

---

**Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific**  
Working Group on Dry Ports

**First meeting**

Bangkok, 25-26 November 2015

Item 4 of the provisional agenda\*

**Status of implementation of the Intergovernmental  
Agreement on Dry Ports**

**Status of implementation of the Intergovernmental  
Agreement on Dry Ports**

**Note by the secretariat**

*Summary*

The present document contains information on the current status of the Intergovernmental Agreement on Dry Ports with regard to the number of signatories and Parties to the Agreement and the obligations of the Parties.

The Working Group on Dry Ports may wish to consider the present document with a view to encouraging the participation of member States in the implementation of the Agreement in order to develop dry ports of international importance as a means to promote efficient intermodal transport connectivity in the region and work towards a more sustainable transport sector.

**I. Introduction**

1. The Intergovernmental Agreement on Dry Ports is a treaty<sup>1</sup> aimed at promoting and developing dry ports of international importance as a means to promote and develop an international integrated intermodal transport and logistics system in Asia and with neighbouring regions. The present document outlines the status of the Agreement in respect of its signatories and Parties and reviews the obligations of the Parties to the Agreement.

**II. Status of implementation of the Agreement**

**A. Signatures and ratifications**

2. The Bangkok Declaration on Transport Development in Asia was adopted at the Forum of Asian Ministers of Transport at its first session in December 2009. In the Declaration, the important role of dry ports in integrating modes of transport, reducing border crossing and transit delays,

---

\* E/ESCAP/DP/WG(1)/L.1.

<sup>1</sup> Commission resolution 69/7, annex.

facilitating the use of energy-efficient and lower emission means of transport and creating new opportunities for the growth and establishment of development clusters was stressed. A further step was taken in the Declaration with the request to the secretariat to provide connectivity and integration of the Asian Highway network, the Trans-Asian Railway network and other transport modes by working towards the development of an intergovernmental agreement on dry ports.

3. Acting on this mandate, the secretariat prepared a working draft of the Agreement, which was reviewed and refined at a series of subregional meetings that were held in Vientiane in July 2011, Dhaka in September 2011 and Dushanbe in December 2011, as well as at an intergovernmental meeting in Bangkok in June 2012. The finalized draft of the Agreement was approved by the Committee on Transport at its third session in October 2012 and adopted by the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) at its sixty-ninth session. On this occasion, the Commission also requested the secretariat to organize a signing ceremony for the Agreement during the second session of the Forum of Asian Ministers of Transport, held in Bangkok from 4 to 8 November 2013. The ceremony took place on 7 November 2013, on which date 14 member States signed the Agreement.<sup>2</sup> One country, Thailand, deposited an instrument of ratification. Subsequently, two more countries became Parties to the Agreement, the Republic of Korea through ratification in April 2014 and Viet Nam through approval in October 2014. Three more countries subsequently became signatories, Bangladesh in September 2014, Sri Lanka in May 2014 and Turkey in December 2014. Annex I contains a list of signatories and Parties.

4. The Agreement was opened for signature in Bangkok on 7 and 8 November 2013 and thereafter at United Nations Headquarters in New York from 11 November 2013 to 31 December 2014. The Agreement will enter into force on the thirtieth day following the date on which the eighth instrument of ratification, acceptance, approval of or accession to the Agreement is deposited with the Secretary-General of the United Nations in New York.

5. In this regard, member States may wish to update the Working Group on Dry Ports on the progress made by their respective Governments towards the ratification, acceptance, approval of and accession to the Agreement.

6. Signatory States wishing to become Parties to the Agreement should deposit their instrument of ratification, acceptance or approval of the Agreement after completing the related national procedures. A model instrument of ratification, acceptance or approval is given in annex II.

7. Member States which have not signed the Agreement can become a Party to the Agreement by accession. A model instrument of accession is given in annex III.

8. Member States wishing to deposit their instruments in relation to paragraph 6 and 7 should contact the Treaty Section of the Office of Legal Affairs at United Nations Headquarters in New York (telephone: +1 212 963 5047, facsimile: +1 212 963 3693, e-mail: [treaty@un.org](mailto:treaty@un.org)) to make the necessary arrangements. The Transport Division of the ESCAP secretariat stands ready to assist member States in this process by receiving said

---

<sup>2</sup> Armenia, Cambodia, China, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Lao People's Democratic Republic, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nepal, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, Tajikistan, Thailand, Viet Nam.

instruments and liaising with the Office of Legal Affairs (telephone: +66 2 288 1371, facsimile: +66 2 288 3050, e-mail: [escap-ttd@un.org](mailto:escap-ttd@un.org)).

9. Reservations may not be made with respect to any of the provisions of the Agreement, except as provided for in article 13, paragraph 5 of the Agreement, whereby any State may, at the time of depositing its instrument of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession, deposit a reservation stating that it does not consider itself bound by the provisions of article 13 relating to conciliation. A model instrument of reservation/declaration is given in annex IV.

