



Economic Commission for Europe

Inland Transport Committee

Eighty-sixth session

Geneva, 20-23 February 2024

Item 8 (a) of the provisional agenda

Programmatic Issues:

**Programme of Work for 2024 and recommendations
on key components of the programme of work for 2026**

Draft Programme of Work of the Transport Subprogramme for 2024

Note by the secretariat

Introduction

1. The present document sets out the draft programme of work of the Transport subprogramme (“the subprogramme”) for 2024. The Inland Transport Committee (“the Committee”) is invited to **adopt and recommend it for approval** to the Executive Committee (EXCOM). Any subsequent additional, discontinued or carried over deliverables will be reflected in the United Nations Umoja system used by the secretariat for planning, monitoring and reporting on the implementation of the programme.
2. The draft programme of work applies a results-based management (RBM) approach, a broad management approach that establishes a logical relationship between the hierarchical results (deliverables – results - objectives – impact), known as ‘results chain’, the resources (human and financial), known as ‘inputs’, and the external factors (strategic, governance, operational, financial) that can prevent achieving the objective.
3. The objective, the strategy, the planned results and the deliverables in the draft programme of work correspond to those contained in the ECE proposed programme budget for 2024 (A/78/6 (Sect.20)). The work of the subprogramme is aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals. In attaining its objective, the subprogramme builds on cross-sectoral collaboration with other subprogrammes in relevant ECE areas where multiple SDGs converge¹. This type of collaboration enables the subprogramme to maximize existing synergies, increase the efficiency of its work and have a multiplying effect on the impact of its actions to support countries to implement the Sustainable Development Goals.
4. The deliverables of the subprogramme fall into the following main categories: (a) facilitation of the intergovernmental process and expert bodies; (b) generation and transfer

¹ The ECE cross-sectoral collaboration areas are as follows: 1) Digital and green transformations for sustainable development in the ECE region; 2) Circular economy and the sustainable use of natural resources; 3) Sustainable and smart cities for all ages; 4) Sustainable mobility and smart connectivity; and 5) Measuring and monitoring progress towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.

of knowledge, including technical cooperation projects, training events, seminars, workshops, and publications; (c) other substantive deliverables, and (d) communication deliverables.

5. The details of the proposed publications are provided in Annex I. The overall ECE legislative mandates and those specific for the subprogramme are listed in Annex II.

I. Objective

6. 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

7. 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 and 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 action 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 Sustainable Development Goal 5, on gender equality;

(g) Promote knowledge-sharing and cooperation among Governments and key stakeholders to raise awareness of emerging issues and best responses, to improve tracking and measuring of progress towards achieving the Goals, and to facilitate the adaptation of legally binding instruments and frameworks to new realities, including through new guidance materials.

8. The above-mentioned work is expected to result in:

(a) Improvements in sustainable mobility, and in monitoring and measuring the Sustainable Development 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. Planned results for 2024

Result 1: strengthened regulatory support in road safety contributing to fewer worldwide road accident fatalities and injuries

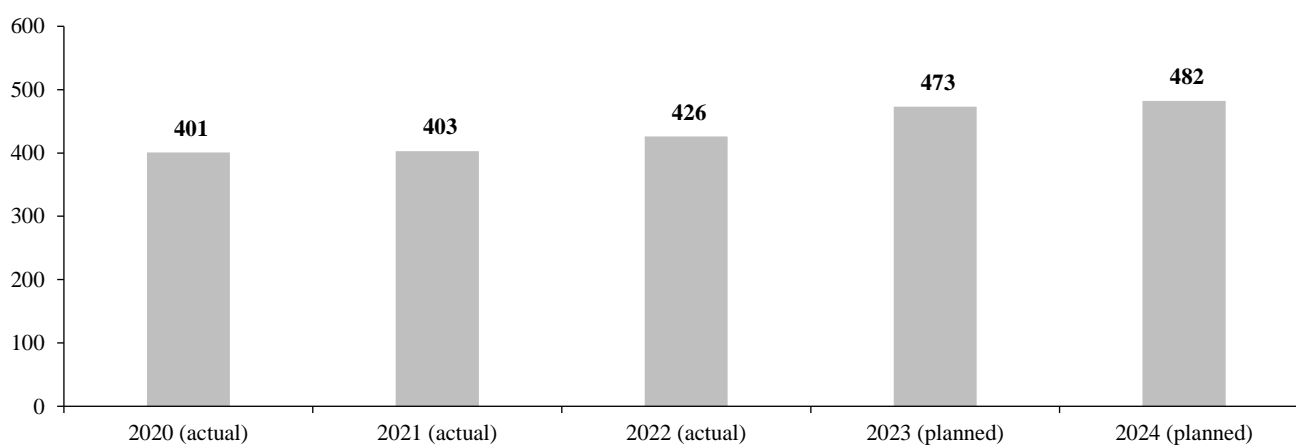
Programme performance in 2022 and target for 2024

