# General principles on electronic information exchange/data interchange among railways and between railways and control agencies along the Trans-Asian Railway network

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# Outline

- Background

- Initiatives on electronic/digital exchange of information among railways

# Intergovernmental Agreement on Trans-Asian Railway Network



Trans-Asian Railway Network was developed by ESCAP members as a <span style="color:red">coordinated plan</span> to develop a <span style="color:red">regional railway network</span> to meet the growing needs of <span style="color:red">intra and interregional trade and transport</span>

Formalized through intergovernmental agreement entered into force in 2009. Has now 21 contracting parties

The Working Group under the agreement provides a <span style="color:red">regional platform</span> for the member countries to discuss <span style="color:red">persistent and emerging issues in</span> international railway transport along the network. Seven meetings- focus on operational issues

# 2. ESCAP initiatives on electronic information exchange among railways

ESCAP resolution 71/7 that adopted regional cooperation framework for facilitation on international railway transport in 2015

Draft framework on enhancing efficiency of rail border crossings along Trans-Asian Railway network and beyond that was presented at the COT 2018

Sixth Meeting of the Working Group on Trans-Asian Railway network in December 2019 reiterated the importance of *electronic information exchange to facilitate rail border crossing formalities* and digitalization of transport corridors

# ESCAP initiatives on electronic information exchange among railways



ESCAP members adopted a new Regional Action Programme for Sustainable Transport Development in Asia and Pacific (2022-2026) with seven thematic areas and one of them is

**Digitalization of transport**

that calls for, among others, *its promotion for shift towards smart transport networks* and increase awareness of ESCAP members while highlighting role of policy making and planning practices for adopting appropriate technological solution

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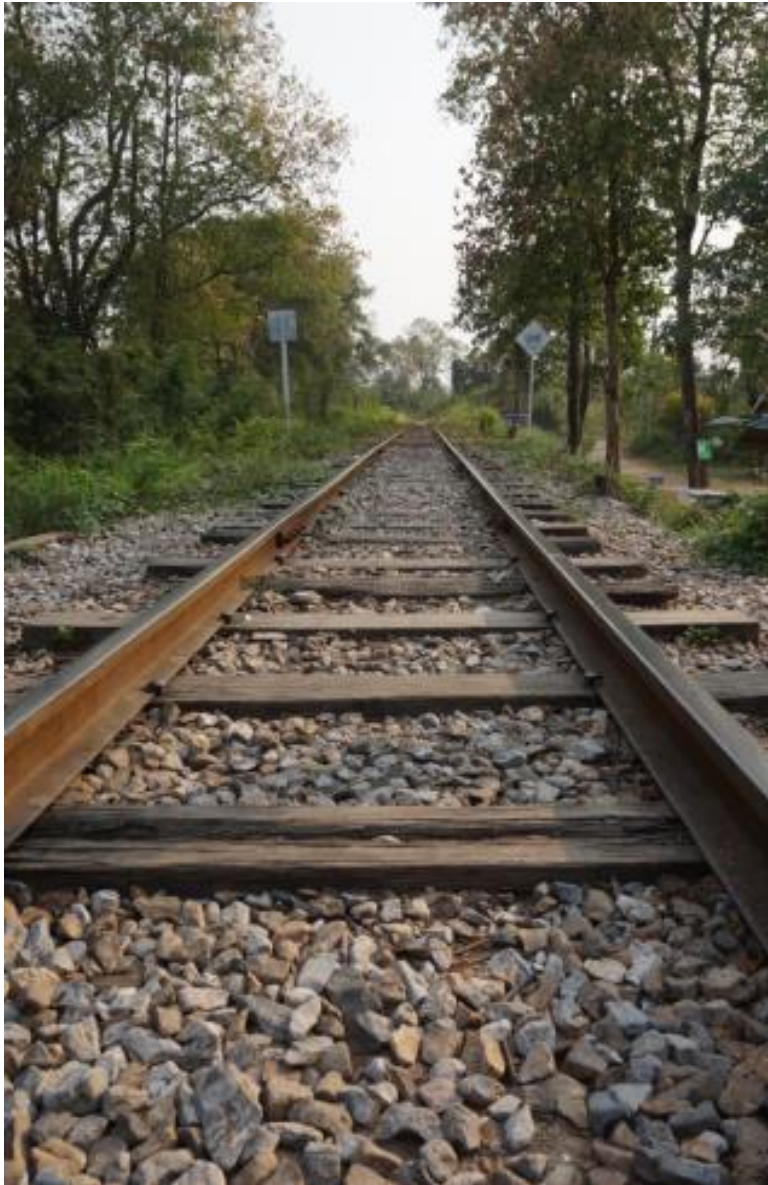Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

