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**Economic Commission for Europe****Inland Transport Committee**

9 October 2023

**Working Party on the Transport of Perishable Foodstuffs**

English

**Eightieth session**

Geneva, 24-27 October 2023

Item 2 (a) of the provisional agenda

**Activities of ECE bodies of interest to the Working Party:****Inland Transport Committee**

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**ITC strategy on climate change mitigation - Draft contribution****Note by the secretariat in collaboration with the WP.11 Bureau****I. Introduction**

1. In 2020 and 2021, the Inland Transport Committee (ITC) reiterated its wish to strengthen its contribution to the monitoring and implementation of the transport-related targets of the 2030 Agenda and requested its subsidiary bodies to align their work accordingly.

2. At its February 2023 session and on the basis of document ECE/TRANS/2023/21, the Committee decided to strengthen its role and contribution to climate change mitigation, which is addressed horizontally by several of the Committee's subsidiary bodies as well as the Committee itself. It therefore requested the secretariat, in close cooperation with the ITC Bureau and relevant subsidiary bodies, to develop an ambitious strategy document for reducing greenhouse gas emissions in inland transport. The strategy document was based on international United Nations legal instruments under the purview of the Committee, with priority actions for the ITC and its relevant subsidiary bodies and supported by a strong action plan with milestones (ECE/TRANS/328, para. 60).

3. The ITC Chair held a meeting on 11 September 2023 to discuss the objective to introduce the outline and envisaged elements of the strategy with all chairs of the subsidiary Working Parties/Administrative Committees and to invite all stakeholders to provide feedback as inputs for the discussion at the next session in February 2024. The ITC Bureau members, the secretaries to the Working Parties and the members of the Division's internal Task Force on the ITC Decisions on Climate Change also attended the meeting.

**II. Contribution to the biennial report on climate change**

4. During its seventy-sixth session, WP.11 confirmed that its work and the ATP Agreement were fully in line with the ITC strategy, and that it would remain aligned as long as the ATP Agreement was kept relevant and up to date with technological progress. Also, ways to reduce global warming and climate change impact, particularly reduction of greenhouse gas emissions, and in general the 2023 agenda objectives were constantly considered as part of its work.

**III. Ideas for contributing to the ITC strategy on climate change mitigation**

5. To provide inputs and feedback to the ITC secretariat, WP.11 may wish to identify which of their current and future activities could be listed in the ITC Climate Action Plan and propose milestones.

6. Examples of activities that can be undertaken by WP.11 where a positive effect in climate change mitigation is achieved are listed below:

(a) For greening the vehicles transporting perishable foodstuffs efforts are currently done to define the scope of the ATP agreement with the view of including provisions to enable the use of alternative energy sources for propulsion and refrigeration as well as the use of electrified vehicles;

(b) Adoption of provisions to streamline the replacement of refrigerants for those with lower Global Warming Potential (GWP);

(c) Promoting temperature controlled transportation of perishable foodstuffs to reduce food waste and the application of the ATP Agreement for the national transport of perishable foodstuffs;

(d) Following closely the work done in standardization organizations related to refrigerated or insulated container used for last mile deliveries;

(e) Following the work of ISO related to maritime containers;

(f) Working to allow electronic versions of documents;

(g) Drafting guidance material for the transport of other perishable goods not included in the ATP agreement and sharing best practices for the transport of all perishable goods. This is especially important to prevent food waste and related CO<sub>2</sub> emissions.

7. Future work might include considering alternative transport modes for perishable foodstuffs. So far the ATP Agreement only includes road and rail. Greener alternatives like maritime or inland waterways transport using ATP special equipment could be considered.

8. From an organisational point of view, the ITC strategy could be an opportunity for ITC to develop a framework for all its subsidiary bodies to become more climate neutral, by encouraging hybrid meetings. This would imply considering adapting current rules of procedures to a new format and providing guidelines. It would also help to facilitate and encourage broader participation.

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