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Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific Ministerial Conference on Transport

Third session

Moscow, 5-9 December 2016

Annotated provisional agenda

The present document contains the provisional agenda of the Ministerial Conference on Transport (section I) and the annotations to the provisional agenda (section II).¹

I. Provisional agenda

A. Senior officials segment

1. Opening of the session:
 - (a) Opening addresses;
 - (b) Election of officers;
 - (c) Adoption of the agenda.
2. Assessment and evaluation of the implementation of the Ministerial Declaration on Transport Development in Asia and the Pacific and the Regional Action Programme for Transport Development in Asia and the Pacific, phase II (2012-2016).
3. Major issues in transport:
 - (a) Sustainable Development Goals and transport;
 - (b) Regional transport infrastructure connectivity;
 - (c) Regional transport operational connectivity;
 - (d) Strengthening of transport connectivity between Asia and Europe;

¹ The Ministerial Conference on Transport has been held every five years since 1985: the Meeting of Ministers Responsible for Transport and Communications was held in Bangkok in 1985; the Meeting of Senior Government Representatives Responsible for the Transport and Communications Decade for Asia and the Pacific, 1985-1994, was held in Bangkok in 1990; the Ministerial Conference on Infrastructure was held in New Delhi in 1996; the Ministerial Conference on Infrastructure was held in Seoul in 2001; the Ministerial Conference on Transport was held in Busan, Republic of Korea, in 2006; and the Ministerial Conference on Transport was held in Bangkok in 2012.

- (e) Transport connectivity for least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States;
 - (f) Rural connectivity to wider networks;
 - (g) Sustainable urban transport;
 - (h) Improving road safety.
- 4. Draft regional action programme for sustainable transport connectivity in Asia and the Pacific, phase I (2017-2021).
 - 5. Draft ministerial declaration on sustainable transport connectivity in Asia and the Pacific.
 - 6. Other matters.
 - 7. Adoption of the report of the senior officials segment.

B. Ministerial segment

- 8. Opening of the session:
 - (a) Opening addresses;
 - (b) Election of officers;
 - (c) Adoption of the agenda.
- 9. Policy debate on issues pertaining to sustainable transport connectivity in Asia and the Pacific and the implementation of the Ministerial Declaration on Transport Development in Asia and the Pacific and the Regional Action Programme for Transport Development in Asia and the Pacific, phase II (2012-2016), including the report of the senior officials segment.
- 10. Other matters.
- 11. Adoption of the ministerial declaration on sustainable transport connectivity in Asia and the Pacific, including a regional action programme for sustainable transport connectivity in Asia and the Pacific, phase I (2017-2021).
- 12. Adoption of the report of the Conference.
- 13. Closing of the Conference.

II. Annotations

A. Senior officials segment

1. Opening of the session

(a) Opening addresses

The detailed programme for the opening of the session will be made available upon finalization.

(b) Election of officers

The senior officials will elect a chair, two vice-chairs and a rapporteur of the senior officials segment.

(c) Adoption of the agenda**Documentation**

Provisional agenda (E/ESCAP/MCT(3)/L.1)

Annotated provisional agenda (E/ESCAP/MCT(3)/L.2)

Annotation

The Conference will consider and adopt the provisional agenda and annotated provisional agenda, subject to such changes as may be necessary.

2. Assessment and evaluation of the implementation of the Ministerial Declaration on Transport Development in Asia and the Pacific and the Regional Action Programme for Transport Development in Asia and the Pacific, phase II (2012-2016)

Documentation

Assessment and evaluation of the implementation of the Ministerial Declaration on Transport Development in Asia and the Pacific and the Regional Action Programme for Transport Development in Asia and the Pacific, phase II (2012-2016) (E/ESCAP/MCT(3)/1)

Annotation

The document provides an overview of the implementation of the Ministerial Declaration on Transport Development in Asia and the Pacific and the Regional Action Programme for Transport Development in Asia and the Pacific, phase II (2012-2016). It also contains a summary of the major findings and conclusions of an independent evaluation of phase II of the Regional Action Programme.

