



# Economic and Social Council

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## Economic Commission for Europe

### Inland Transport Committee

#### Seventy-seventh session

Geneva, 24–26 February 2015

Item 4 (b) (iii) of the provisional agenda

#### Strategic questions of a horizontal policy nature:

Environment, climate change and transport –

Impacts of climate change on international  
transport networks and adaptation requirements

## Terms of Reference of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe Group of Experts on Climate Change Impacts and Adaptation for Transport Networks and Nodes

### Note by the secretariat

#### *Summary*

The Committee at its seventy-third session decided on the establishment of a Group of Experts on Climate Change Impacts and Adaptation to International Transport Networks. The Group of Experts completed its work in 2013 and submitted a full report of its accomplishments at the Committee's seventy-sixth session.

The Committee may wish **to approve** the request of the Working Party on Transport Trends and Economics regarding the continuation for two more years of the work for the Group of Experts on Climate Change Impacts and Adaptation for International Transport Networks based on the new Terms of Reference contained in this document. The Committee may wish also **to approve** the change of the name of the Group from "Group of Experts on Climate Change Impacts and Adaptation for International Transport Networks" to "Group of Experts on Climate Change Impacts and Adaptation for Transport Networks and Nodes".

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## **I. Terms of Reference**

### **A. Scope of issues and achievements expected**

1. In line with the recommendations of the report of the Group of Experts on Climate Change Impacts and Adaptation for International Transport Networks published in December 2013, the Group of Experts will focus its work on the following issues:

(a) Identify and establish if possible inventories of transport networks in the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) region which are vulnerable to climate change impacts, if possible in a geographic information system (GIS) environment;

(b) Use/develop models, methodologies, tools and good practices to address potential extreme hazards (e.g. high temperatures and floods) to selected inland transport infrastructure in the UNECE region under different scenarios of climate change;

(c) Identification and analysis of case studies focusing on the potential economic, social, and environmental consequences of the climate change impacts and provide a cost/benefit analysis of the adaptation options.

2. The Group of Experts should base its considerations on the UNECE previous work in this field, in particular the output of the Group of Experts on Climate Change Impacts and Adaptation for International Transport Networks and its final report – a publication (ECE/TRANS/238) and recommendations published in 2013 and adopted by the Inland Transport Committee at its seventy-sixth session (ECE/TRANS/240, para. 20).

### **B. Methods of work**

3. The Group of Experts will be established and function in accordance with the UNECE Guidelines for teams of specialists approved by the Executive Committee of UNECE on 31 March 2010 (ECE/EX/2/Rev.1). At its first meeting, the Group of Experts will adopt a work plan, clearly defining its objectives and activities, including a time schedule for their implementation.

4. The Group of Experts is expected to meet twice in 2015, at least twice in 2016 and at least once in 2017 at the Palais des Nations in Geneva, before concluding its activities with the transmission of a report to the Working Party on Transport Trends and Economics (WP.5) at its thirtieth session (September 2017, Geneva). This report shall also contain proposals for monitoring procedures and follow-up activities.

5. Translation of documents and simultaneous interpretation of its sessions in English, French, and Russian shall be provided by UNECE for all sessions held at the Palais des Nations in Geneva.

6. Participation in the Group of Experts is open to all concerned United Nations member countries and experts. All intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, as well as all railway companies, freight and forwarding industries interested in the event are invited to participate and provide expert advice in compliance with United Nations rules and practices.

### **C. Secretariat**

7. UNECE will provide secretariat services for the Group of Experts and shall ensure close cooperation with all stakeholders, including the United Nations Framework

Convention on Climate Change, the Global Framework for Climate Services, the World Meteorological Organization, the European Commission, the regional commissions of the United Nations, and other relevant intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations.

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