
Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific
Working Group on the Asian Highway

7th meeting

Bangkok, 13-15 December 2017

Item 2 of the provisional agenda*

**Status of signatories and parties to the Intergovernmental
Agreement on the Asian Highway Network**

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Note by the secretariat

Summary

The present document contains information on the current status of the Intergovernmental Agreement on the Asian Highway Network regarding the number of signatories and parties to the Agreement. Member States that have not yet become parties may wish to update the Working Group on the progress made towards ratification, acceptance, accession to or approval of the Agreement.

I. Introduction

1. The Intergovernmental Agreement on the Asian Highway Network¹ is a treaty that provides a coordinated plan for the development of highway routes of international importance within Asia and between Asia and neighbouring regions, with a view to promoting and developing international road transport in the region. The present document contains information regarding the status of signatories and parties to the Agreement.

II. Status of implementation of the Agreement

A. Signatures and ratifications

2. The Agreement entered into force on 4 July 2005, 90 days after it had been signed definitively, ratified and/or approved by the requisite number of States.

3. With Turkmenistan becoming a party to the Agreement through accession on 27 November 2016, 30 of the 32 Asian Highway member States are now parties to the Agreement. Once Malaysia and Singapore become parties to the Agreement, all 32 Asian Highway member States will enjoy the

* E/ESCAP/AHWG(7)/L.1.

¹ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2323, No. 41607.

same rights under the Agreement. The current status of signatories and parties to the Agreement is given in annex I to the present document.

4. Signatory States wishing to become parties to the Agreement should deposit their instrument of ratification, acceptance or approval of the Agreement after completing the related national procedures. A model instrument of ratification, acceptance or approval is attached in annex II.

5. Member States that have not signed the Agreement can become a party to the Agreement by accession, which is a one-step action. A model instrument of accession is attached in annex III.

6. Member States wishing to deposit their instruments in relation to paragraph 4 should contact the Treaty Section of the Office of Legal Affairs at United Nations Headquarters in New York (telephone: 1 212 963 5047, fax: 1 212 963 3693, email: treaty@un.org) to make the necessary arrangements. The Transport Division of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific secretariat (telephone: 66 2 288 1371, fax: 66 2 288 3050, email: escap-ttd@un.org) stands ready to assist member States in this process by receiving the said instruments and liaising with the Office of Legal Affairs.

7. Reservations may not be made with respect to any of the provisions of the Agreement, except as provided in article 14, paragraph 5 of the Agreement, whereby any State may, at the time of definitive signature or of depositing its instrument of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession, deposit a reservation stating that it does not consider itself bound by the provisions of article 14 relating to conciliation. A model instrument of reservation/declaration is attached in annex IV.

B. Issues for consideration by the Working Group

8. The Working Group may wish to discuss the ways to encourage all member States of the Asian Highway to become parties to the Agreement.

Annex I

Status of signatories and parties to the Intergovernmental Agreement on the Asian Highway Network

<i>Signatory</i>	<i>Date of signature</i>	<i>Date of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession</i>
1. Afghanistan	26 April 2004	8 January 2006
2. Armenia	26 April 2004	6 June 2005
3. Azerbaijan	28 April 2004	5 May 2005
4. Bangladesh		10 August 2009 (Accession)
5. Bhutan	26 April 2004	18 August 2005
6. Cambodia	26 April 2004	5 April 2005 (Approval)
7. China		26 April 2004 (Definitive signature)
8. Democratic People's Republic of Korea		12 October 2012 (Accession)
9. Georgia	26 April 2004	9 December 2005 (Approval)
10. India	27 April 2004	16 February 2006
11. Indonesia	26 April 2004	11 February 2010
12. Iran (Islamic Republic of)	26 April 2004	3 November 2009
13. Japan		26 April 2004 (Definitive signature)
14. Kazakhstan	26 April 2004	1 November 2007 (Approval)
15. Kyrgyzstan	26 April 2004	30 August 2006
16. Lao People's Democratic Republic	26 April 2004	10 April 2008
17. Malaysia	24 September 2004	
18. Mongolia	26 April 2004	25 July 2005
19. Myanmar	26 April 2004	15 September 2004
20. Nepal	26 April 2004	14 June 2010
21. Pakistan	26 April 2004	19 October 2005
22. Philippines	2 November 2005	18 December 2007
23. Republic of Korea	26 April 2004	13 August 2004
24. Russian Federation		27 April 2004 (Definitive signature)
25. Sri Lanka	26 April 2004	24 September 2004
26. Tajikistan	26 April 2004	9 April 2006
27. Thailand	26 April 2004	13 March 2006
28. Turkey	26 April 2004	30 March 2010
29. Turkmenistan		27 November 2016 (Accession)
30. Uzbekistan		26 April 2004 (Definitive signature)
31. Viet Nam	26 April 2004	3 August 2004 (Approval)

Source: Based on information available from www.treaties.un.org/pages/ViewDetails.aspx?src=TREATY&mtdsg_no=XI-B-34&chapter=11&clang=_en (accessed 21 September 2017).

Annex II

Model Instrument of Ratification, Acceptance or Approval

(To be signed by the Head of State, Head of Government or Minister of/for Foreign Affairs)

[RATIFICATION/ACCEPTANCE/APPROVAL]

WHEREAS the *Intergovernmental Agreement on the Asian Highway Network* was adopted *on 18 November 2003 in Bangkok* and opened for signature *in Shanghai, China, from 26 to 28 April 2004 and thereafter at United Nations Headquarters in New York from 1 May 2004 to 31 December 2005,*

AND WHEREAS the said *Intergovernmental Agreement on the Asian Highway Network* has been signed on behalf of the Government of [name of State] on [date],

NOW THEREFORE I, [name and title of the Head of State, Head of Government or Minister of/for Foreign Affairs] declare that the Government of [name of State], having considered the above-mentioned *Intergovernmental Agreement on the Asian Highway Network*, [ratifies, accepts, approves] the same and undertakes faithfully to perform and carry out the stipulations contained therein.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have signed this instrument of [ratification, acceptance, or approval] at [place] on [date].

[Signature]

Annex III

Model Instrument of Accession

(To be signed by the Head of State, Head of Government or Minister of/for Foreign Affairs)

ACCESSION

WHEREAS the *Intergovernmental Agreement on the Asian Highway Network* was adopted *on 18 November 2003 in Bangkok* and opened for signature *in Shanghai, China, from 26 to 28 April 2004 and thereafter at United Nations Headquarters in New York from 1 May 2004 to 31 December 2005,*

NOW THEREFORE I, [name and title of the Head of State, Head of Government or Minister of/for Foreign Affairs] declare that the Government of **[name of State]**, having considered the above-mentioned *Intergovernmental Agreement on the Asian Highway Network*, accedes to the same and undertakes faithfully to perform and carry out the stipulations contained therein.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have signed this instrument of accession at **[place]** on **[date]**.

[Signature]

Annex IV

Model Instrument of Reservation/Declaration

(To be signed by the Head of State, Head of Government or Minister of/for Foreign Affairs)

[RESERVATION/DECLARATION]

I, [name and title of the Head of State, Head of Government or Minister of/for Foreign Affairs],

HEREBY DECLARE that the Government of [name of State] makes the following [reservation/declaration] in relation to article [14 (5) of the *Intergovernmental Agreement on the Asian Highway Network adopted on 18 November 2003 in Bangkok:*]

[Substance of reservation/declaration]

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and seal.

Done at [place] on [date]

[Signature and title]
