Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific
Ad hoc Intergovernmental Meeting on an Intergovernmental Agreement on Dry Ports
Bangkok, 20-22 June 2012

Report of the Ad hoc Intergovernmental Meeting on an Intergovernmental Agreement on Dry Ports

I. Matters calling for action by the Committee on Transport or brought to its attention

1. The Meeting recommends the adoption of the finalized draft intergovernmental agreement on dry ports by the Committee on Transport at its third session, which is to be convened from 10 to 12 October 2012. (See E/ESCAP/IADP/IGM.1/2)

II. Summary of proceedings

A. Introduction to the development of dry ports in Asia
(Agenda item 2)

2. The Meeting had before it a note by the secretariat containing an introduction to the development of dry ports in Asia (E/ESCAP/IADP/IGM.1/1).

3. The Meeting noted the explanation provided by the secretariat regarding the concept and definition of dry ports and the process involved in the development of the draft intergovernmental agreement on dry ports.

4. The Meeting recognized the need to develop dry ports to integrate various modes of transport in achieving the vision of an international integrated intermodal transport and logistics system for the Asian and Pacific region.

B. Introduction to United Nations treaties and the roles and obligations of the Parties
(Agenda item 3)

5. The Meeting took note of the presentation given by the representative of the Treaty Section of the Office of Legal Affairs regarding participation in multilateral treaties, depositary functions, and final clauses presented which introduced treaties and the Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties. Some of the obligations of States under international treaty law, including the

obligation not to defeat the object and purpose of the treaty in the period before its entry into force, as well as the obligation to implement the treaty in good faith, were introduced.

6. The Meeting recognized that well-drafted and precise final clauses would allow for the easy operation of a treaty and facilitate its implementation by the Parties as well as by the depositary.

C. **Consideration of the revised draft of the intergovernmental agreement on dry ports**  
(Agenda item 4)

7. The Meeting had before it the revised draft intergovernmental agreement on dry ports (E/ESCAP/IADP/IGM.1/WP.1).

8. The Meeting held the view that the development of dry ports would promote the sustainable development of transport networks that extended to hinterland areas, in particular for the 12 landlocked developing countries in Asia, and provide new opportunities for increased international trade.

9. The Meeting also held the view that an intergovernmental agreement on dry ports would promote international recognition of dry ports, facilitate investment in infrastructure, improve the operational efficiency of intermodal transport services, establish guiding principles for the development and operation of dry ports, and enhance the environmental sustainability of freight transport.

D. **Other matters**  
(Agenda item 5)


11. The Meeting expressed its appreciation to the secretariat for the preparation made for and organization of the Meeting.

E. **Finalization of the draft intergovernmental agreement on dry ports**  
(Agenda item 6)

12. The Meeting finalized the draft intergovernmental agreement on dry ports and recommended that the finalized draft agreement be adopted by the Committee on Transport at its third session, which would be convened from 10 to 12 October 2012. The Meeting noted that the agreement, if adopted by the Committee, would be opened for signature by member States during the sixty-ninth session of the Commission, in 2013.

13. The delegation of Indonesia expressed reservations about the text of Article 10 on Reservations.

14. The Meeting requested member States to complete the necessary national consultation and process towards adoption of the agreement prior to the third session of the Committee on Transport, which was scheduled to be held from 10 to 12 October 2012 in Bangkok.
F. Adoption of the report of the Meeting
(Agenda item 7)

15. The report of the Ad hoc Intergovernmental Meeting on an Intergovernmental Agreement on Dry Ports was adopted on 22 June 2012.

III. Organization of the Meeting

A. Opening and duration

16. The Ad hoc Intergovernmental Meeting on an Intergovernmental Agreement on Dry Ports was held at the United Nations Conference Centre in Bangkok from 20 to 22 June 2012.

17. The Director of the Transport Division of ESCAP declared open the Meeting and gave an opening statement.

B. Attendance

18. The Meeting was attended by representatives of the following members of the Commission: Afghanistan; Armenia; Azerbaijan; Bangladesh; Bhutan; Cambodia; China; Democratic People’s Republic of Korea; Fiji; Georgia; India; Indonesia; Iran (Islamic Republic of); Japan; Kazakhstan; Kyrgyzstan; Lao People's Democratic Republic; Malaysia; Mongolia; Myanmar; Nepal; Pakistan; Philippines; Republic of Korea; Russian Federation; Sri Lanka; Tajikistan; Thailand; Turkey; United States of America; and Viet Nam.

19. The Meeting was also attended by a representative of the Treaty Section of the Office of Legal Affairs.

C. Election of officers

20. The Meeting elected the following officers:

Chair: Ms. Maria Catalina E. Cabral (Philippines)
Vice-Chairs: Mr. Anura Jayawickrama (Sri Lanka)
Mr. Alexey Alekseev (Russian Federation)
Rapporteur: Mr. Ganbold Khatanbaatar (Mongolia)

D. Agenda

21. The Meeting adopted the following agenda:

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

2. Introduction to the development of dry ports in Asia.

3. Introduction to United Nations treaties and the roles and obligations of the Parties.
4. Consideration of the revised draft of the intergovernmental agreement on dry ports:
   
   (a) Preamble;
   (b) Main articles;
   (c) Dry ports of international importance (annex I);
   (d) Guiding principles for the development and operation of dry ports (annex II).

5. Other matters.

6. Finalization of the draft intergovernmental agreement on dry ports.

7. Adoption of the report of the Meeting.
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