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The Outlook

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Patent experts to determine the future of the international patent system after reviewing important performance indicators and discussing proposals to streamline efficiency. [Read more](#)

Copyright policymakers to discuss Broadcasting Organizations Treaty, proposal to strengthen theatre directors' rights and challenges of research institutions related to copyright. [Read more](#)

The 40th Round of Consultations on Cotton Development Assistance to hear updates on the cotton sector in beneficiary countries and the global market. [Read more](#)

E-commerce high up on the agenda: trade experts examine the future direction of electronic business challenges and trade facilitation. [Read more](#)

A coalition of member states seek to streamline international trademark procedures to grant more flexibility to contracting parties. [Read more](#)

World trade body to peer review the trade-related policies of Turkey and Taiwan, on track to complete 15 reviews by the end of 2023. [Read more](#)

Trade and development senior officials to analyze climate debt, sustainable energy, global supply chains and the crisis in the Middle East. [Read more](#)

Economic experts evaluate global progress on measuring and developing e-commerce standards. [Read more](#)

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WRC-23: A key meeting of senior decision-makers to discuss further allocation of radio-frequency spectrum and steer the telecoms regulatory frameworks around the globe. [Read more](#)

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Does telecommunication management sound dry? Tell the experts gathering to discuss whether current infrastructure can withstand rising global digital

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Cybersecurity: EU adopting an Act, U.S. holding hearings and Geneva takes a global view. [Read more](#)

Data transmission experts will address high speed networks and set standards and regulations for broadband wireless connectivity. [Read more](#)

Health ([jump to](#)).

Stay updated as world health negotiators unveil the latest draft text for the groundbreaking pandemic treaty. [Read more](#)

Discover the future of benefit sharing from digital genetic resources as relevant experts meet at an inaugural meeting. [Read more](#)

Unlock the future of global health security at an annual meeting, where experts address emerging vulnerabilities and strategize for a safer world. [Read more](#)

Health and climate experts get together to revolutionize look into the interplay of human health and climate change. [Read more](#)

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Marine plastic pollution meets its match in Kenya: The UN Plastic Treaty. [Read more](#)

Experts unite to combat mercury's impact on health and the environment: It's time to make history. [Read more](#)

Next Steps: European experts come together in an annual session to recommit to sustainable and environmentally friendly development. [Read more](#)

Happy Birthday, WIPO GREEN! The online green technology marketplace turns 10. [Read more](#)

Countries meet to determine the sustainability, enforcement and future of international trade of (endangered) species of wild fauna and flora. [Read more](#)

Sharing is caring: Countries meet to focus on sharing mining benefits in the energy transition. [Read more](#)

Information and communication technology experts meet to discuss the impact of climate change on global interconnectivity. [Read more](#)

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Transportation personnel evaluate updates made this year to regulations surrounding the transport of dangerous goods; consider sustainable updates to their infrastructure. [Read more](#)

How are trading nations harnessing new technologies? Their experts on technical barriers to trade seek to find out. [Read more](#)

Nuclear-contaminated water and swine meat: Tune into the world trade's sanitary and phytosanitary meeting... if you dare. Plus, an attempt to finalize its ministerial declaration. [Read more](#)

Environmental teams consider the future of information access as it relates to environmental output. [Read more](#)

Striving to maintain high agricultural quality standards, experts gather to standardize an array of produce and meats, and discuss major challenges facing the world food supply. [Read more](#)

Road transport experts convene to discuss motor vehicle regulations tangible in road safety, environmental protection and trade. [Read more](#)

Rail transport experts: On TRACK for sustainable development? [Read more](#)

Alphabet soup! What are recommendations K and L, and how can experts on regulatory cooperation and standardization policies use them to support global trade? [Read more](#)

Dive into the complexities of regulating AI-embedded products at the “How to target continuous compliance” conference with insights from industry key players like Google and Digital Europe. [Read more](#)

Social ([jump to](#)).

