



**Economic and Social  
Council**

Distr.  
GENERAL

TRADE/CEFACT/2005/14  
13 April 2005

Original: ENGLISH

---

**ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE**

COMMITTEE FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND  
ENTERPRISE DEVELOPMENT  
Centre for Trade Facilitation and Electronic Business (UN/CEFACT)

Item 6 of the provisional agenda  
Eleventh session, 20-23 June 2005

**INFORMATION CONTENT MANAGEMENT GROUP (ICG) REPORT**

Submitted by the ICG Chairperson

**DOCUMENT FOR ENDORSEMENT**

**Purpose**

The purpose of the Information Content Management Group (ICG) is to ensure the release of quality technical specifications for e-business. To achieve this aim it is responsible for the:

- Management of the UN/CEFACT information repositories and libraries for electronic business and Recommendations that fall within its scope as listed in section 2 of its Mandate and Terms of Reference (see document TRADE/CEFACT/2004/11/Add.2)
- Technical conformance and the registration of UN/CEFACT business requirements specifications
- Normalization and maintenance of the base syntax neutral information components that serve as the building blocks for the development of standards for implementation.
- Technical conformity and registration of syntax specific information objects and components.

1. The Information Content Management Group (ICG) has continued to build on its work plan since the last report to the Plenary.
2. The ICG programme of work is being presented to the Plenary in document TRADE/CEFACT/2005/8.
3. Once again the ICG is obliged to report on the difficulty in securing adequate participation in the Group to enable it to successfully carry out its programme of work. It is pleased, however, to report that a slight improvement in member participation has been noted. With the initiation of work on the UN/CEFACT Registry last September, people have become more aware of the work being carried out by the ICG and have started to make substantive contributions. The ICG can report that some of the analysis and specification work being carried out within the group has been pilot tested in sites in Asia and Europe. This has helped to stimulate some interest in the group's work.
4. The number of participants at the Washington meeting showed a slight increase over that of the preceding meeting. This trend continued at the Kuala Lumpur meeting in March 2005. A stabilization of the participants present has also been noted. The number of electronic participants has increased considerably.
5. The ICG, however, would like to request that Heads of Delegation be asked to continue to encourage participation in the ICG.

## **1. UNECE Recommendations**

6. The ongoing management of the UN Recommendations related to codes has successfully continued. A number of significant work items have been covered during the period since the last UN/CEFACT Plenary, including:

- **Recommendation 16 (Code for Trade and Transport Locations - UN/LOCODE )**. The UN/ECE Secretariat has published two releases of the UN/LOCODE since the last UN/CEFACT Plenary, UN/LOCODE 2004-2 and UN/LOCODE 2005-1. These are available for download from <http://www.unece.org/locode>, a UN/ECE Web site section dedicated to the UN/LOCODE.
- **Recommendation 20 (Units of Measure used in International Trade)**, Recommendation 20 has now successfully passed the ODP and is being finally submitted to the Plenary for approval. This is a substantive modification to the Recommendation.

## **2. Requirements Specification Mapping (RSM) documents**

7. Work on the last of the two key documents in the workflow process, "Requirements Specification Mapping", was begun in Seoul and continued through the September 2004 and March 2005 Forum meetings. During the last meeting a consensus was achieved and the document has stabilised. It will be submitted for a final review in April 2005 and it is expected to be approved at the next Forum meeting.

### **3. UN/CEFACT Registry**

8. Work on the UN/CEFACT Registry was successfully initiated at the September 2004 Washington Forum and the decision was taken to use the ebXML Registry/Repository specification as the baseline for the UN/CEFACT Registry.

9. Between the two Forums the first draft of the UN/CEFACT Specification has been developed. A significant number of comments have been posted against it, which shows a certain interest in the work. All the comments were processed during the Kuala Lumpur March 2005 Forum and we expect to prepare another two drafts before the next Forum in September 2005.

### **4. Directory Audit**

10. The UN/EDIFACT D.04A and D.04B Directory audits have been completed since the last Plenary report.

11. Some problems continue to persist with the automated directory production process but they did not cause any significant delay in their production.

### **5. Other ICG Working Groups**

12. The ICG Working Group jointly set up between the ICG and the Applied Technologies Group (ATG) to effect the migration of the generic UN/EDIFACT Code Lists (UNCL) from the ATG to ICG, was initiated during the March 2005 Kuala Lumpur Forum; Some initial problems have been noted and a programme of work will be prepared for the next Forum meeting.

\* \* \* \* \*