9. The subprogramme's work contributed to an increase to 426 contracting parties to core United Nations road safety conventions, which exceeded the planned target of 411.

10. Progress towards the objective and the target for 2024 are presented in the performance measure below (see figure 1).

Figure 1

Performance measure: number of contracting parties to core United Nations road safety conventions^a (cumulative)



^a For the 2023 and 2024 targets, the performance measure will include eight core United Nations road safety conventions; the additional instrument is the European Agreement concerning the Work of Crews of Vehicles Engaged in International Road Transport.

Result 2: enhanced regulatory framework for sustainable inland transport systems

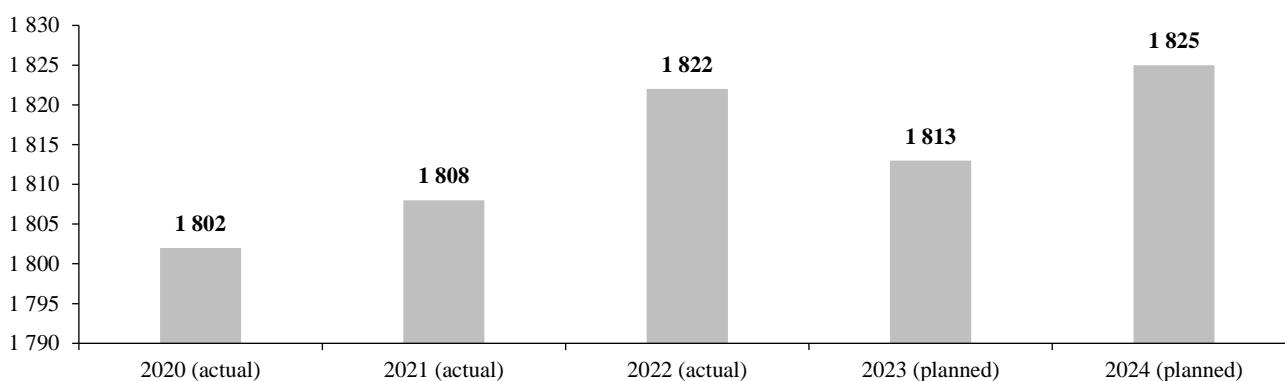
Programme performance in 2022 and target for 2024

11. The subprogramme's work contributed to an increase to 1,822 contracting parties to United Nations legal instruments on transport administered by ECE, which exceeded the planned target of 1,810.

12. Progress towards the objective and the target for 2024 are presented in the performance measure below (see figure 2).

Figure 2

Performance measure: number of contracting parties to United Nations legal instruments on transport administered by ECE^a (cumulative)



^a The actual value for 2021 was increased on the basis of recent actual data.

Result 3: increased number of new and updated legal instruments strengthening capacity of Member States to address climate change

Proposed programme plan for 2024

13. There is a growing demand from Member States to support them in advancing sustainable inland transport and mobility. The 2019 adoption of the Inland Transport Committee strategy until 2030 and the endorsement of the revised terms of reference of the Committee by the Economic and Social Council in 2022 provided an enhanced mandate for the subprogramme to develop new and strengthen existing United Nations regulations essential for sustainable transport systems. The subprogramme has focused on, among others, improved adaptation to the most recent technological innovations and introducing more stringent limits for road vehicles aimed at increasing their environmental performance.

