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Inland Transport Committee

Working Party on Transport Trends and Economics

Group of Experts on Climate Change impacts and adaptation for international transport networks

First session

Geneva, 5 September 2011

Item 5 of the provisional agenda

Programme of work

Programme of Work and Terms of Reference of the UNECE Group of Experts on Climate Change impacts and adaptation for international transport networks

Note by the secretariat

I. Programme of Work

A. Objectives of Work

1. In accordance with its Terms of Reference, the Group of Experts is expected to complete its work within two years and to submit a full report of its accomplishments. This will include policy-oriented recommendations that aim to improve the long-term sustainability of international transport and set best examples of national policies, address the issues of transport networks vulnerability amongst member Governments, including developing and landlocked countries, as well as small island States.
2. The Expert Group is expected to assist in the following issues:
 - (a) Identify potential climatic impacts on transport infrastructure, including ports and their hinterland connections, as well as on transport services and networks across the broader supply-chain, including their type, range and distribution across different regions and transport modes;
 - (b) Determine the costs of climatic impacts for international inland transport networks, including the broader implications for trade and development of impacted countries as well as identify the requirements for corresponding adaptation responses;

(c) Identify existing best practices in national policies and risk management as well as formulation of relevant strategies to enhance the resilience of international transport networks, through changes in infrastructure design and operation planning and management, taking into account specific risks and vulnerabilities.

B. Activities

3. The Group of Experts will undertake the following main tasks, which are further defined in the Terms of Reference and will be further elaborated, as required, throughout the whole period of its work, with the support of the secretariat:

- (a) Adopt its work plan (objectives, activities, time schedule);
- (b) Take stock of the available data and analysis of climate change impacts on international transport networks in the ECE region and beyond;
- (c) Collect information on all relevant planning, management, organizational and other initiatives for adaptation of transport networks to climate change;
- (d) Prepare, in a coordinated manner, recommendations or proposals to member Governments, with a view to improving the adaptability of transport networks to climate change in areas such as: infrastructure, risk-assessment methodology, evaluation of adaptive measures, risk management, training tools, and cross-border information sharing by national transport authorities;
- (e) Convene an International Conference on Adaptation of Transport Networks to Climate Change to raise awareness and provide inputs to the work;
- (f) Prepare and present a final report of its work;
- (g) Make proposals on the scope of related activities of its parent body, the Working Party on Transport Trends and Economics (WP.5).

4. In carrying out its main tasks, the Expert Group will, among others, also:

- (a) Review the geographical scope of the work, as the Terms of Reference stipulate that the Expert Group may study climate change impacts and adaptation requirements for international transport networks within and beyond the UNECE region;
- (b) Identify potential partners in the public or private sector and on the national, regional and international level, with whom the Expert Group may wish to collaborate in respect of its work, with a view to awareness raising and exchange of best practices, as well as ensuring extra budgetary funding in support of its activities;
- (c) Identify suitable methodological approaches for gathering and disseminating relevant information, i.e. conducting studies, distributing questionnaires, using existing studies and national strategies, existing best practices in risk management and financing of adaptation measures, among others;
- (d) Identify any necessary data (including specific geological or meteorological data elements) that the Expert Group may require with regard to regions or countries that run a higher risk of being impacted, are particularly vulnerable, or are already experiencing the effects of climate change on their transport networks.

C. Time Schedule

5. At its first session on 5 September 2011, the Expert Group will review its time schedule of activities which is planned as follows:

<i>Session</i>	<i>Date</i>
First session	5 September 2011
Second session	4 November 2011
Third session	May 2012 (date to be confirmed)
International Conference on Adaptation of Transport Networks to Climate Change	Date to be confirmed (2012)
Fourth session	10 September 2012
Fifth session	6 December 2012

II. Terms of Reference

6. The Terms of Reference of the Group of Experts on Climate Change impacts and adaptation for international transport networks were set out in Annex II of document ECE/TRANS/WP.5/2010/3 and further fine-tuned and adopted by the Working Party on Transport Trends and Economics at its twenty-third session (Geneva, 7–8 September 2010) as reflected in its report ECE/TRANS/WP.5/48, endorsed by the Inland Transport Committee in its 73rd session (1–3 March 2011) and approved by the UNECE Executive Committee (10 May 2011).
