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Item 3 (b) (ii) of the provisional agenda

Activities and administration of the TIR Executive Board:

Administration of the TIR Executive Board

and the TIR secretariat:

Interim financial statement for the year 2017

Interim financial statement for the year 2017

Note by the secretariat

I. Introduction and background

1. The present document is submitted pursuant to Annex 8, Article 11, paragraph 4 of the Customs Convention on the International Transport of Goods under Cover of TIR Carnets (TIR Convention), 1975, which stipulates that the TIR Executive Board (TIRExB) “shall report on its activities to the Administrative Committee at least once a year or at the request of the Administrative Committee.”
2. The budget for the operation of TIRExB and the TIR secretariat for the year 2017 amounted to United States dollars 1,598,950 (i.e., cost plan US\$ 1,415,000 plus 13 per cent programme support costs US\$ 183,950).
3. The TIR Secretary presents below a detailed report on the financial situation of TIRExB and the TIR secretariat as at 30 June 2017.
4. A complete financial report for the year 2017 will be prepared for approval by the Administrative Committee at its forthcoming session in 2018. The budget and cost plan for the operation of the TIRExB and the TIR secretariat for the year 2017, as approved by the Administrative Committee on 12-13 October 2016 (ECE/TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/131, para. 28), are contained in document ECE/TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/2016/17.
5. The Administrative Committee may wish to take note of the present status report for 2017.

II. Interim financial statement (2017)

"Transports Internationaux Routiers - TIR" Trust Fund

(Status report as at 30 June 2017 (in US\$))

<i>Object of expenditure</i>	<i>2017</i>		<i>Balance</i>
	<i>released budget</i>	<i>Expenditures</i>	
Staff and personnel costs	1 248 000	521 468	726 532
Travel (official travel of staff, travel of meeting participants)	110 000	27 557	82 443
Operating and other direct costs (e.g. staff training, communication costs, pouches, postage, hospitality etc.)	22 000	1 733	20 267
Contractual services	25 000	7 054	17 946
Equipment, vehicles and furniture	10 000	0	10 000
Sub-Total	1 415 000	557 812	857 188
Programme Support at 13%	183 950	60 324	123 626
Total	1 598 950	618 136	980 814

Specification of expenditures (as at 30 June 2017)

Staff and personnel costs

The TIR secretariat consists currently of five experts on fixed-term appointments and two general service personnel for secretarial support, data entry of information into the International TIR Data Bank and updating of the TIR website. No cost occurred so far for external consultants. In 2017, two recruitments were finalized: Legal Officer (P4) (March 2017) and team assistant (G4) (May 2017). The posts were vacant for three and four months in 2017, respectively, resulting in moderate savings in staff costs in 2017.

Travel (official travel of staff, travel of meeting participants)

Participation of TIR secretariat staff in: (i) Workshop on the World Customs Organization (WCO) transit guidelines (La Paz, 23-27 January 2017); (ii) Administrative Committee of the Customs Convention on Containers (Brussels, 27 and 28 February 2017); (iii) High-Level Meeting for the Euro-Asia Region on Improving Cooperation on Transit, Trade Facilitation and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (Hanoi, 7-9 March 2017); (iv) Seminar on the automation of transit procedures and electronic exchange of data in the context of trade facilitation (Istanbul, 19 and 20 April 2017); (v) Workshop on the regional computerised TIR corridor (Batumi, 11 and 12 May 2017); (vi) International Transport Forum (Leipzig, 31 May-2 June 2017); (vii) Meeting with the European Commission for the customs offices database (Brussels, 30 May 2017); (viii) Meeting of the Customs Expert Group (CEG/TIR/01) (Brussels, 31 May 2017); (ix) World Customs Organization IT Conference 2017 (Tbilisi, 7-9 June 2017).

Participation of TIRExB members in the seventy-first (February 2017), seventy-second (May 2017) and seventy third (June 2017) sessions, held in Geneva.

The present report does not include travel of TIR secretariat staff undertaken after 30 June 2017 and participation of TIRExB members in the seventy-fourth (October 2017) session. Further travel of TIR secretariat staff to participate in TIR related events is envisaged until the end of the year, including, possibly long-haul travel to recently acceded Contracting Parties to the TIR Convention (e.g. Pakistan, People's Republic of China, India).

Operating and other direct costs (e.g. staff training, communication costs, pouches, postage, hospitality etc.)

Costs incurred for the training of TIR secretariat staff at the European Grails Conference (GR8Conf) (Copenhagen, 1 and 2 June 2017), on the newer version technology used to develop the TIR applications.

Contractual services

Costs incurred for the security audit of the new ITDB. Further costs under this budget line are expected to be incurred in connection with the national TIR Seminar to be held in Tashkent in the course of 2017.

Equipment, vehicles and furniture

No cost occurred as at 30 June 2017 under this budget line. Expenses are expected to be incurred in the second half of 2017 in relation to the acquisition of software required for the maintenance of ITDB.
