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Inland Transport Committee

Working Party on Transport Trends and Economics

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

Seventh session

Geneva, 3–5 June 2015

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 transport networks and nodes

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 (2015–2017) and to submit a full report of its accomplishments. The Group of Experts should base its considerations on the previous work of United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) in this field, in particular, the output of the Group of Experts on Climate Change Impacts and Adaption for International Transport Networks and its final report (ECE/TRANS/238) and recommendations published in 2013 and adopted by the Inland Transport Committee at its seventy-sixth session (ECE/TRANS/240, para. 20).

2. The Group of Experts shall assist in:

(a) Identify and establish, if possible, inventories of transport networks in the ECE region which are vulnerable to climate change impacts, if possible in a geographic information system (GIS) environment;

(b) Use/develop models, methodologies, tools and good practices to address potential extreme hazards (e.g. high temperatures and floods) to selected inland transport infrastructure in the ECE region under different scenarios of climate change;

(c) Identification and analysis of case studies on the potential economic, social, and environmental consequences of the climate change impacts and provide a cost/benefit analysis of the adaptation options.

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 transport networks – road, rail, inland waterways – in the ECE region of international importance and, whenever, needed because of connections with ports and intermodal transport centres of national importance;

(c) Identify, if possible, points of high criticality of these networks and nodes by taking into consideration their degree of international/national importance as well as cargo and passenger flows;

(d) Display, if possible, these transport networks and nodes in a GIS environment;

(e) Take stock and use of existing projections – if possible in a GIS environment – on different climate change impacts such as floods, heat waves and droughts (temperature), sea level, strong winds and permafrost;

(f) Match, if possible in a GIS environment, the inventories of transport networks and nodes with the climate change impacts projections with the objective to identify any “hot spots” in the ECE region as well as to address potential extreme hazards to selected inland transport infrastructure;

(g) Select, based on concrete criteria that have to be decided — for instance selection of different transport modes and climate impacts combinations such as rail — floods, road-heat waves, etc. or selection of specific corridors that concentrate the most of the hot spots — case studies with the objective to analyze potential economic, social, and environmental consequences and to provide cost/benefit analysis of the adaptation options;

(h) Prepare and present a final report of its work to be published by UNECE which, if the work has been undertaken in a GIS environment, should include a GIS application uploaded on the web which will illustrate all work done and scenarios analysed;

(i) Make proposals on the scope of related activities of its parent body, the Working Party on Transport Trends and Economics (WP.5);

(j) If critical for the dissemination of Group of Experts’ work, convene an international conference on adaptation of transport networks to climate change to raise awareness possibly under the auspices of WP.5;

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

(a) Review the geographical scope of the work;

(b) Identify potential partners in the public or private sector and on the national, regional and international level, with whom the Group of Experts may wish to collaborate, with a view to take stock of existing projections of climate change impacts, awareness-

raising and exchange of best practices, as well as ensuring extra budgetary funding in support of its activities;

(c) Identify suitable methodological approaches, models and tools for gathering and disseminating 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 as well as transport networks and nodes) that the Expert Group may require on regions or countries that run a higher risk of impact, that are particularly vulnerable, or are already experiencing the effects of climate change on their transport networks.

C. Time Schedule

5. At its seventh session on 3 June 2015, the Expert Group will review its schedule of activities which is planned as follows:

<i>Session</i>	<i>Date</i>
Seventh session	3–5 June 2015
Eighth session	2–4 December 2015
Ninth session	11–12 April 2016
Tenth session	6–8 July 2016
Eleventh session	October / November 2016 (date to be confirmed)
Twelfth / Thirteenth session	2017 (date to be confirmed) if needed two meetings will take place during 2017
Report: thirtieth session of Working Party on Transport Trends and Economics (WP.5)	September 2017, Geneva
International Conference on Adaptation of Transport Networks to Climate Change	(If decided date to be confirmed)

II. Terms of Reference

6. The Terms of Reference of the Group of Experts on Climate Change impacts and adaptation for transport networks and nodes are in document ECE/TRANS/WP.5/2014/3 and amended and adopted by WP.5 at its twenty-seventh session (Geneva, 8–10 September 2014) as reflected in its report (ECE/TRANS/WP.5/56, paras. 43–46), endorsed by the Inland Transport Committee in its seventy-seventh session (24–26 February 2015) and approved by the UNECE Executive Committee (March 2015).