3. Major issues in transport

All documents under item 3 will be taken up together to assess current issues in the transport sector, with each delegation making a single intervention.

(a) Sustainable Development Goals and transport**Documentation**

Sustainable Development Goals and transport (E/ESCAP/MCT(3)/2)

Annotation

The extensive enabling role of transport in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals means that the three pillars of sustainable development – namely economic, social and environmental – need to be integrated into the transport connectivity agenda in a balanced manner, through integrated intermodal transport and logistics systems that optimize the comparative advantages of each mode of transport.

The document reviews the role of transport in the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. It highlights the key drivers of a more sustainable transport sector. It presents the concept of integrated intermodal transport and logistics systems, with case studies from countries that have implemented this concept in their transport development. It also suggests ways forward to achieve integrated intermodal transport and logistics systems for sustainable transport connectivity.

(b) Regional transport infrastructure connectivity

Documentation

Regional transport infrastructure connectivity (E/ESCAP/MCT(3)/3)

Annotation

The Asian Highway network, the Trans-Asian Railway network and the network of dry ports of international importance have laid the foundations for creating regional and international integrated intermodal transport and logistics systems. However, the unrestricted flow of goods and people that the region needs for continued economic growth and enhanced social inclusion will require wider connectivity between members and associate members. Existing infrastructure networks too often serve a limited group of countries and seldom extend beyond a single subregion. The result is a lack of integration between networks, missing links, operational bottlenecks, technical incompatibilities and different levels of awareness and use of modern technologies.

In the document, the substantial progress that has been achieved in the transport sector in recent years is recalled and proposals are highlighted to place its future development within a framework of integrated intermodal transport corridors that could coherently incorporate roads, railways, waterways and ports with harmonized technical standards of transport infrastructure and wider application of new technologies.

(c) Regional transport operational connectivity

Documentation

Regional transport operational connectivity (E/ESCAP/MCT(3)/4)

Annotation

Along with building transport infrastructure, enhancing regional transport operational connectivity remains a long-term task for members and associate members. The two regional frameworks for facilitation of international road and railway transport adopted by the Commission provide the common targets for regional harmonization of legal instruments, cross-border documents and formalities, operational standards and facilitation measures.

The document emphasizes the implementation of these frameworks and a logistics programme to realize the vision of operational integrated intermodal transport and logistics systems across the region. For consideration and adoption by the Conference, the document presents the model bilateral and subregional agreements developed within the two regional frameworks for regional harmonization of legal instruments on cross-border and transit transport and the standard model for logistics information systems to fully exploit the benefits of new technologies for the

improvement of logistics performance. It also outlines the need for further assistance to members and associate members in developing and implementing cross-border and transit transport agreements and transport facilitation tools. The need for further assistance in harmonizing operational standards is also stressed in the document.

(d) Strengthening of transport connectivity between Asia and Europe

Documentation

Strengthening of transport connectivity between Asia and Europe (E/ESCAP/MCT(3)/5)

Annotation

For centuries, Euro-Asian transport routes have enabled people, goods, investments and ideas to move across and between the two regions, spurring economic growth, facilitating international trade and fostering cultural and scientific exchanges. Likewise, future socioeconomic progress will rely on enhanced interregional connectivity, which is currently hindered by infrastructure gaps, non-harmonized transport documents and incompatible technical and operational standards.

The document reviews the latest initiatives on Eurasian transport and the challenges facing the region, and presents ways to strengthen transport connectivity between Asia and Europe. It also proposes to establish an interregional committee on transport between Asia and Europe as an institutional platform that could create synergies among existing initiatives, facilitate the elimination of non-physical barriers and achieve the required level of coordination related to the planning and implementation of infrastructure and facilitation projects.

(e) Transport connectivity for least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States

Documentation

Transport connectivity for least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States (E/ESCAP/MCT(3)/6)

Annotation

There remain many transport challenges for least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States. The issues can be varied, including lack of investment in transport infrastructure and services, or challenging geography that adds dramatically to development restrictions. A major issue for landlocked developing countries is the lack of economical and efficient access to the sea, and for remote small island developing States, the burdening cost of shipping.

