



Economic Commission for Europe**Inland Transport Committee****Eighty-second session**

Geneva, 25–28 February 2020

Item 4 (g) of the provisional agenda

Strategic questions of a horizontal policy or regulatory nature:**Analytical work on transport****A new 2020–2025 mandate and the terms of reference for the
Group of Experts on assessment of climate change impacts
and adaptation for inland transport****Note by the secretariat****I. Introduction**

1. This document contains a new 2020–2025 mandate and the terms of reference for a new Group of Experts on assessment of climate change impacts and adaptation for inland transport. The Working Party on Transport Trends and Economics (WP.5) at its 32nd session (Geneva, 2–4 September 2019, ECE/TRANS/WP.5/66, para. 60) recommended the establishment of the new Group of Experts and adopted the terms of reference, as provided below. WP.5 also requested the secretariat to submit the terms of reference to ITC for their approval.

II. Mandate

2. The Group of Experts on assessment of climate change impacts and adaptation for inland transport (Group of Experts) is tasked to continue to raise awareness, build capacity and integrate knowledge from countries and the scientific community on climate change impact assessment and adaptation for inland transport. The Expert Group is also tasked to further advance the state of knowledge on, and the analysis of climate change impacts on inland transport, and the identification of suitable and cost-effective adaptation measures.

3. The Group of Experts, in view of the complexity of its task, is established for 5 years: 2020–2025.

III. Terms of Reference**A. Tasks**

4. In line with the conclusions and recommendations from the 2019 Report of the earlier Group of Experts, this Group of Experts should:

- (a) Serve as a platform to collect, integrate and disseminate knowledge on climate change impact assessment and adaptation needs for inland transport,
- (b) Facilitate the establishment of databases on climate data as well as transport assets and operations data covering the entire ECE region and in this regard collaborate with Cordex-Core or similar initiatives as well as relevant ECE Working Parties,
- (c) Analyse appropriate climate change indices, in both absolute and relative terms, to establish more knowledge on the future impacts of climate change and extreme events on inland transport (assets, operations, networks),
- (d) Update the ECE GIS database with the new analyses and issue an update to 2019 report,
- (e) Collect and analyse information from national and sub-national projects seeking to more fully understand key areas of vulnerability to climate change and extreme weather of transport assets and networks, in particular on assessment of natural and anthropogenic factors modifying the risks to transport assets, evaluation of individual characteristics of the asset, impact modelling and assessment of cause-effect relationships between climate parameters and impacts on the infrastructure, cross-sectors and intermodal analysis, etc.,
- (f) Facilitate such projects in countries that are willing to invest in the assessment of climate change impacts on transport assets and operations and in identification of adaptation measures and are interested in creating national expertise in this area,
- (g) Design, and create as a website, based on the analysis from the national projects, a knowledge database containing information on, for example, (i) features and conditions that could make a section of a network or a node in a higher risk area a “hotspot” due to that risk, and (ii) adaptation measures proposed and their overall and cost-effectiveness,
- (h) Collect from the national projects indicators used for monitoring and evaluation of adaptation measures, for potential inclusion within the knowledge database,
- (i) Further collect from the national projects, if provided, information on adaptation-mitigation convergent measures, for potential inclusion within the knowledge database,
- (j) Analyse the national projects with regard to approaches established to integrate climate change considerations in planning and operational processes and elaborate relevant guidance material and/or integration mechanisms to this end, and
- (k) Prepare a final report on its achievements.

B. Methods of work

5. The Group of Experts will be established and function in accordance with the ECE Guidelines for teams of specialists approved by the Executive Committee of ECE on 31 March 2010 (ECE/EX/2/Rev.1). At its first meeting, the Group of Experts will adopt a work plan defining its specific activities, including a time schedule for each activity.
6. The Group of Experts is expected to meet at least once every six months. The meetings should be held at the Palais des Nations in Geneva, unless hosted by countries or partner organisations.
7. The Chair of the Group of Experts should report on the ongoing work at the annual session of the Working Party on Transport Trends and Economics, while the final report should be submitted to the session scheduled for September 2025.
8. Drawing from experience of earlier work, the meetings should preferably be held, and in-session documents be produced in English only.
9. Participation in the Group of Experts is open to all concerned United Nations member countries and experts. Interested intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, as

well as concerned railway companies, freight and forwarding industries are invited to participate and provide expert advice in compliance with United Nations rules and practices.

C. Secretariat

10. ECE will provide secretariat services to the Group of Experts and shall ensure close cooperation with all stakeholders, including the secretariats to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), the European Commission, the regional commissions of the United Nations, International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO), International Maritime Organization (IMO) and other relevant Intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations.
