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Item 22 of the provisional agenda

**Draft programme of work and
biennial evaluation for 2018-2019****Draft programme of work and biennial evaluation
for 2018-2019****Note by the secretariat****I. Mandate**

1. In accordance with the decision of the Inland Transport Committee (ITC) to review its programme of work every two years, the next review period beginning in 2018 (ECE/TRANS/200, para. 120), the Working Party will be invited to review and adopt its programme of work for 2016-2017, as well as the relevant parameters for its biennial evaluation.
2. The present document contains the draft programme of work for 2018-2019, relevant parameters for its biennial evaluation and information on the status of the Working Party.
3. It is recalled that ITC had decided to discontinue the 4-year work plan at its seventy-eighth session (ECE/TRANS/254, para. 159).

II. Draft programme of work for 2018-2019**A. Introduction**

4. The present document sets out the draft programme of work for 2018-2019 of the subprogramme on "Rail Transport" of the Inland Transport Committee (ITC). The Working Party on Rail Transport (SC.2) is invited to consider this programme for adoption at its current session. It will be submitted to ITC and the United Nations Economic Commission

for Europe (UNECE) Executive Committee for formal approval. The Working Party and ITC will have the opportunity to adjust its programme of work during the course of the biennium, to be reflected in a separate document.

5. The draft programme of work applies a results-based approach. It comprises, for each cluster of activities, an expected accomplishment and a list of outputs/activities proposed to be carried out in 2018-2019. The delivery of these outputs/activities is expected to contribute to achieving the expected results.

6. The grouping of programme activities into clusters is the same as that used by the ITC for the biennial evaluation of its subprogramme performance.

7. The following clusters of activities make up the transport subprogramme of UNECE:

Cluster No. Subprogramme: 02 Transport

1	Overall coordination (Inland Transport Committee and Bureau)
2	Transport trends and economics (including Euro-Asian transport links)
3	Harmonization of vehicle regulations, climate change and intelligent transport systems (ITS)
4	Rail transport and Trans-European railway (TER) Project
5	Inland waterway transport
6	Intermodal transport and logistics
7	Customs questions affecting transport
8	Transport, Health and Environment pan-European programme (THE PEP)
9	Transport of dangerous goods (UNECE)
10	Transport of dangerous goods (ECOSOC)
11	Globally Harmonized System for the Classification and Labelling of Chemicals (GHS) (ECOSOC)
12	Transport of perishable foodstuffs
13	Transport statistics
14	Road transport and Trans-European north-south motorway (TEM) project
15	Road traffic safety

8. Furthermore, the outputs/activities listed in this document correspond with the UNECE proposed programme budget for 2018-2019 subprogramme 2: Transport. As necessary, they are complemented by additional items to reflect more recent developments and needs of ECE member States. For easy reference, such new outputs/activities are clearly indicated as “additional” and in “bold text”.

9. The outputs/activities have been listed under the cluster of activities to which they belong according to the following main categories: (a) meetings and related parliamentary documentation; (b) publications and other information material; and (c) technical cooperation, including, seminars, workshops, training sessions, advisory services and online tools.

10. The relevant indicators of achievement, together with baseline and target data, against which performance will be measured, are presented below.

11. The present document is based in substance on the SC.2 work plan for ~~2014-2018~~ **2016-2020** as adopted at the ~~sixty-seventh~~ **sixty-ninth** session of the Working Party in ~~October 2013~~ **November 2015** (~~ECE/TRANS/SC.2/2013/9 and ECE/TRANS/SC.2/220, paras. 88-89~~) (**ECE/TRANS/SC.2/2015/8 and ECE/TRANS/SC.2/224, paras. 68-71**) and approved and amended by ITC at its ~~seventy-sixth~~ **seventy-eighth** session on ~~25-27 February 2014~~ (~~ECE/TRANS/2014/26 and ECE/TRANS/240, para. 105~~) **23-26 February 2016** (**ECE/TRANS/2016/31 and ECE/TRANS/254, para. 94-103**).

B. Objective and strategy

12. The objective of the UNECE subprogramme on transport is to facilitate the international movement of persons and goods by inland transport modes and improve safety, environmental protection, energy efficiency and security in the transport sector to levels that contribute effectively to sustainable transport.

