



UNECE – United Nations Economic Commission for Europe
UN/CEFACT – UN Centre for Trade Facilitation and e-Business

International standards for e-Procurement

Raffaele Fantetti
Vice Chair of UN/CEFACT

rfantetti@gmail.com



UNECE – United Nations Economic Commission for Europe
UN/CEFACT – UN Centre for Trade Facilitation and e-Business

Overview

- Challenges in developing international standards for e-Procurement
- About the United Nations Centre for Trade Facilitation and Electronic Business (UN/CEFACT)
- A way forward: Background Research Project on Public Procurement Using International Standards



Challenges in developing international standards for e-Procurement

- Public procurement is increasingly appearing as an important area of interest in supply chain aspects of trade facilitation and electronic business
- Diversity of standards activities relating to the field of public procurement
- Development and adoption tend to be regionally and/or nationally focused



Challenges in developing international standards for e-Procurement (continued)

- International standards in support of public procurement can be envisaged to bring enhanced opportunities for trade around the world, but requires strong interest to bring together key member-states and experts
- The benefits of fostering greater efficiencies and opening of new markets – especially through lowering the cost of entry for small and medium enterprises – requires compelling evidence to support a global initiative in this field
- Better awareness of requirements set by major (international) public procurement entities such as Multilateral Development Banks (MDBs) and the UN Procurement Division can help make the case



UNECE – United Nations Economic Commission for Europe
UN/CEFACT – UN Centre for Trade Facilitation and e-Business

About the United Nations Centre for Trade Facilitation and Electronic Business (UN/CEFACT)

- **Objectives**
 - Simple, transparent and effective processes for global business
 - Efficient and automated exchange of information
- **Outputs**
 - Global Trade Facilitation and Electronic Business Recommendations and Standards
- **Processes**
 - Public Private Sector Partnership – over 300 experts from government and business
 - Expert teams meet virtually every week plus two Forums per year



UNECE – United Nations Economic Commission for Europe
UN/CEFACT – UN Centre for Trade Facilitation and e-Business

UN/CEFACT Mission

- UN/CEFACT's mission is to improve the ability of business, trade and administrative organizations, from developed, developing and transitional economies, to exchange products and relevant services effectively
- Its principal focus is on facilitating national and international transactions, through the simplification and harmonization of processes, procedures and information flows, and so contribute to the growth of global commerce



UNECE – United Nations Economic Commission for Europe
UN/CEFACT – UN Centre for Trade Facilitation and e-Business

UN/CEFACT Deliverables

- Recommendations
 - High level guidance on key points in International Trade
 - Internationally agreed and endorsed by the UN
 - Can also provide code lists for key aspects of trade
- Business Requirements Specifications (BRS)
 - A semantic guide on a given commercial procedure
 - A syntax neutral documentation and conformity rules and requirements for the development of an e-commerce solution
- Requirements Specification Mappings (RSM)
 - A documentation that explains how to construct an electronic message around a specific business need
 - Usually paired with a BRS
- UN/CEFACT XML Schema, UN/EDIFACT...