Senior officials will discuss overall approach to labor standards and regulations in their last formal meeting in 2023. [Read more](#)

The human rights experts meet for their annual social forum to address how scientific advancements can enhance human rights. [Read more](#)

The maritime and labor officials will gather for a joint conference focused on marine work regulations, conditions and best practices. [Read more](#)

Youth and Sports ([jump to](#)).

Health experts to explore trends related to youth alcohol consumption and potential solutions. [Read more](#)

Young professionals and researchers gather to discuss trade and gender issues. [Read more](#)

Young Activists Summit 2023, need we say more? [Read more](#)

Humanitarian and Human Rights ([jump to](#)).

Business and human rights intertwine, this time to also address plastics pollution. [Read more](#)

Questions? As you read the below, please do not hesitate to [contact one of the authors](#) for more information.

Economic

The [seventh session](#) of the [United Nations Conference on Trade and Development](#) (UNCTAD) Intergovernmental Group of Experts on Financing for Development is set to take place on November 1-3. All [UNCTAD](#) member states are invited to participate in this event. The meeting's approved topic is "Delivering development finance to achieve the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development: Making development finance contribute to environmentally sound industrialization" as outlined by Chapter 1 of the [Addis Ababa Action Agenda](#) of the [Third International Conference on Financing for Development](#). Specifically, this event seeks to outline policy measures to be implemented by developing nations to achieve sustainable and inclusive development, with a specific focus on prioritizing the climate. Participants will also analyze how the broader international community can aid developing countries throughout this transitional period. Featured speakers at the event include [Ms. Rebeca Grynspan](#), the Secretary-General of UNCTAD, and [Mr. Richard Kozul-Wright](#), the Director of the Division on Globalization and Development Strategies. The final output of the session will be a comprehensive report on policy recommendations for achieving an environmentally-sound industrialization strategy.

The [14th session](#) of the [International Patent Cooperation Union](#), under the [World Intellectual Property Organization](#) (WIPO), will take place on November 1-3. This regularly scheduled session will begin by reporting on important Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT) statistics, followed by status reports on various important aspects of PCT, including PCT Online Services, [Minimum Documentation](#) and the Sequence Listings Task Force, as well as possible new amendments to the regulations surrounding [Words in Drawings](#). Then, a [proposal](#) will be discussed for Improvements of PCT International Search Report and the Written Opinions. The session will also provide a description of the conclusions drawn by the [third pilot project on collaborative search and examination](#) under PCT. Finally, the Union will designate the path of future work for the PCT Union.

WIPO Standing Committee on Copyright and Related Rights will meet in Geneva from November 6-8, 2023. Included in the committee documents for this meeting is the third draft text for the WIPO Broadcasting Organizations Treaty. This treaty has been in discussion since 1998, and the third draft text takes into account written comments submitted on the second draft text from June 2023. The committee will also consider a study on the practices and challenges of research institutions and research purposes in relation to copyright under an overall discussion on exceptions and limitations. There have been a number of proposals submitted to the Committee, including one for the analysis of copyright related to the digital environment, a proposal from Senegal and Congo to include the resale right in the agenda and future work of the committee, a proposal by the Russian Federation to strengthen the protection of theatre directors' rights at the international level and a proposal for a study focused on public lending right in the Agenda and future work of the committee.

The 40th Round of Consultations on Cotton Development Assistance within the World Trade Organization (WTO) will take place on November 7. The main purpose of the biannual discussions on the development aspects of cotton is to “track development and exchange information on development assistance provided to developing countries.” The Consultation will be split into four sessions: The first is an update on the current situation in beneficiary countries and in the global market, the second is a discussion of new or ongoing development assistance projects, the third is an update on monitoring of development assistance flows and national cotton sector reforms in beneficiary countries and the final session will include concluding remarks, action points and next steps. Confirmed speakers at the conference include Eric Trachtenberg, Executive Director, International Cotton Advisory Committee; Frank Van Rompaey, United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO); Jinjiang Yang, UNIDO; Mattias Knappe, International Trade Centre (ITC); David Cordobes, ITC; and WTO Deputy Director-General Jean-Marie Paugam, Chairperson.

