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INLAND TRANSPORT COMMITTEE

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Item 4 of the provisional agenda

**MATTERS ARISING FROM THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL
AND OTHER UNITED NATIONS BODIES AND CONFERENCES**

Note by the Secretariat

Summary

At its November 2008 meetings, the Bureau of the Inland Transport Committee, agreed on the provisional and annotated agenda of the seventy-first session of the Committee (ECE/TRANS/204/Rev.1), and (ECE/TRANS/204/Add.1), including the topic “Matters Arising from the Economic and Social Council and other United Nations Bodies and Conferences”, as well as on the presentation of a relevant document, to be prepared by the secretariat.

This document provides an overview of three resolutions of the sixty-second and sixty-third sessions of the General Assembly pertaining to improving global road safety, cooperation between the United Nations and the Black Sea Economic Cooperation Organization (BSEC) and the Almaty Programme of Action and its mid-term review.

The Committee is invited to take these resolutions into consideration when discussing relevant items of its agenda.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION 62/244 ON IMPROVING ROAD SAFETY

1. At its sixty-second session, on 31 March 2008, the General Assembly adopted resolution 62/244 on improving global road safety. The resolution was based on a report by the Secretary-General (A/62/257) and was sponsored by more than 90 countries.
2. In this resolution the General Assembly reaffirms the importance of addressing global road safety issues and the need for further strengthening of international cooperation and knowledge sharing taking into account the needs of developing countries. Furthermore, the General Assembly invites States to participate in the development of the global road safety status report being prepared by the World Health Organization (WHO); invites States to participate in the United Nations Development Account funded project to be implemented by the United Nations regional commissions on setting road traffic casualty reduction targets; encourages States to strengthen their commitment, including by annual observance of the World Day of Remembrance for Road Traffic Victims; invites WHO and the United Nations regional commissions in cooperation with other partners of the United Nations Road Safety Collaboration to promote multi-sectoral collaboration by organizing United Nations global road safety events; welcomes the offer by the Russian Federation to host the first high-level (ministerial) conference on road safety, in 2009; and requests the Secretary-General to report again on road safety issues at the sixty-fourth session.
3. With this resolution the General Assembly also recognizes the continuing commitment to global action of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) in the elaboration of road safety global technical regulations and amendments to the international Vienna Conventions on Road Traffic and Road Signs and Signals, as well as road safety activities of the other regional commissions.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION 63/11 ON THE COOPERATION BETWEEN THE UNITED NATIONS AND THE BLACK SEA ECONOMIC COOPERATION ORGANIZATION

4. At its sixty-third session on 3 November 2008, the General Assembly adopted resolution 63/11 on the cooperation between the United Nations and the Black Sea Economic Cooperation Organization. The resolution was based on a report by the Secretary-General (A/63/228).
5. In this resolution, the General Assembly welcomes the efforts towards the completion of the process of reforms in the Black Sea Economic Cooperation Organization, envisaged in the Bucharest statement of 26 April 2006, contributing to the enhancement of the efficiency and effectiveness of the Organization, as well as its role in the economic and social development of its member States; welcomes the activities of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation Organization aimed at strengthening regional cooperation in various fields, including transport; welcomes the multifaceted and fruitful cooperation between the Black Sea Economic Cooperation Organization and UNECE, especially in the area of transport, within the framework of the Cooperation Agreement signed between the two organizations on 2 July 2001; takes note of the signing in Belgrade on 19 April 2007 of the memoranda of understanding for the coordinated development of the Black Sea Ring Highway and the development of the Motorways of the Sea in the Black Sea Economic Cooperation region; takes note of the intensified cooperation between the Black Sea Economic Cooperation Organization and the European Union and supports the

efforts of the Organization to take concrete steps to advance this cooperation in line with the provisions of the Declaration of 14 February 2008 of the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the States members of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation Organization; invites the Secretary-General to strengthen dialogue with the Black Sea Economic Cooperation Organization with a view to promoting cooperation and coordination between the two secretariats; and invites the specialized agencies and other organizations and programmes of the United Nations system to cooperate with the Black Sea Economic Cooperation Organization in order to continue programmes with the Organization and its associated institutions for the achievement of their objectives.