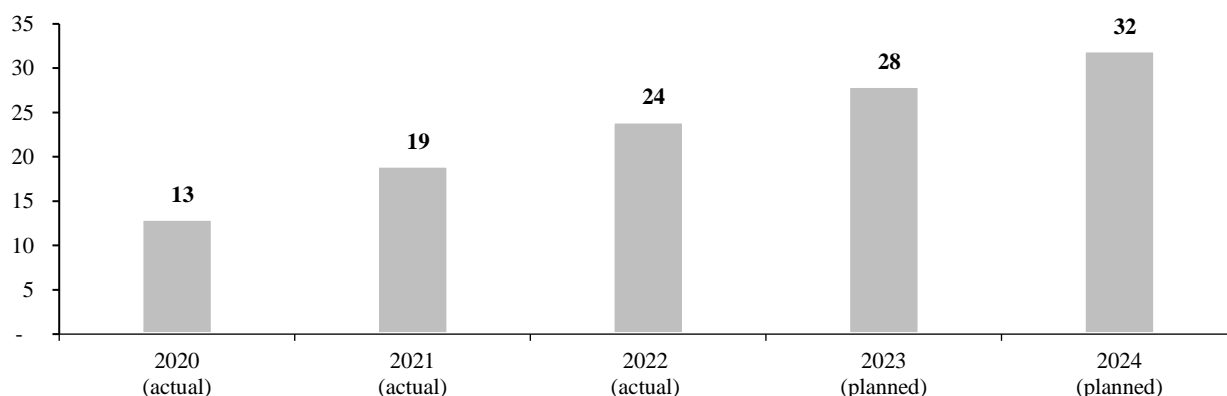
Lessons learned and planned change

14. The lesson for the subprogramme was that, the strengthened regulatory framework notwithstanding, there was a growing demand from Member States to support them in advancing sustainable inland transport and mobility and there were opportunities to accelerate the regulatory support to implement the Inland Transport Committee strategy towards a sustainable and decarbonized or low-emission inland transport sector (ECE/TRANS/316, para. 54). In applying the lesson, the subprogramme will enhance its focus on areas of increased demand, in particular addressing climate change, through, among others, dedicated high-level Committee meetings, declarations and commitments, thus further accelerating its work on modernizing its legal instruments. Furthermore, the subprogramme will develop and implement new analytical and training tools, policy reviews and capacity-building workshops that further assist Member States and contracting parties in achieving their targets regionally and globally.

15. Expected progress towards the objective is presented in the performance measure below (see figure 3).

Figure 3

Performance measure: number of new and updated United Nations legal instruments under ECE purview entering into force annually and improving the climate performance of the transport sector^a (cumulative)



^a The chart reflects data since the 2015 Paris Agreement.

IV. External factors

18. The subprogramme is expected to achieve its objective on the assumption that: (a) interested parties reach consensus on the updating of existing legal instruments and the development of new ones; (b) the environment is conducive to the accession to the United Nations transport conventions and their implementation and enforcement nationally; (c) there is a stable political climate internationally that supports the extension of transport infrastructure and networks, and border crossing facilitation; (d) there is political will to promote sustainable mobility.

V. Deliverables to be implemented in 2024

19. The table below lists all deliverables, by category and subcategory, that are expected to contribute to the attainment of the objective stated above.

