



**Economic and Social
Council**

Distr.
GENERAL

ECE/TRADE/C/CEFACT/2007/4
15 April 2007

ENGLISH ONLY

ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

COMMITTEE ON TRADE

Centre for Trade Facilitation and Electronic Business

Thirteenth session
Geneva, 14-16 May 2007
Item 4 of the provisional agenda

**REPORT ON UN/CEFACT FORUM ACTIVITIES
SINCE THE 12TH PLENARY SESSION**

Note by the Bureau *

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The Centre for Trade Facilitation and Electronic Business (UN/CEFACT) Forum is the operational entity of UN/CEFACT. It consists of five Permanent Groups managed by the Forum Management Group (FMG), which in turn is governed by the Bureau. The UN/CEFACT Forum convenes twice a year in different parts of the world to allow all Permanent Groups, working groups and project teams to meet for one week in the same location.

2. During the past 12 months, the UN/CEFACT Forum has focused on improving the delivery of Trade Facilitation Recommendations and electronic business standards, technical specifications and best practice. These include: XML Release Candidate Schemas for a Cross-Industry Electronic Invoice (CII), and e-Tendering, Core Component Libraries (CCLs), Technical Specifications and a number of Business Requirements Specifications (BRSs) and Requirement Specification Mappings (RSMs).

* The UNECE Trade and Timber Division has submitted the present document after the official documentation deadline due to resource constraints.

3. The Project Portfolio has been reviewed and priorities for delivery in 2007 and 2008 have been identified. This work will continue and the current project delivery process will be posted on the UN/CEFACT website.

4. The updating of the Open Development Process (ODP) for the publication of UN/CEFACT deliverables has been completed and submitted to the UN/CEFACT Plenary for approval.

5. Work on improving the workflow between the Permanent Groups of the Forum is continuing.

6. A procedure for the management of extrabudgetary contributions was prepared with UNECE. The Trade Facilitation Guide and its Capacity-Building programme, funded by the Government of Sweden, is the first project to be funded under this new procedure.

7. The strengthening of the UN/CEFACT management has continued with regular Extended Bureau (joint Bureau and FMG) meetings, which discuss strategy, teamwork and the prioritization of the UN/CEFACT programme of work.

8. An interactive, user-friendly website has been created to complement the official UN/CEFACT website, in order to facilitate the development work of the five Permanent Groups.

A. The 9th UN/CEFACT Forum, New Delhi, India, 2 - 6 October 2006

9. Over 250 experts from Africa, Asia, Europe and North America attended the 9th UN/CEFACT Forum held in New Delhi, India from 2 to 6 October 2006.

10. The Forum was hosted by the Department of Commerce, Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Government of India. Mr. R.R. Shah, Member Secretary of the Indian Planning Commission, stressed in his inaugural address that "Expert knowledge and tools are needed to adapt global standards and technologies to specific national and regional requirements. The United Nations together with the Government of India should cooperate to transfer this know-how and develop the required expertise in India to support implementation".

11. During the week, 130 participants attended a two-day workshop on United Nations electronic Trade Documents (UNeDocs). UNeDocs not only helps to reduce costs in preparing export documents, it provides a roadmap for moving from paper to paperless trade. For India, UNeDocs offers a way to leverage existing investments in its e-Trade programme. It can serve as a basis for data harmonization and exchange that can be adapted to the different capabilities of trading partners.

12. Elections were held in New Delhi for all of the officers of the Forum.

B. 10th UN/CEFACT Forum, Dublin, Ireland, 26 - 30 March 2007

13. Some 230 delegates representing every continent attended the 10th UN/CEFACT Forum held in Dublin, Ireland, from 26 to 30 March 2007.

14. The Minister for the Information Society, Mr. T. Kitt, in welcoming the Forum to Ireland, stated: "If the information flows can be simplified, this will be of great value. Ireland strongly supports these initiatives and it is heartening that the United Nations have devoted such energy and resources to advancing the process."

15. An open session on trade facilitation brought participants from both the Government of Ireland and business sectors together with members of the UN/CEFACT Forum. During this session, the Chairman of Trade Facilitation Ireland announced the launching of the development of Ireland's Single Window.

16. The Forum was hosted by the CP3 Group, Dublin and Forfas and The National Advisory Board for Enterprise, Trade, Science, Technology and Innovation.

