

---

---

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

21<sup>st</sup> Session  
7-8 September 2016  
Ashgabat, Turkmenistan

**CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS  
OF THE 21<sup>st</sup> SESSION OF THE SPECA THEMATIC WORKING GROUP ON  
SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORT, TRANSIT AND CONNECTIVITY<sup>1</sup>**

7-8 September 2016  
Ashgabat, Turkmenistan

---

<sup>1</sup> This report has been issued without formal editing

## CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Following the presentation and consideration of the session documents as stipulated in the Agenda of the 21<sup>st</sup> session of SPECA Thematic Working Group on Sustainable Transport, Transit and Connectivity (TWG-STTC), the Thematic Working Group adopted the following conclusions and recommendations:
2. The TWG adopted the report of its 20<sup>th</sup> session.
3. The TWG encouraged those SPECA member countries that have not yet done so to take measures towards acceptance, approval, accession or ratification of the Intergovernmental Agreement on the Asian Highway (AH) network, the Intergovernmental Agreement on the Trans-Asian Railway (TAR) network and the Intergovernmental Agreement on Dry Ports. The TWG invited SPECA countries that are parties to the agreements to actively participate in activities related to the aforementioned Intergovernmental Agreements.
4. The TWG invited SPECA countries to exchange information with the secretariat (e-mail: [escaptd@un.org](mailto:escaptd@un.org)) on a regular basis on the latest status of key national and regional road and rail infrastructure projects, and provide the secretariat with information on ongoing and/or planned initiatives relating to policies and projects aiming at developing transport infrastructure of international importance in their respective countries, including issues and challenges.
5. The TWG supported the Euro-Asian Transport Links (EATL) Project; it encouraged Governments to participate more actively in the activities of the EATL Group of Experts and invited them, as well as other donors, to contribute to the EATL budget, preferably on a project basis.
6. The TWG reaffirmed the importance of the UN legal instruments and invited SPECA countries to intensify their efforts to accede to and effectively implement them.

7. The TWG took note of the UNESCAP transport facilitation efforts including Regional Strategic Framework for the Facilitation of International Road Transport, Regional Cooperation Framework for the Facilitation of International Railway Transport, transport facilitation tools, draft Model Bilateral and Subregional Agreements and draft Multilateral Road Freight Transport Permits.
8. The TWG appreciated the development of the regional online database of bilateral agreements on international road transport by the UNESCAP secretariat and invited SPECA member countries to further update and refine the database.
9. The TWG invited SPECA countries to delegate members to the UNESCAP Regional Network of Legal and Technical Experts on Transport Facilitation and to further participate in its activities.
10. The TWG highlighted the importance of identifying any outstanding issues related to the accession to and implementation of the transport-related UN legal instruments, and took note of UNECE and UNESCAP secretariats readiness to provide assistance in this regard..
11. The TWG invited SPECA countries to think about introducing new technologies in the implementation of the UN legal instruments by joining those allowing electronic information processing (additional protocol to CMR [e-CMR], and TIR Convention (e-TIR).
12. The TWG gave its support to the preparation and implementation of the Unified Railway Law and encouraged Governments to actively participate in the activities of the Group of Experts towards the Unified Railway Law and provide comments on draft legal provisions towards the Unified Railway Law.
13. The TWG encouraged SPECA countries to provide statistical data on the inland transport sector for the specified databases and welcomed further capacity building initiatives on transport statistics for the SPECA region.

14. The TWG encouraged SPECA countries to pursue policy measures to create the appropriate environment for the development of Public Private Partnerships (PPP) and to strengthen the training programmes for government officials and other relevant stakeholders by taking advantage of training materials on PPPs prepared by UNECE and UNESCAP.
15. The TWG invited SPECA countries to take actions to respond to the global and regional goals and targets in road safety and to continue their efforts to improve road safety. It emphasized the need for the collection of quality road safety data to facilitate the regular monitoring of road safety at the national and regional levels.
16. The TWG noted with satisfaction the presentations made by the representatives of SPECA countries, UNESCAP and UNECE on transport infrastructure development and international transport facilitation projects, activities and initiatives at national and regional level.
17. The TWG approved the Draft Agenda for the 22<sup>nd</sup> session of the SPECA TWG-STTC.
18. The TWG took note of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in September 2015 and emphasized the importance of regional cooperation in achieving transport related SDGs.
19. The TWG took note on decisions of the 10<sup>th</sup> session of SPECA Governing Council on amendments related to the TWG-STTC.
20. The TWG agreed that the date and the place of the next session would be decided later and invited SPECA countries to express their interest in hosting the 22<sup>nd</sup> session of SPECA TWG-STTC.
21. The TWG encouraged all SPECA countries to take active participation in the sessions of SPECA TWG-STTC.
22. The TWG expressed high appreciation to the Islamic Development Bank for the continuous support to SPECA TWG-STTC activities.

23. The TWG expressed its sincere gratitude to the Ministry of Motor Transport of Turkmenistan for hosting the 21<sup>st</sup> session of SPECA TWG-STTC and excellent arrangements made for the session.

24. The conclusions and recommendations of the 21<sup>st</sup> session of SPECA TWG-STTC were unanimously adopted on 8 September 2016 in Ashgabat, Turkmenistan.