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Economic Commission for Europe**Inland Transport Committee****Seventy-ninth session**

Geneva, 21-24 February 2017

Item 5 (c) of the provisional agenda

Strategic questions of a modal and thematic nature:**Road safety****Request from the Republic of Korea to become a full participant with voting rights in the Working Party on Road Traffic Safety of the Inland Transport Committee****Submitted by the Government of Korea¹**

1. The Government of the Republic of Korea is well aware that road safety of today is an issue of worldwide importance, as rapidly growing technologies are dramatically changing road conditions. To keep up with these technical advances, international coordination and cooperation in road safety and related policy is more indispensable than ever.
2. In this context, Korea acknowledges that the Working Party on Road Traffic Safety (WP.1), the most prestigious forum in the road safety field, plays a very important role by leading global discussions on international road safety standard. Thus, we attended the last three sessions of WP.1 and greatly appreciated the passionate, in-depth discussions on road traffic standard harmonization and efforts to elevate global road safety level.
3. So, with the support of UNECE member States and the Inland Transport Committee (ITC) secretariat, the Korean Government would like to formally request to become a full participant with voting rights in WP.1 of the ITC.
4. As Korea is a non-UNECE member state, we'd like to refer to paragraph 2 of "Guidelines for the Establishment and Functioning Working Parties within UNECE" set out by the Executive Committee of UNECE (document reference ECE/EX/1) as of 9 October 2006.

"2. Membership and Officers

¹ on 16 November 2016, on the occasion of the seventy-eighth session of ITC.

Working Parties are open for participation by all UNECE member States. Non-UNECE member States can participate as observers or, if agreed by the parent Sectoral Committee, as full members.” (excerpt)

5. At the seventy-third session of WP.1 held in September 2016, WP.1 unanimously endorsed Korea’s request to become a full WP.1 participant with voting rights, and agreed to support Korea at the next ITC session based on Korea’s official request to the WP.1 (ECE/TRANS/WP.1/155).

6. Korea is now actively working on various policies such as supporting government-wide research and development (R&D) for automated driving and related technologies, improving legal systems and infrastructures like road signs and signals, including Intelligent Transport Systems (ITS). Most of all, improving road safety is one of our top-priority goals.

7. As such, Korea is ready to play a bigger role in various issues being discussed at WP.1, and share our knowledge and opinions. We do believe that Korea will be able to greatly contribute to the future work of WP.1.

8. In conclusion, the Government of the Republic of Korea would like to ask again the invaluable support of the UNECE member States and the ITC secretariat for our request to become a full participant with voting rights in WP.1 of the ITC.
