UN/CEFACT 36th Forum

Newcomer’s Session

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What is UN/CEFACT?
UN Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE)

- Trusteeship Council
- Security Council
- General Assembly
- Economic and Social Council
- International Court of Justice
- Secretariat

**FUNCTIONAL COMMISSIONS:**
- Human rights
- Narcotic drugs
- Crime prevention and criminal justice
- Sustainable development
- Etc.....

**REGIONAL COMMISSIONS**

Economic Commission for Africa

Economic Commission for Europe

Economic Commission for Latin American and Caribbean

Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia

**PROGRAMMES AND FUNDS**

- UNCTAD
- UNDP
- UNEP
- UNICEF
- UNCDF
- .......
UNECE Work Areas

- Environment Division
- Sustainable Transport Division
- Sustainable Energy Division
- Economic Cooperation and Trade Division
- Forest, Land and Housing Division
- Statistical Division
UNECE Economic Cooperation and Trade Division (ECTD) in a Nutshell

One Vision: Harnessing Economic Cooperation and Trade for the SDGs

Two Sub-programmes
• Sub-programme 4: Economic Cooperation and Integration
• Sub-programme 6: Trade

Three Thematic Intergovernmental Areas
• UN/CEFACT – Trade Facilitation and Electronic Business
• SCTC – Trade Capacity
• CICPPP – Innovation, Competitiveness and PPPs

Four Sections
• Cooperation and Partnerships Section
• Innovative Policies Development Section
• Market Access Section
• Trade Facilitation Section
UNECE & Trade Facilitation

TRADE FACILITATION

Simplification
- Process of eliminating all unnecessary elements and duplications in formalities, processes and procedures

Harmonization
- Alignment of national procedures, operations and documents with international conventions, standards and practices

Standardization
- Process of developing internationally agreed formats for practices and procedures, documents and information

Transparency
UN/CEFACT – UN Centre for Trade Facilitation and Electronic Business

Objectives
- Simple, transparent and effective processes for global business
- Efficient and automated exchange of information

Key tools
- Global trade facilitation recommendations
- eBusiness standards
- Guidelines

Means
- Public-Private Partnership – over 1300 experts
- Meet virtually practically every weeks

Trade facilitation is discussed at three levels: all complementary
Some UN/CEFACT work

**SINGLE WINDOW**

UN/CEFACT developed the first guidance on Single Window and that definition has been used as the basis for all subsequent work. Our guidance covers implementation, data, legal, interoperability.

**DOCUMENT LAYOUT**

Since the 1960s UN/CEFACT and its predecessors have provided standards for the standardization of the layout of trade documents. The UN Layout Key is the basis of almost all cross border trade documents.

**eINVOICING**

The UN/CEFACT Cross-Industry Invoice has been chosen as one of the obligatory formats for all public procurement for certain countries and its use will facilitate cross border exchanges.

**PROCESS DRIVEN**

Traditional electronic messages reflect their original paper documents rather than supporting modern process collaborations such as blockchain. UN/CEFACT is leading the path in this new approach.

**UN/EDIFACT**

The first global electronic data interchange format, UN/EDIFACT is still today the most important centrally developed and maintained EDI standard covering transport, regulatory, supply chain and more.

**NTFB (National Trade Facilitation Bodies)**

Trade facilitation is not just the domain of the public sector. To be truly effective, private sector concerns and input must be fully considered. This is reflected in UN/CEFACT Recommendations 4 & 40.

**TOURISM**

Improving tourism capabilities at a local level helps to improve lives and economies. UN/CEFACT develops and maintains a series of messages designed to enable small scale lodgings to enter markets.

**SUSTAINABLE FISHERY**

The UN/CEFACT FLUX messages are used in more and more countries to declare fish catches, conformity to regulations & port entries. Their use allow cross-border communication of the information seamlessly.

**eSPS CERTIFICATES**

Sanitary and Phytosanitary certificates are a regular part of imports and exports. The UN/CEFACT eCert is used to communicate these in international trade.

These are some examples of UN/CEFACT’s deliverables. The full list can be found and downloaded free of charge on our website: www.unece.org/cefact
UN/CEFACT – Semantic Hub for Standardization

Commercial Procedures
- Establish sales contract
- Order goods
- Advise on delivery
- Request payment

Transport Procedures
- Establish transport contract
- Collect, transport and deliver goods
- Provide waybills, etc.

