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**SUBSIDIARY BODY REPORTS**

**TRADE FACILITATION AND ELECTRONIC BUSINESS STANDARDS**

**Priorities and Challenges for the United Nations Centre for Trade Facilitation and  
Electronic Business (UN/CEFACT)**

Note by the secretariat\*

*Summary*

Following a decision of the UNECE Committee on Trade at its second session, (ECE/TRADE/C/2007/19 para. 47), this document presents an overview of priorities and challenges of the United Nations Centre for Trade Facilitation and Electronic Business (UN/CEFACT) in the framework of UNECE biennial performance evaluations to be implemented by each Sectoral Committee at the request of the Commission.

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\* This document was submitted late in order to include information on the latest progress in this work.  
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## **I. PRIORITIES AND CHALLENGES FOR THE UNITED NATIONS CENTRE FOR TRADE FACILITATION AND ELECTRONIC BUSINESS: 2009 AND 2010-2011**

1. The United Nations Centre for Trade Facilitation and Electronic Business (UN/CEFACT) will continue to foster timely development of recommendations and standards based on the expressed needs and priorities of member States and other stakeholders, particularly addressing important related deliverables that are identified and supported by gap analyses and projects of the electronic Business, Government and Trade (eBGT) initiative.

2. The Centre will improve its communications on UN/CEFACT activities, in particular, with the support of the secretariat, by providing:

(a) A more user-friendly website that facilitates access and downloading of the full set of UN/CEFACT recommendations and standards, and that shows clear and concise details on proposals and projects (including such items as project initiator, participants, supporters, expected deliverables, timeframe, current status, how newcomers can participate);

(b) Informational brochures, in the three official languages of the UNECE, on topics such as the uses of UN/CEFACT standards, the ways to participate in the standards development process, and roles and the responsibilities of experts in the standards development process.

3. The UN/CEFACT Trade Facilitation Implementation Guide will be published and its use will be promoted.

4. UN/CEFACT will enhance its policy and management process through which specific recommendations and standards are selected for development; it will continue to encourage participation of Member States and other stakeholders in their development and extend project management tools to facilitate their speedy delivery.

5. Greater involvement of countries with transition and developing economies in UN/CEFACT work will be encouraged, especially to enable them to contribute substantively to the elaboration of standards, and the secretariat will ensure that information on all key UN/CEFACT recommendations and standards is translated into Russian.

6. UN/CEFACT will develop an integrated strategic capacity-building plan in collaboration with the secretariat, to focus on the use and implementation of UN/CEFACT instruments. It will initiate actions with particular attention to the needs of countries with transition and developing economies, which will include:

(a) Development of training materials and implementation tools;

(b) Preparation of studies, including country reviews and resulting recommendations;

(c) Organization of workshops.

7. Work will continue with the Committee on Trade, the Inland Transport Committee, the Working Party on Customs Questions in Transport and the UNECE Transport Division to identify joint activities that would be supportive of UN/CEFACT objectives, taking into account available resources and interest of experts.

8. The secretariat will consider how to ensure that UN/CEFACT recommendations and standards are taken into account in the WTO trade facilitation negotiations.

9. UN/CEFACT will continue to cooperate in efforts to encourage trade facilitation, in particular, fostering the use of its instruments and involving other international organizations such as the World Trade Organization, the World Bank, the World Customs Organization, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, the United Nations Development Programme, and the regional commissions of the United Nations.

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