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Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific
Committee on Transport**Fifth session**

Bangkok, 19–21 November 2018

Annotated provisional agenda

The present document contains the provisional agenda for the fifth session of the Committee on Transport (section I) and the annotations to the provisional agenda (section II).

I. Provisional agenda

1. Opening of the session:
 - (a) Opening statements;
 - (b) Election of officers;
 - (c) Adoption of the agenda.
2. Review of the implementation of the Regional Action Programme for Sustainable Transport Connectivity in Asia and the Pacific, phase I (2017–2021):
 - (a) Progress in the establishment of an interregional coordination committee on transport between Asia and Europe;
 - (b) Regional transport infrastructure connectivity;
 - (c) Regional transport operational connectivity;
 - (d) Europe-Asia transport connectivity;
 - (e) Transport connectivity for least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States;
 - (f) Sustainable urban transport;
 - (g) Rural transport connectivity to wider networks;
 - (h) Improving road safety.
3. Major issues in transport:
 - (a) Facilitating transport and logistics in the era of sustainable development;
 - (b) Framework for enhancing the efficiency of railway border crossings along the Trans-Asian Railway network and beyond;
 - (c) Development and operation of dry ports of international importance;

- (d) Developments in transport infrastructure connectivity (2014–2018) in the era of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;
 - (e) Assessment of urban transport systems and services;
 - (f) Improving road safety in Asia and the Pacific.
4. Consideration of future programme focus.
 5. Consideration of draft resolutions and decisions for submission to the Commission at its seventy-fifth session.
 6. Other matters.
 7. Adoption of the report of the Committee on its fifth session.

II. Annotations

1. Opening of the session

(a) Opening statements

The tentative programme for the opening of the session will be available online in due course at www.unescap.org/events/committee-transport-fifth-session.

(b) Election of officers

The list of participants will be available online at www.unescap.org/events/committee-transport-fifth-session.

The Committee will elect a chair, vice-chair(s) and a rapporteur.

(c) Adoption of the agenda

Documentation

Annotated provisional agenda (ESCAP/CTR/2018/L.1/Rev.1)

Annotation

The provisional agenda will be considered and adopted by the Committee, subject to such changes as may be necessary.

2. Review of the implementation of the Regional Action Programme for Sustainable Transport Connectivity in Asia and the Pacific, phase I (2017–2021)

Documentation

Review of the implementation of the Regional Action Programme for Sustainable Transport Connectivity in Asia and the Pacific, phase I (2017–2021) (ESCAP/CTR/2018/1)

Activities implemented under the Regional Action Programme for Sustainable Transport Connectivity in Asia and the Pacific, phase I (2017–2021) (ESCAP/CTR/2018/INF/1)

Annotation

In the Ministerial Declaration on Sustainable Transport Connectivity in Asia and the Pacific, adopted by the Ministerial Conference on Transport at its third session, held in Moscow from 5 to 9 December 2016, member States recognized the need for long-term commitment and continuity in addressing critical issues in the transport sector to support economic growth, improve living standards and increase the competitiveness of economies in the region. Towards this end, the Conference adopted the Regional Action Programme for Sustainable Transport Connectivity in Asia and the Pacific, phase I (2017–2021), which was subsequently endorsed by the Commission at its seventy-third session in its resolution 73/4 as part of the Ministerial Declaration.

In the Ministerial Declaration, the secretariat is requested to (1) accord priority to the implementation of the Regional Action Programme and (2) seek cooperation from the Economic Commission for Europe and other international organizations and accelerate the work towards the establishment and full operationalization of an interregional coordination committee on transport between Asia and Europe.

Document ESCAP/CTR/2018/1 contains an update on the implementation of the Regional Action Programme, including highlights of completed and current activities. The document should be read in conjunction with information document ESCAP/CTR/2018/INF/1, which contains a discussion of activities implemented under the Regional Action Programme.

The Committee may wish to comment on the status of the implementation of the Regional Action Programme and provide guidance on the future programme focus areas, including the establishment of an interregional coordination committee on transport between Asia and Europe.

- 3. Major issues in transport**
- (a) Facilitating transport and logistics in the era of sustainable development**

Documentation

Facilitating transport and logistics in the era of sustainable development
(ESCAP/CTR/2018/2)

Annotation

There is a renewed urgency regarding the facilitation of transport and logistics with respect to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Operationalizing an integrated intermodal transport system that could enhance the sustainability of transport at the regional level, however, is inherently challenging and requires sustained efforts by member countries on multiple fronts. Document ESCAP/CTR/2018/2 contains a summary of recent important developments in facilitating transport in the Economic and Social Commission in Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) region, as well as a summary of the activities of the secretariat in support of regional transport operational connectivity to enhance intra- and interregional trade and people-to-people connectivity.

