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**Economic Commission for Europe****Inland Transport Committee****Administrative Committee for the TIR Convention, 1975****Seventy-third session**

Geneva, 14 and 15 October 2020

Item 8 of the provisional agenda

**Audit of the accounts of the TIR Executive Board and the TIR secretariat****Effectiveness of the action plan to promote accession to and implementation of the TIR Convention and the eTIR international system, including intermodal aspects of the TIR Convention****Note by the secretariat****Introduction**

1. The audit of the management of the TIR Trust Fund conducted by the United Nations Office of Internal Oversight Services (OIOS) recommends that the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) should develop an action plan for providing the required training and support to countries that have acceded to the TIR Convention to operationalize the TIR procedures in those countries (see Recommendation No. 10 in ECE/TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/2019/25).

2. The Committee, at its February 2020 session, considered document ECE/TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/2020/2 which contained an action plan for training and support of recently acceded countries. The Committee welcomed, in principle, the action plan, as reference for activities to be undertaken by the TIR secretariat. However, the Committee questioned the ambitious time plan of the various activities as well as the amount of human and financial resources required for its implementation and requested the secretariat to prepare, for consideration at the next session, an assessment of the effectiveness of the action plan for the year 2020, for review by the Committee, with the possibility to adjust the plan for the years 2021 and 2022, if so required (ECE TRANS WP.30 AC.2 147, para. 44).

3. It should be noted that due to COVID-19 pandemic some of the activities that were mentioned in the action plan had to be postponed. However, the COVID-19 pandemic created new opportunities and ways for conducting meetings and organizing capacity building workshops. This gave the opportunity to the secretariat to organize a series of capacity building workshops to several countries on the eTIR international system and the interconnection of their national customs system to that. The Administrative Committee may wish to review the status of the adopted action plan activities for 2020 (last column of the first table) as well as of the new activities undertaken (second table) and provide guidance.



Table 1  
Action Plan activities for 2020

<i>id</i>	<i>Activity</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Languages</i>	<i>Who</i>	<i>How</i>	<i>When</i>	<i>Status</i>
<i>Training / Promotion Material</i>							
1.	TIR Convention Road Map for accession and implementation	A road map should be prepared which will describe in detail anything that a Government should work on in order to accede to the Convention and to ensure smooth implementation of the Convention. Whenever needed good practices already implemented by other Contracting Parties will be included.	United Nations official languages	The TIR secretariat, international organization and Contracting Parties.	TIR budget	End of 2020	Under preparation.
2.	eTIR Road Map for accession and implementation	A road map should be prepared which will describe in detail anything that a Government should work on in order to accede to Annex 11 of the Convention and to ensure smooth connection and implementation to the eTIR international system.	English, Russian, Chinese, Spanish, Arabic	The TIR secretariat, international organization and Contracting Parties.	TIR budget	End of 2020	The eTIR Road Map for accession and implementation were prepared by the secretariat at no cost. No translation in different languages have been prepared yet.
3.	TIR Convention Brochure	A brochure for the TIR Convention of no more than four pages should be prepared that would illustrate in a schematic and very simplified way how the Convention works, what are the benefits etc. The Intermodal aspects of the convention, the ITDB and its computerization will be also included	United Nations official languages	The TIR secretariat	TIR budget, ECE printing/d esign services	Q1 2020	The TIR Convention brochure has been prepared and translated in Russian and French at no cost. Translation in Chinese and Arabic is pending.
4.	eTIR international system Brochure	A brochure for the eTIR international system will be prepared that will illustrate in a schematic way the way, the procedures and the principles on which the eTIR international system operates, the advantages from its usage etc.	United Nations official languages	The TIR secretariat	TIR budget, ECE printing/d esign services	Q1 2020	The eTIR international system brochure has been prepared and translated in Russian and French at no cost. Translation in Chinese and Arabic is pending.
5.	Intermodal Aspects of TIR Convention brochure	A brochure the illustrates the intermodal aspects of the TIR Convention will be prepared that will illustrate in a schematic way how TIR can be used in Intermodal Transport, its	United Nations	The TIR secretariat	TIR budget, ECE printing/d	Q1 2020	The intermodal aspects of the TIR Convention brochure has been prepared and translated in Russian and