## **B. Obligations of the Parties to the Agreement**

10. The main obligations of the Parties to the Agreement are:

(a) To adopt the list of dry ports, contained in annex I to the Agreement, as the basis for the coordinated development of important nodes in an international integrated intermodal transport and logistics system;

(b) To develop these dry ports within the framework of their national programmes and in accordance with national laws and regulations;

(c) To be guided, in the development and operation of these dry ports, by the principles set out in annex II to the Agreement. These principles concern the functions of a dry port; the establishment of institutional, administrative and regulatory frameworks conducive to the development and smooth operation of dry ports; the design, layout and capacity of dry ports; and the desired minimum infrastructure, equipment and facilities to handle expected freight volumes efficiently.

11. Altogether 27 ESCAP member countries have designated a total of 240 dry ports to fall under the above obligations, including 153 dry ports that already exist and 87 potential ones. These dry ports were selected on the basis that:

(a) They were located in the vicinity of (i) inland capitals and/or provincial/state capitals and/or (ii) existing and/or potential production and consumption centres with access to highways and/or railways including the Asian Highway and/or the Trans-Asian Railway, as appropriate;

(b) They had transport connections to other dry ports, border posts/land customs stations/integrated check posts, seaports, inland waterway terminals and/or airports.

## **C. Issues for consideration by the Working Group**

12. The Working Group may wish to consider the present document with a view to encouraging the participation of member States in the implementation of the Agreement in order to promote the development of dry ports of international importance as a means to establish efficient intermodal transport connectivity and work towards a more sustainable transport sector, taking into account the relevant provisions of the Agreement. Most significantly, the Working Group may wish to encourage all member States to (a) become Parties to the Agreement, (b) expedite plans to further modernize or build the dry ports listed in annex I to the Agreement and (c) communicate to the secretariat related projects with estimated cost and projected time frame for completion.

## Annex I

### Intergovernmental Agreement on Dry Ports

#### Signatories/Parties

To date, 17 member States have signed the Intergovernmental Agreement on Dry Ports and 3 have deposited their instrument of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession with the Secretary-General of the United Nations.<sup>a</sup>

Member States	Date of signature	Date of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession
Armenia	7 November 2013	
Bangladesh	25 September 2014	
Cambodia	7 November 2013	
China	7 November 2013	
Indonesia	7 November 2013	
Iran (Islamic Republic of)	7 November 2013	
Lao People's Democratic Republic	7 November 2013	
Mongolia	7 November 2013	
Myanmar	7 November 2013	
Nepal	7 November 2013	
Republic of Korea	7 November 2013	22 April 2014
Russian Federation	7 November 2013	
Sri Lanka	16 May 2014	
Tajikistan	7 November 2013	
Thailand	7 November 2013	7 November 2013
Turkey	15 December 2014	
Viet Nam	7 November 2013	29 October 2014 (approval)

<sup>a</sup> In accordance with articles 4(4) and 5(1) of the Agreement, the Agreement shall enter into force on the thirtieth day following the date on which the eighth instrument of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession to the Agreement is deposited with the Secretary-General of the United Nations.

## Annex II

### Model instrument of ratification, acceptance or approval

(To be signed by Head of State, Head of Government or Minister for Foreign Affairs)

*WHEREAS* the Intergovernmental Agreement on Dry Ports was adopted on 1 May 2013 in Bangkok and opened for signature in Bangkok on 7 and 8 November 2013, and thereafter at United Nations Headquarters in New York from 11 November 2013 to 31 December 2014,

*AND WHEREAS* the said Intergovernmental Agreement on Dry Ports has been signed on behalf of the Government of **[name of State]** on **[date]**,

*NOW THEREFORE*, I, **[name and title of the Head of State, Head of Government or Minister for Foreign Affairs]** declare that the Government of **[name of State]**, having considered the above-mentioned Intergovernmental Agreement on Dry Ports, **[ratifies, accepts, approves]** the same and undertakes faithfully to perform and carry out the stipulations therein contained.

*IN WITNESS WHEREOF*, I have signed this instrument of **[ratification, acceptance, or approval]** in **[place]** on **[date]**.

**[Signature]**

## Annex III

### Model instrument of accession

(To be signed by the Head of State, Head of Government or Minister of Foreign Affairs)

*WHEREAS* the Intergovernmental Agreement on Dry Ports was adopted on 1 May 2013 in Bangkok and opened for signature in Bangkok on 7 and 8 November 2013, and thereafter at United Nations Headquarters in New York from 11 November 2013 to 31 December 2014,

*NOW THEREFORE*, I, **[name and title of the Head of State, Head of Government or Minister of Foreign Affairs]** declare that the Government of **[name of State]**, having considered the above-mentioned Intergovernmental Agreement on Dry Ports, accedes to the same and undertakes faithfully to perform and carry out the stipulations therein contained.

*IN WITNESS WHEREOF*, I have signed this instrument of accession in **[place]** on **[date]**.

**[Signature]**

---

## Annex IV

### **Model instrument of reservation/declaration**

(To be signed by the Head of State, Head of Government or Minister for Foreign Affairs)

I, **[name and title of the Head of State, Head of Government or Minister for Foreign Affairs]**,

*HEREBY DECLARE* that the Government of **[name of State]** makes the following **[reservation/declaration]** in relation to article 13(5) of the Intergovernmental Agreement on Dry Ports adopted on 1 May 2013 in Bangkok:

**[Substance of reservation/declaration]**

*IN WITNESS WHEREOF*, I have hereunto set my hand and seal.

Done at **[place]** on **[date]**

**[Signature and title]**

\_\_\_\_\_