Participation

The session will be conducted in a hybrid format. The connection of virtual participants will also be tested on the morning of the session, starting 30 minutes prior to the opening. ESCAP (Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific) technical support will be available to all delegates throughout the meeting.

Nomination forms and online registration

Each delegation is required to submit nomination forms, indicating the names, designations, and contact information of each representative, and register online through the link provided in the letters of invitation by the registration deadline (30 August 2023). Only delegates who appear on the letter of credentials will be recognized in the list of participants.

Only registrations of duly nominated delegates will be accepted.

Country interventions

Due to time constraints and to take account of any technical difficulties/delays that may occur through the videoconferencing platform, delegations are encouraged to prepare brief interventions under each agenda item in response to the items for the consideration of the Working Group reflected in each background document, and to engage in interactive discussion on those items. Delegations are asked to limit their interventions to 5 minutes every time they are given the floor. Copies of full statements or speeches may be provided to the secretariat and published on the meeting’s website after the meeting.

To participate in deliberations, delegates are requested to indicate which members of the delegations will have a speaking role during the session.

Documents and interpretation

Pre-session documents are available in the three authentic languages of the Intergovernmental Agreement on Dry Ports, namely Chinese, English, and Russian and are accessible on the documents page of the ESCAP website. The draft report of the session will be circulated to virtually connected participants by e-mail. The report will be made available in Chinese, English, and Russian at approximately 14:00 hrs. on 13 September 2023. The adoption of the report will commence at 14:30 hrs. on 13 September 2023. The final report as adopted will be made publicly available on the ESCAP website following the meeting.

The report will comprise a list of main decisions and considerations, as well as a summary of organizational matters. In view of the limited time at this year’s meeting, the report will not include detailed proceedings. A summary of deliberations will be prepared after the session and annexed to the report as a Chair’s summary.

The Zoom videoconferencing platform provides live simultaneous interpretation to and from Chinese, English, and Russian.

Deliberations

In view of the Intergovernmental Agreement and ESCAP’s operational requirements, priority will be given to the members of the Working Group. Limited opportunities for interventions will be available for observer organizations, intergovernmental organizations, and other entities depending on availability of time.

The details on the deliberations under each agenda item are provided in the sections below.
**Agenda item 1: Opening of the meeting**

Agenda item 1 of the provisional agenda includes (a) election of officers; and (b) adoption of the agenda. The session will be opened at 10:00 hrs. on 12 September 2023 with an opening statement by Director, ESCAP Transport Division.

The Secretariat will preside over the election of officers. In line with its rules of procedure and usual practice, the Working Group will elect, from among its members, a Chair and two Vice-Chairs of the meeting.

Following the election of officers, the Chair will present the provisional agenda of the meeting (ESCAP/DP(5)/1) for adoption.

**Agenda item 2: Status of the Intergovernmental Agreement on Dry Ports**

Agenda item 2 of the provisional agenda will start with a presentation by the secretariat of the status of the Agreement (ESCAP/DP(5)/2).

Following the presentation by the secretariat, the Chair will open the floor for deliberations. The Working Group will be asked to limit interventions to direct comments on the countries’ progress towards becoming parties to the Intergovernmental Agreement on Dry Ports.

Under this agenda item, it is anticipated that the Working Group will include in its report an update on the latest amendments to the Agreement and countries’ intentions to become parties to the Intergovernmental Agreement on Dry Ports.

**Agenda item 3: Policies and issues related to dry ports of international importance**

Agenda item 3 of the provisional agenda will start with a presentation by the secretariat of the supporting document (ESCAP/DP(5)/3).

Following the presentation by the secretariat, the Chair will open the floor for country interventions. The delegations will be asked to limit interventions to direct comments on the points for consideration of as reflected in the supporting document.

The Chair will manage time strictly and adjourn the debate on this agenda item according to the timeslots designated in the programme.

Under this agenda item, it is anticipated that the Working Group will include in its report the main conclusions on the issues and priorities related to the development of multimodal transport in Asia and the Pacific.

**Agenda item 4: Developments and trends in the digitalization of transport corridors and multimodal transport operations involving dry ports in Asia and the Pacific**

Agenda item 4 of the provisional agenda will start with a presentation by the secretariat of the supporting document (ESCAP/DP(5)/3).
Following the presentation by the secretariat, the Chair will open the floor for country interventions. The delegations will be asked to limit interventions to direct comments on the points for consideration as reflected in the supporting document.

The Chair will manage time strictly and adjourn the debate on this agenda item according to the timeslots designated in the programme.

Under this agenda item, it is anticipated that the Working Group will include in its report its comments and suggestions, if any, on the ESCAP’s work related to dry ports of international importance and the development of multimodal transport in Asia and the Pacific.

**Agenda item 5: Consideration of proposals for amending the Intergovernmental Agreement on Dry Ports**

Agenda item 5 of the provisional agenda will start with a presentation by the secretariat on the amendment proposals received from the Parties of the Agreement, as contained in document ESCAP/DP(5)/4. The secretariat will also recall the applicable procedures for their adoption. Decisions on the proposals are to be taken by the Parties only, according to the Agreement.

Following the presentation by the secretariat, the Chair will open the floor for comments on the proposed amendments.

The Chair will manage time strictly and adjourn the debate on this agenda item according to the timeslots designated in the programme.

Under this agenda item, it is anticipated that the Working Group will include in its report its decisions pertaining to the amendment proposals received.

**Agenda item 6: Other Matters**

Under Agenda item 6, the Chair will invite delegations to raise any other issues for consideration that may not have been covered by the other agenda items. The secretariat will also report on the current work and priorities of the ESCAP Transport Division. Finally, the floor will be open for intervention by international organizations and other partners.

**ENLARGED POLICY SEGMENT: Digital transformation of rail and multimodal transport operations in North and Central Asia and beyond**

In conjunction with the meeting of the Working group, an enlarged policy segment will be organized on 13 September to support information exchange and dialogue on digital transformation of rail and multimodal transport operations in North and Central Asia and beyond. The programme of the policy segment is available on the ESCAP website.

**Agenda item 7: Adoption of the report**

Under agenda item 7, the Working Group will consider for adoption the report of its 5th meeting. A summary of deliberations will be prepared after the meeting and annexed to the report as a Chair’s summary.

Following the adoption of the report, the Director of the Transport Division will deliver closing remarks. The Chair may also deliver a closing statement before formally closing the meeting.