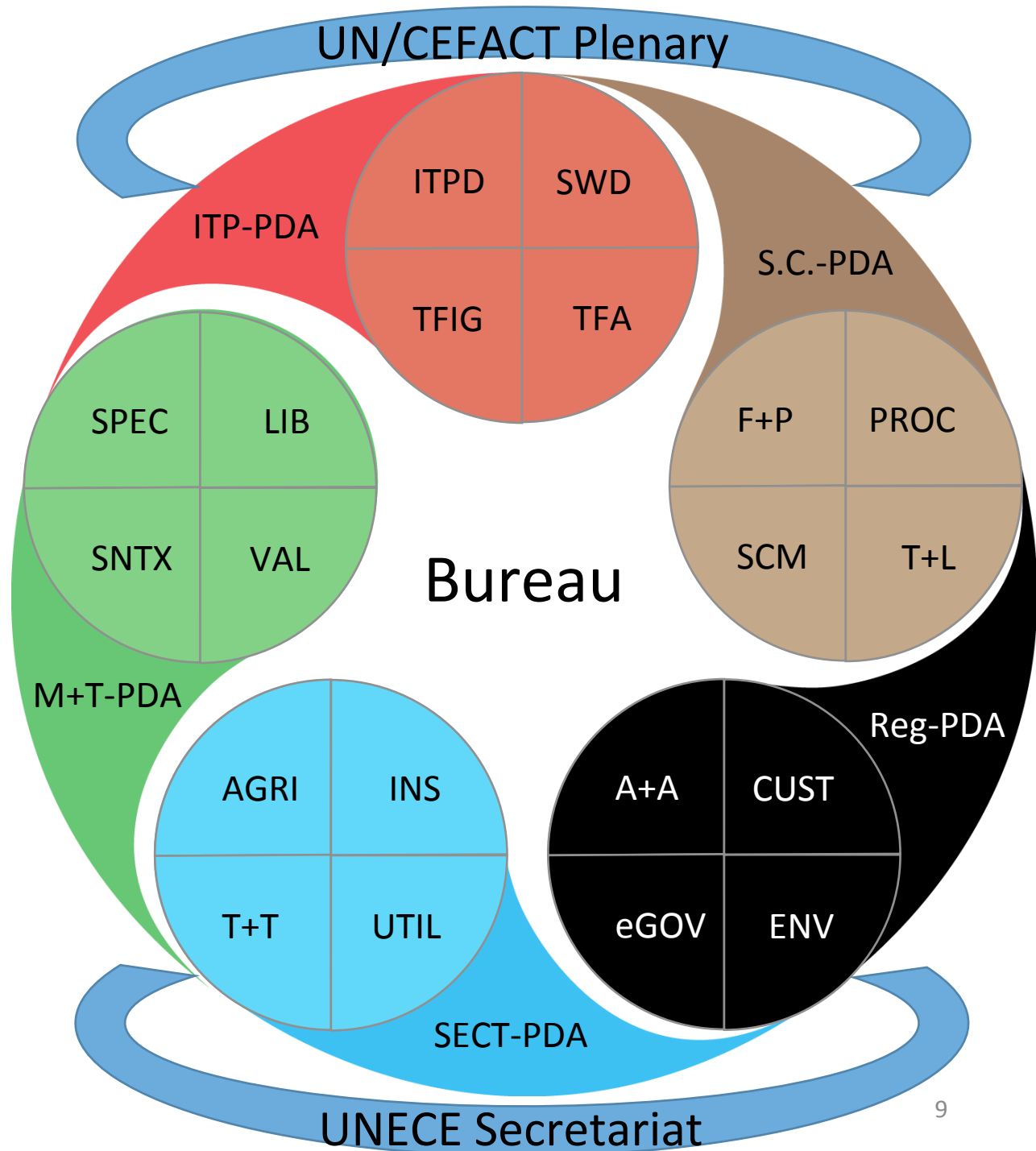
UNECE – United Nations Economic Commission for Europe
UN/CEFACT – UN Centre for Trade Facilitation and e-Business

UN/CEFACT Governance

- Within the UN framework, UN/CEFACT has a global mandate for recommendations and standards associated with trade facilitation and electronic business
- UN/CEFACT reports to the Executive Committee of the UNECE and is supported by staff of the UNECE Secretariat
- Annual Plenary of UN member-states governs UN/CEFACT's activities and between sessions is managed by a Plenary-elected Chair and Vice Chairs, which forms the UN/CEFACT Bureau

UN/CEFACT Structure

- International Trade Procedures (ITP PDA)
 - International Trade Procedures Domain (ITPD)
 - Single Window Domain (SWD)
 - Trade Facilitation Implementation Guide Focal Point (TFIG)
 - WTO Trade Facilitation Focal Point (TFA)
- Supply Chain (SC PDA)
 - Finance and Payment Domain (F+P)
 - Procurement Domain (PROC)
 - Supply Chain Management Domain (SCM)
 - Transport and Logistics Domain (T+L)
- Regulatory (Reg PDA)
 - Accounting and Audit Domain (A+A)
 - Customs Domain (CUST)
 - eGovernment Domain (eGOV)
 - Environment Domain (ENV)
- Sectoral (Sect PDA)
 - Agriculture Domain (AGRI)
 - Insurance Domain (INS)
 - Travel and Tourism Domain (T+T)
 - Utilities Domain (UTIL)
- Methodology and Technology (PDA)
 - Specification Domain (SPEC)
 - Library Maintenance Focal Point (LIB)
 - Syntax Focal Point (SNTX)
 - Validation Focal Point (VAL)



