



# Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General  
24 August 2012

Original: English

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## Economic Commission for Europe

Committee on Trade

### Working Party on Regulatory Cooperation and Standardization Policies

Twenty-second session

Geneva, 7-9 November 2012

Item 5 of the provisional agenda

Workshop on “Introducing standards-related issues in educational curricula”

## Draft revised recommendation “Education on standards-related issues”

Note by the secretariat

### *Summary*

More than 40 years have elapsed since the Working Party adopted Recommendation I. The UNECE secretariat collected proposals for amendments of the Recommendation from experts and from academia.

The draft revised recommendation is submitted for further discussion and approval by the Working Party.

## I. Background information

1. In 1970, the Recommendation on “Further education on standards-related issues” was adopted by the Working Party. In 2011, the UNECE secretariat conducted a preliminary, informal review among universities and other higher-level academic institutions. The survey revealed that very few institutions include standardization as a subject in formal educational curricula.

2. The Bureau, at its meeting in June 2012, concluded that the original recommendation retained its importance and was still an issue of topical debate. However, it is necessary to reflect current developments, and amend partially the title and text.

3. The UNECE secretariat collected proposals for amendments of Recommendation I from experts and from academia, and hereby submits it for further discussion and approval by the Working Party.

## II. Text of draft recommendation I

*“The Working Party on Regulatory Cooperation and Standardization Policies,*

*“Recognizing the role and place of standards and of quality infrastructure in accompanying or controlling products during their life cycle,*

*“Underlining the important contribution of standards and regulatory framework (standardization, technical regulations, metrology, conformity assessment, accreditation, market surveillance) in the attainment of national and international development goals (including the United Nations Millennium Development Goals) and in promoting sustainable development,*

*“Recommends that—in collaboration with appropriate intergovernmental and other organizations and academia, and taking into account the activities of global, regional and national standards-setting bodies—Governments should encourage:*

- (a) the introduction of the subject of standardization into the curricula of educational establishments and particularly of universities for students majoring in technical and scientific subjects, as well as in legal, economic and management studies;
- (b) the vocational education and training of specialists in standardization;
- (c) the enhancement of awareness-raising activities targeted to the business community and regulatory authorities (in particular, trade and customs officials);
- (d) the further study of standardization issues in order to identify best practices in ensuring that standardization and regulatory regimes contribute to meeting the legitimate concerns of society (e.g. human safety, environment) without creating unnecessary technical barriers to trade.”