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Item 8 of the provisional agenda

Capacity-building activities

SPECA Workshop on Road Transport and Road Safety Statistics in Ashgabat, Turkmenistan (8-9 September 2016)

Note by the secretariat

I. Mandate

1. This document is submitted in line with cluster 13: Transport Statistics, para. 15.1 of the programme of work 2016-2017 (ECE/TRANS/254, ECE/TRANS/2016/28 and Add.1) adopted by the Inland Transport Committee on 26 February 2016.

II. Background

2. The Working Party may wish to take note of the secretariat's most recent capacity building workshop in Ashgabat, Turkmenistan on 8-9 September 2016.

3. The workshop gathered participants from nine countries, namely Azerbaijan, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russian Federation, Republic of Serbia, Tajikistan, Turkey and Turkmenistan. In addition, the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) secretariat was present, together with the UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP), and the Eurasian Economic Commission. Countries were represented by a mixture of national statistical offices and ministries of transport.

4. The workshop took place alongside the United Nations Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia (SPECA) Thematic Working Group on Sustainable Transport, Transit and Connectivity (TWG-STTC). Its goal was to strengthen the capacities of SPECA and East-European countries for gathering reliable and comprehensive road transport and road safety statistics.

III. Activities

5. UNECE presented the importance of accurate transport statistics for policy development and measuring achievements in the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals. UNESCAP presented the Regional Road Safety Goals, Targets and Indicators for Asia and the Pacific.

6. In addition to this there were presentations from UNECE on the basic methodology and data collection for road transport in general, and specifically for road safety statistics.

7. There were also country presentations on their own practices in data collection, the challenges they face and their most successful methods. Turkmenistan moderated a roundtable on the key successes and difficulties that countries face. The Eurostat/ITF/UNECE Web Common Questionnaire was also presented by UNECE.

IV. Conclusions

8. The workshop successfully helped participants to understand the methodology necessary to make internationally comparable statistics, and to learn about existing practices currently employed by other countries. Participants agreed that the workshop strengthened capacities of SPECA and East-European countries on how to gather relevant statistics to make this information available to decision makers, the road transport community and the general public. Furthermore, participants agreed that the workshop should be considered as a first step in support to the SPECA member countries and SPECA TWG-STTC in setting-up initial prerequisites for the implementation of transport relevant Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). SPECA member countries agreed to in the near future input data into the Web Common Questionnaire and contact UNECE for further information and advice, where necessary.

V. Results and Future Work

9. Since the workshop, the secretariat has been in close contact with Kazakhstan in helping the country to submit data through the Web Common Questionnaire. As countries expressed their desire to improve their internationally comparable data, during the 2017 data collection cycle the secretariat will be in close cooperation with these countries to assist them in providing questionnaire responses.

10. A further workshop under the same programme is planned for Astana, Kazakhstan in September 2017, which will allow countries to indicate their progress on improving their data. The training can be tailored to country needs based on feedback given at this workshop.

11. The Working Party is invited to offer suggestions on optimising future capacity building activities.
