

## UN/CEFACT Response to UBL proposals

UN /CEFACT remains committed to the proposal that we made to the UBL leadership in September 2002. Indeed, we are prepared to endorse UBL payloads as a preferred payload for those users wishing to adopt a document-centric approach before considering or adopting a process-centric approach. However, we have a number of points, which need to be considered and clarified and they are detailed below under the main elements of the UBL response (For ease of reference we have numbered those elements).

We would suggest that the best way of progressing these points would be by having a meeting at the UN/CEFACT San Diego Forum.

### UBL Response to UN/CEFACT proposal

1. *Work on UBL Naming and Design Rules and Library Content will continue in the current OASIS organizational structure until completion and OASIS standardization of version 1.0 of the following items of work: the UBL Naming and Design Rules, the UBL component library, and an initial set of UBL document schemas. We are currently estimating completion of these work items in 2Q2003 and OASIS standardization in 3Q2003. It is our intention to complete these items in time to become ATG items of work at the meeting of the UN/CEFACT Forum in September 2003.*

### UN/CEFACT Questions/Response

**We regret the delay in moving the work under the umbrella of UN/CEFACT but accept the UBL proposal to transfer this work to ATG by September 2003.**

2. *To maximize the utility of UBL 1.0 and minimize changes wrought by subsequent harmonization efforts in UN/CEFACT, UN/CEFACT will commit to a formal review of the UBL component library and the initial set of UBL schemas during the review cycle currently planned to begin in January 2003 and end in March 2003. In furtherance of this goal, all relevant TBG domain groups will be requested to appoint liaisons to the UBL Liaison Subcommittee in order to coordinate the organized review of UBL draft deliverables.*

### UN/CEFACT Questions/Response

**We are prepared to request formally all UN/CEFACT Groups to review the UBL component library and the initial set of UBL schemas as soon as possible. However, we cannot commit to approach this review so as to “minimize changes”. This would be inappropriate and technically not productive.**

3.

*To promote alignment with common design principles, UN/CEFACT will commit to a formal review of the UBL Naming and Design Rules during the review period from January through March of 2003, conveying input through the already existing liaison from ATG to UBL. We expect the UBL NDR to achieve the status of Committee Specification in early 2Q2003, making it available for use in UN/CEFACT at that time.*

UN/CEFACT Questions/Response

**ATG is in the process of producing Naming and Design Rules (NDR). As a part of this effort, it is reviewing a number of different NDR's from various industries (including EAN.UCC, OTA, OAG, CNTMS,). We strongly suggest that UBL formally submits its NDR's as soon as possible so as to avoid any duplication of effort. The aim is to take the best from all of the submissions and produce a comprehensive UN/CEFACT NDR, applicable to all aspects of global commerce. All the industries that have so far donated their rules have committed to align their rules to UN/CEFACT NDR, when they are finalised. If agreement is reached to work under the UN /CEFACT umbrella, will UBL also make that commitment?**

*4. To promote UN/CEFACT input to the initial set of UBL schemas, the UBL TC will request a temporary fee-waived individual OASIS membership for any voting member of UN/CEFACT ATG or TBG who requests direct participation in the UBL work.*

UN/CEFACT Questions/Response

**We very much appreciate this offer but feel that consideration should be given to extending it to any member of UN/CEFACT who is willing to contribute to the work of UBL. To allow the optimum contribution and to avoid duplication of effort, we also would appreciate receiving a detailed work programme**

*5. Work on UBL Context Methodology and Context Drivers will continue for the duration of the schema work in order to provide guidance for certain detailed design decisions with a dependency on the later development of a completed Context Methodology.*

UN/CEFACT Questions/Response

**We understand that there will be continuing work but we hope that this will not create duplication of effort**

*6. Upon completion of the initial set of deliverables and their publication as OASIS standards, OASIS will grant UN/CEFACT an unlimited, perpetual, royalty-free license to continue development of the standards and to publish works derived from those standards as UN/CEFACT specifications.*

#### UN/CEFACT Questions/Response

**After clarification of the intent of OASIS towards the ownership of work developed under UN/CEFACT after an agreement has been reached, and subject to the confirmation by OASIS and the UN, we can accept this offer**

*7. Ownership of the UBL name and logo as applied to version 1.0 will remain with OASIS; ownership of the UBL name and logo as applied to later versions of the work will vest in UN/CEFACT.*

#### UN/CEFACT Questions/Response

**We appreciate this offer but to avoid confusion in the market once an agreement has been reached and the UBL work passed over to UN/CEFACT, we will formally request that OASIS a) stop marketing version 1.0 and support the UN/CEFACT version and b) ensure that the UN/CEFACT version will be the only maintained version of UBL**

*8. UBL will be formally recognized by both OASIS and UN/CEFACT as the preferred XML payload syntax for ebXML.*

#### UN/CEFACT Questions/Response

**UN/CEFACT has adopted a parallel track to XML, which recognises a document-centric, and a process-centric approach. Therefore we cannot adopt a position where UBL is recognised as the preferred payload for ebXML. However, we are prepared to endorse UBL payloads as UN/CEFACT's preferred payload for those users wishing to adopt a document-centric approach.**

9. The plan outlined above will become effective when approved by UN/CEFACT, OASIS, and the OASIS UBL Technical Committee.

#### UN/CEFACT Questions/Response

**Agreed. However, we would very much hope that once the details of an agreement have been reached it will be possible to announce that and immediately work towards the goals, without waiting for the formal agreement, which for bureaucratic reasons may take some months**