The United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) will be holding the 29th Session of its United Nations Center for Trade Facilitation and Electronic Business (UN/CEFACT) on November 9-10, in which it will discuss matters such as oversight of certain UNECE subprograms, actions of other UNECE bodies and international organizations of interest to UN/CEFACT and future challenges in trade facilitation and electronic business and prospective directions. As Congress grapples with various aspects of e-commerce regulation, such as tax reporting requirements and a regulatory regime for cryptocurrencies, any indicators of where the global community stands on the issue is likely to be of interest.

From November 13-17, the WIPO Working Group on the Legal Development of the Madrid System for the International Registration of Marks will be holding its 21st Session. This session will consider various proposals and amendments, including a proposal by the delegations of Australia, Chile, the Republic of Korea and the United States (U.S.) to amend the Madrid Protocol that would allow more flexibility for contracting parties to: (1) retain the basic mark requirement but reduce the dependency period from five years to three; (2) retain the basic mark requirement but eliminate the dependency principle; and (3) eliminate both the basic mark requirement and dependency principle. The delegations note that the proposal “acknowledges the difficulties trademark holders face and modernizes the Protocol to reflect the realities of conducting business in the 21st Century global economy,” while also some flexibilities of the Hague System. Being a U.S.-backed proposal, such streamlining can be expected to serve useful for the business community if adopted. An

overarching disagreements continue regarding number of operating languages of the system, with several countries advocating for expanding to Russian and Arabic.

The WTO will hold trade policy review meetings for [Turkey](#) and [Taiwan](#) in November. The [purpose](#) of the trade policy review mechanism is to “contribute to improved adherence by all Members to rules, disciplines and commitments made under the Multilateral Trade Agreements and, where applicable, the Plurilateral Trade Agreements, and hence to the smoother functioning of the multilateral trading system, by achieving greater transparency in, and understanding of, the trade policies and practices of Members” via a specific peer review process. Currently, the WTO is scheduled to complete [15](#) trade policy reviews by the end of the year. Members are reviewed on either a two-, four- or six-year cycle depending on their share of the world trade of goods and services.

On November 20-23, the [UNCTAD Trade and Development Board](#) will host its [74th tri-annual executive session](#) to address critical policy questions and institutional matters. The session will begin with a discussion of [Trade and Development Report 2023: Growth, Debt and Climate: Realigning the Global Financial Architecture](#) before moving into an analysis of [the World Investment Report 2023](#) which focuses on achieving sustainable energy solutions for all. The body will also discuss strategies by which [African nations can capture technology-intensive global supply chains](#). In addition, the board will analyze the efforts of UNCTAD within the [Doha Programme of Action](#) for the Least Developed Countries, in response to the simultaneous climate, economic, food and energy crises occurring in regions around the world. Finally, the session will touch upon [UNCTAD’s assistance to the Palestinian people](#), before concluding by adopting the report for this session and the agenda for the following one.

The UNCTAD Working Group on Measuring E-Commerce and the Digital Economy will hold its [fourth meeting](#) on November 30 and December 1, where it will discuss the progress of international organizations in developing standards of [measuring e-commerce](#), as well as the value of doing so. As Congress grapples with various aspects of e-commerce regulation, such as tax reporting requirements and a regulatory regime for cryptocurrencies, any indicators of where the global community stands on the issue is likely to be of interest.

Communications and Digital



With the European Union (EU) estimating that the telecommunications industry will need €174 billion to achieve connectivity targets by 2030, the upcoming [World Radiocommunication Conference \(WRC-23\)](#) will be vital to deciding how the EU and other jurisdictions will regulate the telecom industry. The upcoming WRC-23 holds immense global significance as it will shape international regulations and allocations for the effective and equitable use of radio-frequency spectrum. It will be held from November 20 to December 15. The [International Telecommunication Union](#) (ITU) has already completed extensive preparation for the conference, holding meetings in September to discuss solutions to the [agenda](#) that was proposed by the WRC.

