# Proposing amendments to Trans-Asian railway network

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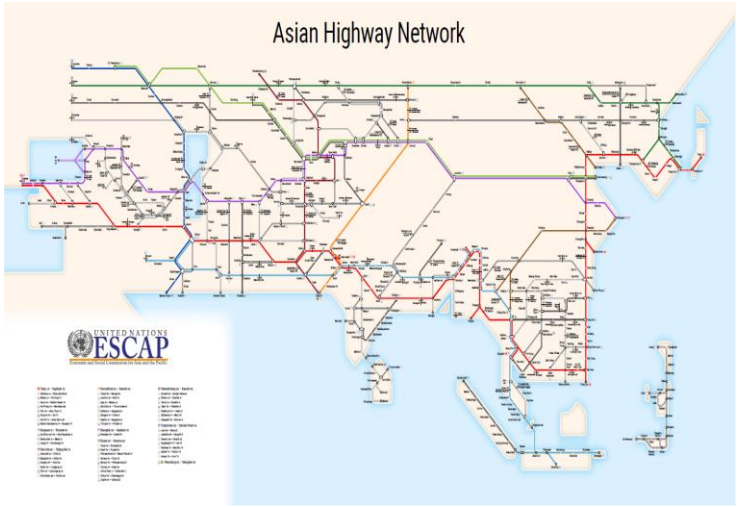
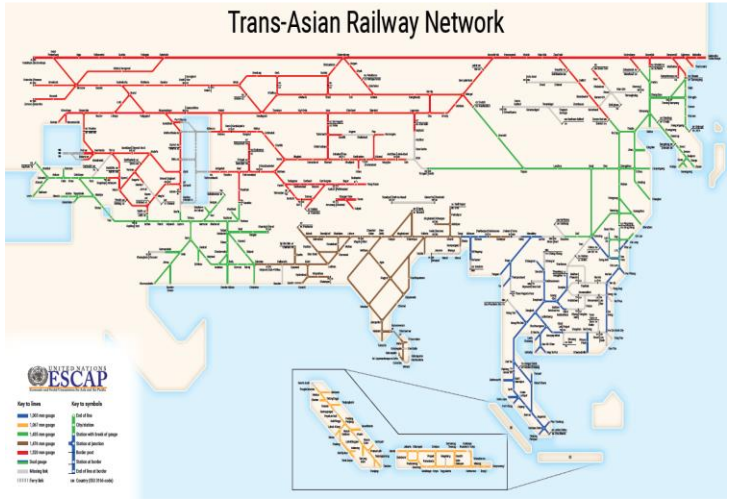
# Institutional framework in support of seamless transport connectivity in Asia and the Pacific

**Asian Highway Network**



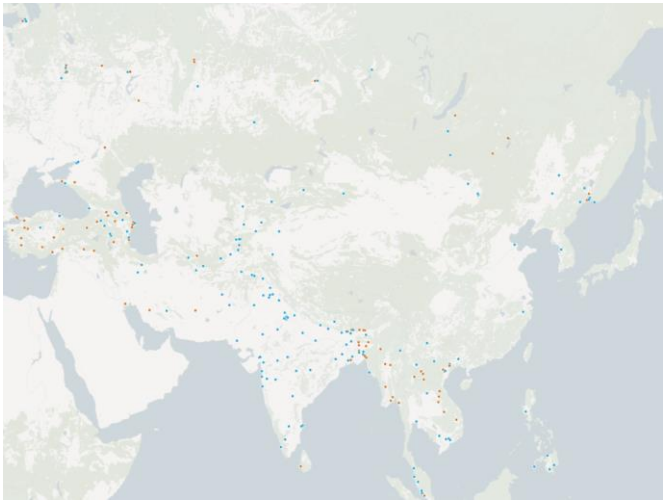

- Intergovernmental Agreement on Asian Highway network
- Entered into force in July 2005
- 30 Parties

**Trans-Asian Railway Network**




- Intergovernmental Agreement on Trans-Asian Railway network
- Entered into force in June 2009
- 21 Parties

**Dry Ports**



- Intergovernmental Agreement on Dry Ports
- Entered into force in April 2016
- 17 Parties

# The Intergovernmental Working Group on the Trans-Asian Railway Network



- The TAR agreement established an Intergovernmental Working Group to consider the **implementation of this Agreement and to consider any amendments proposed** (Art 6.1)
- **All States which are members of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific** are members of the Working Group
- The Working Group **meets biennially** to consider the implementation of the Agreement and adopt the amendments, based on the requests of the Parties to the Agreement.
- It also serves to advance discussions and information exchange on the **operationalization of the TAR Network**.
- Since its establishment, the Working Group held eighth sessions, including the fully virtual meeting in May 2021 during the COVID-19 pandemic.

