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ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE**INLAND TRANSPORT COMMITTEE**(Sixty-fifth session, 18-20 February 2003,
agenda item 9)**ASSISTANCE TO COUNTRIES WITH ECONOMIES IN TRANSITION****(Facilitation of Participation of Central Asian and Caucasus Countries
in the Meetings of ITC and selected SBS)**Note by the secretariat**INTRODUCTION**

In recent years, there has been a lack of participation of delegates from certain Central Asian and Caucasus countries in the meetings of ITC and its SBs. It is generally understood that the reason is not lack of interest in the work of the UNECE ITC, but financial difficulties that do not allow them to cover their experts travel expenses.

The secretariat believes that it is in the interest of all UNECE members that these countries be present and have an active participation in the ITC and, at least, in some of its SBs. Their participation will facilitate the integration of their transport systems and economies as well as the harmonization of their transport legislation with that in other UNECE member countries.

BENEFICIARY COUNTRIES

It is therefore proposed that an effort be made to facilitate a wider country participation in the work of ITC and selected SBs by adopting a precise pilot project aimed at financing the participation of delegates from the following 8 countries:

Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan.

MEETINGS

The meetings at which the participation of delegates of the above-mentioned beneficiary countries could be facilitated are the following:

Inland Transport Committee (ITC)

Road Transport (SC1)

Working Party on Road Safety (WP.1)

Working Party on Transport Trends and Economics (WP.5)

Working Party on Transport Statistics (WP.6)

ESTIMATED COST

The project should cover the Air ticket and DSA for 3 days for **one delegate** from each of the beneficiary countries. The relevant cost may be estimated as follows:

Air ticket :	8 delegates X 5 meetings X US\$ 2,400	(40 trips)	US\$	9,000
DSA :	40 trips X 3 days X US\$ 209	(120 days)		<u>25,080</u>
			Total US\$	121,080

FINANCE

This pilot project would be financed by UNECE donor countries voluntarily through contributions to the Trust Fund for Assistance to Countries in Transition (TFACT).

PROPOSED PERIOD OF IMPLEMENTATION

It is proposed that the project will start as soon as funds are available.

The ITC may wish to encourage member countries to contribute to the TFACT for this specific project.