While the U.S. looks to close the digital divide through promoting low-cost broadband

programs to millions of families, the push for affordable broadband has become the forefront of the global digital revolution. Connectivity is vital, and the ITU's Study Group 3 ([SG3](#)), analyzes major issues at the intersection of economics and telecommunications policy, and a developing focus of the study group is the cost affording the services that information and communications technologies (ICT) provide. SG3 plans to [hold](#) Rapporteur Group meetings from November 6-9, then a plenary meeting on November 10, which will be centered around improving methods to provide affordable connectivity for all its member-states.

With the EU attempting to reach its goal of connecting 45 million Europeans to gigabit broadband and 5G by 2030, ensuring that telecommunications infrastructure can withstand rising global traffic numbers and achieve global connectivity will be vital. The ITU Study Group 2 ([SG2](#)) focuses on telecommunications management, as it is responsible for discussing and setting regulatory standards on the management and service of telecommunications networks. SG2 has already held a meeting where they consulted with member-states in March, and they will look to build on this effort by [holding](#) a series of meetings from November 8 to November 17.

With the EU adopting the [Cybersecurity Act](#), which introduced a cybersecurity certification framework for ICT services, and as the U.S. holds more hearings and forums about the impacts of artificial intelligence (AI) on cybersecurity, many are considering the potential risks that vulnerable cybersecurity networks will face. The World Economic Forum's ([WEF](#)) annual meeting on cybersecurity looks ahead to analyze the potential impacts that AI may have on cybersecurity measures. This annual meeting will be [held](#) from November 13-15 and will bring together cybersecurity leaders across the globe to discuss this looming issue.

With the introduction of the [Gigabit Infrastructure Act \(GIA\)](#) in the EU, not only are affordable telecommunications networks a core tenet of the closing the digital divide, but it's evident that promoting high-speed networks are a core tenet as well. The ITU's Study Group 15 ([SG15](#)) is dedicated to advancing high-speed networks, specifically optical transport networks, and setting regulations to continue fostering evolution in broadband wireless connectivity. SG15 looks to [hold](#) a meeting from November 20 to December 1, to discuss work items centered around improving global connectivity. This meeting will build on the Study Group's meeting in April, which revised the Access Network Transport standards, Home Network Transport standards and Optical Transport Networks and Technologies standardization work plan.

Health



The Drafting Group of the [Intergovernmental Negotiating Body](#) (INB) gathers again at its [seventh meeting](#) November 6-10. It will formally consider the most recent [draft text](#), of mid-October 2023, which for the first time moves from concepts to negotiating text. The aim is to conclude a [World Health Organization](#) (WHO) accord or similar instrument focusing on pandemic prevention, preparedness, and response (WHO CA+), by May 2024. The INB Bureau is tasked with hosting meetings to prepare the WHO CA+'s negotiation text. After significant international collaboration through six sessions, the INB have released a

provisional text of WHO CA+, 2023. On December 4-6, INB will host a meeting for the presentation and review of the WHO CA+'s negotiation text.

At the 15th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity on October 10, 2023, a mechanism for sharing benefits from the use of digital genetic resource information was established. This decision is part of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework. The mechanism includes a global fund and a process to develop the benefit sharing capabilities. An Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group was established to oversee and advance benefit sharing mechanism. The first meeting of the Working Group will take place in Geneva from November 14-28. This meeting will address various organizational matters, consider key issues as outlined in the decision, and end with the adoption of a report.

The WHO hosts the 2023 Annual Meeting of the Strategic & Technical Advisory Group on Infectious Hazards with Pandemic and Epidemic Potential (STAG-IH) from November 23-24. This event's theme 'New Vulnerabilities' addresses emerging threats like climate and biodiversity change, human-animal interactions, cyber threats, biosecurity and conflicts. The meeting's objectives include providing strategic advice to WHO on epidemic and pandemic preparedness, reviewing potential threats, exploring mitigation strategies and advising on other major issues related to global health security. It also fosters collaboration and information exchange among WHO Collaborating Centers, advisory groups and public health leaders, such as the Global Preparedness Monitoring Board (GPMB).

