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Centre for Trade Facilitation and Electronic Business (UN/CEFACT)

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**OUTPUTS AND MAJOR ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF UN/CEFACT SINCE ITS
NINTH PLENARY SESSION IN MAY 2003**

Note by the secretariat *

* This document lists the major results of the work of UN/CEFACT during the preceding year. It is submitted to the Plenary **for information**.

I. Products/outputs that have been approved by UN/CEFACT using the Open Development Process (ODP) and their “approval” dates

1. In March 2000, the UN/CEFACT approved document [TRADE/CEFACT/2000/22](http://www.unece.org/cefact/docum/download/00cf22.pdf) (<http://www.unece.org/cefact/docum/download/00cf22.pdf>), UN/CEFACT's Open Development Process for Technical Specifications, to serve its Groups in an effort to encourage electronic working using an open and inclusive process that produces high-quality specifications in "Internet-time."
2. TRADE/CEFACT/2000/22 outlines in detail the process to be followed. However, many readers have suggested that a simple user guide outlining the steps in more detail would aid in usage of the new process. This user guide has now been prepared and can be found at: <http://webster.disa.org/cefact-groups/fct/userguide.html>.
3. Products/outputs releases:
 - a. On 1 April 2003 the Information Content Management Group (ICG) of UN/CEFACT announced the release for public review of the first draft revision to the code list for UN Recommendation No. 23 (Freight Cost Code - FCC). This revision includes a number of new freight charge codes. The public comment period began Tuesday 1 April 2003 and ended Friday 30 May 2003. Under this open process all interested parties were encouraged to review the contents of the code list and to respond with any comments for consideration prior to the code list being finalised for submission for approval by the ICG Plenary. As the result of the public review the first revision of Recommendation 23 was released by ICG and uploaded to the UN/CEFACT website on 24 June 2003 as document [CEFACT/ICG/2003/IC002](http://www.unece.org/cefact/rec/rec23/rec23fcc_rev1_030623.pdf) (http://www.unece.org/cefact/rec/rec23/rec23fcc_rev1_030623.pdf).
 - b. On 20 August 2003, the UN/CEFACT Technologies and Methodologies Group (TMG) announced the final release of its Core Component Technical Specification (CCTS), Version 2.0, prepared under the UN/CEFACT Open Development Process. Using that process, interested parties from around the world have collaborated in the design and verification of the Specification through actual implementation. Parties interested in the CCTS can download it from the TMG's Web Site: <http://www.untmg.org/downloads/General/approved/CEFACT-CCTS-Version-2pt01.zip> (NB: This is version 2.01, version 2.0 is not available from TMG website).
 - c. On 10 October 2003, TMG of UN/CEFACT announced the final release of its UN/CEFACT Modeling Methodology (UMM) User Guide. The User Guide (UMM-UG) is part of the UN/CEFACT Business Collaboration Framework (BCF), a set of specifications and guides. At the centre of the BCF is the UN/CEFACT Modeling Methodology (UMM). The backbone of all documents in the BCF is the UMM Meta-Model (UMM-MM), approved and released earlier in 2003. The UMM-MM is a Unified Modelling Language (UML) profile used to describe the UMM components that the domain experts and analysts have at their disposal to describe and analyse individual processes. The UMM User Guide provides a high-level description of the UN/CEFACT Meta-Model. It employs a "step- by-step" approach, through the use of worksheets, to capture the business knowledge from business experts in non-technical terms, independent of any specific modeling tool. The primary users of the Guide are Business

Collaboration Model (BCM) facilitators and modelers. Participating Business Experts should read the Guide in order to understand the mission of the facilitator and modeler and, as a result, enhance the interview process. The Guide can be downloaded from: <http://www.unbcf.org/N93.html>

- d. On 9 January 2004, the UN/CEFACT Applied Technologies Group (ATG) announced the release of its "UN/CEFACT - Standard Business Document Header Technical Specification version 1.0" for Public Review under its Open Development Process. This public review period ended on 9 February 2004. The Technical Specification is available via the ATG Web Site at: <http://webster.disa.org/cefact-groups/atg/downloads/index.cfm> under file name "Standard Business Document Header TS Version 1.0"
- e. On 15 March 2004 the ICG announced the public review of the update of UNECE Recommendation No. 24 (Transport status codes). This revision includes a number of changes to the existing codes. The review period runs until 7 May 2004.