The document outlines the special needs of least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States with respect to transport and suggests a set of priority areas: (a) facilitating transport and integrated intermodal transport and logistics for least developed countries and landlocked developing countries; (b) improving urban and rural transport and road safety in landlocked developing countries, least developed countries and small island developing States; and (c) enhancing maritime connectivity for small island developing States. It advocates the provision of

technical assistance to landlocked developing countries and neighbouring transit developing countries in planning, establishing and operating efficient integrated multimodal transport corridors. The document also recommends a report on the midterm review of the implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries for the Decade 2014-2024, together with capacity-building to enhance transport connectivity, develop urban and rural transport and improve road safety.

(f) Rural connectivity to wider networks

Documentation

Rural connectivity to wider networks (E/ESCAP/MCT(3)/7)

Annotation

Most of the world's poorest people live in rural areas, isolated by long distances and difficult terrain from markets, health care and education. This problem is acute in Asia, where almost 700 million people do not have all-season road access. There is clear evidence that rural isolation is associated with poverty, mainly as a result of low agricultural productivity and lack of access to wider economic opportunity. Isolation is also linked with poor health outcomes and low school enrolment.

The document outlines the role of rural transport access in reducing poverty and generating positive health, education and economic outcomes. It suggests ways to improve rural connectivity to wider networks such as the Asian Highway, Trans-Asian Railway and dry port networks. It also recommends key areas to support rural transport development, such as financing options to improve rural access, assessment of rural transport connectivity, reporting of regional progress and capacity-building.

(g) Sustainable urban transport

Documentation

Sustainable urban transport (E/ESCAP/MCT(3)/8)

Annotation

The growing pattern of urban motorization is leading to congestion, pollution and greenhouse gas emissions, resulting in a decline in productivity and health and climate change issues in the region. The recently adopted Sustainable Development Goals include a goal on sustainable cities with a target to expand public transport. Renewed commitment of members and associate members would be required to tackle the challenges of planning, developing and maintaining sustainable urban transport systems and services.

The document outlines regional progress and challenges regarding the improvement of urban transport systems and presents the case for developing national policy frameworks on sustainable urban transport development, integrating urban transport modes, developing and applying tools to deploy new innovative technologies, assessing regional progress and building the capacity of members and associate members.

(h) Improving road safety**Documentation**

Improving road safety (E/ESCAP/MCT(3)/9)

Annotation

Road safety is an issue of serious concern to sustainable development, considering its magnitude and consequent negative impact on the economy, public health and general welfare of the people, particularly low-income groups. There were approximately 733,000 fatalities from road crashes in the region in 2013, more than half the worldwide total of 1.25 million fatalities. More efforts are needed to achieve Sustainable Development Goal targets 3.6 (by 2020, halve the number of global deaths and injuries from road traffic accidents) and 11.2 (by 2030, provide access to safe, affordable, accessible and sustainable transport systems for all, improving road safety).

The document highlights the recent progress made and initiatives taken by regional members and associate members on improving road safety, and reviews major causes of road crashes in the region and potential measures to address such causes, including rules and regulations for key risk factors such as speeding and drink-driving. It proposes an updated set of regional goals and targets which identify priority areas so that regional members and associate members may tailor their efforts towards improving the road safety situation in the region, with the support of the secretariat's road safety tools and capacity-building programme.

4. Draft regional action programme for sustainable transport connectivity in Asia and the Pacific, phase I (2017-2021)**Documentation**

Draft regional action programme for sustainable transport connectivity in Asia and the Pacific, phase I (2017-2021) (E/ESCAP/MCT(3)/WP.1)

Annotation

The integration of sustainable development into transport connectivity will be the theme of the new regional action programme, phase I (2017-2021). To achieve this target, a fundamental approach is to develop integrated intermodal transport and logistics systems to effectively balance the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development.