<i>Category and subcategory</i>	<i>2024 planned</i>
A. Facilitation of the intergovernmental process and expert bodies	
Parliamentary documentation (number of documents)	1145
1. Documentation for the Inland Transport Committee	985
a. Inland Transport Committee and Bureau	31
b. World Forum for Harmonization of Vehicle Regulations	550
c. Working Party on the Transport of Perishable Foodstuffs	33
d. Working Party on the Transport of Dangerous Goods	160
e. Working Party on Transport Trends and Economics and subsidiary groups of experts	23
f. Working Party on Transport Statistics	14
g. Working Party on Road Transport and subsidiary groups of experts	15
h. Global Forum for Road Traffic Safety and subsidiary groups of experts	22
i. Working Party on Rail Transport and subsidiary groups of experts	30
j. Working Party on Intermodal Transport and Logistics	12
k. Working Party on Inland Water Transport	45
l. Working Party on Customs Questions Affecting Transport and subsidiary groups of experts	50
2. Documentation for the Economic and Social Council	157
a. Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods and on the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals	5
b. Subcommittee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods	120

<i>Category and subcategory</i>	<i>2024 planned</i>
c. Subcommittee of Experts on the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals	32
3. Documentation for the High-level Meeting on Transport, Health and Environment	3
Substantive services for meetings (number of three-hour meetings)	407
4. Meetings of the Inland Transport Committee	365
a. Inland Transport Committee and Bureau	16
b. World Forum for Harmonization of Vehicle Regulations	121
c. Working Party on the Transport of Perishable Foodstuffs	8
d. Working Party on the Transport of Dangerous Goods	58
e. Working Party on Transport Trends and Economics and subsidiary groups of experts	18
f. Working Party on Transport Statistics	6
g. Working Party on Road Transport and subsidiary groups of experts	12
h. Global Forum for Road Traffic Safety and subsidiary groups of experts	28
i. Working Party on Rail Transport and subsidiary groups of experts	24
j. Working Party on Intermodal Transport and Logistics	6
k. Working Party on Inland Water Transport	18
l. Working Party on Customs Questions Affecting Transport and subsidiary groups of experts	50
5. Meetings of the Economic and Social Council	40
a. Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods and on the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals	1
b. Subcommittee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods	29
c. Subcommittee of Experts on the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals	10
6. Meetings of the High-level Meeting on Transport, Health and Environment	2
B. Generation and transfer of knowledge	
Field and technical cooperation projects (number of projects)	2
7. On the Trans-European North-South Motorway	1
8. On the Trans-European Railway	1
Seminars, workshops and training events (number of days)	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. 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 Convention on the Contract for the International Carriage of Goods by Road concerning the electronic consignment note and the Trans-European North-South Motorway and Trans-European Railway projects	3
Publications (number of publications)	10
11. On the transport of dangerous goods	2
12. On the transport of perishable foodstuffs	1
13. On decarbonization of the inland transport sector and safe transport and cross-cutting issues	4
14. On vehicle regulations	1
15. On statistics	1
16. On border crossing facilitation	1
Technical materials (number of materials)	2
17. Recommendations for performance evaluation of automated driving systems	1
18. Transport statistics – country profiles	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 among the eTIR stakeholders in the course of TIR transports following the eTIR procedure; the International Transport Infrastructure Observatory, hosting data on a large variety of transport infrastructure networks and nodes; the Sustainable Inland Transport Connectivity Indicators 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 interoperable with those in neighbouring 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 audiences.

External and media relations: press releases for the subprogramme.

Digital platforms and multimedia content: Learn ITC and other digital platforms and multimedia content on sustainable transport and mobility; and website of the subprogramme for global and regional audiences.

Annex I

Details of proposed publications and information materials for 2024

A. Recurrent Publications

<i>Item no.</i>	<i>Title</i>	<i>Print and/or digital</i>	<i>No. of pages</i>	<i>Original language(s)¹</i>	<i>Translated language(s)</i>
1	Agreement concerning the International Carriage of Dangerous Goods by Road (ADR 2025) (Volume I and II)	Print and digital	Vol. I: 700 Vol.II: 700	E, F	A, R
2	European Agreement concerning the International Carriage of Dangerous Goods by Inland Waterways (ADN 2025) (Volume I and II)	Print and digital	Vol. I: 650 Vol.II: 500	E, F,	R
3	Agreement on the International Carriage of Perishable Foodstuffs and on the Special Equipment to be Used for such Carriage (ATP)	Print and digital	150	E, F	R
4	World Forum for Harmonization of Vehicle Regulations (WP.29). How it works - how to join it	Print and digital	120	E	A, C, F, R, S
5	2024 Inland Transport Statistics for Europe and North America (Volume LXII)	Digital	180	E	F, R
6	Transport trends and economics - General trends and developments surrounding Electric Vehicles and their charging infrastructure	Print and digital	150	E	F, R
7	The TIR Handbook	Print and digital	400	E, F, R	A, C, S