II. UN/EDIFACT Editions

- a. D.03A UN/EDIFACT directory was approved by the Directory Audit Team (DAT) on 11 June 2003 (see the [DAT report](http://www.unece.org/trade/untdid/d03a/-auditdat1.pdf) - <http://www.unece.org/trade/untdid/d03a/-auditdat1.pdf>) and published on the UNECE website on 17 June 2003;
- b. D.03B UN/EDIFACT directory was approved by the DAT on 8 January 2004 (see the [DAT report](http://www.unece.org/trade/untdid/d03b/-auditdat1.pdf) - <http://www.unece.org/trade/untdid/d03b/-auditdat1.pdf>) and published on the UNECE website on 20 January 2004;
- c. D.04A UN/EDIFACT directory audit was started by the DAT on 3 May 2004. The audit report is expected to be issued by 7 May 2004.

NB: Starting from the D.03A Directory the approval and publishing process has changed following an agreement between DAT and UN/CEFACT Steering Group (CSG). The Directories can be published since then after the issuing of the DAT report without further endorsement by the CSG.

III. UN/LOCODE editions

- a. UN/LOCODE 2003-2 edition was released and published on the UNECE website on 1 August 2003. The main changes to the code are listed in the [Secretariat Note](http://www.unece.org/cefact/locode/loc032sec.pdf) (<http://www.unece.org/cefact/locode/loc032sec.pdf>) to this edition.
- b. UN/LOCODE 2004-1 edition was released and published on the UNECE website on 18 January 2004. The main changes to the code are listed in the [Secretariat Note](http://www.unece.org/cefact/locode/loc041sec.pdf) (<http://www.unece.org/cefact/locode/loc041sec.pdf>) to this edition.

NB: Although formally part of the UN/CEFACT Information Content Management Group's (ICG) work plan (and before it of the Codes Working Group) the code list of UN/LOCODE is maintained by UN/LOCODE Working Group and the development of software tools for its maintenance is carried out exclusively by the secretariat. The editions appear twice per year usually by the end of January and July and are accompanied by secretariat notes describing the changes in comparison with the previous issue. In November 2003 the UN/LOCODE website was UNECE's second most visited site.

IV. Publications

a. Paper-based publications:

Trade Facilitation – The Challenges for Growth and Development (ECE/TRADE/299).

This publication contains policy papers written by the Secretariat and the edited papers presented to the International Forum on Trade Facilitation “Simpler Procedures for World Trade Growth” that was held on 29-30 May 2002 at the Palais des Nations, Geneva.

**Sharing the Gains of Globalization in the New Security Environment
The Challenges to Trade Facilitation** (ECE/TRADE/330).

This book is a compilation of background policy papers and presentations, prepared for the Second International Forum on Trade Facilitation “Sharing the Gains of Globalization in the New Security Environment” on 14 – 15 May 2003 at the Palais des Nations, Geneva.

Beyond Enlargement: Trade, Business and Investment in a Changing Europe
(ECE/TRADE/317).

This publication contains summaries of presentations, papers, quotations and parts of selected slide presentations delivered at the Workshop on “Trade, Business and Investment in a Wider Europe” held on 7 April 2003 as well as papers written for the purposes of this publication.

b. Internet publications:

On 2 March 2004, the [UNeDocs International Document Set \(IDS\)](http://www.unece.org/-etrades/unedocs/V04/index.htm) (<http://www.unece.org/-etrades/unedocs/V04/index.htm>) was released for pilot implementation. The IDS V04 contains an integrated set of 12 standards-based international trade documents available both in paper and electronic formats (XML and EDI). More information is available from: http://www.unece.org/etrades/unedocs/press/PR04_IDS_trade02e_H.pdf

UNeDocs Web Services for International Code Lists (<http://www.unemed.net/edocs/>) The international trade community, through the United Nations, recommends the use of specific code lists such as ISO country and currency codes or UN/LOCODE in international trade. As a service to the trade community the UNECE provides access to the most important code lists on its Web Server.