17. The 11th UN/CEFACT Forum will be held in Stockholm, Sweden, from 24 to 28 September 2007.

II. REPORTS FROM THE PERMANENT GROUPS**A. International Trade and Business Processes Group**

18. Elections were held in New Delhi for the Chair and Vice-Chair positions of the International Trade Procedures Work Group (TBG). These officers, along with the Chair of the International Trade Procedures Work Group, are also members of the FMG. Elections of Chairs and Vice Chair(s) were also held within the respective TBG working groups.

19. Working Group Reports

(a) TBG1 – Supply Chain: The CII XML Release Candidate Schemas were released. The following new projects were approved: Cross-Industry Scheduling, Delivery and Order Processes and Market Research Information Process. A new version of the BRS for Material Safety Data Sheet (MSDS) submitted by the Government of the United States was approved. The BRS for the Cross-Industry Catalogue is in review. A review is also underway of the BRS and RSM for the Cross Industry Remittance Advice to harmonize these with the CII after an audit by ICG. A project plan was delivered to the FMG that outlines the project team participants, project managers and deliverables that the work group will complete in 2007 and 2008. The collaboration with UBL members progresses with monthly meetings to work on the project deliverables as identified in the project plan. A new Chair and an additional Vice Chair were elected in Dublin.

(b) TBG2 – Digital Paper: The UNEDocs BRS was approved by the TBG Steering Committee, and the UNEDocs Data Model moved to public review in step 5 of the ODP.

In Dublin, a Newcomer Session was held to introduce interested delegates to UNeDocs and a Lunch and Learn introduced the delegates the Electronic Agreement Negotiation. Joint meetings were held with other TBG work groups involved in Cross-Border Trade Processes. The UNeDocs domain responsibility was agreed to in joint meetings with TBG working groups 1, 3, 5, 8, 14, 15 and 18. Joint meetings were also held with ISO TC154 and JWG2 on eUNLK to discuss open issues regarding continued cooperation. The groups continues to support work on Cross-Border Data Reference Model (CBDRM).

(c) TBG3 – Transportation: Transportation Core Components were submitted together with those of TBG2 (UNeDocs) and are currently being harmonized by TBG17 (ACC level). Work on the BRS for International Forwarding Multimodal Transport is underway, with expected completion in July 2007. Priorities for the next BRS include Booking, Waybill, Transport Status and Manifest. The working group has also made progress on the Generic Multimodal Waybill document, which has a target deadline of July 2007, and settled its priorities. The working group has settled its priorities for other XML Multimodal Documents in transport, including CMR Road, CIM Rail, Waybill Maritime, Manifest, Status Report, Freight Invoice and others. The working group organizes weekly project team conference calls and the next interim meeting is scheduled for 2-6 July 2007 in Oslo, where a Seminar on Transport e-Business standardization will also be held. Its agenda includes the endorsement of the BRS for Forwarding and Transport and the development of the BRS for Booking and the Generic Multimodal Waybill document. The working group will also discuss collaboration with UBL-TSC representatives for Transport and Logistics and UN/CEFACT UBL focal point in order to agree a path forward. Requests were received from the International Maritime Organization (IMO) and the WCO for new message and new data for Security of Freight (ISSP ship and port facilities security requirements). The ITIGG subgroup worked on implementation guidelines to process DMRs and for the preparation of a new version (3) of the worldwide implementation guidelines for both EDI and XML. Joint meetings were organized with TBG4 WCO, on CBRDM, Customs Data model V3, UCR and IMO freight security, among other topics, with TBG2 (UNeDocs) on joint TBG2-3 submissions of CCs and on CBRDM), and with TBG14 (Supply Chain Model) regarding ISO standards for an update of activities of TC204 (Intelligent Transport Systems) on an Radio Frequency (RF)-tag system architecture to identify moving cargo, TC104 (Containers) and TC8 (Maritimeports). Presentations of current implementations and projects were made for GS1 LIM Logistics Interoperability Model, and the Short Sea XML project and its contribution to TBG3 work.

(d) TBG4 – Customs: This working group had useful joint meetings with a number of other TBGs and other groups, and made several work agreements. In one such meeting, TBG4 initiated a possible future joint project with TBG2 on the Single Window, i.e. to establish a CBRDM covering B2G, G2G and B2B requirements in cross-border transactions. A decision on participation by the WCO Council will be made at the September meeting of the Forum.