<i>id</i>	<i>Activity</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Languages</i>	<i>Who</i>	<i>How</i>	<i>When</i>	<i>Status</i>
		benefits including guidelines to fill in a TIR carnet etc/	official languages		esign services		French at no cost. Translation in Chinese and Arabic is pending.
6.	International TIR databank (ITDB) Brochure	A brochure that illustrates the functions of ITDB including the benefits that brings for both the TIR transport procedure and the eTIR will be prepared	United Nations official languages	TIR secretariat	TIR budget, ECE printing/d esign services	Q1 2020	The International TIR databank (ITDB) brochure has been prepared and translated in Russian and French at no cost. Translation in Chinese and Arabic is pending.
7.	Training materials for the TIR Convention	Generic training materials to be used in workshops for countries which have newly acceded to the TIR convention. It should at least present the steps in order to operationalize the TIR Convention and the ITDB.	English, Arabic, French	TIR secretariat	TIR budget	During 2020	Under preparation
8.	Training materials for eTIR	Generic training materials to be used in workshops for countries which have newly acceded to the TIR Convention who would like to start the interconnection of their customs information systems with eTIR. It would introduce eTIR, how to connect to it and give a checklist on the next steps to follow.	English, Arabic and French and Chinese	TIR secretariat	TIR budget	During 2020	All training materials for eTIR have been prepared by the secretariat at no cost. Their translation in other official languages is pending.
<i>Internet / IT resources</i>							
9.	New eTIR Web site	A new eTIR Web site should be designed and elaborated which will be the front page of the eTIR international system as well as the electronic platform for knowledge sharing.	United Nations official languages	TIR secretariat		Q1 2020	The new eTIR web site has been prepared.
10.	TIR Training centre	The electronic training centre ( <a href="http://www.unece.org/tir/training/english.htm">www.unece.org/tir/training/english.htm</a> ) will be further improved in the TIR Convention web site with the objective to provide all information needed for the accession and efficient implementation of the Convention as well as an electronic forum for the exchange of views, problems, challenges and questions.	United Nations official languages	TIR secretariat		Q2 2020	Under preparation

<i>id</i>	<i>Activity</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Languages</i>	<i>Who</i>	<i>How</i>	<i>When</i>	<i>Status</i>
		Other open source tools might use servicing different purposes such as online questionnaires etc.					
11.	Training Register	A matrix listing all training efforts undertaken by the secretariat for the countries that have recently acceded to the TIR Convention. This would be part of our TIR secretariat space in Confluence	English	TIR secretariat	TIR budget	Q4 2019	The training register has been prepared by the secretariat internally at no cost.
<i>Capacity Building / Awareness Raising workshops</i>							
12.	United Nations General Assembly Side event	A side event during the United Nations General Assembly in New York will be organized in cooperation with the United Nations Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States (UN-OHRLLS) on eTIR International System and the benefits that its application will bring to landlocked countries	English	TIR Secretariat, UN-OHRLLS, international organisation	TIR budget	5 and 6 Decemb er 2019, New York	The side event was organized as scheduled.
13.	Capacity building Workshop for the member States of the ECE TEM <sup>1</sup> & TER <sup>2</sup> projects	TEM and TER projects are trust funds where ECE is the executive partner with main objective the promotion of regional development of rail and road transport. A workshop could be co-organized with both projects back to back with their annual steering committees on border crossing facilitation and the intermodal aspects of the TIR Convention and the eTIR international system. Projects have on average 16 member and they administer their own budgets.	English	TIRExB, TIR secretariat, international organization, TEM & TER secretariats	TEM & TER budget, TIR budget	During 2020	The TEM and TER steering committees will take place only virtually this year and no capacity building workshops will be organized. This activity will be postponed to 2021.

<sup>1</sup> Trans-European Motorway

<sup>2</sup> Trans-European Railway

<i>id</i>	<i>Activity</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Languages</i>	<i>Who</i>	<i>How</i>	<i>When</i>	<i>Status</i>
14.	Capacity building Workshop for the member States of the ECO <sup>3</sup> Secretariat Tehran/ Islamic Republic of Iran	A workshop should be organized in cooperation with ECO secretariat inviting its ten member States with the objective to train them on the eTIR international system and prepare them to participate at different pilot tests in the region including their connection in the system	English	TIR secretariat, TIRExB, international organization	Seek funds from Islamic Development Bank, ECO Budget, TIR secretariat budget	Q4 2020	Since no traveling was permitted during the year this activity will be postponed to 2021.
15.	Capacity Building Workshop for the member States of SPECA <sup>4</sup> United Nations Project	Participate in their annual gathering that normally takes place in Kazakhstan and organize back to back an event where we can promote the eTIR international System and the implementation of the Convention	English / Russian	TIR secretariat, TIRExB, international organization	TIR secretariat budget	Q4 2020	The capacity building workshop for the member States of SPECA is planned to be organized in the second week of September 2020. The agenda includes interventions from the secretariat and other eTIR experts.
16.	Capacity Building Workshop for the member States of ESCWA <sup>5</sup> Regional Commission for Middle East and North Africa	Organize an awareness raising workshop in sister commission ESCWA promoting both the TIR Convention and its advantages for the region as well as the eTIR international system seeking for future cooperation and expansion of the system in the region	English / Arabic	TIR secretariat, TIRExB, international organization	TIR secretariat budget / Islamic Development Bank /	Q4 2020	The secretariat participated at UNDA project where the eTIR international system was promoted as immediate response to COVID 19. The secretariat invited ESCWA and its member States to participate. Already Tunisia has been funded to start connection with the eTIR international system, while other countries (Jordan,