13. The responsibility for this subprogramme is vested in the Sustainable Transport Division.

C. Outputs/activities to be delivered in the 2018-2019 biennium

14. Outputs/activities to be delivered in the 2018-2019 biennium are as follows:

Subprogramme: 02 Transport

Cluster 4: Rail transport (Trans-European network for rail (TER) project)

<i>Description of cluster (optional)</i>	<i>Expected accomplishments from this cluster</i>
1. Monitoring, reviewing and updating of the European Agreement on Main International Railway Lines (AGC).	Better understanding of rail transport operations and policies in the region, including infrastructure and its financing, border crossing, interoperability, security and safety, high speed trains, climate change as well as rail productivity and rail reform issues, and monitoring and updating of relevant legal instruments, as well as enhanced cooperation of ECE countries in addressing them. Increased capacity of ECE countries participating in the TER projects.
2. Consideration of measures to promote efficiency of rail transport as part of a sustainable transport system, including bottlenecks in rail transport services at the pan-European level.	
3. Report and consider utilization of results of the Trans-European Railway (TER) project and its activities and strengthen cooperation between the TER project and the Working Party on Rail Transport (SC.2).	
4. Survey passenger and goods traffic on the AGC network in order to provide support for transport planning.	
5. Participation in and monitoring of different rail projects and initiatives on new conventions and regional cooperation and along Euro-Asian transport corridors.	
6. Facilitate international rail transport in the pan-European region through improved border crossing procedures and harmonization of technical specifications of different railway systems and their operations at borders.	

<i>Description of cluster (optional)</i>	<i>Expected accomplishments from this cluster</i>
<p>7. Review general trends in rail transport developments and rail transport policy, analyze specific rail transport economic issues, collect, compile and disseminate rail transport statistics in cooperation with the Working Party on Transport Statistics (WP.6) and prepare reports, reviews, publications and annual workshops on topical themes in rail transport development and best practices.</p>	
<p>Main actions by the Sustainable Transport Division:</p>	
<p>(a) Act as secretariat to the Working Party on Rail Transport and its groups of experts.</p>	
<p>(b) Maintain the online monitoring tool on the application of the AGC and AGTC infrastructure standards.</p>	
<p>(c) Provide support for technical cooperation and capacity-building in rail transport.</p>	
<p>(d) Represent UNECE in relevant to railways meetings of inter- and non-governmental organizations that are relevant to railways.</p>	

Other activities within the cluster

The Group of Experts towards Unified Railway Law **based on the ITC Resolution No. 263 should focus its efforts on the finalization of the following tasks:**

(a) **Coordinate the preparation and/or review the already prepared necessary documents for rail transport by the relevant international associations in the railway sector meaning the Organization for Cooperation between Railways (OSJD), the Intergovernmental Organization for International Carriage by Rail (OTIF) and the International Rail Transport Committee (CIT), following the draft legal provisions prepared during the previous phase of the group of experts.**

(b) **The ITC resolution on Unified Railway Law (ECE/TRANS/2016/17) encourages Railway Undertakings and International Organizations for railways to test the draft legal provisions towards Unified Railway Law prepared, whenever possible, in practice. The Group of Experts should monitor the results of these pilot tests and prepare recommendations accordingly.**

(c) **Propose possible next steps of the Group.**

~~will implement the strategy (rail map) planned to establish legal conditions for railways equivalent with those existing for competing modes such as road, air, inland water and maritime transport in accordance with the Joint Declaration on the promotion of Euro-Asian rail transport and activities towards unified railway law signed by thirty seven (37) European and Asian countries during the Ministerial session of the seventy fifth Inland Transport Committee.~~

~~The planned strategy includes the following elements:~~

~~—— (a) — Establishment of a unified set of transparent and predictable provisions and legal rules for Euro Asian rail transport operations in all countries concerned that would facilitate border crossing procedures, particularly for transit traffic;~~

~~—— (b) — Analysis of existing international modal transport conventions (rail, road, air, inland water and maritime transport) and related agreements in order to identify provisions and procedures important for establishing unified railway law;~~

~~—— (c) Unification of international railway law with the objective to allow rail carriage under a single legal regime from the Atlantic to the Pacific;~~

~~—— (d) On the basis of a future material consensus on unified railway law, identification of an appropriate management system for unified railway law using the experience of international organizations in the field of the railway transport (Intergovernmental Organisation for International Carriage by Rail (OTIF), Organization for Cooperation between Railways (OSJD), etc.) as well as of international organizations of other modes of transport;~~

~~—— (e) Support for the widest possible use of electronic document workflow and intelligent transport systems.~~

Outputs/activities

(a) Meetings and related parliamentary documentation

4.1 Working Party on Rail Transport (seventy-second and seventy-third session in 2018) (12 meetings)

Documentation:

Agenda and reports of the annual sessions (4); other documents (20) on mandated issues, including the draft programme of work **and biennial evaluation work plan**, public private partnerships and railways financing, high speed railways, rail security and safety, border crossings facilitation, rail review, rail productivity indicators, railways reform, unified railway law, administration and updating of the AGC Agreement, **railway statistics**; other related documents on newly mandated issues.