(e) TBG5 – Finance: This working group continues to participate in development projects with SWIFT and the ISO Technical Committee 68, and to work on convergence

between the International Standard UNIFI Financial Repository: Business Process Catalogue & Data (ISO 20022) and UN/CEFACT methodologies. The working group participated in cross-domain projects, which are increasingly important in the financial sphere. One of their objectives is to improve the synergies between the working groups on e-invoices and remittance advice, accounting token and eXtensible Business Reporting Language (XBRL).

(f) TBG6 – Architecture and Construction: The e-Tendering Release Candidate XML Schemas have been made available on the UN/CEFACT website. The implementation verifications (step 6 of the ODP) for two different e-Tendering systems in Japan were completed with another review, completed by the Republic of Korea. Further reviews will be done by France, Germany, India and the United Kingdom. The BRS, RSM and XML Schemas are complete for Project Schedule. The Project Schedule Cost Performance Management (PSCPM) is ready for audit following the release of CCL07A. The joint projects between the supply chain and the architecture and construction working groups have been reviewed, including the e-Catalog and the contract financial execution management. A new project for business needs regarding security was initiated to help future projects and to establish a map of existing standards. The first draft document is being updated and will be published on the TBG6 website. All the TBG working groups will be invited to contribute to the business requirements. Invitations will be open until mid-June 2007.

(g) TBG7 – Statistics, Collection and Reporting: This working group has been suspended and will no longer be listed on the website. If interest in these areas is renewed, the group can be reconvened.

(h) TBG8 – Insurance: This working group convened in Dublin. Its project work is developed externally through ACORD, the Centre for Study of Insurance Operations (CSIO) and the eBES Expert Group Seven, although monthly virtual meetings take place to monitor progress. The working group has a project to harmonize its dictionaries and to discover generic and/or insurance-specific core components. The accepted TBG17 submission contains insurance-related information for Contract, Party and Coverage to construct Insurance Information Messages. The group's plan is to finalize the resubmission, and new areas of business are claims, life insurance and health insurance.

(i) TBG9 – Travel, Tourism and Leisure: The Travel, Tourism and Leisure working group focused on core components for the small-scale lodging project, and is working with TBG17 on harmonization. It created a message assembly spreadsheet for small-scale lodging house information messages and reviewed and corrected the small-scale lodging house information RSMs. It also reviewed the initial CCs for small-scale lodging product information and inventory and reviewed DMR code requests. The group also participated in TBG17.

(j) TBG10 – Healthcare: The Healthcare working group and eBES Expert Group Nine are working together as well as in cooperation with CEN Technical Committee 251 working group 1, ISO Technical Committee 215 and Health Level 7. The Working Group did not convene at the last two Forums.

(k) TBG11 – Social Services: This working group has been suspended and will no longer be listed on the website. If interest in these areas is renewed, the group can be reconvened.

(l) TBG12 – Accounting and Audit: The working group on Accounting and Audit met with TBG6 to adapt Accounting Token BIE. It also met with the TMG CCMA team to discuss the physical and logical content of a message, and reviewed DMR (1). Discussions were held with a delegate from the U.S. Department of Defence to evaluate the possible application of TBG12 accounting projects. A quality process paper was submitted for consideration by the TBG Steering Committee and for onward forwarding to FMG. The class diagrams were finished as part of work on BRS accounting entry. Date time and non-Gregorian calendars, as well as the voucher as a binary object embedded within accounting entry and the creation of private code lists when UNCL, is not complete and requires further discussion. The following new projects were approved: ledger, chart of accounts, trial balance and reporting. The working group also defined project priorities to complete the accounting framework, introduced a new project on “Accounting Message”, and made progress with TBG17 submissions. Pre-harmonization work was undertaken for the Accounting Entry, the TBG17 contribution and links with other standards development organizations. Accounting Horizontal Business and Accounting Token Usability would be progressed with TBG1, TBG5 and TBG6. The Accounting Token might be replaced into TBG14 (Business Process Analysis). More resources are required to accomplish the working group’s work plan.

(m) TBG13 – Environmental Standards: The working group on Environmental Standards made changes to its first BRS on Waste Tracking Phase I. The group updated its work plan. A resubmission of the BRS prior to the Stockholm Forum in September 2007 is envisaged.

