade initiatives in transition economies	Input to the E-Trade programme; sharing of data and information on the status of ICT in transition economies
ITU	Collects and analyses information on gender-specific aspects of ICT. It contributes to the organization of gender activities for WSIS 2003 and 2005. It also conducts technical assistance projects on e-learning and telecentres for women	UNECE contributes to the mainstreaming of the gender issues into the WSIS regional reparatory process	 Organization of joint events during WSIS meetings and exchange of relevant information. They have linked their respective websites on ICT and gender

Organization	Role and Division of Labour		Mechanisms for cooperation
and Field	Related activity of the partner organization	Relevant UNECE activity	
OECD (1)	Develops recommendations on regulations governing online dispute resolution	UNECE organizes meetings on online dispute resolution and e-government	OECD takes part in the relevant UNECE meetings
OECD (2)	Promotes international investment standards and codes of conduct. Runs the Investment Compact under the Stability Pact for Southeast Europe, which promotes the creation of an attractive environment for FDI.	UNECE Programme on Public -Private Partnerships (PPP) provides legal and regulatory advice; trains civil servants in negotiating projects and advises on pilot projects	 UNECE organizes under the Investment Compact a Regional flagship initiative It also participates in the relevant IC and joint meetings and provides inputs to the relevant meeting document
OSCE (1)	Contributes to improving the economic dimension of OSCE.	The Working Party on International Legal and Commercial Practice promotes the rule of law and deals with the implications of new security challenges affecting public and private sectors	 Co-organization of conferences and seminars on economic and environmental matters and participation in each other's events Organization of a joint workshop on New Strategy for enhancing security in the economic and environmental dimensions at Villars, Switzerland, July 2003 The UNECE WP.5 assisted the OSCE in the elaboration of its New Strategy in Economic and Environmental Dimensions, which was adopted by the OSCE's 11th Ministerial Conference in Maastricht in December 2003.

Organization	Role and Division	on of Labour	Mechanisms for cooperation
and Field	Related activity of the partner organization	Relevant UNECE activity	
UNCTAD	Research in the area of the developmental role of e-commerce and organization of relevant meetings	Team of Specialists on Internet Enterprise Development analyses e-commerce development in European transition economies and compares its status with that of developing countries	Mutual participation in meetings
UNCITRAL	Develops an e-contract model law	UNECE develops methods of online dispute resolution as an input for e-Contract	Development of cyber-contract terms and interface elements for e*/-contract model law
UN ICT Task Force	Information Society; regional nodes, Geneva and Moscow.	UNECE facilitates the exchange of data, information and recommendations on ICT development aimed at mainstreaming e-policy issues in the government policy agenda	UNECE provides technical expertise on e-strategy, e-government, knowledge-based economy and e-regulations for UN ICT task force and the regional nodes
UNDP	Organization of a regional project on e-governance	UNECE contributes to mainstreaming gender issues into the decision-making pertaining to the emerging knowledge based economy	UNECE develops a gender component of the project on e-governance for the region
UNIDO	Analyses and gives recommendations regarding the use of new technologies in industrial restructuring	UNECE TSIED work on mainstreaming ICT into industrial restructuring	Joint work on e-productivity and e-quality issues in the context of industrial restructuring in transition economies.

Organization	Role and Divisi	ion of Labour	Mechanisms for cooperation
and Field	Related activity of the partner organization	Relevant UNECE activity	
UNIFEM	Provides financial support to transition countries' participation in ECE work and meetings; it also organizes meetings and training workshops on gender issues	UNECE analyses the gender-related data and economic trends and contributes the results of this analysis as an input to joint activities (meetings and publications)	 An MoU has been signed between the two organizations They coordinate activities pertaining to economic aspects of gender equality and cooperate in preparing the WSIS Joint meetings and training seminars
World Association for Small and Medium Enterprises (WASME)	Raising awareness with regard to the societal role of entrepreneurship and SMEs	Strengthening the civil society initiatives in support of SMEs	An MoU has been signed between UNECE and WASME.
WIPO (1)	Administers international treaties for the protection of intellectual property. It assists transition economies to utilize intellectual property in a market oriented framework	UNECE Advisory Group on the Protection of Intellectual Property Rights for Investment helps entrepreneurs and SMEs to use intellectual assets through valuation seminars and support materials. It also brings together the business community and government officials to improve enforcement of IP rights	 WIPO participates in the relevant UNECE workshops and conferences in CIS. Collaboration in sensitizing regional economic commissions on IP issues
WIPO (2)	Expertise on Digital Rights Management issues Management of WCT and WPPT	Team of Specialists on Internet Enterprise Development contributes to implementation of Digital Rights Management in transition economies	WIPO has assisted UNECE in designing programmes for the relevant forums
World Bank	Contributes to the UNECE Land for Development programme	UNECE advises Governments and the private sector on the regulatory and institutional issues related to land property valuation and management	 Sharing of relevant information The World Bank participates in the Annual Forums of Land for Development and in related missions

Organization and Field	Role and Division of Labour		Mechanisms for cooperation
	Related activity of the partner organization	Relevant UNECE activity	
WTO	Development of e-Commerce in the context of the Doha development agenda	UNECE e-Strategy and e-Policy Development initiative	UNECE holds observer status at WTO/CTD, and contributes to the e-commerce programme in conjunction with the Doha development agenda.

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

BDT/ITU Telecommunication Development Bureau of the International

Telecommunication Union

BSEC (Organization of the) Black Sea Economic Cooperation

CEI Central European Initiative

CIS Commonwealth of Independent States

CTIED [UNECE] Committee for Trade, Industry and Enterprise Development DG Information Society European Commission, Directorate-General Information Society

ECA Economic Commission for Asia

EFQM European Foundation for Quality Management

EOQ European Organization of Quality

ESCAP Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific ESCWA Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia

FAO Food and Agriculture Organization

G7 Group of Seven

ICC International Chamber of Commerce

ICT Information and Communication Technologies
IEC International Electro-technical Commission
ITPWG International Trade Procedures Working Group

IFOAM International Federation of Organic Agriculture Movements

ISO International Organization for Standardization

ILO International Labour Organization

ILO WEDGE ILO Women's Entrepreneurship Development and Gender Equality

IP Intellectual Property

ISO Technical ISO Technical Committee on Process, Data Elements and Documents in

Committee 154 Commerce, Industry and Administrator
ITC International Trade Centre (UNCTAD/WTO)
ITU International Telecommunication Union
ITU (WSIS) ITU World Summit on the Information Society

MoU Memorandum of Understanding

OECD Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development

SECI Southeast European Cooperative Initiative SME small and medium-sized enterprise

TSIED [UNECE] Team of Specialists on Internet Enterprise Development UN/CEFACT United Nations Centre for Trade Facilitation and Electronic Business

UNCITRAL United Nations Commission on International Trade Law

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UNCTAD United Nations Conference on Trade and Development UNECE United Nations Economic Commission for Europe UNIDO United Nations Industrial Development Organization

UN ICT Task Force United Nations Information and Communication Technologies

Task Force

WASME World Association for Small and Medium Enterprises

WCO World Customs Organization
WCT WIPO Copyright Treaty
WHO World Health Organization

WIPO World Intellectual Property Organization

WP.6 [UNECE Trade Development and Timber Division] Working Party on

Technical Harmonization and Standardization Policies

WPPT WIPO Performances and Phonograms Treaty
WSIS World Summit on the Information Society

WTO World Trade Organization

WTO/CTD WTO Committee on Trade and Development

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