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Economic Commission for Europe

Inland Transport Committee

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Item 6 (a) of the provisional agenda

Programmatic Issues:

**Programme of Work for 2023 and Recommendations
on Key components of the Programme of Work for 2025**

Outline of key components of the programme of work of the transport subprogramme for 2025

Note by the secretariat

I. Introduction

1. This document presents an outline of key components (objective, strategy and deliverables) of the programme of work of the transport subprogramme (“the subprogramme”) for 2025. These components are based on the subprogramme-related section of the ECE proposed programme budget for 2024, with modified or new elements highlighted in track changes. The Inland Transport Committee (“the Committee”) is invited to consider this information and provide recommendations on these components, as necessary. Those modifications and/or member States’ recommendations agreed by the Committee and included in its decisions will be reflected in the proposed programme plan of the subprogramme for 2025. It will be prepared by the secretariat at the end of 2023 and included in the ECE proposed programme budget for 2025.

Outline of key components of the programme of work

I. Objective

2. The objective, to which this subprogramme contributes, is to advance a regionally and globally sustainable inland transport (road, rail, inland waterway and intermodality) system by making it safer, cleaner, more efficient and more affordable, both for freight transport and people’s mobility.

II. Strategy

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

4. To contribute to the objective, the subprogramme will:
 - (a) Service the Inland Transport Committee and its 20 working parties and 11 administrative committees, as well as the Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods and on the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals and more than 50 formal and informal expert networks;
 - (b) Administer the international regulatory framework for inland transport, which includes 59 United Nations legal instruments on safety, pollution, efficiency, multimodality and effectiveness (normative function) and ensure that the Committee's regulatory functions are up to date with current technologies and transport innovations – such as intelligent transport systems, autonomous vehicles, digitalization – and are open to all United Nations Member States, as appropriate, by developing new and updating existing legal instruments, as necessary, including maintaining the database of international regulatory frameworks for inland transport;
 - (c) Provide an intergovernmental policy dialogue platform at the annual sessions of the Inland Transport Committee to review emerging challenges and emergency situations; support consensus-building during the Committee's events in favour of regional and interregional connectivity, among other matters, including through the adoption of high-level statements or resolutions on harmonized actions by member States and contracting parties in order to enable the full implementation of the Committee's mandate;
 - (d) Analyse, and provide technical assistance and capacity-building on accession to and implementation of legal instruments, at the request of member States and contracting parties;
 - (e) Contribute to the work of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for Road Safety and the operation of the United Nations Road Safety Fund to facilitate global improvements in road safety through policy dialogue at Committee meetings, and provide capacity-building and advisory assistance with regard to promoting legal instruments, calls for proposals and other related activities, as appropriate;
 - (f) Support the efforts of member States to respond to and recover from emergency situations, including pandemics, while minimizing disruptions to the functioning of national, regional and international transport systems and the implementation of the sustainable development agenda, including SDG 5 on gender equality;
 - (g) Promote knowledge-sharing and cooperation among Governments and key stakeholders, raise awareness of emerging issues and best responses, contribute to the improved monitoring and measuring of the Goals, facilitate the adaptation of legally binding instruments and frameworks to new realities and prepare new guidance materials.
5. The above-mentioned work is expected to result in:
 - (a) Improvements in sustainable mobility, and in monitoring and measuring the Goals;
 - (b) Improvements in inland transport, leading to safer, cleaner, more efficient and more affordable multimodal systems for contracting parties to the United Nations inland transport conventions;
 - (c) More efficient and resilient cross-border flows of goods and people regionally and globally;
 - (d) Enhanced intergovernmental cooperation in emergency situations and minimized disruptions to the continued implementation and updating of United Nations inland transport conventions.

III. Deliverables to be implemented in 2025

6. The table below provides an outline of deliverables that are expected to contribute to the attainment of the objective stated above.¹

<i>Category and subcategory</i>	<i>2024 planned</i>	<i>2025 planned</i>
A. Facilitation of the intergovernmental process and expert bodies		
Parliamentary documentation (number of documents)	1145	1225
1. Documentation for the Inland Transport Committee	985	1039
a. Inland Transport Committee and Bureau	31	31
b. World Forum for Harmonization of Vehicle Regulations	550	550
c. Working Party on the Transport of Perishable Foodstuffs	33	33
d. Working Party on the Transport of Dangerous Goods	160	214
e. Working Party on Transport Trends and Economics and subsidiary groups of experts	23	23
f. Working Party on Transport Statistics	14	14
g. Working Party on Road Transport and subsidiary groups of experts	15	15
h. Global Forum for Road Traffic Safety and subsidiary groups of experts	22	22
i. Working Party on Rail Transport and subsidiary groups of experts	30	30
j. Working Party on Intermodal Transport and Logistics	12	12
k. Working Party on Inland Water Transport	45	45
l. Working Party on Customs Questions Affecting Transport and subsidiary groups of experts	50	50
2. Documentation for the Economic and Social Council	157	183
a. Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods and on the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals	5	1
b. Subcommittee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods	120	150
c. Subcommittee of Experts on the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals	32	32
3. Documentation for the High-level Meeting on Transport, Health and Environment	3	3
Substantive services for meetings (number of three-hour meetings)	407	413
4. Meetings of the Inland Transport Committee	365	375
a. Inland Transport Committee and Bureau	16	16
b. World Forum for Harmonization of Vehicle Regulations	121	121
c. Working Party on the Transport of Perishable Foodstuffs	8	8
d. Working Party on the Transport of Dangerous Goods	58	68
e. Working Party on Transport Trends and Economics and subsidiary groups of experts	18	18
f. Working Party on Transport Statistics	6	6
g. Working Party on Road Transport and subsidiary groups of experts	12	12
h. Global Forum for Road Traffic Safety and subsidiary groups of experts	28	28
i. Working Party on Rail Transport and subsidiary groups of experts	24	24
j. Working Party on Intermodal Transport and Logistics	6	6
k. Working Party on Inland Water Transport	18	18
l. Working Party on Customs Questions Affecting Transport and subsidiary groups of experts	50	50
5. Meetings of the Economic and Social Council	40	36
a. Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods and on the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals	1	1