(n) TBG14 – Business Process Analysis: The working group on Business Process Analysis developed a new version of its Common Business Processes Catalogue. Jointly with TBG1 (Supply Chains) and the TBG4 (Customs), TBG14 initiated a revision of the International Supply-Chain Reference Model (ISCRM). The MRI-1 was formalized and is currently operational and reporting through TBG14. Cooperation meetings were held with ICG, TBG1 and UCM. According to the agreement with TBG2, UNEDocs and TBG14 ISCRM will be aligned. The group also worked on a “Framework for building Common Business Processes”, and made a Lunch and Learn presentation on the ISCRM. TBG14 deliverables currently in step 4 of ODP can be found on the TBG14 website. The working group approved a new project proposal for UMM extension to support e-Government. The group’s terms of reference were amended to allow the transfer of the Business Process Harmonization delivery from TBG17.

(o) TBG15 – International Trade Procedures: The International Trade Procedures working group made progress on the development of two new Recommendations: 34 on the Data Standardization process for participating government agencies in a Single Window, and 35 on the Legal Framework for an International Trade Single Window. The group promoted understanding of legal issues connected with the Single Window and

encouraged debate on developing a framework for an operational system. It reviewed the revision of the existing UN/CEFACT Recommendations 6, 11 and 12, and explored the use of UN/CEFACT standards for coding Single Transport Contract. Productive joint meetings were organized on UNeDocs, CBRDM and Data Modelling. The group also attended the Trade Facilitation Ireland event.

(p) TBG16 – Entry Points: The working group on Entry Points maintained the website for the International Trade and Business Group, creating a working repository for group information and working documents on the Internet. Maintenance of respective groups' webpages is being turned over to a designated individual in each working group.

(q) TBG17 – Harmonization: As the Harmonization working group is a cross-domain group, most of its project work is conducted during interim meetings. The Forum meetings are used for interfacing with the TBG working groups and with the other Forum Groups. As part of the Core Components Library, the working group finished the CCL06B complete submissions containing BIEs and messages for the Working Group on Supply-Chain Cross-Industry Invoice and e-Tendering of TBG6. The group collaborated with ICG during the audit review process to improve the processes of both groups. The group updated and released a Submission Template for harmonization of both Core Components and Business Information Entities, and delivered a Lunch and Learn to the delegates to aid their understanding of the processes that are followed during the Harmonization process by TBG17.

(r) TBG18 – Agriculture: The Agriculture working group continued work on a project developing a Phytosanitary e-Certificate and Animal Passport. BRS documents were prepared for the following projects: DAPLOS Crop Production, Animal Passport and IPPC e-Cert (Phytosanitary). The group participates in the weekly conference calls of the TBG17 working group on Harmonization. The group developed a project plan for interim meetings to continue work on its projects.

(s) TBG19 – e-Government: The e-Government working group's project on e-Archiving was approved. New activities (not aiming at BRS at first stage) include development of the Common e-Government data model. A joint project of TBG1, TBG6 and TBG19 on Reviewing Government Procurement was also approved.

B. Applied Technologies Group

20. The Applied Technologies Group (ATG) is responsible for creating and maintaining UN/CEFACT trade, business and administration document structures based on a specific technology or standard. Its work includes the design, assembly and production of syntax-specific solutions based on identified business and/or technical requirements from the Permanent Groups of UN/CEFACT.

21. ATG convened during the UN/CEFACT Forum meetings in New Delhi and Dublin. It also held face-to-face meetings in September 2006 in Waldorf, Germany, and in January 2007 in Washington, D.C.

22. The work of ATG is divided between two working groups, as follows:
- (a) ATG1 – EDIFACT Syntax. ATG1 is responsible for the development and maintenance of EDIFACT-syntax solutions to support the UN/CEFACT work programme.
 - (b) ATG2 – XML Syntax. ATG2 is responsible for the development and maintenance of XML-syntax solutions to support the UN/CEFACT work programme.
23. ATG1 accomplished the following:
- (a) New Delhi Forum – EDIFACT Data Maintenance Request (DMR) processing – 83 Data Maintenance Requests (DMRs):
 - (i) 59 approved;
 - (ii) 22 approved with changes;
Mostly added code values;
 - (iii) 2 postponed.
 - (b) Dublin Forum – EDIFACT Data Maintenance Request (DMR) processing – 96 Data Maintenance Requests (DMRs)
 - (i) 12 approved;
 - (ii) 81 approved with changes;
Mostly added code values;
 - (iii) 2 postponed at request of TBG1;
 - (iv) 1 withdrawn.
 - (c) Continued work on the UML2EDIFACT technical specification which is currently in “Implementation Verification” (Step 6 of ODP). This specification provides formal methodology and rules for transforming UN/CEFACT Modeling Methodology (UMM) conformant UML models into the EDIFACT syntax. The project will be completed when actual requirements are issued by TBG.
24. ATG2 accomplished the following:
- (a) Completed production and an audit of a total of 48 XML schemas with release candidate status in support of D06B, including:
 - (i) 1 Common Reusable Schema – This schema contains XML expressions of the CCL 06B library of BIEs.
 - (ii) 1 Unqualified Data Type Schema – This schema contains the XML expression of all CCTS conformant Unqualified Data Types. This is an update of the schema published with the release of the NDR specification and incorporates changes made to the supporting code lists.