# Electronic information exchange got further momentum with many new initiatives



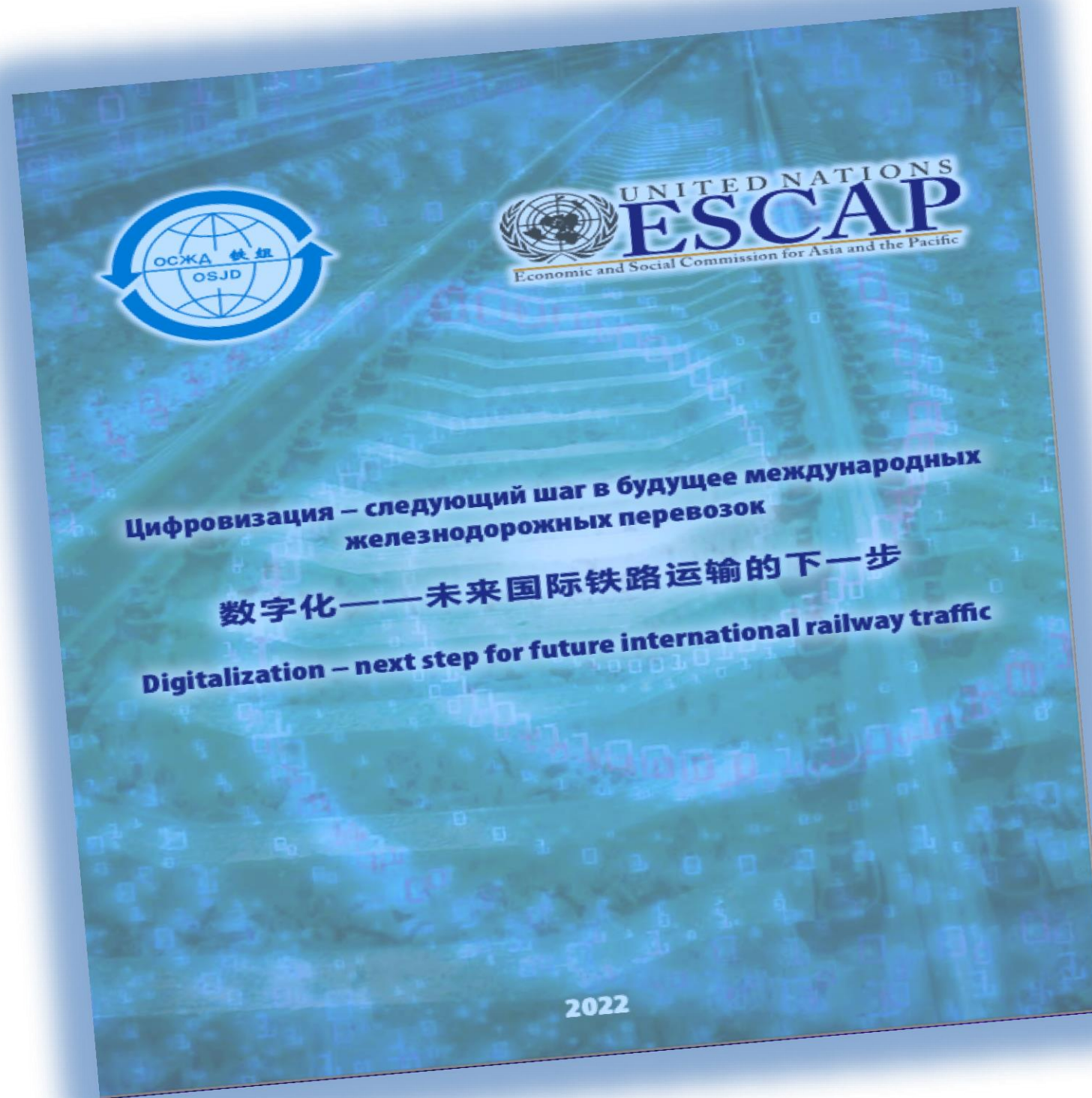Railways of Iran set up an internal working group for electronic information exchange

Proposed a **new annex** to TAR agreement on guiding principles of electronic information exchange among railways and between railways and control agencies at the seventh meeting on the WG on TAR

The WG on TAR supported and agreed to work on the new annex

In addition, the WG on TAR also requested the secretariat for developing a **regional strategy/framework on rail digital transformation**

# ESCAP-OSJD Joint document on potential of electronic information exchange to streamline customs formalities in international railway transport

# ESCAP-OSJD Joint document on potential of electronic information exchange to streamline customs formalities in international railway transport

Contents

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# Potential of electronic exchange of information for streamlining customs formalities for rail

