

**Project Working Group on Transport and Border Crossing (PWG-TBC)**

15<sup>th</sup> session  
7-8 April 2010  
Almaty, Kazakhstan

**IMPLEMENTATION OF THE GUIDELINES TO IMPROVE EFFICIENCY OF THE PWG-TBC**  
(Item 5 of the Agenda)

Note by Kazakhstan/ UNECE/ UNESCAP

1. The 10th Session of SPECA PWG-TBC held in Issyk-kul, Kyrgyzstan on 24 March 2005, with a view to enhancing its performance, adopted the Guidelines to improve the efficiency of the SPECA PWG-TBC, which provided recommendations on how to address principal problem areas of the PWG-TBC.
2. In the Guidelines, it was recommended that "Periodical analysis of the PWG-TBC effectiveness should be introduced and carried out at the end of every biennium". The first review of the implementation of the Guidelines was carried out at the 13th session held on 12-13 March 2008 in Almaty, Kazakhstan.
3. The present analysis of implementation of the Guidelines covers the period between the 13<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> sessions of the PWG, and evaluates compliance with the recommendations related to issues at organizational and substantive levels of the Project Working Group activities.
4. Organizational level.
  - 4.1. With the generous assistance of the Islamic Development Bank (IsDB), supporting participation of two officials from each SPECA country and organization of the sessions, participation of SPECA countries in the sessions has been broadened. In 2009, for the first time, the session was attended by a representative of Turkmenistan. Participation of Uzbekistan in the work of the PWG has continued to be encouraged. Participation in the PWG has been widened to include representatives of Ministries of Transport and Communications, Interior, Customs and Border Control authorities, and the private sector, such as railway companies, associations of road carriers and freight forwarders. Representatives of international and subregional organizations, international financial institutions, and aid agencies also take active part in the sessions.

- 4.2. Invitations to the 13<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup>, and 15<sup>th</sup> sessions of the PWG-TBC as well as session documents were sent to SPECA countries in due course, in line with the Guidelines. Tentative agendas clearly identified organizations and countries responsible for presentations of relevant documents for each agenda item. The length of the PWG documents has been optimized to facilitate the translation.
- 4.3. The Research Institute on Transport and Communications (NIITK) has been providing technical support to the Ministry of Transport and Communications of Kazakhstan, the lead SPECA country in the field of transport, at no cost to the Ministry and the PWG. The need for financial support to NIITK has been stressed by the Project Working Group at each of its sessions.
- 4.4. Strong leadership of Kazakhstan, the lead SPECA country in the field of transport, is one of the key success factors of the Project Working Group.
- 4.5. Periodical analysis of the PWG-TBC effectiveness has been introduced and carried out at the end of every biennium.
5. Substantive level
  - 5.1. The work of the PWG continues to focus on the areas of common interest to SPECA countries, such as accession to and implementation of international conventions recommended by the PWG-TBC, establishment and operation of national coordinating mechanisms for transport facilitation, development of SPECA transport databases and addressing major bottlenecks along international transport routes / corridors.
  - 5.2. The substantive coverage of the PWG has been expanded to include new activities, such as the facilitation on railway transport through the development of a common CIM/SMGS consignment note, road safety issues and policy interventions, and establishment and strengthening of public-private partnerships in the SPECA region.
  - 5.3. Bilateral consultations on border crossing issues between SPECA countries are regularly conducted at the session. This includes bilateral consultations between Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan, and Kazakhstan and Tajikistan held in 2008, and between Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan organized in 2009.
  - 5.4. The implementation of activities under the project proposals approved at the 11<sup>th</sup> session of the PWG and the development of SPECA Guide of road wayside facilities is pending, subject to the availability of resources.
6. The Project Working Group may wish to:
  - 6.1. Express its sincere gratitude to the IsDB for providing financial support to the sessions and to request the IsDB to continue its assistance to SPECA countries.
  - 6.2. Express its deep appreciation to Kazakhstan for its role in leading the Project Working Group.

- 6.3. Thank the Research Institute on Transport and Communications (NIITK) for its technical support and reiterate the need for financial support to NIITK.
- 6.4. Encourage participation of all SPECA countries in sessions of the PWG.
- 6.5. Encourage participation of the countries neighbouring the SPECA region, as observers.
- 6.6. Invite SPECA countries to host sessions of PWG-TBC on a rotating basis.
- 6.7. Support current on-going activities of the Project Working Group and propose new areas for cooperation under the framework of the PWG.