



# Economic and Social Council

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## Economic Commission for Europe

### Inland Transport Committee

#### Twenty-seventh session

Geneva, 8–10 September 2014

Item 7 (a) of the provisional agenda

#### Group of Experts on Climate Change impacts and adaptation for international transport networks

### Terms of Reference of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe Group of Experts on Climate Change Impacts and Adaptation for Transport Networks and nodes\*

#### Note by the secretariat

## I. Terms of Reference

### A. Scope of issues and achievements expected

1. In line with the recommendations of the report of the Group of Experts on Climate Change Impacts and Adaptation for International Transport Networks published in December 2013, the Group of Experts will focus its work on the following issues:

(a) Identify and establish inventories of critical and sensitive to climate change nodes of the transport infrastructure in the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) region if possible in a geographic information system (GIS) environment;

(b) Use/develop models of potential extreme hazards (e.g. high temperatures and floods) to selected inland transport infrastructure in the ECE region under different scenarios of climate change and transpose it on the ECE inland transport networks in order to identify/map vulnerability 'hot spots' if possible in a GIS environment;

(c) Undertake research for different climate change impacts on transport; this research should include case studies focusing on the potential economic, social, and

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\* The present document was not edited before being sent to the United Nations translation services.



environmental consequences of the climate change impacts and provide a cost/benefit analysis of the adaptation options.

2. The Group of Experts should base its considerations on previous work of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) in this field, in particular the work done by the group of experts on Climate Change Impacts and Adaption for International Transport Networks and its final report – publication (ECE/TRANS/238) and recommendations published in 2013 and adopted by the Inland Transport Committee on its seventy-sixth session (ECE/TRANS/240, para. 20).

## **B. Methods of work**

3. The Group of Experts will be established and function in accordance with the UNECE Guidelines for teams of specialists approved by the Executive Committee of UNECE on 31 March 2010 (ECE/EX/2/Rev.1). At its first meeting, the Group of Experts will adopt a work plan, clearly defining its objectives and activities, including a time schedule for their implementation.

4. The Group of Experts is expected to meet twice in 2015, at least twice in 2016 and at least once in 2017 at the Palais des Nations in Geneva, before concluding its activities with the transmission of a report to the Working Party on Transport Trends and Economics at its thirtieth session (September 2017, Geneva). This report shall also contain proposals for monitoring procedures and follow-up activities.

5. Translation of documents and simultaneous interpretation of its sessions in English, French, and Russian shall be provided by UNECE for, at least, the four sessions held at the Palais des Nations in Geneva.

6. Participation in the Group of Experts is open to all concerned United Nations member countries and experts. Concerned 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**

7. UNECE will provide secretariat services for the Group of Experts and shall ensure close cooperation with all stakeholders, including the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), the Global Framework for Climate Services (GFCS), the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), the European Commission, the regional commissions of the United Nations, and other relevant Intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations.

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