

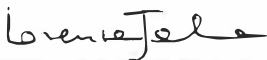


MANAGEMENT RESPONSE

Evaluation Title:	UNECE's support to the advancement of Regulatory Cooperation and Standardization Policies in member States (Working Party 6)		
Period of Review:	January 2015 to December 2018		
Date of Evaluation Report:	05/12/2019		
Approved by	Nicolas Dath-Baron OIC, Programme Management Unit	Date	Signature
		04/03/2020	
Cleared by:	Director of Division Elisabeth Tuerk	04/03/2020	
Prepared by:	Manager of the evaluation Lorenza Jachia	04/03/2020	

Recommendation 1:

Update and reflect the work of Working Party 6 in line with the 2030 Agenda, which was adopted by ECE member States in 2015. Review and update the Terms of Reference of Working Party 6 in line with the Guidelines for the Establishment and Functioning of Working Parties within ECE (ECE/EX/1 paragraph 3(d) – see Annex) to assess and propose necessary adjustments to the mandate and status of Working Party 6 and submit to the Steering Committee on Trade Capacity and Standards.

Management Response:

UNECE accepts the recommendation.

Follow up actions and responsibilities:

The secretariat notes the need to update the Terms of Reference of WP. 6, which date back to 2003, in order to reflect the priorities of the 2030 Agenda, as appropriate. Recent activities by the WP.6 on “Standards for the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)” and on “Gender Responsive Standards” helped raise awareness on SDG-related issues among member States. The revision of the Terms of Reference will build upon current activities of WP.6 that have already been aligned with the 2030 Agenda as reflected in the Programme of Work of WP.6 for 2020. Approved by WP.6 at its 29th Annual Session in 2019 ([ECE/CTCS/WP.6/2019/5](#)), the Programme of Work was geared towards supporting members States' efforts for the delivery of the SDGs.

The secretariat of WP.6 will work with the Bureau to draft an update of the Terms of Reference for discussion and – if consensus is found – for adoption at the WP.6 session scheduled for 2-3 November 2020. The updated Terms of Reference will be submitted for review by the Steering Committee for Trade Capacity and Standards at its 7th Session in 2021, for subsequent submission for approval by the EXCOM.

Responsibility: Ms. Lorenza Jachia, Secretary of WP.6

Recommendation 2:

Take steps to formally establish START-Ed and the Gender Responsive Standards Initiative, in line with the agreed guidance and procedures in Annex F.

Management Response:

UNECE partially accepts the recommendation.

Follow up actions and responsibilities:

The secretariat notes the recommendation to formally establish these groups of experts in line with agreed rules and procedures. These initiatives have so far operated informally, as foreseen by the WP.6 Terms of Reference which stipulate that, when necessary, ad hoc groups of experts can be established to address specific problems and concerns identified by the Working Party.

The secretariat is currently facing budgetary and personnel constraints that may result in a need to streamline activities. Resources permitting, the secretariat will prepare Terms of Reference for the START-Ed Group and for the Gender Responsive Standards Initiative, and submit these through the Steering Committee to EXCOM for formal establishment, in 2021. Additional XB resources will need to be secured for supporting any additional activities in these Groups.

Responsibility: Ms. Lorenza Jachia, Secretary of WP.6

Recommendation 3:

Find ways to address inclusion and participation in Working Party 6 groups of experts: Advisory Group on Market Surveillance (MARS), Group on Education and Standardisation (START-Ed), Group of Experts on Risk Management in Regulatory Systems (GRM), Standardisation and Regulatory Techniques (START).

This could include:

- (i) increasing representation of women in all Working Party 6 advisory groups to increase input of women in the standards development process, to improve gender balance in these bodies, and to enhance expertise to create and deliver gender inclusivity;
- (ii) setting up a system of regional hubs or rotating the timing of advisory group virtual meetings so that participants in time zones different to Europe may be more easily included.

Management Response:

UNECE partially accepts the recommendation.

Follow up actions and responsibilities:

As foreseen by the ECE Gender Action Plan, the secretariat has mainstreamed gender in its decisions and activities e.g. by leading ground-breaking work on the inclusion of women in standards development processes, at national, regional and international levels (i.e. the Gender Responsive Standards Declaration).

As additionally foreseen by the Programme level evaluation on gender mainstreaming, the secretariat monitors the level of participation of women in the meetings of the Working Party and its advisory

groups. While the participation of female delegates in WP.6 activities remains below parity, it is higher than in the standards community more generally.

