
**Thematic Working Group on Sustainable Transport, Transit and Connectivity
(WG-STTC)**

25th Session
22-23 October 2020
Virtual mode

**Accession to and implementation of transport-related
International Conventions and Agreements**

(Item 5.2 of the Agenda)

Note by UNECE/ESCAP

ESCAP

1. Harmonizing the legal regimes relating to international transport continues to be a prerequisite to ensure the smooth and efficient movement of goods through national borders. During all previous sessions, the Working Group on Sustainable Transport, Transit and Connectivity reaffirmed the importance of the international legal instruments listed in the protocol of its second session and re-iterated the invitation to SPECA countries to intensify their efforts to accede to all of them as soon as possible. The Working Group stressed that accession to United Nations transport-related legal instruments would only serve transport connectivity and facilitation if followed by proper implementation measures.
2. The forty-eighth session of ESCAP adopted resolution 48/11 of 23 April 1992 which recommended that countries in the region should consider acceding to seven international conventions in the field of international land transportation facilitation as a cost-effective prerequisite step towards enhancing road and rail transport routes throughout the region. The accession status to the conventions recommended by ESCAP resolution 48/11 and the Working Group is shown in Annex 1.
3. This year is marked by the significant progress in accession led by Turkmenistan and three SPECA countries acceded to nine international conventions and agreements. Nevertheless, all SPECA countries are invited to take concrete steps towards accession to the rest of the conventions stated in Annex I.

4. Year 2020 is marked with a number of accessions to United Nations transport-related legal instruments:

- In January 2020, Uzbekistan ratified the European Agreement concerning the International Carriage of Dangerous Goods by Road (ADR) (1957) and Protocol amending article 1 (a), article 14 (1) and article 14 (3) (b) of the European Agreement of 30 September 1957 concerning the International Carriage of Dangerous Goods by Road (ADR) (1993);
- In August 2020, Turkmenistan acceded to six United Nations legal instruments: European Agreement on main international traffic arteries (AGR) (1975), European Agreement on Main International Railway Lines (AGC) (1985), European Agreement on Important International Combined Transport Lines and Related Installations (AGTC) (1991), European Agreement supplementing the Convention on road traffic opened for signature at Vienna on 8 November 1968 (1971), European Agreement supplementing the Convention on Road Signs and Signals (1971) and Protocol on Road Markings, additional to the European Agreement supplementing the Convention on Road Signs and Signals (1973).
- In October 2019, Afghanistan acceded to the Convention on the Contract for the International Carriage of Goods by Road (CMR) (1956).

Inland Transport Committee Capacity Development Action Plan

5. Based on the Inland Transport Committee Strategy until 2030, the ITC Capacity Development Action Plan was presented and adopted at the 82nd session of Inland Transport Committee held in February 2020 – as a basic document for future UNECE capacity development and technical assistance activities.
6. The ITC Capacity Development Action Plan ¹ (the Plan) incorporated capacity development general principles and grouped all activities into four strategic areas:
 - Awareness-raising - Inform Member States on United Nations transport legal instruments and on benefits of its efficient implementation;
 - Capacity enhancement - Assist member States in developing capacities for efficient implementation of United Nations inland transport legal instruments;

¹ <http://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/trans/doc/2020/itc/ECE-TRANS-2020-18e.pdf>

- Seek synergies - Develop standards and competence criteria for accreditation of entities (academia, training centers, etc.) to promote United Nations inland transport legal instruments;
 - Monitor and evaluate results and effectiveness of applied actions/methods.
7. Immediately after adoption of the Plan, UNECE initiated work on implementation. This coincided with an information from the Government of Turkmenistan on readiness to accede to six UN transport-related legal instruments and request for technical assistance. Assistance was initiated by two capacity development events (online 14 April 2020 and 15 May 2020) on basic principles of six UN legal instruments and after successful accession of Turkmenistan, tailor-made capacity development events for national stakeholders are scheduled for November.

The Thematic Working Group may wish to

- Reaffirm the importance of United Nations transport-related legal instruments listed in the Annex I and reiterate the invitation addressed to SPECA countries to follow excellent pace of accession in 2020;
- Take measures for efficient implementation of ratified United Nations transport-related legal instruments in SPECA member States.
- Invite SPECA countries to familiarize with principles and especially strategic areas one and two of the ITC Capacity Development Action Plan which will shape future capacity UNECE development activities;
- Encourage SPECA member States to consider acceding to the Convention on facilitation of Border Crossing Procedures for Passengers, Luggage and Load-Luggage carried in International Traffic by Rail;
- Indicate further technical assistance and capacity development needs to UNECE and ESCAP secretariats in relation to the accession and/or implementation of the transport-related United Nations legal instruments.

**Accession Status to United Nations International Agreements and Conventions Listed in
the Protocol of the Session of the TWG-STTC
as of 1 August 2019**

№	Agreements and Conventions	AFG	AZE	KAZ	KGZ	TJK	TKM	UZB
<u>Conventions Recommended by UNESCAP Resolution 48/11</u>								
1	Convention on Road Traffic (1968)		X (2002)	X (1994)	X (2006)	X (1994)	X (1993)	X (1995)
2	Convention on Road Signs and Signals (1968)		X (2011)	X (1994)	X (2006)	X (1994)	X (1993)	X (1995)
3	Convention on the Contract for the International Carriage of Goods by Road (CMR, 1956)	X (2020)	X (2006)	X (1995)	X (1998)	X (1996)	X (1996)	X (1995)
4	Customs Convention on the Temporary Importation of Commercial Road Vehicles (1956)	X (1977)	X (2000)		X (1998)			X (1999)
5	Customs Convention on the International Transport of Goods under Cover of TIR Carnets (TIR Convention) (1975)	X (1982)	X (1996)	X (1995)	X (1998)	X (1996)	X (1996)	X (1995)
6	International Convention on the Harmonization of Frontier Controls of Goods (1982)		X (2000)	X (2005)	X (1998)	X (2011)	X (2016)	X (1996)
7	Customs Convention on Containers (1972)		X (2005)	X (2005)	X (2007)			X (1996)
<u>Additional Agreements and Conventions:</u>								
8	European Agreement on Main International traffic arteries (AGR) (1975)		X (1996)	X (1995)			X (2020)	
9	European Agreement on Main International Railway Lines (AGC) (1985)						X (2020)	
10	European Agreement on Important International Combined Transport Lines and Related Installations (AGTC) (1991)			X (2002)			X (2020)	
11	European Agreement supplementing the Convention on Road Traffic opened for signature at Vienna on 8 November 1968 (1971)			X (2011)			X (2020)	
12	European Agreement supplementing the Convention on Road Signs and Signals (1971)		X (2011)	X (2011)			X (2020)	
13	European Agreement concerning the Work of Crews of Vehicles Engaged in International Road Transport (AETR) (1970)		X (1996)	X (1995)		X (2011)	X (1996)	X (1998)
14	Customs Convention on the Temporary Importation of Private Road Vehicles (1954)							
15	European Agreement concerning the International Carriage of Dangerous Goods by Road (ADR) (1957)		X (2000)	X (2001)		X (2011)		X (2020)
16	Agreement on the International Carriage of Perishable Foodstuffs and on the Special Equipment to be used for such Carriage (ATP) (1970)		X (2000)	X (1995)	X (2012)	X (2011)		X (1999)

Notes: 1. X - Final signature, ratification, accession;
2. AFG – Afghanistan; AZE – Azerbaijan; KAZ – Kazakhstan; KGZ – Kyrgyzstan; TJK - Tajikistan; TKM – Turkmenistan; and UZB – Uzbekistan.