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**Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific**  
Working Group on the Asian Highway

**6th meeting**  
Seoul, 3-4 November 2015

**Report of the Working Group on the Asian Highway on  
its 6th meeting**

Contents

	<i>Page</i>
I. Deliberations .....	1
II. Conclusions and recommendations.....	2
III. Other matters.....	3
IV. Adoption of the report.....	3
V. Expression of appreciation.....	3
VI. Organization of the meeting.....	4
A. Opening, duration and organization of the meeting .....	4
B. Attendance.....	4
C. Election of officers .....	4
D. Agenda.....	4
Annex	
List of documents .....	5

**I. Deliberations**

1. The secretariat introduced the documents under agenda items 4 (E/ESCAP/AHWG(6)/1), 5 (E/ESCAP/AHWG(6)/2) and 6 (E/ESCAP/AHWG(6)/3), which formed the basis for deliberations.<sup>1</sup>

2. The delegations of Bangladesh, Cambodia, China, Kazakhstan, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Pakistan, the Philippines, the Republic of Korea, the Russian Federation, Sri Lanka and Thailand provided detailed updates on Asian Highway development programmes and projects as well as related policies in their respective countries, including different funding

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<sup>1</sup> See the annex for the list of documents.

arrangements, such as budgetary allocations, public-private partnerships and funding from external sources. They also provided details of various road safety and signage initiatives that were being implemented, in particular along the routes of the Asian Highway network. The Working Group noted that the presentations and statements made by the delegations would be available on the web page of the Transport Division of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) (see [www.unescap.org/our-work/transport/asian-highway](http://www.unescap.org/our-work/transport/asian-highway)).

## II. Conclusions and recommendations

3. The Working Group noted with satisfaction the progress that had been made in the upgrading of the Asian Highway network and encouraged member States to continue their efforts in further upgrading their network. In particular the Working Group requested that member States further upgrade the remaining portions of highways that were below class III standards.

4. The Working Group also noted with satisfaction that a number of initiatives being undertaken by member States at the national level were aimed at developing efficient cross-border connectivity across the region and served progress in multilateral programmes, such as those related to Asia-Europe linkages, connectivity among the member States of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations as well as connectivity in South Asia, South-East Asia and Central Asia.

5. The Working Group noted with appreciation that member States were pursuing their efforts to place Asian Highway signage along the routes of the network crossing their territories. In that respect, the Working Group called on all member States to complete the placement of Asian Highway signage along all the routes of the network at an early stage in conformity with article 4, paragraph 2, of the Intergovernmental Agreement on the Asian Highway Network.

6. The Working Group encouraged the signatory State, and member States that had not yet done so, to give priority to becoming a party to the Intergovernmental Agreement.<sup>2</sup>

7. The Working Group adopted the following amendment<sup>3</sup> with respect to itineraries of the Asian Highway routes in Azerbaijan:

AH5: ... ferry – Baku – Alat – **Hajigabul** – Ganja – **Gazakh** – Red Bridge – Tbilisi ...

AH81: ... Sadarak – Nakhchivan – Julfa – Ordubad – Agarak – Meghri Aghband – **Horadiz** – **Hajigabul** – Alat – Baku – ferry – Aktau

AH83: **Gazakh** – Uzungala – Paravakar – Yerevan.

8. The Working Group adopted the following amendment<sup>4</sup> with respect to itineraries of the Asian Highway route in Bangladesh:

AH41: Border of Myanmar – Teknaf – Cox's Bazar – Chittagong – **Madanpur** – **Bhulta** – **Joydebpur** – Hatikamrul – Jessore – Mongla.

<sup>2</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2323, No. 41607.

<sup>3</sup> Boldface type indicates amendments.

<sup>4</sup> Boldface type indicates amendments.

9. The Working Group discussed the amendments that had been proposed by the Government of Uzbekistan with respect to Asian Highway routes AH5, AH62, AH63 and AH65. However, the Working Group noted that these amendments were changing international border crossings and that, in accordance with article 9, paragraph 2, of the Intergovernmental Agreement, their consideration by the Working Group necessitated prior consultation and consensus with directly concerned neighbouring States.