On November 14, 2023, the WHO, WIPO and WTO will host a Joint Technical Symposium in Geneva, focusing on the interplay between human health and climate change. The event aims to address the impact of climate change on global health, examining how public health, trade and intellectual property tools can mitigate these effects. The symposium will feature discussions on climate change's health impact, the role of intellectual property and how trade policies can address climate-related health risks.

Environment and Sustainability



The Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INC) will meet in Nairobi, Kenya from November 13-19 for its third session. As the pollution-focused arm of the UN Environment Programme (UNEP), the INC is slated to continue its development of an international legally binding instrument governing plastic pollution in marine environments. With plans to complete negotiations by the end of 2024, the INC aims for its instrument to address the full life cycle of plastic. As requested in its previous session, the INC Chair has prepared and published a "zero draft text" ahead of this month's meeting to guide negotiations for the final instrument. The third session will be preceded by a preparatory meeting on November 11 and regional consultations on November 12. Following the content of the draft text, INC-3 is likely to discuss the objectives and structure of the instrument, methods for promoting sustainable plastic production and consumption, and modes of implementation.

The fifth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Minamata Convention on Mercury (COP-5) is set to take place in person from October 30 to November 3 with over 800

participants discussing crucial matters related to mercury and its impact on health and the environment. The conference will focus on significant topics, including phase-out dates for mercury-added products, addressing artisanal and small-scale gold mining, the influence of mercury uses on biodiversity, financial mechanism review and more. Notable participants include government ministers, the President of COP-5, environmental experts and advocates dedicated to addressing mercury-related challenges.

From November 1-3, the UNECE's Committee on Environmental Policy (CEP) will meet for the 28th time. The CEP—whose main goal is to assist with the reduction of pollution, management of natural resources, integration of environmental and socioeconomic policies and strengthening of international cooperation on climate—will use this session to discuss numerous topics ranging from the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development to ways to support sustainable tourism. The group will also conduct reviews on the environmental performance of certain member states.

The WIPO is marking the 10th anniversary of WIPO GREEN, an online database and interactive marketplace that connects green technology and service providers with individuals and companies who may be seeking innovative solutions for global problems. Over the past 10 years, WIPO GREEN has been instrumental in promoting and diffusing green technology innovation, thereby promoting collaboration and visibility in the fight against climate change. To mark its tenth anniversary, WIPO is holding a series of events from November 1-2 that will highlight the impact WIPO GREEN has had on shaping a sustainable future and discuss methods to further expand the program's reach.

The CITES Standing Committee will gather for its 77th meeting on November 6-10. The session will begin with a discussion of financial matters, including reports on the cost of program work and the income and expenditures for the CITES Trust Fund (CTF). The meeting will then move into strategic discussions of the forward-facing vision of the Committee, the role of CITES in reducing the emergence of zoonotic disease in international wildlife trade, and reviews of several reports, including the World Wildlife Trade Report. The session will also address capacity-building concerns, various CITES constituent groups (indigenous groups, youth, etc.), and compliance questions. Finally, the Standing Committee will analyze aspects of illegal trade and enforcement, trade regulation and species conservation, before concluding with a discussion of nomenclature matters.

In the midst of fierce global competition to secure access to critical minerals to support the clean energy transition, the Intergovernmental Forum (IGM) on Mining, Minerals, Metals and Sustainable Development is holding its 19th annual general meeting in Geneva from November 7-9, 2023. The theme for this year's conference, "Sharing Mining Benefits in the Energy Transition," will center discussions on how resource-rich nations can tackle the governance issues that comes with possession of those minerals and materials. Topics for discussion include transparency in the energy transition; bridging the supply gap and building resilient supply chains; global priorities for critical minerals; and making the energy transition fair, equitable and inclusive.