¹ Arabic=A, Chinese=C, English=E, French=F, Russian=R, Spanish=S

B. Non-recurrent Publications

<i>Item no.</i>	<i>Title</i>	<i>Print and/or digital</i>	<i>No. of pages</i>	<i>Original language(s)¹</i>	<i>Translated language(s)</i>
1	Road safety	Print and digital	150	E	F, R
2	Rail Transport	Print and digital	150	E	F, R
3	Intermodal transport	Print and digital	70	E	F, R

¹ Arabic=A, Chinese=C, English=E, French=F, Russian=R, Spanish=S

Annex II

Legislative mandates

A. Overall ECE legislative mandates

1. Resolutions of the General Assembly

66/288	The future we want
67/10	Cooperation between the United Nations and the Eurasian Economic Community
67/290	Format and organizational aspects of the high-level political forum on sustainable development
69/277	Political declaration on strengthening cooperation between the United Nations and regional and subregional organizations
69/283	Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030
69/313	Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development (Addis Ababa Action Agenda)
70/1	Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development
71/16	Cooperation between the United Nations and the Economic Cooperation Organization
71/256	New Urban Agenda
72/279	Repositioning of the United Nations development system in the context of the quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system
73/10	Cooperation between the United Nations and the Central European Initiative
73/195	Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration
74/122	Implementation of the outcome of the World Summit for Social Development and of the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly
74/128	Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and full implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly
74/144	Implementation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the Optional Protocol thereto: accessibility
74/216	Implementation of Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 and the outcomes of the World Summit on Sustainable Development and of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development
74/231, 76/215	Development cooperation with middle-income countries
74/235	Women in development
74/271	Progress towards an accountability system in the United Nations Secretariat
74/297	Progress in the implementation of General Assembly resolution 71/243 on the quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system
75/8, 77/15	Cooperation between the United Nations and the Organization for Democracy and Economic Development – GUAM
75/9, 77/16	Cooperation between the United Nations and the Commonwealth of Independent States
75/12	Cooperation between the United Nations and the Black Sea Economic Cooperation Organization
75/216; 76/204	Disaster risk reduction
75/221	Ensuring access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all
75/233	Quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system
75/290 B	Review of the implementation of General Assembly resolution 72/305 on the strengthening of the Economic and Social Council Review of the implementation of General Assembly resolutions 67/290 on the format and organizational aspects of the high-level political forum on sustainable development and 70/299 on the follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development at the global level

	High-level political forum on sustainable development
75/324	Cooperation between the United Nations and the Economic Cooperation Organization
77/185	South-South cooperation

2. Resolutions of the Economic and Social Council

1998/46	Further measures for the restructuring and revitalization of the United Nations in the economic, social and related fields
2006/38	Workplan on reform of the Economic Commission for Europe and revised terms of reference of the Commission
2013/1	Outcome of the review of the 2005 reform of the Economic Commission for Europe
2022/18	Mainstreaming a gender perspective into all policies and programmes in the United Nations system

3. Economic Commission for Europe decisions

A (64)	The work of the Economic Commission for Europe
A (65)	Outcome of the review of the 2005 reform of ECE
A (66)	Endorsement of the High-level statement on the post-2015 development agenda and expected sustainable development goals in the ECE region
A (69)	High-level statement
B (69)	Circular economy and the sustainable use of natural resources
C (69)	Extension of the mandate of the Regional Forum on Sustainable Development