# Maintaining the TAR Network

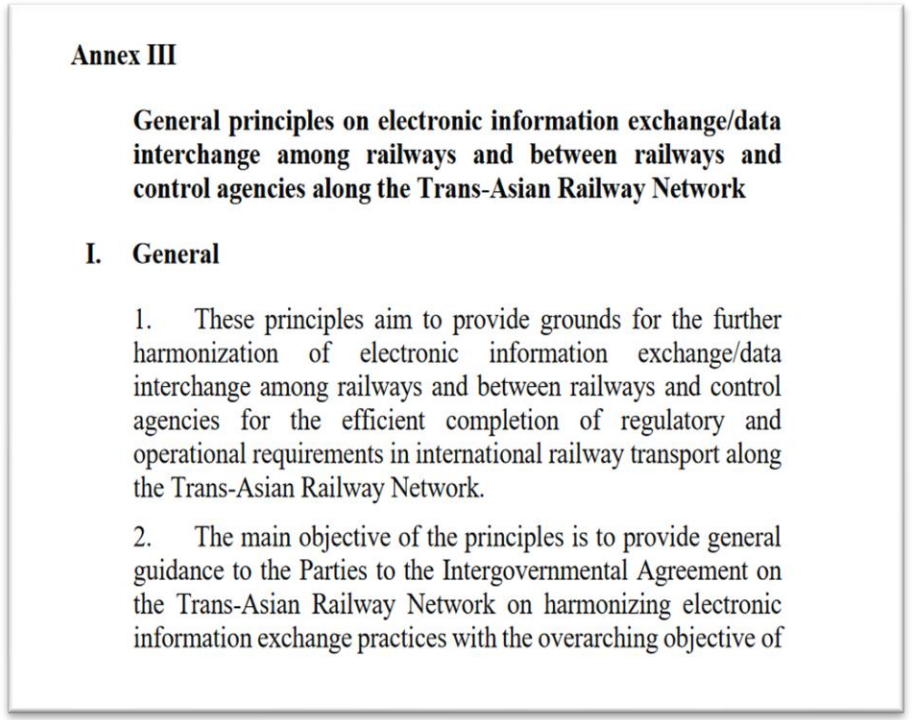
| Participant | Signature | Approval(AA), Acceptance(A), Accession(a), Ratification |
|---|---|---|
| Armenia | 10 Nov 2006 | |
| Azerbaijan | 10 Nov 2006 | |
| Bangladesh | 9 Nov 2007 | 25 Aug 2010 |
| Cambodia | 10 Nov 2006 | 27 Apr 2007 A |
| China | 10 Nov 2006 | 13 Mar 2009 AA |
| Democratic People's Republic of Korea | | 12 Oct 2012 a |
| Georgia | 18 Dec 2007 | 13 May 2009 AA |
| India | 29 Jun 2007 | 13 Sep 2007 |
| Indonesia | 10 Nov 2006 | |
| Iran (Islamic Republic of) | 10 Nov 2006 | 3 Nov 2009 |
| Kazakhstan | 10 Nov 2006 | |
| Lao People's Democratic Republic | 10 Nov 2006 | 29 Mar 2011 |
| Mongolia | 10 Nov 2006 | 4 Sep 2008 |
| Myanmar | | 15 Sep 2020 a |
| Nepal | 10 Nov 2006 | 6 Mar 2012 |
| Pakistan | 28 Jan 2008 | 18 Nov 2009 |
| Republic of Korea | 10 Nov 2006 | 5 Feb 2008 |
| Russian Federation | 10 Nov 2006 | 4 Jan 2008 A |
| Sri Lanka | 10 Nov 2006 | 16 Feb 2010 |
| Tajikistan | 10 Nov 2006 | 19 Feb 2008 AA |
| Thailand | 10 Nov 2006 | 4 Feb 2008 |
| Türkiye | 10 Nov 2006 | 11 Jun 2019 |
| Turkmenistan | | 27 Nov 2016 a |
| Uzbekistan | 10 Nov 2006 | 28 Jul 2009 |
| Viet Nam | 10 Nov 2006 | 30 Sep 2009 AA |

