

**ECONOMIC  
AND  
SOCIAL COUNCIL****CONSEIL  
ECONOMIQUE  
ET SOCIAL**E/CN.2/56  
3 March 1949

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

## TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

Third session

21 March 1949

Item 12(a) of the provisional agenda

UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON ROAD AND  
MOTOR TRANSPORT

Note by the Secretary-General

The Transport and Communications Commission at its second session recommended to the Economic and Social Council the convening of a conference to conclude a new world convention on road and motor transport, the 1926 conventions on these subjects being obsolete. The Council in accordance with this recommendation at its seventh session adopted a resolution (Annex I) instructing the Secretary-General to convene such a conference not later than August 1949 and adding the 1931 Convention on Road Signals to the conventions mentioned as requiring revision by the conference. As recommended by the Transport and Communications Commission, a draft convention being prepared by the Inland Transport Committee of the Economic Commission for Europe and the 1943 Inter-American Convention on Automotive Traffic were inter alia to serve as working papers. Other regional commissions were also invited to submit reports for the consideration of the conference.

The United Nations Conference on Road and Motor Transport will convene in Geneva on 23 August 1949. The provisional agenda of the Conference is annexed. (Annex II). The 1943 Inter-American Convention and the ECE draft convention are being circulated to the Governments invited to participate in the Conference as documents E/CONF.8/3 and E/CONF.8/4. If any reports are received from other regional economic commissions they will be similarly circulated.

Attention is drawn to item 5 of the provisional agenda of the Conference - "Discussion of other problems in the field of road transport requiring international action". The problems discussed in Transport and Communications Commission document E/CN.2/54 on "International Road Transport - Further Problems and Developments" will be brought to the attention of the Conference in connection with item 5, as will the three draft customs conventions prepared by the ECE Sub-Committee on Road Transport, which are discussed in document E/CN.2/54.

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/ANNEX I

ANNEX I

EXTRACT FROM ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

RESOLUTION 147(VII),

REPORT OF THE SECOND SESSION OF THE TRANSPORT  
AND COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

(Document E/1053)

B.

"The Economic and Social Council

Instructs the Secretary-General:

1. To convene a Conference of Governments, not later than August 1949, with the object of concluding a new world-wide Convention on Road and Motor Transport, the two world-wide Conventions of 1926, namely:
  - (a) International Convention relating to Road Traffic;
  - (b) International Convention relating to Motor Traffic;and the subsequent Convention of 1931 on the Unification of Road Signals, being obsolete. The draft text of the Inland Transport Committee of the Economic Commission for Europe, resulting from a study by this Committee, and the text of the 1943 Convention on the Regulation of Inter-American Automotive Traffic, inter alia, will serve as working-papers for the Conference;
2. To request the Economic Commission for Europe to have the draft text referred to above completed and forwarded to the Secretary-General as soon as practicable;
3. To invite the other regional commissions to submit any reports which they may desire on this subject;
4. To circulate the above-mentioned texts to all the Governments invited to the Conference;
5. To draw up a provisional agenda for the Conference;
6. (a) To invite to participate in the Conference all States Members of the United Nations at the time of the convening of the Conference; and also the States not members of the United Nations which were invited to participate in the United Nations Maritime Conference; and
  - (b) To request the Governments of the States invited to give their delegates full powers to sign, subject to ratification,

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such Convention as may be concluded at the Conference;

7. To invite the specialized agencies, inter-governmental organizations and international organizations in this field, as may be appropriate, to send observers to the Conference;

Decides that the right to vote at the Conference may be exercised by all States Members of the United Nations and those States not Members, which are invited under paragraph 6(a) above, and which are parties to any of the Conventions cited in paragraph 1 above.

ANNEX II

PROVISIONAL AGENDA OF THE UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON  
ROAD AND MOTOR TRANSPORT

GENEVA, 23 AUGUST 1949.

(Document E/CONF.8/1)

1. Adoption of the agenda.
  2. Adoption of the rules of procedure.
  3. Election of officers.
  4. Discussion and adoption of a new convention on road and motor transport superseding:
    - (a) The International Convention relative to Road Traffic, signed in Paris, 24 April 1926.
    - (b) The International Convention relative to Motor Traffic, signed in Paris, 24 April 1926.
    - (c) The Convention concerning the Unification of Road Signals, signed in Geneva, 30 March 1931.
  5. Discussion of other problems in the field of road transport which may require international action.
  6. Adoption of the final act.
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