¹ Figures under column “2025 planned” are early estimates indicative of known trends as reflected in column “2024 planned”. Hence the two columns are identical with the exception of bodies servicing the transport of Dangerous Goods and GHS. For these bodies, the 2025 estimates are identical to the 2023 planned figures, reflecting the biennial periodicity of the servicing cycles of these bodies.

<i>Category and subcategory</i>	<i>2024 planned</i>	<i>2025 planned</i>
b. Subcommittee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods	29	25
c. Subcommittee of Experts on the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals	10	10
6. Meetings of the High-level Meeting on Transport, Health and Environment	2	2
B. Generation and transfer of knowledge		
Field and technical cooperation projects (number of projects)	2	2
7. On the Trans-European North-South Motorway	1	1
8. On the Trans-European Railway	1	1
Seminars, workshops and training events (number of days)	13	13
9. Workshops for government officials and other stakeholders in the ECE region and in contracting parties to legal instruments under the purview of the Inland Transport Committee on intelligent transport systems; transport statistics and trends; road, rail, inland water, intermodal and intersectoral transport issues; and vehicle agreements and regulations	10	10
10. Seminars for national coordinators, experts, customs officials and transport industry on the efforts to digitalize the inland transport conventions including the Customs Convention on the International Transport of Goods under Cover of TIR Carnets (TIR Convention), the Customs Convention on the Temporary Importation of Private Road Vehicles, the Additional Protocol to the CMR concerning the electronic consignment note (e-CMR), as well as the Trans-European North-South Motorway and Trans-European Railway projects	3	3
Publications (number of publications)	10	10
11. On the transport of dangerous goods	2	2
12. On the transport of perishable foodstuffs	1	1
13. On decarbonization of the inland transport sector and safe transport and cross-cutting issues	4	4
14. On vehicle regulations	1	1
15. On statistics	1	1
16. On border crossing facilitation	1	1
Technical materials (number of materials)	2	2
17. Recommendations for performance evaluation of automated driving systems	1	1
18. Transport statistics – country profiles	1	1
C. Substantive deliverables		
Consultation, advice and advocacy: advisory services for contracting parties of United Nations transport conventions administered by ECE on legal instruments relating to inland transport, facilitation of transport, border crossing, road safety, vehicle construction, and transport of dangerous goods and other special cargo.		
Databases and substantive digital materials: the International TIR Data Bank for users from more than 70 contracting parties of the TIR Convention, which includes the list of the more than 31,000 transport companies authorized to use the TIR system; TIR and eTIR portals; the eTIR international system allowing the exchange of data between the eTIR stakeholders in the course of TIR transports following the eTIR procedure; the International Transport Infrastructure Observatory (ITIO) hosting data on a large variety of transport infrastructure networks and nodes; the Sustainable Inland Transport Connectivity (SITCIN) online user platform offering a set of measurable criteria for Governments to evaluate the extent to which they implement the relevant United Nations legal instruments in the field of transport and the degree to which their inland transport systems are inter-operable with those in neighboring countries; the Database of Main Standards and Parameters of the E Waterway Network; inventory of existing European Agreement on Main International Railway Lines and European Agreement on Important International Combined Transport Lines and Related Installations standards and parameters; databases on transport statistics, road traffic accidents, transport of dangerous goods, transport of perishable foodstuffs, urban transport and transport and environment; Rail Security Observatory; digitized signs and signals (E-CoRSS) under the Convention on Road Signs and Signals; and the database of specimens of the International Certificate for Operators of Pleasure Craft.		
D. Communication deliverables		
Outreach programmes, special events and information materials: information materials including brochures on legal instruments and activities of the subprogramme for global and regional access.		
External and media relations: press releases for the subprogramme.		

<i>Category and subcategory</i>	<i>2024 planned</i>	<i>2025 planned</i>
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Digital platforms and multimedia content: LearnITC and other digital platforms and multimedia content on sustainable transport and mobility; and website of the subprogramme for global and regional access.