<sup>3</sup> Economic Cooperation Organization

<sup>4</sup> Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia

<sup>5</sup> Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia

<i>id</i>	<i>Activity</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Languages</i>	<i>Who</i>	<i>How</i>	<i>When</i>	<i>Status</i>
							Lebanon and Syria) have expressed an interest.
17.	Capacity Building Workshop for eBusiness parcels in cooperation with the UPU <sup>6</sup> / Trans-Siberian Coordination Council /CIT <sup>7</sup> / European Union	Organize a capacity building workshop on the possibility to apply the TIR Convention to eBusiness parcels	English / Russian	TIR secretariat, TIRExB, UPU, international organization, Trans-Siberian Coordination Council, CIT, European Union	TIR secretariat budget	Q4 2020	A capacity building workshop was not organized due to the existing restrictions. However, the secretariat worked very closely with UPU and IRU in order to identify opportunities for the application of TIR for inland transportation of eBusiness parcels.
18.	Capacity Building Workshop in cooperation with the World customs organization	Organize a capacity building workshop with WCO <sup>8</sup> for the promotion of the eTIR International System which its developed based on the WCO data model	English	TIR secretariat, TIRExB, WCO, international organization, WTO	TIR secretariat budget	Q4 2020	Due to the existing restrictions, the workshop should be postponed until 2021.
19.	Capacity building Workshop in cooperation with International Union for Road Rail Combined Transport (UIRR), Europlatforms, International Federation of Freight Forwarders Associations (FIATA) in the framework of WP.24	Organize a capacity building workshop with intermodal transport associations and the ECE Working Party on Intermodal Transport and Logistics (WP.24)	English	TIR secretariat, WP.24 secretariat, TIRExB, UIRR, FIATA, Europlatforms, international organization	TIR secretariat budget	Q4 2020	An informal document illustrating the intermodal aspects of the TIR Convention is planned to be submitted to WP.24 in November 2020 and interventions from the secretariat are scheduled. However, discussions with FIATA and UIRR took place already.

<sup>6</sup> Universal Postal Union

<sup>7</sup> International Rail Transport Committee

<sup>8</sup> World Customs Organisation

<i>id</i>	<i>Activity</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Languages</i>	<i>Who</i>	<i>How</i>	<i>When</i>	<i>Status</i>
<i>Specialized Workshops on new Contracting Parties</i>							
20.	Organization of Capacity Building Workshops in new Contracting Parties the first eight months after a country becomes Contracting Party to the agreement.	Kick-off workshops and follow-up trainings (with possible field visits), use of training materials (road map of accession, online sources, good practices etc) for newly acceded Contracting Parties to ensure their full understanding of the system and their readiness	United Nations official languages / ad hoc selection	TIR secretariat, TIRExB, international organization	TIR secretariat budget	During 2020 - 2021	
	Qatar			TIR secretariat, TIRExB, international organization	TIR secretariat budget	2020	A letter was received from the Government of Qatar, requesting connection of their national customs system with the eTIR international system. The secretariat is following up with this task.

Table 2  
**Extraordinary activities undertaken due to COVID 19 pandemic and responses received by Contracting Parties**

<i>Specialized Workshops on Contracting Parties requesting interconnection with eTIR International System</i>							
<i>id</i>	<i>Activity</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Languages</i>	<i>Who</i>	<i>How</i>	<i>When</i>	<i>Status</i>
1.	Organization of capacity building workshops in Contracting Parties that have requested interconnection with the eTIR international system	Kick-off workshops and follow-up trainings, use of training materials (road map of accession, online sources, good practices etc)	United Nations official languages / ad hoc selection	TIR secretariat, international organization	N/A	During 2020	
a.	Israel			TIR secretariat, international organization	N/A	April 2020	
b.	Tunisia			TIR secretariat, international organization	N/A	July 2020	
c.	Turkey			TIR secretariat, international organization	N/A	July 2020	
d.	Azerbaijan			TIR secretariat, international organization	N/A	July 2020	
e.	Islamic Republic of Iran			TIR secretariat, international organization	N/A	June – July 2020	
f.	European Commission	Preparation of the proof of concept regarding the interconnection of between the eTIR international system and NCTS		TIR secretariat,	N/A	Multiple times	
g.	UNCTAD / ASYCUDA			TIR secretariat,	N/A	September 2020	



*Specialized Workshops on Contracting Parties requesting interconnection with eTIR International System*

<i>id</i>	<i>Activity</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Languages</i>	<i>Who</i>	<i>How</i>	<i>When</i>	<i>Status</i>
2.	COVID 19 and eTIR international system brochure	A brochure that illustrates the reasons why the implementation of the eTIR international system consists a direct response to COVID 19 was prepared in cooperation with the international organization and distributed electronically to all Contracting Parties to the TIR Convention as well as to other United Nations member States.	English	The TIR secretariat, international organization	N/A	Q1 2020	The brochure was prepared and distributed electronically.
3.	Observatory on border crossings status due to COVID 19	The observatory aimed at collecting measures imposed at border crossings from all United Nation member States.	English	The TIR secretariat	N/A	February 2020	The observatory was prepared and operated with great success. It was support by all United Nations regional Commissions (ECA, ESCWA, ECLAC and ESCAP), ITF, FIA, IRU.