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Working Party on Transport Statistics

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Item 9 of the provisional agenda

Implementation of the ITC strategy to 2030 and the Programme of work 2020–2021

Updated Terms of Reference

Note by the secretariat

I. Background

1. As described in ECE/TRANS/WP.6/2021/6, the Working Party agreed at its seventy-first session to revise its Terms of Reference to further align its activities with the Inland Transport Committee Strategy until 2030 (ECE/TRANS/288/Add.2¹). This document presents, as an annex, a draft of the revised Terms of Reference for the Working Party to consider.

¹ <https://unece.org/DAM/trans/doc/2019/itc/ECE-TRANS-288add2e.pdf>.

Annex

Draft of Updated Terms of Reference

1. The Working Party on Transport Statistics (hereafter referred to as WP.6) will operate in accordance with the Economic Commission for Europe (hereafter UNECE) Guidelines for the establishment and functioning of Working Parties within UNECE as approved by the UNECE Executive Committee at its fourth meeting on 14 July 2006 (ECE/EX/1). These guidelines refer to its status and characteristics, including the review of its mandate and extension every 5 years, its membership and officers, its methods of work and its secretariat provided by the UNECE Sustainable Transport Division.

2. WP.6 will act within the framework of the policies of the United Nations and the Economic Commission for Europe (hereafter UNECE) and under the general supervision of the Inland Transport Committee (hereafter ITC) and in conformity with the Terms of Reference of UNECE (E/ECE/778/Rev.5).

3. The activities identified below are in line with the objective of the UNECE sustainable transport subprogramme to facilitate the international movement of persons and goods by inland transport modes and improve safety, environmental protection, energy efficiency and security in the transport sector to levels that contribute effectively to sustainable transport. They are also in line with the ITC Strategy to 2030 which identified the following four pillars where it should enhance its role going forward:

- **Pillar A: The UN Platform for regional and global inland transport conventions.** By strengthening its role as the UN platform of inland transport conventions to all UN Member States and by remaining at the forefront of global efforts to curb the road safety crisis, through its 360° approach to road safety, cut emissions by setting and promoting its vehicle standards, and reduce cross-border barriers with its large set of facilitation conventions.

- **Pillar B: The UN Platform for supporting new technologies and innovations in inland transport.** By ensuring that (i) its regulatory functions are keeping pace with cutting-edge technologies driving transport innovation - especially in the areas of Intelligent Transport Systems, autonomous vehicles and digitalization – thus improving traffic safety, environmental performance, energy efficiency, inland transport security and efficient service provision in the transport sector, (ii) the different amendment processes for the different conventions do not cause fragmentation, and (iii) the dangers of stifling progress due to too early regulation are avoided.

- **Pillar C: The UN Platform for regional, interregional and global inland transport policy dialogues.** By providing a platform for policy dialogue to review emerging challenges in inland transport, as well as proposals for improving infrastructure and operation at its annual session.

- **Pillar D: The UN Platform for promoting sustainable regional and interregional inland transport connectivity and mobility.** By providing a comprehensive, harmonized regulatory framework, as appropriate, and institutional reference point supporting international connectivity, developing new or building on existing initiatives, agreements, or corridors, as needed.

4. In line with the above objectives as well as those of the UNECE transport subprogramme to provide a comprehensive regional and global platform for consideration of all aspects of inland transport development and cooperation, the main activities identified of WP.6 going forward are to:

- (a) Develop appropriate and common methodologies and terminology for the harmonization of land transport statistics to improve international comparability, aiming also at the determination of indicators of sustainable transport (Pillar C);

- (b) Collect, compile and disseminate land transport statistics that highlight the impact of existing ECE legal instruments, including data on motor traffic, road traffic accidents, rail traffic, inland waterways and transport through pipelines (Pillar A);

(c) Develop, maintain and improve the online UNECE Transport Statistics Database in order to ensure good quality, relevant, user friendly and timely transport statistics (Pillar C);

(d) Contribute to the coordination of statistical activities of international organizations in the field of transport in order to promote good statistical practices and consistency of disseminated data, minimize duplication of work and reduce the reporting and meetings burdens on UNECE member countries, in particular by maintaining and improving the common questionnaire system in partnership with Eurostat and the International Transport Forum (Pillar C);

(e) Provide a forum for the exchange of experiences and best practices and provide guidance on how to address statistical challenges, including the availability, quality and interchange of data on land transport (Pillar C);

(f) Promote and provide technical cooperation and capacity-building in transport statistics (Pillar D);

(g) Contribute to the development of the transport-related Sustainable Development Goal indicators, through methodology sharing and dialogue between member States and relevant custodian agencies (Pillar C);

(h) Explore interlinkages between the transport-related Sustainable Development Goal indicators and other areas of sustainable development, for example interactions between transport and environment, energy, health, gender etc (Pillar C);(i) Become a central hub for transport statistics by fostering cooperation and collaboration with the European Commission, intergovernmental and nongovernmental organizations and other United Nations regional commissions and organizations or bodies of the United Nations system (Pillar C);

(j) Collaborate closely with other subsidiary bodies of ITC and other UNECE body on matters of common interest (Pillars A and B).
