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## Economic Commission for Europe

### Inland Transport Committee

#### Working Party on Rail Transport

##### Seventy-fifth session

Geneva, 17–19 November 2021

Item 22 of the provisional agenda

##### Programme of work for 2022–2023

## Draft programme of work and biennial evaluation for 2022–2023

### Note by the secretariat

#### I. Mandate

1. In accordance with the decision of the Inland Transport Committee (ITC) to review its programme of work every two years (ECE/TRANS/200, para. 120), the Working Party will be invited to review and adopt its programme of work for 2022–2023, as well as the relevant parameters for its biennial evaluation.
2. Although the UN system no longer functions on a biennial budget and given that an alternative approach has not been developed and mandated at ITC level it is suggested that, as already identified in document ECE/TRANS/SC.2/2019/1, for the moment the programme of work continue on a biennial basis to allow member States the ability to monitor the activities of the working party.

#### II. Draft programme of work for 2022–2023

##### A. Introduction

3. The present document sets out the draft programme of work for 2022–2023 of the subprogramme on “Rail Transport” of the Inland Transport Committee (ITC). The Working Party on Rail Transport (SC.2) is invited to consider this programme for adoption at its current session. The Working Party and ITC will have the opportunity to adjust its programme of work during the course of the biennium, to be reflected in a separate document.
4. The draft programme of work applies a results based approach. It comprises, for each cluster of activities, an expected accomplishment and a list of outputs/activities proposed to be carried out in 2022–2023. The delivery of these outputs/activities is expected to contribute to achieving the expected results.
5. The grouping of programme activities into clusters is the same as that used in the past by the ITC for the biennial evaluation of its subprogramme performance.

6. The following clusters of activities make up the transport subprogramme of UNECE:

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*Cluster No. Subprogramme: 02 Transport*

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1	Overall coordination (Inland Transport Committee and Bureau)
2	Transport trends and economics (including Euro–Asian transport links)
3	Harmonization of vehicle regulations, climate change and intelligent transport systems (ITS)
4	Rail transport and Trans–European railway (TER) Project
5	Inland waterway transport
6	Intermodal transport and logistics
7	Customs questions affecting transport
8	Transport, Health and Environment pan–European programme (THE PEP)
9	Transport of dangerous goods (UNECE)
10	Transport of dangerous goods (ECOSOC)
11	Globally Harmonized System for the Classification and Labelling of Chemicals (GHS) (ECOSOC)
12	Transport of perishable foodstuffs
13	Transport statistics
14	Road transport and Trans–European north–south motorway (TEM) project
15	Road traffic safety

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7. For easy of reference, new outputs/activities are indicated as “additional” and in “bold text”.

8. The outputs/activities have been listed under the cluster of activities to which they belong according to the following main categories: (a) meetings and related parliamentary documentation; (b) publications and other information material; and (c) technical cooperation, including, seminars, workshops, training sessions, advisory services and online tools.

9. The relevant indicators of achievement, together with baseline and target data, against which performance will be measured, are presented below.

10. The present document is based on the programme of work agreed at the seventy–third session of the Working Party on Rail Transport (ECE/TRANS/SC.2/2019/1) and seeks to implement the ITC Strategy and so should be read with the document setting out how the ITC strategy would be implemented in relation to the work on railways (ECE/TRANS/SC.2/2019/2) as well as with the new Terms of Reference for the Working Party contained in document ECE/TRANS/SC.2/2020/1.

## **B. Objective and strategy**

11. The objective of the UNECE subprogramme on transport is 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.

12. The responsibility for this subprogramme is vested in the Sustainable Transport Division.

## C. Outputs/activities to be delivered in the 2022–2023 biennium

13. Outputs/activities to be delivered in the 2022–2023 biennium are as follows:

### Subprogramme: 02 Transport

Cluster 4: Rail transport

<i>Description of cluster (optional)</i>	<i>Expected accomplishments from this cluster</i>
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Monitoring, reviewing and updating of the European Agreement on Main International Railway Lines (AGC).</li> <li>2. Consideration of measures to promote efficiency and sustainability of rail transport as part of a sustainable transport system, including bottlenecks in rail transport services at the pan-European level and facilitating technological progression of the sector.</li> <li>3. Report and consider utilization of results of the Trans-European Railway (TER) project and its activities and strengthen cooperation between the TER project and the Working Party on Rail Transport (SC.2).</li> <li>4. Survey passenger and goods traffic on the AGC network in order to provide support for transport planning.</li> <li>5. Participation in, and monitoring of, different rail projects as well as in the development of initiatives on new conventions and regional cooperation and along Euro-Asian transport corridors.</li> <li>6. Facilitate international rail transport in the pan-European region through improved border crossing procedures and harmonization of technical specifications of different railway systems and their operations at borders.</li> <li>7. Review general trends in rail transport developments and rail transport policy, analyze specific rail transport economic issues, collect, compile and disseminate rail transport statistics in cooperation with the Working Party on Transport Statistics (WP.6) and prepare reports, reviews, publications and annual workshops on topical themes in rail transport development and best practices.</li> </ol>	<p>Better understanding of rail transport operations and policies in the region, including infrastructure and its financing, border crossing, interoperability, security and safety, high speed trains, climate change as well as rail productivity and rail reform issues, and monitoring and updating of relevant legal instruments, as well as enhanced cooperation of ECE countries in addressing them.</p> <p>Increased capacity of ECE countries participating in the TER projects.</p>
<p>Main actions by the Sustainable Transport Division:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) Act as secretariat to the Working Party on Rail Transport and its groups of experts.</li> <li>(b) <b>Renew and</b> maintain the online monitoring tool on the application of the AGC and AGTC infrastructure standards.</li> <li>(c) Provide support and analysis for technical cooperation and capacity-building in rail transport.</li> <li>(d) Represent UNECE in meetings of inter-and non-governmental organizations that are relevant to railways.</li> </ol>	