| Most recent amendments to the Trans Asian Railway Network | |
|---|---|
| 2017 | Cambodia<br>Thailand |
| 2019 | Islamic Republic of Iran<br>The Russian Federation |
| 2021 | Myanmar<br>Tajikistan<br>Türkiye |
| 2023 | The Russian Federation<br>Thailand |

# Proposing amendments to the Trans-Asian Railway Network: Main Text

- Amendments to the Agreement **may be proposed by any Party.**
- The text of any proposed amendment shall be **circulated to all members of the Working Group by the secretariat at least forty-five (45)** days before the Working Group meeting at which it is proposed for adoption.
- An amendment shall be adopted by the Working Group **by a two-thirds majority of the Parties present and voting**. The amendment as adopted shall be communicated by the secretariat to the Secretary-General of the United Nations, who shall circulate it to all Parties for acceptance.
- An amendment adopted in accordance with paragraph 4 of the present Article shall enter into force twelve (12) months after it has been **accepted by two-thirds of the Parties.**

**[Art. 7 of the Agreement on TARN]**



**Annex III**

**General principles on electronic information exchange/data interchange among railways and between railways and control agencies along the Trans-Asian Railway Network**

**I. General**

1. These principles aim to provide grounds for the further harmonization of electronic information exchange/data interchange among railways and between railways and control agencies for the efficient completion of regulatory and operational requirements in international railway transport along the Trans-Asian Railway Network.

2. The main objective of the principles is to provide general guidance to the Parties to the Intergovernmental Agreement on the Trans-Asian Railway Network on harmonizing electronic information exchange practices with the overarching objective of

# Proposing amendments to the Trans-Asian Railway Network: Annex I

- **A 'directly concerned Party'** is a Party in whose territory the subject of the proposed amendment is located.
- **Amendments which change a border station** may be **proposed only by a directly concerned Party** after consulting with and obtaining **the written consent of the neighbouring State** which shares the border to which the subject of the amendment is connected.
- Amendments that do not change a border station may be proposed by any **directly concerned Party**

**[Art. 8 of the Agreement on TARN]**

- Not all amendments can be proposed
- Not all amendments can be adopted

# Proposing amendments to the Trans-Asian Railway Network: Annex II

- Amendments may be proposed by any Party.
- Circulated to all members of the Working Group by the secretariat at least forty-five (45) days before the Working Group meeting at which it is proposed for adoption.
- Adopted by the Working Group by a majority of the Parties present and voting. The amendment as adopted shall be communicated by the secretariat to the Secretary-General of the United Nations, who shall circulate it to all Parties.
- Accepted if during a period of six (6) months from the date of the notification, less than one third of the Parties notifies the Secretary-General of the United Nations of their objection to the amendment.

**[Art. 9 of the Agreement on TARN]**

# Proposing amendments to the Trans-Asian Railway Network: Process

- ✓ **6 months before the meeting: Secretariat to circulate the call for amendment proposals**
- ✓ **3 months before the meeting: Technical verifications by the secretariat**
  - Location and status
  - Spelling
  - Consultations to be held
- ✓ **2.5 month before the meeting: Deadline for the official documentation for the meeting**
- ✓ **45 days before: Circulation 45 days**
- ✓ **Written confirmation if a border point***
- ✓ **Decision by the Working Group**

- ❑ The secretariat encourages an early notice of the amendments to be proposed (WG, EGMs, COT, direct correspondence)
- ❑ Use of the digital maps (2025)
- ❑ Support in the bilateral consultations

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Economic and Social Commission
for Asia and the Pacific