Annotated provisional agenda

The present document contains the provisional agenda for the 7th meeting of the Working Group on the Trans-Asian Railway Network (section I) and the annotations thereto (section II).

I. Provisional agenda

1. Opening of the meeting:
   (a) Election of officers;
   (b) Adoption of the agenda.


3. Consideration of proposals for amending the Intergovernmental Agreement on the Trans-Asian Railway Network.

4. Policies and issues related to the development and operationalization of the Trans-Asian Railway network.

5. Enhancing sustainability of freight transport in the decade of action for the Sustainable Development Goals.

6. Other matters.

7. Adoption of the report of the Working Group on its 7th meeting.

II. Annotations

1. Opening of the meeting

   (a) Election of officers

   In accordance with the rules of procedure of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), the Working Group will elect a chair and two vice-chairs, who shall hold office until their successors are elected.
(b) **Adoption of the agenda**

**Documentation**

Annotated provisional agenda (ESCAP/TARN/WG/2021/L.1)

**Annotation**

In accordance with the rules of procedure of ESCAP, the Working Group will be invited by the Chair to consider and adopt the provisional agenda, subject to such changes as may be necessary.¹

2. **Status of the Intergovernmental Agreement on the Trans-Asian Railway Network**

**Documentation**

Status of the Intergovernmental Agreement on the Trans-Asian Railway Network (ESCAP/TARN/WG/2021/1)

**Annotation**

At its 6th meeting, the Working Group considered and adopted amendments to annex I to the Intergovernmental Agreement on the Trans-Asian Railway Network (see ESCAP/TARN/WG/2019/6). Under the agenda item, the Working Group will be informed about depositary notifications issued and the entry into force of amendments to annex I since its 6th meeting and about any changes in the number of parties.

Member States that have not yet become parties to the Agreement may also wish to update the Working Group on their progress towards ratifying, accepting, acceding to or approving the Agreement.

3. **Consideration of proposals for amending the Intergovernmental Agreement on the Trans-Asian Railway Network**

**Documentation**

Proposals for amending the Intergovernmental Agreement on the Trans-Asian Railway Network (ESCAP/TARN/WG/2021/2)

**Annotation**

On 14 December 2020, a note verbale was sent to the parties to the Intergovernmental Agreement on the Trans-Asian Railway Network in which they were invited to submit to the secretariat proposals for amending the Agreement. In accordance with article 7, paragraph 3, article 8, paragraph 5 and article 9, paragraph 3, of the Agreement, the secretariat circulated the proposals to be considered at the 7th meeting of the Working Group 45 days before the opening of the meeting.

Against this background, the Working Group may wish to consider the amendment proposals as contained in document ESCAP/TARN/WG/2021/2.

¹ The tentative programme, list of participants and documents of the meeting will be available online at www.unescap.org/events/2021/seventh-meeting-working-group-trans-asian-railway.
4. Policies and issues related to the development and operationalization of the Trans-Asian Railway network

Documentation

Policies and issues related to the development and operationalization of the Trans-Asian Railway network (ESCAP/TARN/WG/2021/3)

Annotation

The Working Group will be informed of the policies and issues relating to the development and operationalization of the Trans-Asian Railway network. The persistent and emerging issues with regard to strengthening international railway transport will be highlighted, as will the secretariat’s work in this regard. Included in the highlighted issues will be the challenges and opportunities for rail transport in the context of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic and the ongoing or planned initiatives in line with the ambition to build back better from the crisis.

Member States may wish to inform the Working Group about national, bilateral or subregional plans, activities and evolving circumstances relevant to the continued development and operationalization of the network. The Working Group may wish to share and consider policy approaches to prioritize investment in missing links and enhance the efficiency of international railway transport along the network, with a particular focus on operational issues, including but not limited to reflections and initiatives arising from the COVID-19 pandemic.

On the basis of the discussions, the Working Group may wish to provide additional guidance to the secretariat on its future activities to support the efforts to implement the Agreement and support efficient operations along the network.

5. Enhancing sustainability of freight transport in the decade of action for the Sustainable Development Goals

Documentation

Enhancing the sustainability of freight transport in the decade of action for the Sustainable Development Goals (ESCAP/TARN/WG/2021/4)

Annotation

The Working Group will be informed of the efforts to enhance the sustainability of freight transport in support of the decade of action for the Sustainable Development Goals in the context of the project entitled “Promoting a shift towards sustainable freight transport in the Asia-Pacific region”, which is being implemented by the secretariat under the twelfth tranche of the United Nations Development Account.

Member States may wish to inform the Working Group about national, bilateral or subregional plans and activities related to enhancing the sustainability of freight transport operations along the Trans-Asian Railway network. The Working Group may wish to provide further guidance to the secretariat on mainstreaming sustainability in freight operations along the network as part of the United Nations Development Account project or other activities.
6. Other matters

The Working Group may wish to consider other matters brought to its attention.

7. Adoption of the report of the Working Group on its 7th meeting

Documentation

Draft report (ESCAP/TARN/WG/2021/L.2)

Annotation

The Working Group will consider and adopt the report on its 7th meeting.