The ITU will hold a meeting of its Study Group 5 (SG5)—the group that handles issues related to electromagnetic fields, environment, climate action, sustainable digitalization and

circular economy—in Geneva from November 13-22, 2023. Under its environmental mandate, SG5 is responsible for studying the impact of ICT on climate change and publishing guidelines for utilizing ICTs in a climate-friendly manner. The study group is also responsible for producing methodologies to reduce e-waste and to protect ICTs from damages and malfunction due to climate and weather disturbances. As the effects of climate change continue to speed up and intensify, SG5's upcoming meeting demonstrates a commitment from world leaders to collaborate on ways to mitigate its impacts on technology.

Science and Technology

On November 30 and December 1, the UNECE will convene a [Group of Experts](#) to begin drafting a new legal instrument on the use of automated vehicles in traffic. As experimentation in this regard is conducted with varying results throughout the world, considerations made during this meeting will inform an ever-evolving industry that continues its efforts to develop a product that is thought to open wide doors for transportation innovation, yet still faces safety concerns.

Standards and Regulatory

With plastics becoming the talk of the town within intergovernmental organizations in recent months, The Forum on Trade, Environment and the sustainable development goals (SDGs), known more commonly as [TESS](#), joined the conversation in late September with the [release](#) of its paper on ending plastic pollution. TESS, a partnership of the Geneva Graduate Institute and the UN Environment Programme, issued its [policy paper](#) to inform ongoing dialogue on how to standardize plastic use to reduce plastics pollution. The policy paper provides recommendations for government legislation, regulations and initiatives that bodies such as the INC and International Organization for Standards (ISO) can adopt to support the plastic reduction campaign. This paper comes as the INC continues to draft a [future treaty](#) on plastics use.

The UNECE Inland Transport Committee plans to convene in Geneva on November 6 and 7, where it will [discuss](#) cycling infrastructure and standards. As cities worldwide look to become more company friendly and transportation companies increase their utilization of electric powered bicycle rentals, a sense of the global view for such standards will be value for their further domestic developments.

UNECE Working Party on the Transport of Dangerous Goods will convene for its [114th Session](#) between November 6 and 10, where it is slated to evaluate the status of the agreement concerning the International Carriage of Dangerous Goods by Road (ADR), among other issues. Changes made to the decades-old agreement earlier this year include those that require parties that only consign dangerous goods to appoint a Dangerous Goods Safety Adviser (DGSA) for the first time and requiring freight forwarders and traders who sell ex-works to appoint a DGSA if they act as consignors or on behalf of consignors. Further discussion is expected to evaluate the sustainable use of natural resources and proposals of amendments regarding the construction and approval of vehicles. As transportation projects begin to take form throughout the U.S. as a result of Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act

(P.L. 117-58) funding, it will be interesting to see what implications or support the findings of this meeting may provide.

The Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) Committee of the WTO will meet for a thematic session on November 7 to discuss the use of digital technologies and tools in good regulatory practices. TBT delegate, Diego Franco, will moderate a question-and-answer panel to explore how regulatory officials from various WTO member countries are currently utilizing digital tools to manage their regulatory processes. The Committee's guiding questions center around the promotion of transparency and inclusivity for new technologies and the potential challenges faced by developing countries in adopting these capabilities. With AI integration on the horizon for many governments, discussions are sure to yield insights for the TBT as it works to ensure high-quality, cost-effective and open-trade-compatible regulations for these new technologies around the world.