4.2 Scheduled sessions of the Group of Experts towards Unified Railway Law

Documentation:

Agendas of the sessions (6), reports of the sessions (6); documents related to draft legal provisions of the unified railway law (12), documents related to the appropriate management of the unified railway law (6), other mandated documents relevant to the unified railway law (6).

(b) Publications and other information material and online tools

4.3 Online monitoring tool on the application of the AGC and AGTC infrastructure standards.

4.4 Rail review publication for the ECE region, including contemporary issues for rail including climate change, infrastructure and statistics.

4.5 Development and monitoring of the International Observatory on Rail Security.

4.6 Development of rail productivity indicators.

Non-recurrent publications:

4.7 High-Speed Trains Master Plan **for ECE region**.

(c) Technical cooperation

4.8 Workshop on contemporary rail issues (2).

4.9 Seminars on TER (2).

4.10 Field project on TER (1).

III. Biennial evaluation

15. On the basis of decisions taken at its sixty-seventh session in October 2013 (ECE/TRANS/SC.2/220, paras. 88-89), the activities of the Working Party are measured, as part of the biennial evaluation, against one expected accomplishment, three indicators of achievement and corresponding actual performance measures. In 2014 and 2015, this approach had been approved by ITC as part of the performance planning for evaluation of the biennium 2014-2015 (ECE/TRANS/2014/26).

16. The Working Party may wish to review the 2016-2017 parameters (expected accomplishments, indicators of achievement, actual performance measures) as provided below with a view to either maintaining them or establishing new ones for the biennium 2018-2019.

<i>Biennial Assessment</i> <i>Review of performance measures for 2014-2015 and establishment of targets for 2016-2017</i>			
<i>Cluster</i>	<i>Expected Accomplishments</i>	<i>Indicators of Achievement</i>	<i>Actual Performance Measures</i>
4. Rail Transport (Trans-European network for rail (TER) project)	Better understanding of rail transport operations and policies in the region, including infrastructure, border crossing, interoperability issues, and monitoring and updating of relevant legal instruments, as well as enhanced cooperation of ECE countries in addressing them.	(a) Number of countries, IGOs and NGOs participating in the two annual meetings of the Working Party on Rail Transport and the TER project and level of satisfaction as expressed in surveys. <i>Performance measures:</i> <i>Baseline:</i> 2012-2013: <i>Target:</i> 2014-2015: <i>Target:</i> 2016-2017: <i>Target:</i> 2018-2019:	55 80 72 40
	Increased capacity of ECE countries participating in the TER projects.	(b) Number of amendments to the AGC Agreement, as well as updated and amended lines in its annex I which the Working Party has put in effect. <i>Performance measures:</i> <i>Baseline:</i> 2012-2013: <i>Target:</i> 2014-2015: <i>Target:</i> 2016-2017: <i>Target:</i> 2018-2019:	1 2 1 1
		(c) Number of thematic workshops/seminars/themes organized and number of participants <i>Performance measures:</i> <i>Baseline:</i> 2012-2013: <i>Target:</i> 2014-2015: <i>Target:</i> 2016-2017: <i>Target:</i> 2018-2019:	1 2 2 2

IV. Status of the Working Party

17. In accordance with the Guidelines for the establishment and functioning of Working Parties within UNECE, the mandate and extension of these Working Parties should be reviewed every 5 years (ECE/EX/1, para. 1 (c)).

18. The ITC, at its seventy-fourth session in March 2012, renewed the 5-year mandate of the Working Party (ECE/TRANS/224, para. 91) which was subsequently approved by the Commission at its sixty-fifth session in April 2013.

19. The terms of reference of the Working Party, adopted by the Working Party on 3-4 November 2011 (ECE/TRANS/SC.2/216, para. 58) and approved by ITC on 1 March 2012 (ECE/TRANS/224, para. 91), are contained in document ECE/TRANS/WP.24/2011/3. As the Working Party has not adopted specific rules of procedure, those of the Commission apply.
