



Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific
Forum of Asian Ministers of Transport**Second session**

Bangkok, 4-8 November 2013

Annotated provisional agenda (revised)

The present document contains the provisional agenda for the second session of the Forum of Asian Ministers of Transport (section I) and the annotations to the provisional agenda (section II).

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. Review 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) Strengthening connectivity of regional and interregional transport networks;
 - (b) Creating an enabling environment for facilitating international transport and logistics;
 - (c) Innovative financing options for regional infrastructure development and maintenance;
 - (d) Promoting sustainable and inclusive transport.
4. Draft ministerial declaration.
5. Other matters.
6. Adoption of the report of the senior officials.

B. Ministerial segment

7. Policy debate on “transport as a key to sustainable development and regional integration”.
8. Other matters.
9. Adoption of the ministerial declaration.
10. Adoption of the report of the Forum.
11. Closing of the Forum.

II. Annotations

A. Senior officials segment

1. Opening of the session

(a) Opening addresses

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

(b) Election of officers

For the senior officials segment, a chair, vice-chairs and a rapporteur will be elected.

For the ministerial segment, a bureau will be elected, which will comprise a chair, several vice-chairs and a rapporteur.

(c) Adoption of the agenda

Documentation

Annotated provisional agenda (revised) (E/ESCAP/FAMT(2)/L.1/Rev.1)

Annotation

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

2. Review 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

Review 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/FAMT(2)/1)

Activities implemented under the Regional Action Programme for Transport Development in Asia and the Pacific, phase II (2012-2016) (E/ESCAP/FAMT(2)/INF/4)

Annotation

The secretariat presents an overview (E/ESCAP/FAMT(2)/1) of the status of 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). This document should be read in conjunction with the information note on activities implemented under the Regional Action Programme for Transport Development in Asia and the Pacific, phase II (2012-2016) (E/ESCAP/FAMT(2)/INF/4).

3. Major issues in transport

(a) Strengthening connectivity of regional and interregional transport networks

Documentation

Strengthening connectivity of regional and interregional transport networks (E/ESCAP/FAMT(2)/2)

Outcome of the High-level Meeting on Strengthening Inter-island Shipping and Logistics in the Pacific Island Countries (E/ESCAP/FAMT(2)/6)

Annotation

Transport connectivity, whether domestic or international, determines the ease with which goods or people can move between two locations or within a specific geographic area. As such, it has a significant impact on the pace and nature of social and economic development of countries. In accordance with its mandates, the secretariat has been promoting connectivity of regional and interregional transport networks through the development and promotion of the Intergovernmental Agreement on the Asian Highway Network and the Intergovernmental Agreement on the Trans-Asian Railway Network, which came into effect in July 2005 and June 2009, respectively. Most recently, the Intergovernmental Agreement on Dry Ports was adopted at the sixty-ninth session of the Commission and is expected to serve as an additional building block for the realization of the regional vision of an international integrated intermodal transport and logistics system.

While there is still much work to be done to raise the quality of infrastructure, as well as to complete the missing links in the regional transport networks, the time is now ripe for member States to think beyond unimodal physical connectivity, and consider how transport networks, including the Asian Highway and Trans-Asian Railway, may be better integrated using the dry ports in their countries.

In E/ESCAP/FAMT(2)/2, the secretariat commences with a review of the status of the Asian Highway and Trans-Asian Railway networks, along with dry port development. Subsequently, using examples from the region, various policy options for expanding the range of modal choices for users are presented, as well as policy options for enhancing connectivity for archipelagic and small island developing States. The outcome of the High-level Meeting on Strengthening Inter-island Shipping and Logistics in the Pacific Island Countries, held in Suva in July 2013, is submitted by the Executive Secretary in E/ESCAP/FAMT(2)/6.

Following on from this, there is a discussion of the major issues that need to be considered in order to further develop regional and interregional connectivity of transport networks in the Asia-Pacific region.

(b) Creating an enabling environment for facilitating international transport and logistics

Documentation

Creating an enabling environment for facilitating international transport and logistics (E/ESCAP/FAMT(2)/3)

Annotation

The greatest regional challenge in international transport and logistics is the existence of a large number of non-physical barriers. These barriers lead to high transport costs, long delays and high levels of uncertainty for both shippers and transport operators.

In E/ESCAP/FAMT(2)/3, stress is laid on the importance of the practical implementation of the Regional Strategic Framework for the Facilitation of International Road Transport, adopted by the Ministerial Conference on Transport in March 2012, which provides overall guidance for member countries and their development partners to address the challenges in international transport and logistics through common approaches that can be implemented by the countries in a more coordinated way.