The WTO's Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) Committee will convene for a formal meeting from November 15-17. The meeting will be preceded by two informal meetings occurring November 13 and 15. Included in its key documents for the formal meeting is a position paper issued by China regarding Japan's discharge of nuclear-contaminated water into the ocean, which the former alleges poses serious risks to environmental safety and public health. This issue featured recently also in a statement by G7 trade ministers. Also up for discussion is the Committee's annual report on the use of its procedures to facilitate the resolution of sanitary and phytosanitary issues arising among WTO members. This report covers usage of the resolution procedure that occurred in the period from October 2022-September 2023, including requests initiated by Brazil concerning the export of swine meat to Mexico. The SPS Committee is likely to review and ensure the procedures' continued efficacy and suitability. Notably with relation to the upcoming WTO 13th Ministerial Conference (MC13), the Chair of the SPS Committee hopes to finalize a draft Ministerial SPS declaration.

On November 9 and 10, UNECE's Task Force on Access to Information under the Aarhus Convention and International Workshop on Access to Product Information will hold its eighth meeting, where it will hold a workshop titled "Advancing Public Access to Environment-Related Product Information: Challenges and Opportunities," which will provide an overview of legal and policy developments pursuant to its title. The Task Force will also promote the exchange of case studies, good practices and challenges and consider recent and upcoming developments in relation to strengthening public access to environmental information, including: (1) the scope of environmental information in accordance with Article 2(3) of the Convention; (2) access to information on emissions into the environment; and (3) the provision of information to the public authorities by third parties both routinely and in case of an imminent threat to human health or the environment. This meeting will likely prove useful in the guidance of future environmental information reporting regimes, such as that currently being imposed by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for the reporting of Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS).

The UNECE's Working Party of Agricultural Quality Standards will hold its 78th session on November 13-15. The session will begin by addressing matters that have arisen since the previous session pertaining to agricultural quality standards. The body will designate a working group to review the Terms of Reference and Working Procedures and craft a

proposal for consideration at the following session. The bulk of the meeting will focus on the standardization of fresh fruit and vegetables standards, including those for sweet potatoes, asparagus, broccoli and much more. The session will then pivot to focus on the standardization of dry and dried produce, including pecans and cashews, followed by discussions on the standardization of quality standards for both seed potatoes and meat. Finally, the Working Party will engage in a discussion on food loss and waste prevention, as well as digital and green transformations to promote sustainable development. The session will conclude by adopting the report from the 2023 session and setting forth future goals for the body.

The 191st UNECE World Forum for Harmonization of Vehicle Regulations (WP29) will take place in Geneva from November 14-16. The forum convenes three times a year as they work to develop uniform motor vehicle regulations. The event will primarily work to develop regulation for automated vehicles in the legal framework of both the 1958 and 1998 Agreements. Participants will include member countries of the United Nations (UN) and any regional economic integration organization created by UN countries; as well as governmental and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in a consultative capacity.

The UNECE's Working Party on Rail Transport will convene for its 77th session from November 15 through 17. Pursuant its Provisional Agenda, the Working Party is likely to address issues pertaining to international rail passenger transport, Euro-Asian rail transport, rail security and innovation in railway development. The Working Party recognizes the increasing demand for international travel and UN member states' obligation to their SDG, so it will seek to identify best practices for stimulating passenger railways and improving energy efficiency in railway transport. Furthering its progress from the 76th session and its special sessions held in July and September of this year, the Working Party's agenda likewise includes discussions of the draft contract for the international carriage of goods by rail, which seeks to unify railway law in the Pan-European region and on Euro-Asian corridors.

On November 23 and 24, the Working Party on Regulatory Cooperation and Standardization Policies will host its 33rd session. First on the Working Party's provisional agenda is the election of the chair and vice-chairs, each of whom will serve from 2023-2025. The Working Party will also hear reports from several advisory groups. The Advisory Group on Market Surveillance will seek an endorsement decision from the Working Party on its revised Recommendation K, which aligns current metrology practices with updated international standards. The Ad Hoc Team of Specialists on Standardization and Regulatory Techniques (START) is likewise seeking an endorsement decision and intends to outline for the Working Party the common regulatory arrangements for telecom, cybersecurity, pipeline safety and earth-moving machinery proposed in Recommendation L. These are just some of the proposals and revisions to international standardization policies that demand the Working Party's attention this session.