1. Recognition of railway consignment note as customs transit declaration

2. Use of new technologies in collecting information required for regulatory controls and increased cooperation among border agencies behind the border and across the border

3. Implementation of joint control measures customs and other regulatory controls

4. Electronic pre- arrival intimation can facilitate integrated risk assessment

5. Electronic interface between railway and border agencies for streamlining customs formalities

6. Facilitated customs formalities for rail transit including simplified procedures for authorized rail operators (AROs)
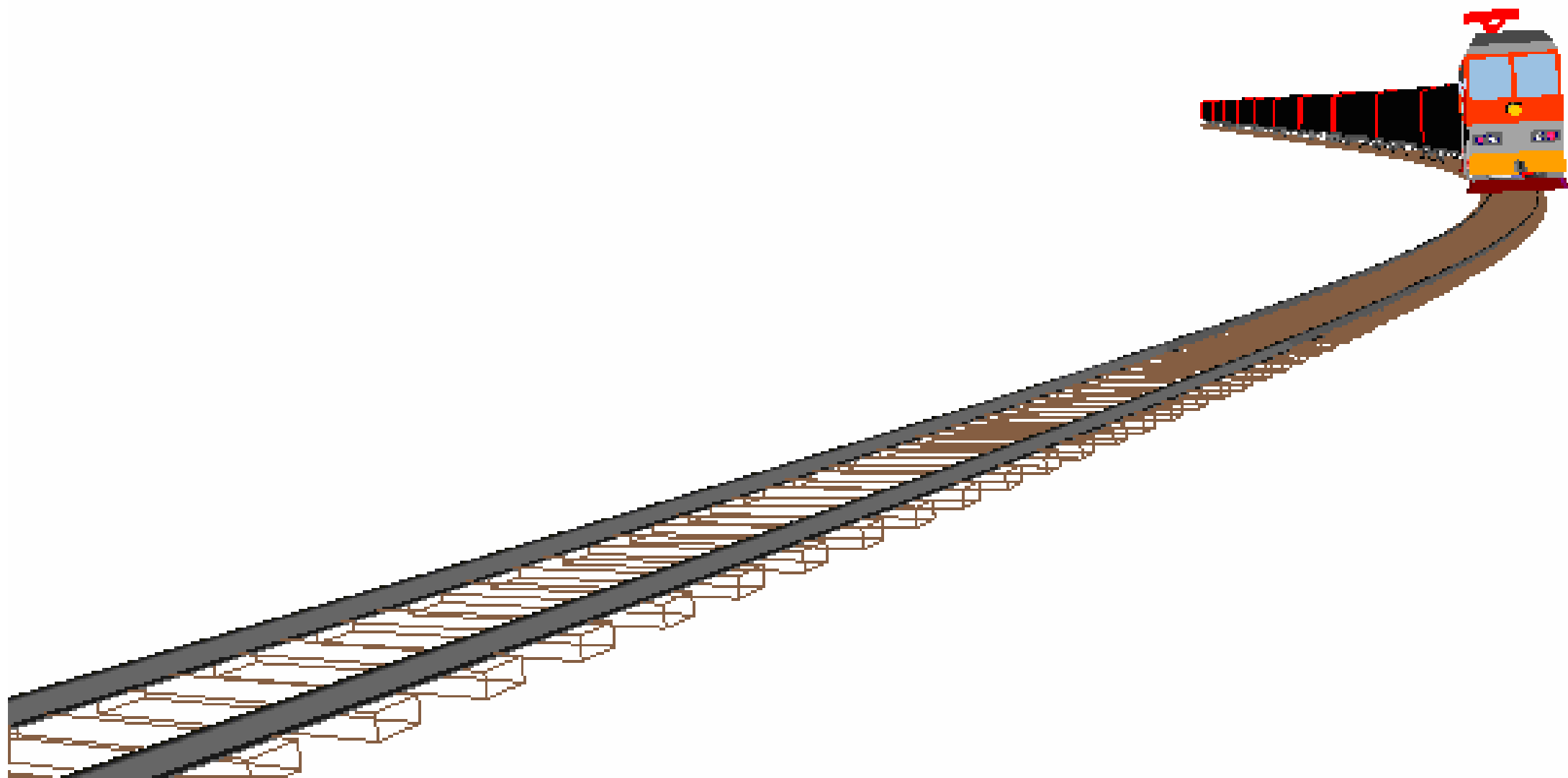
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# Draft Strategy on accelerating rail digital transformation (extract)
## ONE of the Priority Areas



Digital rail border crossing-

✓ Finalize suitable modality to harmonize digital exchange information practices in the region; simultaneously

✓ **Undertake pilot application of digital exchange of information such as electronic consignment note**

✓ Consider developing a digitally enabled regional transit regime for rail transport

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