The document also provides information on some of the persistent and emerging challenges to facilitating transport and logistics in the region, and includes suggestions for how to address them, including how to meet sustainably the increasing demands for mobility. The importance of building

and strengthening partnerships with subregional organizations and multilateral development banks is reiterated as is the importance of leveraging the use of new technologies to enhance operational transport connectivity in the region.

The Committee may wish to review the activities and suggestions and provide further guidance to the secretariat on how to strengthen operational transport connectivity in the region.

(b) Framework for enhancing the efficiency of railway border crossings along the Trans-Asian Railway network and beyond

Documentation

Draft framework for enhancing the efficiency of railway border crossings along the Trans-Asian Railway network and beyond (ESCAP/CTR/2018/3)

Annotation

The Regional Cooperation Framework for the Facilitation of International Railway Transport was adopted by the Commission in resolution 71/7 of 29 May 2015. Member countries have been urged to cooperate in instituting measures to facilitate international railway transport in the region. Further, the Working Group on the Trans-Asian Railway Network, at its fifth meeting, held in Busan, Republic of Korea, in June 2017, recognized that the operational readiness of the Trans-Asian Railway network would improve through additional measures such as those promoting electronic exchange of information and easing of customs formalities to facilitate international railway transport, as well as through the definition of a common regulatory framework.

The secretariat, with the Organisation for Co-operation between Railways, prepared a draft framework for enhancing efficiency of railway border crossings along the Trans-Asian Railway network and beyond. The draft framework was presented at the Regional Meeting on Harmonization of Rules and Regulations for Facilitation of International Railway Transport held in Astana in December 2017. The Meeting recommended that the finalized framework be submitted to the Committee on Transport for its endorsement. Subsequently, the finalized draft was considered at the High-level Expert Group Meeting on Harmonization of Rules and Regulations for Facilitation of International Railway Transport held in Ankara in May 2018. The Expert Group recommended that the Committee submit the framework to the Commission for possible adoption. The framework was prepared under the secretariat's project on the harmonization of rules and regulations for the facilitation of international railway transport in the region.

The Committee may wish to endorse the draft framework for enhancing the efficiency of railway border crossings along the Trans-Asian Railway network and beyond, with a view to adoption by the Commission in 2019.

(c) Development and operation of dry ports of international importance

Documentation

Development and operation of dry ports of international importance (ESCAP/CTR/2018/4)

Annotation

At its fourth session, held from 15 to 17 October 2014, the Committee welcomed the opening for signature of the Intergovernmental Agreement on Dry Ports during the Forum of Asian Ministers of Transport at its second session, held in Bangkok from 4 to 8 November 2013, and acknowledged that the Agreement would promote the development of modern infrastructure in the region and enhance the role of the Asian Highway and Trans-Asian Railway in realizing the vision of an international integrated intermodal transport and logistics system for the region.

As of 2018, the benefits of dry ports for efficient logistics and intermodal transport operation have been well documented and the awareness, understanding and support among the region's policymakers has reached a high level. Following the entry into force of the Agreement on 23 April 2016, the secretariat implemented a number of studies. At its seventy-fourth session, the Commission adopted resolution 74/2, recognized the potential of the regional framework for the planning, design, development and operation of dry ports of international importance for promoting a coordinated approach to the development of dry ports across the region, and mandated the secretariat to undertake activities to promote the framework.

Document ESCAP/CTR/2018/4 contains an overview of the activities on dry ports since the Committee's fourth session in October 2014, set against the background of progress in the implementation of the Intergovernmental Agreement on Dry Ports since its entry into force and the past and future work of the secretariat, based on the directions provided by the Committee as well as Commission resolutions 73/4 and 74/2.

The Committee may wish to encourage member States to share national experiences and policies implemented in the development and operation of dry ports, including challenges faced. The Committee may also wish to consider how the implementation of resolution 74/2 will serve the Committee's broader transport development objectives. It may also wish to provide guidance to the secretariat on the pursuit of related issues through impact-oriented activities.

(d) Developments in transport infrastructure connectivity (2014–2018) in the era of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

Documentation

Developments in transport infrastructure connectivity (2014–2018) in the era of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (ESCAP/CTR/2018/5)

Annotation

The global reach of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the ambitious nature of the Sustainable Development Goals that it contains inevitably bring infrastructure connectivity to the forefront of sustainable transport. This was recognized by ESCAP member States when they endorsed the regional road map for implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific in resolution 73/9 and the Regional Action Programme for Sustainable Transport Connectivity in Asia and the Pacific, phase I (2017–2021).

