



NATIONS UNIES  
COMMISSION ÉCONOMIQUE  
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ОБЪЕДИНЕННЫЕ НАЦИИ  
ЕВРОПЕЙСКАЯ ЭКОНОМИЧЕСКАЯ  
КОМИССИЯ

UNITED NATIONS  
ECONOMIC COMMISSION  
FOR EUROPE

**United Nations Centre for Trade Facilitation and electronic Business  
(UN/CEFACT)**

## **Recommendations**

**from the United Nations electronic Trade Documents (UNeDocs)  
Workshop and the 9<sup>th</sup> UN/CEFACT Forum  
New Delhi, 2-6 October 2006**

### **I. UNeDocs Workshop**

#### **Recommendation 1: Simplification and Standardization of trade documents according to international standards**

By standardizing trade documents, eliminating unnecessary documents and using international standards and code lists public and private actors can significantly reduce transaction costs for export and import.

While all countries stand to gain from simplifying trade documents, it offers a strategic opportunity to developing countries and emerging economies. Simplified documents not only reduce transaction costs, but they can open access to high-value supply chains and, ultimately, increase national welfare. They can be developed at relatively low cost, and can form the basis for future automation.

The key standards and tools available to simplify processes, data and documents include

- UN Trade Data Element Directory (UNTDDED-ISO 7372)
- UN Layout Key
- UN/EDIFACT
- UN/CEFACT Core Component Library
- UNeDocs and WCO Data Models
- UN/CEFACT Recommendation N<sup>o</sup>. 33 on establishing a Single Window
- UN/CEFACT Core Component Technical Specification
- UN/CEFACT XML Naming and Design Rules Specifications.

## **Recommendation 2: Achievements and further progress in India**

India has made significant progress in the implementation of international standards, in particular by introducing UN/EDIFACT (EDI) for data exchange. This has brought major benefits to Indian Trade and Government. The next step is to expand the implementation base, in particular by extending solutions to SMEs throughout the supply chain, including payment systems, using open and interoperable solutions in the Internet domain.

## **Recommendation 3: Adoption of UNeDocs by India**

UNeDocs provides the migration path from paper to paperless trade. It is based on open, international standards for trade documents and electronic business. UNeDocs provides specific advantages to India, as it:

- Fosters document and process simplification;
- Can leverage the existing investments in eTrade;
- Provides a basis for data harmonization and exchange, and
- Can adapt to the different capabilities of the trading partners.

The Indian Government and different stakeholders in eTrade should prepare for UNeDocs implementation with pilot projects to acquire and test the technologies and standards. Furthermore, a UNeDocs project in India could be a basis for an Indian Single Window. It could lead to integration with the emerging Regional Single Window initiative in Asia Pacific.

## **Recommendation 4: Development of a Cross Border Reference Data Model based on the data models of UNeDocs and WCO**

The participants acknowledge the need to integrate the UNeDocs and the WCO data models. Such a combined data model will facilitate and harmonize cross-border data exchange between the different stakeholders and Government agencies. This data model should be based on open, international standards, and should be made available and endorsed at the national level so it can provide a stable basis for future software systems that exchange data between the private sector and Government agencies.

## **Recommendation 5: Development of a national pool of experts for the implementation of UNeDocs in India**

Expert knowledge and tools are vital when adapting global standards and technologies to specific national or regional requirements. Thus, a pool of national experts, together with United Nations and the Government of India, should transfer the essential know-how and develop the required expertise in India to implement UNeDocs.

## **II. UN/CEFACT Forum**

### **Recommendation 6: Simplification of business processes and data requirements**

Simplified business processes and data requirements are a prerequisite for any automation, and should:

- Be a first step before applying ICT solutions;
- Be done in consultation with all stakeholders, and
- Focus on practical solutions.

### **Recommendation 7: Support by international organizations to developing countries**

Adopting and using the latest standards and technologies often presents specific challenges to traders from developing countries. International organizations, including UN/CEFACT, should assist these countries in their efforts in implementation and capacity-building, by offering knowledge, expertise and best practice.

Developing countries are encouraged to send experts to participate in the development of UN/CEFACT standards.

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