



**UNECE**  
**Sustainable Transport Division**  
**Annual Report 2017**

**Informal document No.12**

*80th Annual Session of the Inland Transport Committee*  
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# *Report structure and purpose*



The report contains an overview of the activities of the sustainable transport division and working parties of the ITC with respect to the Sustainable Development Goals they contribute to achieving.

## Fields of activity

## SDGs

Connectivity

1, 8, 9, 10, 11

Efficiency

1, 8, 9, 11, 12, 17

Safety

3, 9, 11, 17

Environmental performance

3, 7, 11, 13



### Increasing efficiency for sustainable economic growth

There is no commonly agreed definition of “operational transport efficiency”, simply because it encompasses too many different elements; as such the lowest common denominator is that transport efficiency is understood as the maximization of services at the lowest possible cost. UNECE includes, in this equation, the facilitation of throughput of international cargo through harmonization of laws and regulations, standardization of means and simplification of procedures. This ensures reliability and legal certainty and, as a result, sustainable economic growth. In 2017, within its mandate of work, UNECE accomplished a range of achievements in increasing efficiency in inland transport:

#### The TIR Convention

✓ Geographical expansion:

- ❖ On 5 June 2017, India acceded to the TIR Convention, and on 29 December 2017 the State of Palestine deposited its instruments of accession, bringing its total number of contracting parties to 72. With the accessions of China and Pakistan in 2016, and India in 2017, the combined population of these three countries represent 40 per cent of the world’s population, thus offering great potential for the TIR system to grow significantly in the coming years. As a first step, China and Pakistan authorized national associations to issue TIR Carnets and to act as guarantor. Furthermore, Pakistan is in the process of selecting its first authorized TIR Carnet holders.

✓ Increased transparency:

- ❖ Progress was made in increasing transparency in the TIR guarantee system by reinforcing the possibilities of the TIR Administrative Committee (AC.2) to examine the audited financial statements submitted annually by the international organization authorized to manage the international guarantee system and to print and distribute TIR Carnets, including the right to request additional examinations.

At the same time, the requirements for the international organization with regard to record keeping and engaging an independent external audit have been further amended. The proposals have been transmitted to the UN SG for circulation and, eventual, acceptance by all TIR contracting parties.

- ✓ The TIR secretariat participated at national, regional and global seminars, supporting the training of Customs officials in the implementation of the TIR procedure:

1 NO POVERTY



8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH



9 INDUSTRY INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE



11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES



12 RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION



17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS



### Safety: It doesn't happen by accident

Ensuring safe, efficient, secure and sustainable transport is something many take for granted. Few stop to think why road networks function the way they do. However, the growing numbers of vehicles, drivers and passengers on the road, as well as burgeoning domestic and international trade and movement of cargo, underline the critical task of ensuring road safety around the world.

Throughout 2017, UNECE continued to work on this critical issue. Its work aimed to contribute towards achieving the overall goal of the United Nations Decade of Action for Road Safety and the road safety target 3.6 of the Health Goal of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. To do it effectively, UNECE worked in the context of its Road Safety Action Plan with eleven specific goals related to the five pillars of the UN Decade of Action:

Road safety management	1. Boost political will and support for government strategies
Safer road users	2. Protect vulnerable road users
	3. Turn road safety training, education and behaviour into knowledge management
Safer roads and mobility	4. Raise awareness, fundraise and advocate for road safety
	5. Make roads safer (including tunnels, rules, signs and signals)
Safer vehicles	6. Make technologies work for safer mobility
	7. Make vehicles safer
Post-crash response	8. Improve cargo safety
	9. Improve safety of transporting dangerous goods
	10. Mitigate the impact of road crashes
	11. Learn from road crashes

Against this background, the main accomplishments of UNECE in the area of transport safety in 2017 were as follows:

#### Enhancing road transport safety statistics

In conjunction with the twenty-second session of the SPECA TWG-STTC held in Astana, the Sustainable Transport Division held a workshop from 1 to 3 November. It aimed at building and strengthening capacities of member States for gathering and disseminating road transport and road safety statistics. The workshop programme envisaged an extensive exchange of best practice between the participating countries, and a number of presentations from the secretariat on how best to gather and disseminate transport statistics. More than 45 representatives from the SPECA region, East and South-East Europe and international

3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING



9 INDUSTRY INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE



11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES



17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS



## *Future annual reports*



Result of the exercise:

Learning process – Room for improvement of the format with the aim to enhance the visibility of our work vis-à-vis contribution to achievement of SDGs

How to improve:

- Establish a methodology that would facilitate the development of a structured overview of the relationship of specific annual results of the ITC, its WP and subsidiary bodies, the Division and its sections and special programs, with the SDGs, from the perspective of the three pillars of work: regulatory, capacity building and technical assistance, and analytical.
- Apply the methodology from the bottom up, through SDG reporting in subsidiary groups to WPs to ITC annual report.



Thank you for your attention



**SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS**



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