- (iii) 8 Standard Code List Schemas – These schemas are the XML expressions of UN/CEFACT and other (e.g. ISO) code lists for use by the UDT and business process schema.
 - (iv) 1 Qualified Data Type Schema – This schema contains the XML expressions of all qualified data types contained in CCL 06B.
 - (v) 15 Restricted Code List Schemas – These schemas contain customized code lists that directly support BBIEs contained in CCL D06B.
 - (vi) 1 Cross-Industry Invoice Schema – This schema contains the XML expression of the CII process model and supporting BIES from CCL 06B.
 - (vii) 21 e-Tendering Schemas – These schemas contain the XML expressions of the 21 different eTendering process models and supporting BIEs from CCL 06B.
- (b) Conducted a successful face-to-face meeting in Waldorf, Germany, during September 2006. Representation from OAGI, ACORD, and GS1 facilitated discussions on making the UN/CEFACT XML NDRs the accepted methodology for adoption by all standards organizations.
- (c) Conducted a meeting in Washington, D.C., during the week of 15 January at which representatives from nine different SDOs and a number of U.S. Government agencies contributed to significant progress in achieving a common understanding and alignment of the application of XML NDRs and the use of Core Data Types. ATG is gaining recognition as the venue of choice for achieving convergence in XML methodologies across vertical standards organizations. This will result in significant improvements in interoperability and will greatly facilitate trade.
- (d) Continued work on the XML NDR V3.0 Project. This project is currently in step 3 of ODP. Significant progress was made on the next version of the XML NDR Specification. The specification will be aligned with the forthcoming CCTS 3.0, and will contain a converged set of XML Schema NDRs that will allow other Standards development organizations (SDOs) such as OAGi, ACORD, STAR, GS1, CIDX, RosettaNet, UBL and others to transition from their own standards to those of UN/CEFACT.
- (e) Made progress on the Data Type Library, which is currently in step 3 of ODP. This project will describe the proscribed set of UN/CEFACT data types for use in CCTS and other technologies.
- (f) Continued work on XML Representation of Core Components, which is currently in step 3 of ODP. This project is defining an alternative XML-based format for the representation of Core Components that will facilitate the definition, exchange, submission and storage of all CCTS artefacts in XML. Such a solution will simplify the CCTS discovery work and will lead to increased out-of-the-box vendor support for CCTS.

C. Information Content Management Group

25. During the course of the last year, the Information Content Management Group (ICG) successfully achieved two milestone targets and completed its regular UN/EDIFACT audit as well as maintenance activities for the United Nations Recommendations related to codes.

26. ICG has completed its first audit of the UN/CEFACT CCLs, which include both Aggregate Core Components and Aggregate Business Information Entities. This is a significant achievement for UN/CEFACT, since Aggregate Business Information Entities are the key underlying facets for the production of UN/CEFACT Business document specifications and their resulting syntax solutions.

27. ICG carried out a preliminary audit of both the e-Tendering and the CII XML schemas and released them as “release candidate” schemas for trial in the field. ICG will finish the audit of these XML schemas once their documentation has been completed by ATG.

28. ICG released two further revisions of the UN/CEFACT Registry Implementation Requirements Specification, taking account of the numerous contributions and much feedback after its ODP public review in May 2007. This was a milestone in defining the underlying infrastructure required to build a formal registry/repository for Forum members and UN/CEFACT users, allowing them to access, maintain and publish the full set of UN/CEFACT specifications and Recommendations and other UN/CEFACT deliverables. It represents one of the foundation tools that will enable the UN/CEFACT Permanent Groups to more efficiently carry out their work. The latest UN/CEFACT Registry Implementation Requirements Specification version 1.2 may now be used as the basis for the UN/CEFACT Registry Implementation.

