

Statement from the CSG Chair on XBDL and UBL

Over the past few days I have seen a number of e-mails which have referred to position of the UN/CEFACT's Steering Group (CSG) regarding the XML Business Document Library (XBDL) and the Universal Business Library (UBL). Some of these have mails have been mis-leading and I would like to clarify the CSG's position as follows:

- 1) UN/CEFACT has always had a strong and legitimate interest in developing an open and global set of XML business-to-business document standards. This concern was one of the reasons behind the initiative that led to ebXML. During the 18-month rapid development stage of ebXML, UN/CEFACT's detailed work was formally put on hold but that moratorium was lifted in May 2001 immediately following the successful outcome of the Vienna meeting. XML business to business document standards are now an important part of our e-Business standards work programme;
- 2) In developing an open and global set of business document standards we are prepared to work with any organisation that shares our goal. The only condition we make is that any contribution must be free of any IPR and there should be an open and international review process which considers all contributions;
- 3) In particular we would like to work closely with the UBL community, especially since it has become an OASIS TC. However, despite a number of discussions we have, so far, been unable to cement a working relationship. A stumbling block appears to be pre-conditions which would restrict open development;
- 4) We recognise that duplication of effort in international standards development is confusing and wasteful and so we shall continue our efforts to work for one convergent activity and remain open to further discussions with OASIS and the UBL community;
- 5) In the meantime, to meet the needs of our user community, we shall pursue the development of XBDL with energy and commitment within our ad hoc group on ebXML (eBTWG)
- 6) We shall transfer this work to our proposed e-Business working Group as soon as it has been approved which will be no later than May 2002.

Ray Walker.

Chairman UN/CEFACT Steering Group

<raywalker@attglobal.net> WWW.uncefact.org