

DRAFT

TERMS OF REFERENCE AND RULES OF PROCEDURE OF THE INFORMAL GROUP ON THE FUTURE
DIRECTION FOR HARMONISATION OF VEHICLE REGULATIONS UNDER THE 1958 AGREEMENT

TERMS OF REFERENCE

1. The objective of the informal group is to assist the World Forum for the harmonisation of vehicle regulations (WP.29) in considering actions on the future direction for the harmonisation of vehicle regulations under the 1958 Agreement. This future direction should aim at fostering the participation of more countries and regional economic integration organisations in the activities of the World Forum and to increase the number of Contracting Parties to the Agreement, by improving its functioning and reliability, and thus ensuring that it remains the key international framework for the harmonisation of technical regulations in the automotive sector.
2. To fulfil this objective the informal group shall, as a first step, make an inventory of the elements which it considers should be addressed in a review of the 1958 Agreement, taking into account contributions by Contracting Parties and non-governmental organisations, and establish a roadmap for addressing these elements as a recommendation to WP.29.
3. In doing so, the informal group shall give particular attention to the procedures for developing, amending and adopting technical regulations for motor vehicles, and their implementation by Contracting Parties, and also to the conditions for granting type approvals and their mutual recognition. Other elements to be included for consideration are the methods for conformity assessment and certification procedures, including the responsibilities and competence of involved parties and aspects related to enforcement, such as ensuring conformity of production, market surveillance, safeguard measures and dispute settlement procedures.
4. The informal group shall submit the inventory and roadmap for the future direction on the harmonisation of vehicle regulations to WP.29 for consideration, the latest, at its [155th] session in [November 2011].
5. The target completion date for the work of the informal group shall be the [168th] session of WP.29 in [March 2016].
6. This target completion date will be reviewed in [November 2011] taking into account the assessment by WP.29 of the inventory and roadmap submitted by the informal group for consideration.
7. Final decisions on proposals rest with WP.29 and the Contracting Parties.

RULES OF PROCEDURE

1. The informal group is a sub group of WP.29, and is open to all participants of WP.29.
2. A Chairman and a Secretary will manage the informal group.
3. The official language of the informal group will be English.
4. All documents and/or proposals must be submitted to the Secretary of the group in a suitable electronic format in advance of the meetings. The group may refuse to discuss any item or proposal which has not been circulated 10 working days in advance of the scheduled meeting.
5. An agenda and related documents will be circulated to all members of the informal group in advance of all scheduled meetings.
6. Proposals will be developed by consensus. When consensus cannot be reached, the Chairman of the informal group shall present the different points of view to WP.29. The Chairman may seek guidance from WP.29 as appropriate.
7. The progress of the informal group will be routinely reported to WP.29 – wherever possible as an informal document and presented by the Chairman or his representative.
8. All working documents should be distributed in digital format. Meeting documents should be made available to the UNECE secretariat for publication on the website of WP.29.