10. Given the above, and in the absence of any evidence that such consultation had taken place or that such consensus had been reached, the Working Group recommended that the proposed amendments be returned to the Government of Uzbekistan for further consultation with the concerned neighbouring States, namely Kazakhstan and Tajikistan.

11. The Working Group expressed the hope that these amendments could then be resubmitted to the Working Group for consideration at its next meeting.

12. The Working Group noted that, in accordance with the Intergovernmental Agreement, the adopted amendments would be communicated by the ESCAP secretariat to the Secretary-General for circulation to all parties.

13. The Working Group drew the attention of member States to the way in which the Intergovernmental Agreement worked in relation to proposing and circulating amendments. In that respect, it invited member States to submit their proposed amendments to the ESCAP secretariat as early as possible through their respective official channels.

14. Noting that the Asian Highway database was being updated, the Working Group requested that member States provide the secretariat with updated information on the status of the Asian Highway network so that it could be finalized as soon as possible.

15. The Working Group recognized the importance of tackling road safety issues. In that respect, it expressed its support for the work of the secretariat in defining standards for road safety facilities and called for comprehensive region-wide policies in matters of road safety. It further recognized that the development of intelligent transport systems would play an important role in reducing road accidents by creating the conditions for better road traffic management.

### **III. Other matters**

16. No other matters were raised.

### **IV. Adoption of the report**

17. The Working Group adopted the present report on 4 November 2015.

### **V. Expression of appreciation**

18. The Working Group expressed its appreciation to the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport of the Republic of Korea for its generous financial assistance to the meeting and the Korea Expressway Corporation for providing excellent logistical support. It also expressed its gratitude to the secretariat for organizing and efficiently servicing the meeting.

## **VI. Organization of the meeting**

### **A. Opening, duration and organization of the meeting**

19. The 6th meeting of the Working Group on the Asian Highway was held in Seoul on 3 and 4 November 2015. The Director of the Transport Division of ESCAP sent an opening message to the meeting, which was delivered on his behalf by the Chief of the Transport Infrastructure Section.

### **B. Attendance**

20. The meeting was attended by representatives of the following member States: Azerbaijan; Bangladesh; Bhutan; Cambodia; China; India; Iran (Islamic Republic of); Kazakhstan; Kyrgyzstan; Lao People's Democratic Republic; Myanmar; Pakistan; Philippines; Republic of Korea; Russian Federation; Sri Lanka; Tajikistan; Thailand; Turkey; and Viet Nam.

21. The meeting was attended by representatives of the Asian Development Bank and the Asian Institute of Transport Development.

22. In addition, representatives of the Infrastructure Development Institute and the Korea Expressway Corporation were present as observers.

### **C. Election of officers**

23. The meeting elected the following officers:

Chair: Ms. Maria Catalina **Cabral** (Philippines)

Vice-chairs: Ms. Farida **Yoqubzoda** (Tajikistan)  
Mr. Nazir **Ahmad** (Pakistan)

Rapporteur: Mr. Oğuz **Sehtiyancı** (Turkey)

### **D. Agenda**

24. The meeting adopted the following agenda:

1. Opening of the meeting.
2. Election of officers.
3. Adoption of the agenda.
4. Status of implementation of the Intergovernmental Agreement on the Asian Highway Network.
5. Proposals for amendments to the Agreement.
6. Policies and issues relating to the development of the Asian Highway.
7. Other matters.
8. Adoption of the report.

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**Annex**
**List of documents**


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<b>Symbol</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Agenda item</b>
<i>General series</i>		
E/ESCAP/AHWG(6)/1	Status of implementation of the Intergovernmental Agreement on the Asian Highway Network	4
E/ESCAP/AHWG(6)/2	Proposals for amendments to the Agreement	5
E/ESCAP/AHWG(6)/3	Policies and issues relating to the development of the Asian Highway	6
<i>Limited series</i>		
E/ESCAP/AHWG(6)/L.1	Annotated provisional agenda	3
E/ESCAP/AHWG(6)/L.2	Draft report	8

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