The secretariat further underlines the various innovative ways to use new technologies, in particular information and communications technology and intelligent transport systems, for improving the efficiency of international transport and logistics, and thereby creating an enabling environment for the facilitation of transport and improving logistics performance. The secretariat has developed four models to meet the trend of using new technologies to help overcome the non-physical barriers to the smooth and efficient flow of people and goods across land borders. The document contains a brief description of these four models for subsequent comment by the member countries.

The document also contains proposals to establish sustainable accredited training systems for freight forwarders, multimodal transport operators and logistics service providers in the region, in another important initiative to create an enabling environment for the facilitation of logistics. It also contains a description of the systems that have been recently developed by the secretariat to such effect, together with a call for guidance on their further development, as well as on proposals for introducing the systems into member countries.

(c) Innovative financing options for regional infrastructure development and maintenance

Documentation

Innovative financing options for regional infrastructure development and maintenance (E/ESCAP/FAMT(2)/4)

Annotation

In the face of continuing fiscal constraints, Governments are seeking alternative sources of finance to complement traditional project funding. This is particularly true for government ministries and agencies such as energy and transport, which are involved in large-scale infrastructure projects requiring large upfront capital investments. As a result, Governments are turning to public-private partnerships and other forms of private sector involvement for

financing transport infrastructure investments. In recent years, there has also been renewed interest in multilateral funding facilities, such as regional investment funds and climate investment funds.

In E/ESCAP/FAMT(2)/4, there is a description of a number of innovative financing approaches for regional transport infrastructure projects, including several different modalities that can expand the sources and types of financing available to Governments. A number of policy options on regional approaches to financing transport infrastructure projects are put forward for the consideration of member States.

(d) Promoting sustainable and inclusive transport

Documentation

Promoting sustainable and inclusive transport (E/ESCAP/FAMT(2)/5)

Annotation

Sustainable transport systems contribute to increased economic competitiveness and assist safe, clean and affordable mobility. Systems that are interconnected from a regional, national, urban and rural nexus can also contribute to the Millennium Development Goals, particularly transport systems that enable people to access health, education and other social services. Meanwhile, transport systems must also consider safety issues in order to enhance, and not detract from, the welfare of passengers and road users.

Document E/ESCAP/FAMT(2)/5 contains a review of policy options and initiatives to promote sustainable and inclusive transport development, which are aimed at providing equitable access to transport systems for all parts of society. At the regional and national levels, it presents policies to encourage a modal shift to fuel-efficient, safer and environmentally friendly modes of transport, such as railways and inland waterways, while at the municipal and local government level, it proposes strategies to increase the share of public and non-vehicular transport in the modal mix and the application of intelligent transport systems for traffic management. With regard to road safety, the document contains a brief account of the status of road safety and trends in the ESCAP region, illustrating selected good practices and initiatives.

4. Draft ministerial declaration

Documentation

Draft ministerial declaration on transport as a key to sustainable development and regional integration (E/ESCAP/FAMT(2)/WP.1)

Annotation

A draft ministerial declaration on transport as a key to sustainable development and regional integration will be considered by the senior officials prior to its submission to the ministerial segment for adoption. The draft will have been reviewed by the Advisory Committee of Permanent Representatives and Other Representatives Designated by Members of the Commission prior to its submission to the Forum of Asian Ministers of Transport.

5. Other matters

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

6. Adoption of the report of the senior officials

Documentation

Draft report of the senior officials (E/ESCAP/FAMT(2)/CRP.1)

Annotation

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

B. Ministerial segment

7. Policy debate on “transport as a key to sustainable development and regional integration”

Ministers of Transport and heads of delegations will highlight issues, policies and regional initiatives pertinent to the theme of “transport as a key to sustainable development and regional integration”. Representatives of the United Nations and other intergovernmental organizations will also be invited to make brief statements on relevant policies and initiatives of their organizations.

8. Other matters

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

9. Adoption of the ministerial declaration

Documentation

Draft ministerial declaration on transport as a key to sustainable development (E/ESCAP/FAMT(2)/L.3)

Annotation

The Forum will consider for adoption the draft ministerial declaration on transport as a key to sustainable development and regional integration.

10. Adoption of the report of the Forum

Documentation

Draft report (E/ESCAP/FAMT(2)/L.2)

Annotation

The Forum will consider for adoption the draft report for submission to the Commission at its seventieth session, in 2014.

11. Closing of the Forum

Closing statements will be delivered.