29. ICG pursued its proof of concept testing with members from the Government of Ontario, Canada; National Taiwan Normal University, Taiwan Province of China; France Telecom, France, and the Korea Institute for Electronic Commerce, Republic of Korea. Feedback from these tests has been integrated into the current specification.

30. ICG has developed the first draft of the implementation requirements plan for the UN/CEFACT Registry. This has been submitted to the UN/CEFACT Bureau for validation prior to seeking plenary approval.

31. ICG initiated the migration of the United Nations Code Lists and United Nations Recommendations Code Lists to a generic format that can be used across the different syntaxes (e.g. XML, UN/EDIFACT). As part of this migration, ICG prepared an information model that will serve as the basis for the development of an XML schema facilitating the downloading and use of the code lists in question.

32. As part of the regular cycle of updates, ICG also met its target of completing a formal audit of the D.06A and D.06B UN/EDIFACT Directories as well as the public review and consequent publication of the code lists for four key United Nations Recommendations: Recommendation 20 (Units of Measure), Recommendation 23 (Freight Cost Codes),

Recommendation 24 (Transport Status Codes) and Recommendation 28 (Types of Means of Transport Codes).

33. ICG provided support to several TBG working groups in clarifying the workflow and use of the related documents as used within the UN/CEFACT environment.

D. Legal Group

34. The purpose of the Legal Group (LG) is to ensure that the legal aspects of electronic business and international trade facilitation are considered in the work of the UN/CEFACT. To this end, LG analyses current legal processes and issues within the mission and objectives of UN/CEFACT, identifies legal constraints that adversely affect the UN/CEFACT mission and LG objectives, and proposes practical improvements to these legal processes and issues. Deliverables include trade facilitation and electronic business recommendations, and technical specifications to advance global commerce.

35. LG is currently involved in two projects: Recommendation 35 on the legal aspects of international trade single window and the Unified Business Agreement and Contracts.

36. LG convened during the UN/CEFACT Forums in New Delhi and Dublin. It also held additional face-to-face meetings in 2006 in Helsinki, and in Vienna. Moreover, LG holds monthly conference calls to further the activities of the Group.

37. LG completed ODP Phase 2 of the BPWG (Business Process Working Group) (requirements gathering) for the Unified Business Agreement and Contracts (UBAC) project. UBAC aims at developing the UN/CEFACT deliverable of an enforceable e-Business relationship through a common understanding of the potential legal implications of commitments, expectations and transactions; both business and technical.

38. LG finished, in cooperation with TBG15, a draft Recommendation 35 on the legal aspects of international trade single window. The goal of this new recommendation is to raise awareness for the legal issues involved in creating and operating a Single Window for international trade. The Recommendation also gives suggestions for possible resolutions of these legal issues.

39. Apart from these work items, LG focused its attention on (re)establishing a good working relationship with UN/CITRAL. Emphasizing the importance of enhanced cooperation, the representatives of the UN/CITRAL secretariat and LG met in Vienna in 2006 to discuss topics of mutual interest.

40. LG members participated in an UN/CITRAL Expert Group meeting on digital signature and gave a presentation on Recommendation 35. LG will also present a paper on the legal issues of international trade Single Window at the UN/CITRAL Congress, which will be held in July 2007.

41. LG provided support to several TBG working groups in clarifying the legal issues within the UN/CEFACT environment.

E. Techniques and Methodologies Group

42. The UN/CEFACT Techniques and Methodologies Group (TMG) convened during the UN/CEFACT Forum meetings in New Delhi and Dublin. It also held face-to-face meetings in June 2006 in Brussels, and in December 2006 in Redwood City, California.

43. In keeping with the TMG mandate, the work is divided amongst three working groups, as follows:

(a) The Business Process Working Group (BPWG) develops semantic-based techniques and methodologies for the description of inter-organizational business processes and the resulting information exchanges.

(b) The Core Components Working Group (CCWG) develops techniques and methodologies for the development and reuse of semantic-based business information.

(c) The Electronic Business Architecture Working Group (EBAWG) develops the overarching techniques and methodologies architecture that shows the relationships between the relevant UN/CEFACT and non-UN/CEFACT standards, and defines guidelines to align the compliance and conformance to the UN/CEFACT artefacts.