There will be a conference titled, "How to target continuous compliance", at UNECE that will focus on the challenges associated with regulating, standardizing and enforcing safety and security measures for products embedded with digital technologies, such as AI. These products exhibit properties that evolve throughout their life cycles, making regulation complex. With the EU's proposed Cyber Resilience Act and AI Act highlighting the importance of life-cycle perspectives in regulatory frameworks, the event will explore how

conformity assessment, legal metrology and market surveillance can aid in ensuring life-cycle compliance for such products. Discussions will also center on the ongoing changes in digital products and the need for innovative methodologies to ensure continuous compliance. Key figures from various sectors, including the UNECE, National Board of Trade of Sweden, Digital Europe, Google, ITA US and more, are set to provide insights over Nov 23-24, 2023.

Social

The [Governing Body of the International Labour Office](#) will meet for their [349th Session](#) from October 30-November 9. The session will meet to review the implantation of several [strategies](#) adopted at prior sessions. The governing body is composed of 56 titular members (28 Governments, 14 Employers and 14 Workers) and 66 deputy members (28 Governments, 19 Employers and 19 Workers). Ten of the titular government seats are permanently held by States of chief industrial importance (Brazil, China, France, Germany, India, Italy, Japan, the Russian Federation, the United Kingdom (U.K.) and the U.S.). This will be the last Governing Body session of 2023 until its next in March 2024.

The [Office of the United Nations High Commissioner of Human Rights](#) will host their 15th [Social Forum](#) will take place in Geneva from November 2-3. The focus of the forum will be on the contribution of science, technology and innovation to the promotion of human rights, including in the context of post-pandemic recovery. The Social Forum is an annual meeting where constructive dialogue can take place between civilians, representatives of Member States and intergovernmental organizations. An [online guide](#) is available for members of the civil society interested in attending the event. If interested, register [here](#).

The [International Maritime Organization](#) (IMO) and the [International Labour Organization](#) (ILO) will host a [joint conference](#) in London on November 13. There will also be an online stream. The focus of the meeting will be sharing best practices, views and experiences on ensuring the rights of seafarers and fishers; identifying gaps in the current regulatory framework, including in relation to responsible management; and exploring how governments, industry, IGOs and NGOs can collaborate to improve the relevant international maritime legal framework. The conference will include [sessions](#) on ensuring rights at sea, maritime regulatory framework and perspectives for the future. Speakers will include IMO Secretary-General Kitack Lim, ILO Director-General Gilbert F. Houngbo and other maritime leaders. Registration can be done [here](#) or non-OMRS registered participants can contact [here](#).

Youth and Sports


The WHO [Youth and alcohol: do new trends demand new solutions?](#) Webinar on November 7 will be a conversation about regional and global trends in youth alcohol consumptions. This event, co-hosted by the Less Alcohol Unit of the Department of Health Promotion, the Alcohol, Drugs and Addictive Behaviours Unit and the Adolescent and Young Adult Health Unit at the WHO, will allow experts to discuss policy interventions and expand upon the topics explored during the second edition of the Less Alcohol Webinar series.

The WTO [Youth Trade Summit on Gender](#) takes place November 13-14 and will allow young leaders, professionals and researchers to exchange ideas on trade and gender issues while interacting with senior researchers in various fields and global stakeholders.

For young leaders across the globe looking to promote their causes, the [Young Activist Summit](#) on November 16 provides a special environment. Through networking, training and fundraising, participants will cover topics including the environment, human rights, peace, among others.

Humanitarian & Human Rights

The [12th United Nations Forum on Business and Human Rights](#), November 27-29, promotes the dialogue of stakeholders from various backgrounds across the world with a focus on current issues related to preventing human rights abuses in business activities. This year's Forum seeks to answer critical concerns around the drivers of effecting positive change; measurement of progress towards the goals of the UN Guiding Principles; and effectiveness of judicial and non-judicial approaches. Specifically, the 12th Forum includes a session that highlights impact of plastic pollution and propose pollution mitigation efforts.



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