Document ESCAP/CTR/2018/5 contains an overview of developments with regard to infrastructure connectivity through the lens of the comprehensive institutional framework of the Intergovernmental Agreements

on the Asian Highway Network, on the Trans-Asian Railway Network, and on Dry Ports and of their role in achieving Sustainable Development Goal 9, target 1, on quality, reliable, sustainable and resilient infrastructure. The document also contains information on the secretariat's activities in this regard and updated information on the status of infrastructure connectivity in the region, including regional cooperation initiatives and subregional or bilateral infrastructure development projects.

The Committee may wish to encourage member States to share national experiences, best practices and challenges. The Committee may also wish to take note of progress in transport infrastructure connectivity in the region and provide further guidance to the secretariat on future activities.

(e) Assessment of urban transport systems and services

Documentation

Assessment of urban transport systems and services (ESCAP/CTR/2018/6)

Annotation

The Asia-Pacific region is rapidly urbanizing. The concentration of motor vehicles in urban areas coupled with the lack of safe, affordable, accessible and efficient urban mobility systems and services has led to congestion, crashes, pollution and greenhouse gas emissions. Renewed commitments from members, associate members and city authorities are required to improve urban public transport systems and services in the cities of the region. Sustainable Development Goal 11 is on sustainable cities with a target to provide access for all.

Document ESCAP/CTR/2018/6 contains an outline of the state of urban transport systems and services in the region and of the use of technology, including intelligent transport systems, to improve the operational efficiency of urban transport. Also included is information on the sustainable urban transport index, a tool that will help to track the achievement of target 11.2 of Sustainable Development Goal 11 and will provide evidence-based policy guidelines for cities to improve urban transportation systems and services. The results of the pilot application of the sustainable urban transport index in four Asian cities is included, as well as information on the secretariat's plan to provide capacity-building support to additional cities and/or member countries. Examples of integrated urban transport planning, integrated urban transport modes and the deployment of new innovative technologies are also included. As the deployment of intelligent transport systems allows for improved traffic management, more fluid traffic flows and higher levels of safety, the document includes information about their applications, expected challenges, issues and benefits in urban development in the region.

The Committee is invited to endorse the sustainable urban transport index as a tool to measure the sustainability of urban transport systems in cities and track improvements over time. The Committee may also wish to encourage members and associate members to use the sustainable urban transport index in their cities to assess urban transport systems and utilize the results to initiate policies and measures to improve urban public transport systems and services.

In addition, the Committee may wish to encourage members and associate members to utilize intelligent transport system technologies to relieve urban traffic issues as that would be a large step towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.

(f) Improving road safety in Asia and the Pacific**Documentation**

Improving road safety in Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP/CTR/2018/7)

Annotation

In the ESCAP region, one person is killed in a road crash every 40 seconds. That is 2,000 lives lost per day and 15,000 per week, which is a cause of substantial economic and social loss. While the economic cost of road crashes in the region is estimated to be between \$293 billion and \$527 billion, the social cost is immeasurable.

Target 3.6 of Sustainable Development Goal 3 is to halve the number of global deaths and injuries from road traffic accidents by 2020. However, the current progress in the region, with an average reduction of 1.9 per cent per annum, is far from sufficient to meet this ambitious target. If the region continues at that pace, only a 20 per cent reduction will be achieved by 2020.

Document ESCAP/CTR/2018/7 contains a review of the overall regional status and progress made in achieving Sustainable Development Goal targets 3.6 and 11.2, as well as of the challenges to improving road safety. It also contains highlights of recent progress and the initiatives implemented by members and associate members to improve road safety. It contains information about regional initiatives and efforts to assist member States to address the challenges of road safety.

The Committee may wish to provide guidance on further regional, subregional and national efforts to significantly reduce road fatalities in the region.

4. Consideration of future programme focus**Documentation**

Preparation of the draft programme of work for 2020 (ESCAP/CTR/2018/INF/2)

Annotation

The Committee may wish to provide guidance on the focus of the short- and long-term work of the secretariat on transport, taking into account the programme direction and priorities outlined in the programme of work for the biennium 2018–2019. The Committee may also wish to provide the secretariat with guidance on incorporating the outcome of the Committee's deliberations into the secretariat's strategic planning process, including the preparation of the programme of work for 2020.

5. Consideration of draft resolutions and decisions for submission to the Commission at its seventy-fifth session

Under this agenda item, member States may wish to circulate, in advance, proposals and/or texts of draft resolutions on priority issues relating to transport development for the consideration of the Commission at its seventy-fifth session.

6. Other matters

The Committee may wish to consider other matters not covered under the items mentioned above.

7. Adoption of the report of the Committee on its fifth session

Documentation

Draft report (ESCAP/CTR/2018/L.2)

Annotation

The Committee will consider and adopt the report on its fifth session for submission to the Commission at its seventy-fifth session, to be held in 2019.