6. The Committee may wish to recall that in its resolution 54/5 the General Assembly granted observer status to the Black Sea Economic Cooperation Organization and that in its resolutions 55/211, 57/34 and 59/259 invited the Secretary-General and the United Nations Regional Commissions, the specialized agencies and other organizations and programmes of the United Nations system to strengthen dialogue and cooperation with the Black Sea Economic Cooperation Organization.

7. The Committee may also wish to note that in the relevant report of the General-Secretary to the General Assembly on UNECE and the Black Sea Economic Cooperation Organization in the field of transport, the following elements are included: "ECE contributed to the coordinated development of transport infrastructure and facilitation in the BSEC region through the development of the Euro-Asian transport links project. It identified the main Euro-Asian inland transport routes in 18 countries, 10 of which are BSEC members, analysed the major physical and non-physical obstacles along those routes and evaluated and prioritised transport infrastructure projects. In close cooperation with the BSEC Transport Working Group, a large amount of data on major Black Sea and Mediterranean ports has been collected and processed, which helped to further develop the project for 2008-2011. ECE has continued to participate in regular high-level consultations and BSEC meetings, including the Summit of Heads of State and Government in Istanbul in June 2007. Future cooperation is focused on implementing the Black Sea Ring Highway and the Motorways of the Sea through joint capacity-building and investment planning workshops".

GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION 63/2 ON THE OUTCOME DOCUMENT OF THE MIDTERM REVIEW OF THE ALMATY PROGRAMME OF ACTION

8. At its sixty-third session on 3 October 2008, the General Assembly adopted resolution 63/2 on the outcome document of the midterm review of the Almaty Programme of Action: Addressing the Special Needs of Landlocked Developing Countries within a New Global Framework for Transit Transport Cooperation for Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries.

9. The adopted outcome document, recalling the United Nations Millennium Declaration, in which Heads of States and Government recognized the particular needs and problems of landlocked developing countries, reaffirms the commitment made in the Almaty Programme of Action to address the special needs of landlocked countries taking into account the challenges

confronted by their transit developing neighbours, through measures identified in the five priorities of the Programme of Action¹.

10. The outcome document also acknowledges that despite persisting problems, landlocked developing countries, as a group, have achieved some progress in their overall economic development and growth; expresses concern about the economic growth and social well-being of landlocked developing countries which remain very vulnerable; stresses that the higher cost of moving goods across borders for landlocked developing countries puts their products at a competitive disadvantage and that landlocked developing countries continue to face challenges in their efforts to establish efficient transit transport systems, such as inadequate transport infrastructure, inefficient carrying capacity at ports, port and customs clearance delays, transit dependence, fees and obstacles owing to cumbersome customs procedures and other regulatory constraints, an underdeveloped logistics sector, weak legal and institutional arrangements, as well as costly bank transactions; recognizes the important role of regional cooperation and integration involving landlocked developing countries and their transit neighbours for the effective and integrated solution of cross-border trade and transit transport problems, and in this context welcomes regional initiatives aimed at promoting the development of regional rail and road transit transport networks; and acknowledges that physical links of landlocked developing countries to the regional transport infrastructure network fall well short of expectations and that missing links are a major problem and need to be addressed urgently.

11. Resolution 63/2 calls upon the transit developing countries to undertake a number of measures to speed up the implementation of the Almaty Programme of Action, as well as upon the international financial institutions, development partners and the international community to provide the needed assistance.

12. Resolution 63/2 also calls upon relevant organizations of the United Nations system, including the regional commissions, to further integrate the Almaty Programme of Action into their programmes of work. It also encourages them to continue to support the landlocked and transit developing countries.

13. Resolution 63/2 moreover, calls upon the regional commissions to continue to strengthen their efforts to work with landlocked and transit developing countries in order to develop integrated regional transit transport systems, harmonized regulatory requirements and procedures for import/export and transit with international conventions and standards, promote intermodal transport corridors, encourage accession to and more effective implementation of international conventions on transit transport, and assist in the establishment and in improving the planning and development of missing links in regional infrastructure networks, especially in Africa.

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^{1/} Available from www.unohrrls.org/en/lldc/673/.