The document, in line with this fundamental approach, proposes priority areas of work in the following seven coherent and interconnected components: regional transport infrastructure connectivity; regional transport operational connectivity; strengthening of transport connectivity between Asia and Europe; transport connectivity for least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States; rural transport connectivity to wider networks; urban transport; and road safety. The new regional action programme is designed to assist the region's developing members and associate members in their efforts to achieve enhanced transport connectivity at the interregional, regional, national, urban and rural levels in a sustainable manner to support the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals.

5. Draft ministerial declaration on sustainable transport connectivity in Asia and the Pacific

Documentation

Draft ministerial declaration on sustainable transport connectivity in Asia and the Pacific (E/ESCAP/MCT(3)/WP.2)

Annotation

A draft ministerial declaration on sustainable transport connectivity in Asia and the Pacific will be considered by the senior officials prior to its submission to the ministerial segment for adoption. The draft will have been reviewed by an expert group meeting on preparation for the Conference and the Advisory Committee of Permanent Representatives and Other Representatives Designated by Members of the Commission prior to its submission to the senior officials. The declaration will reaffirm the commitment of regional members and associate members to promoting sustainable transport development in the region through realization of the vision of the integrated intermodal transport and logistics systems with enhanced transport infrastructural and operational connectivity at the interregional, regional, national, urban and rural levels; strengthened transport connectivity of least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States; improved road safety; and wide application of innovative new technologies, in particular intelligent transport systems. The declaration will provide a framework for the efficient and effective implementation of the regional action programme (2017-2021).

6. Other matters

Under this agenda item, the Conference may wish to consider other matters.

7. Adoption of the report of the senior officials segment

Documentation

Draft report of the senior officials (E/ESCAP/MCT(3)/CRP.1)

Annotation

The senior officials will consider and adopt a draft report on the agenda items allocated to them for consideration by the ministers.

B. Ministerial segment

8. Opening of the session

(a) Opening addresses

(b) Election of officers

The ministerial segment will elect a bureau which will comprise a chair, vice-chairs and a rapporteur.

(c) Adoption of the agenda**Documentation**

Provisional agenda (E/ESCAP/MCT(3)/L.1)

Annotated provisional agenda (E/ESCAP/MCT(3)/L.2)

9. Policy debate on issues pertaining to sustainable transport connectivity in Asia and the Pacific and the implementation of the Ministerial Declaration on Transport Development in Asia and the Pacific and the Regional Action Programme for Transport Development in Asia and the Pacific, phase II (2012-2016), including the report of the senior officials segment

The ministers and heads of delegations will deliver their policy statements, highlighting the key issues, policies and initiatives that are central to the sustainable development of transport in their respective countries and the region. The policy statements will also provide an opportunity to showcase the priority transport-related projects of regional significance. Representatives of the United Nations and other intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations will make brief statements on the policies and initiatives of their organizations in this important area.

The report of the senior officials (E/ESCAP/MCT(3)/10) will be considered concurrently.

10. Other matters

Any other matters raised by delegations and/or the secretariat will be considered under this item.

11. Adoption of the ministerial declaration on sustainable transport connectivity in Asia and the Pacific, including a regional action programme for sustainable transport connectivity in Asia and the Pacific, phase I (2017-2021).

The Conference will consider for adoption the draft ministerial declaration on sustainable transport connectivity in Asia and the Pacific, including a regional action programme for sustainable transport connectivity in Asia and the Pacific, phase I (2017-2021) (E/ESCAP/MCT(3)/L.4). The declaration will reaffirm the commitment of regional members and associate members to promote regional cooperation and integration in transport for inclusive and sustainable connectivity and development in the region, including realizing the long-term vision of the integrated intermodal transport and logistics systems. It will also provide a framework for the efficient and effective implementation of the regional action programme.

12. Adoption of the report of the Conference

The Conference will consider for adoption the draft report (E/ESCAP/MCT(3)/L.3), which will be submitted to the Commission at its seventy-third session, in 2017.

13. Closing of the Conference

Closing statements will be delivered.