Regulatory Procedures
- Obtain im/export licenses etc.
- Provide Customs Declarations
- Provide cargo Declarations
- Apply security measures
- Clear goods

Financial Procedures
- Provide credit rating
- Insurance
- Execute payment
- Issue statements
UN/CEFACT Deliverables

- Internationally agreed recommendations
- Internationally agreed e-business standards
- Common Libraries
- Common Directories
- Code Lists
UN/CEFACT – Recommendations

• Rec1 – UN Layout Key for Trade Documents (recently revised)
• Rec4 – National Trade Facilitation Bodies (recently revised)
• Rec6 – Aligned Invoice Layout Key for International Trade
• Rec8 – Unique Identification Code Methodology – UNIC
• Rec11 – Documentary Aspects of the Transport of Dangerous Goods
• Rec12 – Measures to Facilitate Maritime Transport Documents Procedures
• Rec13 – Facilitation of Identified Legal Problems in Import Clearance Procedures
• Rec14 – Authentication of Trade Documents
• Rec15 – Simpler Shipping Marks
• Rec16 – LOCODE Code for Trade and Transport Locations (recently revised)
• Rec18 – Facilitation Measures Related to International Trade Procedures
• Rec22 – Layout Key for Standard Consignment Instructions
• Rec25 – Use of the UN Electronic Data Interchange for Administration, Commerce and Transport Standard (UN/EDIFACT)
• Rec26 – The Commercial Use of Interchange Agreements for Electronic Data Interchange
• Rec27 – Preshipment Inspection
• Rec40 – Consultation Approaches
• Rec41 – Public-Private Partnerships in Trade Facilitation
• Rec42 – Establishment of a Trade and Transport Facilitation Monitoring Mechanism (TTFMM)
• Rec43 – Sustainable Procurement
• Rec44 - Cross Border Facilitation Measures for Disaster Relief (new)
• Rec45 – Ship Agent and Ship Broker Minimum Standards (new)
• Rec46 - Enhancing Transparency and Traceability of Sustainable Value Chains in Garment and Footwear (new)
UN/CEFACT – Single Window

- Rec33 – Single Window Recommendation *(recently revised)*
- Rec34 – Data Simplification and Standardization for International Trade
- Rec35 – Establishing a legal framework for international trade Single Window
- Rec36 – Single Window Interoperability
- Rec37 – Single Submission Portal *(new)*
- Rec38 – Trade Information Portal *(new)*
- Technical Note on terminology for Single Window and other electronic platforms
Recommendation 1
UN Layout Key

- Specifically endorsed in the WCO Revised Kyoto Convention and the WTO TF Agreement
- Provides a common basis for the layout of trade-related documents and the information they contain
  - Basis for the EU Single Administrative Document (SAD)
  - Endorsed by key international organizations
- All data elements in UNLK aligned documents have electronic equivalents in UN/EDIFACT, ebXML, ...
- Recommendation has recently been revised
UN/CEFACT – Code Lists

- Rec 16 UN/Locode (Recently updated)
- Rec 19 Mode of Transport
- Rec 21 Package Codes
- Rec 15 Shipping Marks
- Rec 7 Date Formats
- Rec 8 UNIC
- Rec 5 INCOTERMS (Recently updated)
- Rec 3 Country Codes
- Rec 9 Currency Code
- Rec 20 Units of Measurement
- Rec 24 Status Codes
- Other EDIFACT Code Lists
Paper Document aligned to UN Layout Key

Electronic Document Exchange
XML or UN/EDIFACT

Electronic Edit Form
Open Development Process

Seven-step development process
1. Inception
2. Requirements Gathering
3. Draft Development
4. Public Review
5. Project Exit
6. Publication
7. Maintenance

All documents available during the entire process
UN/CEFACT Project Approval Process

• Recommendations submitted to the UN/CEFACT Plenary for approval by Member States

• Standards and technical specifications are approved by the Bureau within the framework of the Programme of Work

• All UN Member States can participate
Participating in UN/CEFACT
UN/CEFACT Participation

• Registration as an expert
  • Experts must agree to the UN/CEFACT IPR Policy and the Code of Conduct

• Approval by a Head of Delegation (HoD)

• Once approved, experts can participate in any active project
UN/CEFACT Forums

• Semi-annual events
  • First half of the year in Geneva
  • Second half of the year elsewhere

• Where have we been recently?
  • 2020 = Virtual
  • 2019 = London, UK
  • 2018 = Hangzhou, CN
  • 2017 = Rome, IT
  • 2016 = Bangkok, TH
  • 2015 = Marseille, FR
  • 2014 = New Delhi, IN
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Where to find documents
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All UNECE and UN/CEFACT Recommendations, codes, standards and publications are available for free on our website at:

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Thank you