[UN/EDIFACT Directories](http://www.unece.org/trade/untdid/welcome.htm) (<http://www.unece.org/trade/untdid/welcome.htm>) and [UN/LOCODE](http://www.unece.org/locode) (<http://www.unece.org/locode>) issues mentioned in chapters II and III are published on the UN/CEFACT site.

c. CD-ROM publications:

Best Practice for International Business From the UNECE Committee for Trade, Industry and Enterprise Development (CTIED) (ECE/TRADE/327) is intended to be an informative reference tool for a wide range of persons from both the private and the public sector, who have a particular interest in trade, in procedures for facilitating trade and in industry or enterprise development. It gives an overview of the activities, best practice recommendations, norms and standards drawn up by the Committee. It also presents analyses of commercial

arbitration and trade practices. This is a publication of the CTIED (UN/CEFACT's parent body) but also includes many UN/CEFACT publications (such as the Recommendations). This is a trilingual (English, French and Russian) CD-ROM with full search capacities in all three languages.

V. Other outputs

a. Capacity building in trade facilitation and electronic business in the Mediterranean region (E-Med)

The E-Med Business project, funded by the Development Account, has been a joint UNECE, ECA and ESCWA project which provided capacity building in trade facilitation and electronic business in the Mediterranean. It aimed at providing an integrated approach for simplifying trade procedures in the region, using internationally agreed recommendations, norms and standards. The project focused on trade facilitation issues in the non-European Union Mediterranean countries, members of UNECE, ESCWA and ECA. In addition, the programme addressed capacity-building and technical cooperation projects for the implementation of UNECE recommendations through the UNeDocs (United Nations electronic Document) project. In the ESCWA region, following the completion of national studies, a national workshop is being organized in each participating country, starting with Jordan, followed by a regional workshop and a regional seminar. In tandem with the E-Med project, ESCWA is promoting the creation of trade and transport facilitation (TTF) committees in member countries, in order to put in place a framework for ongoing consultation and cooperation between the public and private sector stakeholders in the field of trade facilitation.

The ECA Regional Seminar in Morocco held on 11-12 July 2003 brought together the Country Managers and representatives of public and private sectors of Algeria, Morocco and Tunisia and a trainer from the Ecole Supérieure de Commerce, Grenoble. The Seminar stressed the importance of promoting Supply Chain Management concepts, of sensitizing on and promoting UN trade facilitation and e-business standards, including success stories in developing countries. The national seminars for Algeria and Tunisia indicated that one single strategy suitable for trade facilitation and e-business could be identified and the representatives of the government agencies and private sector requested ECA and UNECE to further explore possibilities for effective technical assistance to the recommended National Trade Facilitation Bodies.

b. Joint UNCTAD/UNECE Regional Conference on 20-21 October 2003. UNCTAD and UNECE co-organized a Regional Conference for Transition Economies on "ICT and E-Commerce Strategies for Development". This initiative was part of UNCTAD's work on information and communication technologies (ICT) and e-commerce for development and UNECE activities regarding international standards for e-business and global supply chains, as well as the development of the knowledge-based economy in transition countries. The Conference started with keynote addresses and concluded with a High-level Round Table. The Conference sessions included discussions of national ICT and e-commerce strategies and practices, regional cooperation in that domain and the state of e-business and e-finance. The Round Table closed with general conclusions that position transition economies vis-à-vis international initiatives related to ICT and e-commerce. The ministers in charge of ICT and e-commerce policies and strategies in transition

economies drew the particular attention of the international community to the World Summit on the Information Society and to the role of e-business and e-commerce in transition economies.

The Chairman's summary of the Conference is available at:

http://r0.unctad.org/ecommerce/event_docs/trans/summary_ex.pdf

c. Trade Facilitation and Security seminar:

From 13 to 14 November 2003, UNECE and the WCO organized in Geneva a meeting on international trade security aiming to define the need for developing a clear and auditable standard for trade security. Background materials and conclusions can be found at:

http://www.unece.org/trade/security_conf03/index.htm.
