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Inland Transport Committee

Working Party on Road Traffic Safety

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Item 10 (a) of the provisional agenda

Decade of Action for Road Safety:

Revision of WP.1 terms of reference and rules of procedure

Terms of reference and rules of procedure of the Working Party on Road Traffic Safety (WP.1)

Submitted by the secretariat

This document - prepared by the secretariat - contains a first draft of the revised version of WP.1 terms of reference and rules of procedure. The revisions incorporate relevant documents adopted by the UNECE's Executive Committee and the Economic Commission for Europe.

Terms of reference and rules of procedure of the Working Party on Road Traffic Safety (WP.1)

1. The Working Party on Road Traffic Safety (WP.1) will act within the framework of the policies of the United Nations and of the Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) and under the general supervision of the Inland Transport Committee (ITC). It will act in conformity with the Terms of Reference and Rules of Procedure of the Economic Commission for Europe (E/ECE/778/Rev.5) and consistent with the legal instruments listed in the annex.

2. WP.1 will operate in accordance with the “Guidelines for the establishment and functioning of Working Parties within UNECE” (ECE/EX/1) as approved by the UNECE Executive Committee in 2006. These guidelines include the status and characteristics of a Working Party, including the review of its mandate and extension every five years, its membership and officers, its methods of work and its secretariat provided by the UNECE Transport Division.

3. WP.1 will also operate in accordance with the “Guidelines on procedures and practices for ECE bodies” (E/ECE/1468, Annex III) adopted by the sixty-fifth session of the Economic Commission for Europe in 2013. These guidelines include rules of procedure for ECE bodies, communication with member States, accreditation process for participants/representatives to intergovernmental bodies, nomination and election of Chairpersons and other members of the Bureaux of intergovernmental bodies, functions of the Bureaux, and procedures for the adoption of decisions and reports of intergovernmental bodies.

4. Subsidiary bodies of WP.1, such as expert bodies or advisory groups, will be established and function in accordance with the “Guidelines for the establishment and functioning of teams of specialists within UNECE” (ECE/EX/2/Rev.1) approved by the UNECE Executive Committee in 2010.

5. Consistent with the objective of the UNECE transport subprogramme to facilitate the international movement of persons and goods by inland transport modes and improve safety, environmental protection, energy efficiency and security in the transport sector to levels that contribute effectively to sustainable transport, WP.1 will initiate and pursue actions aimed at reinforcing and improving road safety, developing and harmonizing traffic regulations and rules for road signs and signals while taking into account the environment, and strengthening relations between countries. To this end, WP.1 will:

(a) Review and update road safety legal instruments (see Annex) in the areas of road traffic, signs, signals and markings, and consider developing new legal instruments when deemed necessary;

(b) Encourage accessions to legal instruments administered by WP.1;

(c) Review and update the Consolidated Resolutions on Road Traffic (R.E.1) and on Road Signs and Signals (R.E.2) as sets of regional and global recommendations for best road safety practices; draft recommendations on specific subjects;

(d) Encourage participation in its activities by fostering cooperation and collaboration with the European Union, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, other United Nations regional commissions, and organizations or bodies of the United Nations system;

(e) Encourage exchange of data between countries on road accidents and their causes, and on the legal provisions in force in the countries, and good practices in road safety;

(f) Collaborate with the ITC subsidiary bodies, particularly the World Forum for Harmonization of Vehicle Regulations (WP.29), the Working Party on Road Transport (SC.1), the Working Party on the Transport of Dangerous Goods (WP.15) and the Working Party on Transport Statistics (WP.6), on issues of common interest;

(g) Promote and participate in road safety campaigns;

(h) Promote and provide technical cooperation and capacity building in the field of road safety.

6. These Terms of Reference and Rules of Procedure do not modify the provisions of the legal instruments listed in the annex.

Annex

Legal instruments, currently in force, under the competence of WP.1

- Convention on Road Traffic, of 19 September 1949;
- Protocol on Road Signs and Signals, of 19 September 1949;
- European Agreement on the Application of Article 23 of the 1949 Convention on Road Traffic concerning the Dimensions and Weights of Vehicles Permitted to Travel on Certain Roads of the Contracting Parties, of 16 September 1950;
- Convention on Road Traffic (Vienna Convention), of 8 November 1968;
- Convention on Road Signs and Signals (Vienna Convention), of 8 November 1968;
- European Agreement supplementing the Convention on Road Traffic (1968), of 1 May 1971;
- European Agreement supplementing the Convention on Road Signs and Signals (1968), of 1 May 1971;
- Protocol on Road Markings, Additional to the European Agreement supplementing the Convention on Road Signs and Signals, of 1 March 1973;
- Agreement on Minimum Requirements for the Issue and Validity of Driving Permits (APC), of 1 April 1975.