B. Legislative mandates specific to the subprogramme

1. Resolutions of the General Assembly

58/9	Global road safety crisis
68/269	Improving global road safety
69/137	Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries for the Decade 2014–2024
69/213	Role of transport and transit corridors in ensuring international cooperation for sustainable development
70/197	Towards comprehensive cooperation among all modes of transport for promoting sustainable multimodal transit corridors
70/217	Follow-up to the second United Nations Conference on Landlocked Developing Countries
72/212	Strengthening the links between all modes of transport to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals
72/271	Improving global road safety
73/243	Follow-up to the Second United Nations Conference on Landlocked Developing Countries
74/299	Improving global road safety
76/255	Integration of mainstream bicycling into public transportation systems for sustainable development

2. Resolutions of the Economic and Social Council

1999/65	Reconfiguration of the Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods into a Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods and on the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals
2013/7	Europe-Africa fixed link through the Strait of Gibraltar
2021/13	Work of the Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods and on the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals
2022/2	Revised terms of reference of the Inland Transport Committee of the Economic Commission for Europe

3. Economic Commission for Europe decisions

ECE/AC.21/2014/2	Report of the High-level Meeting on Transport, Health and Environment on its fourth session
ECE/TRANS/224	Report of the Inland Transport Committee on its seventy-fourth session (UNECE Road Map for promoting ITS-20 global actions 2012–2020)
ECE/TRANS/236	Report of the Inland Transport Committee on its seventy-fifth session (Joint Declaration on the promotion of Euro-Asian Rail Transport and Activities towards Unified Railway Law; and Joint Statement on Future Development of Euro-Asian Transport Links)
ECE/TRANS/248	Report of the Inland Transport Committee on its seventy-seventh session
ECE/TRANS/254	Report of the Inland Transport Committee on its seventy-eighth session
ECE/TRANS/270	Report of the Inland Transport Committee on its seventy-ninth session (adopting Ministerial Resolution on embracing the new era for sustainable inland transport and mobility)
ECE/TRANS/274	Report of the Inland Transport Committee on its eightieth session
ECE/TRANS/288	Report of the Inland Transport Committee on its eighty-first session (adopting Ministerial Resolution on enhancing cooperation, harmonization and integration in the era of transport digitalization and automation; Committee resolution no. 265 on the ministerial declaration “Inland Navigation in a Global Setting” and on facilitating the development of the inland water transport; and the Committee strategy until 2030)
B (66)	Endorsement of the Geneva Charter on Sustainable Housing
ECE/TRANS/294	Report of the Inland Transport Committee on its eighty-second session (adopting Ministerial Declaration on enhancing sustainable inland transport solutions to global climate and environmental challenges: a united call to action)
ECE/TRANS/304	Report of the Inland Transport Committee on its eighty-third session (adopting Ministerial resolution on enhancing resilient inland transport connectivity in emergency situations: an urgent call for concerted action, and adopting the updated ECE road map on intelligent transport systems)
ECE/TRANS/316	Report of the Inland Transport Committee on its eighty-fourth session (adopting ministerial resolution on ushering in a decade of delivery for sustainable inland transport and sustainable development)

4. Decisions of the treaty bodies of United Nations transport agreements

E/ECE/TRANS/505/Rev.3	1958 Agreement Concerning the Adoption of Harmonized Technical United Nations Regulations for Wheeled Vehicles, Equipment and Parts which can be Fitted and/or be Used on Wheeled Vehicles and the Conditions for Reciprocal Recognition of Approvals Granted on the Basis of these United Nations Regulations
ECE/RCTE/CONF/4	1997 Agreement concerning the adoption of uniform conditions for periodical technical inspections of wheeled vehicles and the reciprocal recognition of such inspections
ECE/TRANS/132	1998 Agreement concerning the establishment of global technical regulations for wheeled vehicles, equipment and parts which can be fitted and/or used on wheeled vehicles
ECE/TRANS/ADN/CONF/10/Add.1	European Agreement concerning the International Carriage of Dangerous Goods by Inland Waterways
ECE/TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/125	Report of the Administrative Committee for the TIR Convention 1975 on its sixty-first session (annex II, “Joint statement on the computerization of the TIR procedure”)
ECE/TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/147 and Corr.1	Report of the Administrative Committee for the TIR Convention 1975 on its seventy-second session (annex I: Consolidated draft eTIR legal framework).