The secretariat will strive to further increase women's participation by raising the attention of member States to the importance of reaching parity in the numbers of male and female participants. However, the secretariat cannot guarantee a more balanced participation as the final decisions on members of delegations are not under the secretariat's control. The secretariat will also collect experiences of other ECE bodies and external partners aimed at improving the representation of women in their respective activities. The secretariat will draw lessons from these experiences for replication within WP.6 during the first half of 2020. The secretariat will prepare a presentation or a report for discussion at the WP.6 session 2-3 November 2020 on the experiences of other ECE bodies as well as of external partners that have successfully increased the participation of women and how these experiences could be replicated by the WP.6 itself.

The timing of the meetings of WP.6 groups is currently set by consulting through "Doodle" polls. The secretariat will strive to rotate the timing of meetings of the groups, to the extent this is acceptable to participants.

It will be difficult for the secretariat to support a system of regional hubs without XB funds. For the time being, the secretariat will continue to work with other Regional Commissions and partners to respond to the needs of countries beyond the ECE region provided that XB funds can be made available. The secretariat will strive to mobilize further resources for this purpose.

Responsibility: Ms. Lorenza Jachia, Secretary of WP.6

Recommendation 4:

Explore ways to address resource constraints, for example, by making full use of the resources assigned to Working Party 6, considering redistribution of resources within the Section, interns from Master's programmes on standardization, and extra-budgetary projects with project funded project managers.

Management Response:

UNECE accepts the recommendation.

Follow up actions and responsibilities:

The secretariat is evaluating several possibilities to address resource constraints. The possibility to redistribute RB resources within the Section will be reviewed as part of the overall review of programmes in view of the envisaged review of the Division's support to activities. As regards internships, the secretariat has established contacts with several universities that offer courses and Undergraduate or Graduate programmes in standardization in view of welcoming students as interns. The secretariat will explore the possibility of establishing a scheme with interested universities, in line with general rules for UN internships.

Given the restrictions on the number of interns per Division and further future restrictions in the ECE's swing space from late 2020 onwards, the secretariat will work with the ECE internship programme to explore new ways of internship programmes, such as remote work based within the interns' respective universities with online supervision from ECE which could make better use of the secretariat's resources.

The secretariat is currently implementing a project financed by the Government of Germany through the Physikalisch-Technische Bundesanstalt (PTB) on “Enhancing usage and uptake of standards for sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, with special emphasis on gender equality” (December 2019 – December 2021). Additionally, the secretariat will continue its efforts for raising further XB funds including project funded staff.

The secretariat will report at the next session of the WP. 6 on 2-3 November 2020 on its efforts in securing additional XB resources for the programme of work.

Responsibility: Ms. Lorenza Jachia, Secretary of WP. 6

Recommendation 5:

Seek partnerships with a broad range of women’s organisations, including those representing vulnerable groups of women, in each thematic area and advisory group, to seek their perspectives, address their needs, and to reach those furthest behind.

Management Response:

UNECE accepts the recommendation.

Follow up actions and responsibilities:

The secretariat has been working with a number of NGOs representing the needs of women, including L’Association Réseau Normalisation et Francophonie (RNF), Women at the Table, the International Gender Champions, ISEAL Alliance “Gender Working Group”, HERProject and others in order to seek their perspectives and address their needs.

The secretariat will continue to work with the above-mentioned organizations and identify other partners and seek ways of addressing their needs and perspectives in WP.6 activities, and more broadly in forums related to standards and quality infrastructure as described in the WP.6 programme of work for 2020.

Responsibility: Ms. Lorenza Jachia, Secretary of WP.6

Recommendation 6:

In order to present the findings of the two most recent Working Party 6 initiatives, consider developing a publication on Gender Responsive Standards and the Sustainable Development Goals, focusing on SDG 5 as a standalone and cross cutting goal to showcase how standards contribute to achievement of gender equality, gender mainstreaming, and achievement of the SDGs in the UNECE region.

Management Response:

UNECE accepts the recommendation.

Follow up actions and responsibilities:

The secretariat is conscious of the need to present the findings of its initiatives to a broader audience. A publication on Gender Responsive Standards was issued in November 2019 and is accessible [here](#). A publication on Standards for the Sustainable Development Goals (ECE/TRADE/444) was issued as early

as in October 2018. Four follow-up publications focussing on how standards support the achievement of each of the SDGs that were covered by the XB project on “Standards for the SDGs” (namely SDG 6, 7, 11 and 13) will be issued in 2020.

The secretariat will finalize the follow up publications on “Standards for the SDGs” in 2020, and subject to the availability of XB funds, publish and print it (or its summary) as a visually attractive and user-friendly document.

Responsibility: Ms. Lorenza Jachia, Secretary of WP. 6