* PDA = Programme Development Area



UNECE – United Nations Economic Commission for Europe
UN/CEFACT – UN Centre for Trade Facilitation and e-Business

A way forward -> Background Research Project on Public Procurement Using International Standards



Key elements of the project

- Research existing literature, texts and emerging developments with the aim of understanding whether UN/CEFACT efforts should try to bring added value in a global context
- Identify essential issues concerning recommendations and standards for public procurement
- Central themes may include pre-award and post-award requirements, business processes, end-to-end business term vocabulary, semantic interoperability, technology-neutrality and Single Window



Potential Findings

- Develop Semantic Models as the core solution to glue the various technologies
- Produce "Mappings" for the various technologies to a single core semantic model
- Ensure "Semantics models" use business terms so that business people from around the world can agree
- Let the technologists decide how to implement it



Participation and contributions

- The project is open to experts with broad knowledge in the area of trade facilitation and electronic business, in particular with respect to public procurement
- Initial contributions include:
 - UN/CEFACT recommendations, standards and project information relating to electronic procurement
 - WTO agreements on government procurement and trade facilitation
 - EU legislation/directives on public procurement
 - CEN Workshop deliverables, including those from “Business Interoperability Interfaces for public procurement in Europe” and other workshops
 - Materials on national, regional and global issues involving public procurement
 - Materials available from the international standards community, MDBs and the UN Procurement Division



UNECE – United Nations Economic Commission for Europe
UN/CEFACT – UN Centre for Trade Facilitation and e-Business

UN/CEFACT: getting involved

- **Free of charge** participation is open to all experts (with approval from their national Head of Delegation)
- **Free of charge** availability and use of all UNECE and UN/CEFACT Recommendations, codes, standards and publications, which can be found on our website:

www.uncefact.org



UNECE – United Nations Economic Commission for Europe
UN/CEFACT – UN Centre for Trade Facilitation and e-Business

UN/CEFACT Upcoming meetings

- UN/CEFACT 27th Forum (open to all registered experts)
 - **April 25 – 29, 2016 in Geneva, SWITZERLAND**
- UN/CEFACT 28th Forum (open to all registered experts)
 - **Autumn 2016** → studying possibilities. Negotiating with Bangkok, THAILAND (to be confirmed)



UNECE – United Nations Economic Commission for Europe
UN/CEFACT – UN Centre for Trade Facilitation and e-Business

UN/CEFACT some contacts

UNECE Secretariat	Maria Ceccarelli	Maria.Ceccarelli@unece.org
International Trade Procedures Domain	Paloma Bernal Turnes	pb737@georgetown.edu
Single Window Domain	Andrea Fehr Hampton	andreafehr@gmail.com
Transport and Logistics Domain	Sue Probert Rudolf Bauer	sue.probert@dial.pipex.com rudolf.bauer@paradigma.net
Supply Chain Management Domain	Edmund Gray	edmundg@zoho.com
Procurement Domain	Jostein Frømyr	jostein.fromyr@edisys.no
Agriculture Domain	Frans van Diepen	frans.vandiepen@rvo.nl
Specification Domain	Christian Huemer	huemer@big.tuwien.ac.a
Library Focal Point (CCL)	Mary Kay Blantz	mblantz@sbcglobal.net
Syntax Focal Point (EDIFACT, XML)	Gait Boxman	gait.boxman@tie.nl



UNECE – United Nations Economic Commission for Europe
UN/CEFACT – UN Centre for Trade Facilitation and e-Business

Thank you

Raffaele Fantetti
Vice Chair of UN/CEFACT

rfantetti@gmail.com