### Other activities within the cluster

The Group of Experts towards Unified Railway Law will continue working towards achieving Unified Railway Law. **The Group of Experts on the Permanent Identification of Railway Rolling Stock will continue its work on defining appropriate permanent identification for rolling stock. The Group of Experts on International Railway Passenger Hubs will continue working towards improving accessibility to the railways through its work on passenger stations.**

**Outputs/activities***(a) Meetings and related parliamentary documentation*

4.1 Working Party on Rail Transport (~~seventy-fourth session in 2020 and seventy-fifth session in 2021~~ **seventy-sixth session in 2022 and seventy-seventh session in 2023**) (12 meetings).

*Documentation:*

Agenda and reports of the annual sessions (4); other documents (14) on mandated issues, including the draft programme of work and biennial evaluation (in the format prescribed by any updated ITC decision), public private partnerships and railways financing, high speed railways, rail security (including cybersecurity), ~~and~~ safety, border crossings facilitation, rail review, rail productivity indicators, railways reform, unified railway law, administration and updating of the AGC Agreement, railway statistics; other related documents on newly mandated issues.

4.2 Scheduled sessions of the Group of Experts towards Unified Railway Law.

*Documentation:*

Agendas of the sessions (6), Reports of the sessions (6); documents related to draft legal provisions of the unified railway law (12), documents related to the appropriate management of the unified railway law (6), other mandated documents relevant to the unified railway law (6).

4.3 Scheduled sessions of the Group of Experts on the Permanent Identification of Railway Rolling Stock.

*Documentation:*

Agendas of the sessions (4), Reports of the sessions (4); documents related to development of provisions on the Permanent Identification of Railway Rolling Stock (12).

4.4 Scheduled sessions of the Group of Experts on the International Railway Passenger Hubs.

*Documentation:*

Agendas of the sessions (4), Reports of the sessions (4); documents related to development of provisions for International Railway Passenger Hubs (12).

*(b) Publications and other information material and online tools*

4.5 Update of the online monitoring tool on the application of the AGC and AGTC infrastructure standards.

4.6 **Preparation of Update of the rail review** publications for the ECE region, including contemporary issues for rail including climate change, infrastructure and statistics.

4.7 Update and monitoring of the International Observatory on Rail Security.

4.8 Development of rail productivity indicators.

4.9 Development of other mandated tools as required by the Working Party.

*Non-recurrent publications:*

~~4.8 High Speed Trains Master Plan for ECE region.~~

4.10 Development of other mandated publications as required by the Working Party.

*(c) Technical cooperation*

4.11 Workshop on contemporary rail issues (2).

4.12 Seminars on TER (2).

4.13 Field project on TER (1).

### III. Biennial evaluation

14. On the basis of decisions taken at its sixty-seventh session in October 2013 (ECE/TRANS/SC.2/220, paras. 88–89), the activities of the Working Party are measured, as part of the biennial evaluation, against one expected accomplishment, three indicators of achievement and corresponding actual performance measures.

15. The Working Party may wish to review the 2020–2021 parameters (expected accomplishments, indicators of achievement, actual performance measures) as provided below with a view to either maintaining them or establishing new ones for the biennium 2022–2023

<i>Biennial Assessment</i>			
<i>Review of performance measures for 2020-2021 and establishment of targets for 2022-2023</i>			
<i>Cluster</i>	<i>Expected Accomplishments</i>	<i>Indicators of Achievement</i>	<i>Actual Performance Measures</i>
4. Rail Transport	Better understanding of rail transport operations and policies in the region, including infrastructure, border crossing, interoperability issues, and monitoring and updating of relevant legal instruments, as well as enhanced cooperation of ECE countries in addressing them.	<p>(a) Number of countries, IGOs and NGOs participating in the two annual meetings of the Working Party on Rail Transport</p> <p><i>Performance measures:</i></p> <p><i>Baseline:</i> 2012–2013            30</p> <p>Target: 2014–2015            40            55</p> <p>Target: 2016–2017            40            78</p> <p>Target: 2018–2019            40            67</p> <p>Target: 2020–2021            50            72</p> <p>(b) Number of amendments to the AGC Agreement, as well as updated and amended lines in its annex I which the Working Party has put in effect</p> <p><i>Baseline:</i> 2012–2013            1            1</p> <p>Target: 2014–2015            1            2</p> <p>Target: 2016–2017            1            1</p> <p>Target: 2018–2019            1            1</p> <p>Target: 2020–2021            1            1</p> <p>(c) Number of thematic workshops/seminars/themes organized and number of participants</p> <p><i>Baseline:</i> 2012–2013            1            1</p> <p>Target: 2014–2015            2            2</p> <p>Target: 2016–2017            2            2</p> <p>Target: 2018–2019            2            3</p> <p>Target: 2020–2021            2            2</p>	

### IV. Next steps

16. The Working Party may wish to consider this document as a basis for its activities for 2022 and 2023.