44. The Business Process Working Group (BPWG) accomplished the following:

(a) In December 2006 it released new technical specifications for the UN/CEFACT Modeling Methodology (UMM) base and foundation modules. These modules are specified as UML 1.4 profiles for the special purpose of modelling choreographies of business collaborations and their business document exchanges.

(b) BPWG started a new project for the realization of the next version of base and foundation module for UMM V2.0 in March 2007. The primary aim of this new version is the movement of the UMM concepts to the UML 2.0 profiles.

(c) The group made progress on the UML Profile for Core Components (UPCC) – Part 3 of CCTS (formerly Business Collaboration Specification Schema (BCSS)). This project was transferred to the CCWG to better align the various efforts and deliverables within TMG.

(d) The UPCC specification supports both UML versions 1.4 and 2.0, and will enable the generation of Core Component conformant models from UML tools. It is currently at ODP step 6, Implementation Verification.

(e) The group approved the requirements specification, now in step 2 of ODP, for the Resources-Events-Agents Economic Ontology (REA) Specialization Module for the UN/CEFACT Modeling Methodology project. REA describes an enterprise ontology, which explains the types of entities or classes that are expected to see in a specific business process. For example, business processes classes might include entities such as order, shipment, invoice, payment, buyer, seller, role, location, goods and services. It also explains the classes needed to integrate with internal (ERP) business services.

(f) The OASIS Business Process Specification Schema (BPSS) standard version 2.4 will be submitted to ISO TC for approval. TMG recommends supporting this submission of OASIS BPSS to ISO. If OASIS starts with the next version of BPSS, the TMG will provide business process to achieve the consistency between BPSS and UMM.

(g) TMG did not have the time or the resources to proceed on the Unified Business Agreements and Contracts (UBAC) project. TMG recommends transferring UBAC to the LG, because this project is more appropriate to their area of responsibility. The TMG will assist the LG in questions regarding UMM and CCTS.

45. The Core Components Working Group (CCWG) accomplished the following:

(a) The group released CCTS 3.0 for second public review in step 5 of ODP. Based on the nature of comments received during the first public review period, it became necessary to move from minor to major release (version 2.1 to version 3.0) to ensure the next version of CCTS is sufficiently stable and implementable, and meets the future needs of CCTS users. The aim is to reach the approved technical specification by end of 2007.

(b) The CCTS V3.0 does not specify any content such as Core Component Types (CCTs) anymore. All CCTs that are defined in CCTS V2.01 are moved to ATG. A newly defined project in ATG2 is responsible for the definition and standardization of the required Core Data Type.

(c) The group finished ODP step 2 requirements and began ODP step 3 for the Core Component Message Assembly (CCMA) project. An initial draft is underway that contains the result of the analysis and discussions that have taken place. The CCMA specification will bridge the current gap between the UMM-based business processes and CCTS-based business information solutions. Additionally, the meta model allows an easy and consistent mapping into up-to-date technical protocols such as WSDL (Web Services Definition Language) without any information loss.

(d) The group continued to define requirements for the Unified Context Methodology (UCM) project. This expanded ODP 2 phase was required at the request of many major contributors to ensure that this specification is able to automate the contextualization of the UN/CEFACT core component artefacts. Significant interest has been shown in this project, and many new contributors have come forward in recent months to help move it forward.

46. The Electronic Business Architecture Working Group (EBAWG) accomplished the following:

(a) The group finished the Electronic Business Architecture Specification (EBAS) project proposal. EBAS will describe the relationships between all defined UN/CEFACT technical specifications and relevant non-UN/CEFACT specifications to support the UN/CEFACT Electronic Business vision and mission and the UN/CEFACT Electronic Business Strategy. The goal for 2007 is the finalization of ODP step 3. This document will articulate the UN/CEFACT business and technical architecture, including

relationships to key external technical standards (such as Web services) as well as business standards.

(b) The group established the Conformance and Compliance Definition (COD) project. This project will develop a clear and unambiguous definition of compliance/conformance rules for each of the UN/CEFACT specifications, e.g. BRS, RSM, UMM, the CCTS family, and XML NDR specification.

(c) EBAWG work on the ongoing Glossary project. The deliverable will be a central and common UN/CEFACT Glossary that can be used across all projects to ensure consistency in term usage. The first draft of the glossary is available at the TMG website.
