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Group of Experts on Climate Change Impacts and Adaptation for Transport Networks and Nodes

Eleventh session

Geneva, 4 October 2016

Report of the Group of Experts on Climate Change Impacts and Adaptation for Transport Networks and Nodes on its eleventh session

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I. Attendance

1. The Group of Experts (hereafter called the Group) on Climate Change Impacts and Adaptation for Transport Networks and Nodes held its eleventh session on 4 October 2016. The session was chaired by Mr. Jerzy Kleniewski (Poland).
2. Representatives of the following United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) member States participated: Belgium, Finland, France, Germany, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovenia and Spain. Representatives of Australia also attended under Article 11 of the Terms of Reference of UNECE.
3. Representatives of the following United Nations organization or specialized agency attended the meeting: United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD).

II. Adoption of the agenda (agenda item 1)

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4. The Group adopted the agenda.

III. Climate Change and Transport Networks and Nodes: Presentations of initiatives at national and international levels (agenda item 2)

5. The secretariat informed the Group that a letter had been received from the Australian Government expressing its interest in the work of the Group. The Australian Government had nominated the Australian Road Research Board (ARRB Group) as contact and liaison point with the Australian Government.
6. The representatives from the ARRB Group, Mrs. Evans, Mr. Eastwood and Mr. Hense had the opportunity, in a video conference, to present the spatial decision support tools for road managers of the Group and more specifically the Aperture GIS platform and the toolbox experts systems.
7. The Aperture site supports the Australian/New Zealand transport industry by providing access to industry-specific information in a simple-to-use web map. The site allows users to overlay transport data and visualisations to enable useful planning and decision-making. The site is specifically tailored for local government and the transport industry, and ARRB had undertaken significant work in identifying and collating useful data, as well as cataloguing and organizing the data. The system has built-in tools that allow users to customise style, analyse and share data and therefore could even facilitate, under special conditions, work and objectives of the Group of Experts.
8. ARRB representatives informed the Group that is in the process of developing a series of expert systems, or toolboxes, to compliment and enrich data sets available in Aperture and other complimentary data sets. The idea is to improve dissemination by building expert systems around the latest research findings. The toolbox:
 - (a) Directs linkage to activities of decision-makers;
 - (b) Puts the latest research findings into the hands of practitioners.
9. The Group welcomed the decision of the Australian Government to support its work and the nomination of focal points. It appreciated the presentations made by the Australian experts on initiatives at national levels on climate change impacts and adaptation for

transport networks and nodes. The presentation is available at: www.unece.org/trans/main/wp5/wp5_ge3_11.html.

IV. Partners and expected contributions (agenda item 3)

10. The Group recalled that its mandate called for the achievement of its goals by establishing and receiving inputs from different United Nations bodies such as the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) secretariats as well as other partners.

11. The Group reiterated its interest in cooperating closely with both United Nations Organizations as well as other partners. It requested the secretariat to ensure participation of both organizations in the Group's meetings as well as to ensure receiving from WMO, projections on climatic factors if possible in GIS format and from UNFCCC, adaptation case studies.

V. Discussions on the structure of the final report of the Group of Experts (agenda item 4)

Documentation: Informal document No. 1

12. The secretariat provided some information on the transport infrastructure networks along ECE available in a GIS environment. The secretariat mentioned that Islamic Development Bank decided to finance the GIS platform on transport infrastructure. The project was approved by UNECE Executive Committee and will start soon. The development of this project will further facilitate the work of the Group since it will offer a modern, customised GIS tool in order to accommodate data on transport infrastructure as well as projections on different climatic factors.

13. Furthermore, the secretariat provided information on the number of responses to the questionnaire. So far, fifteen countries (Armenia, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Denmark, Finland, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Latvia, Portugal, Slovenia, Spain, Switzerland and Turkey) have replied to the questionnaire. There are other sixteen countries (Austria, Australia, Belgium, Czechia, France, Italy, Kazakhstan, Moldova, Netherlands, Poland, Romania, Russian Federation, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Uzbekistan, and Japanese Railways) that have expressed interest to reply. Experts agreed that more time should be given to those Governments to reply to such demanding questionnaire. However, the replies should be sent before the end of the year in order for the secretariat to be able to prepare analysis of those replies well before the next meeting of the Group in March. The questionnaire was uploaded on Group's web site at: www.unece.org/trans/main/wp5/climate_change_questionnaire_2016.html.

14. The experts focused their discussions on three main issues: the use of the replies to the questionnaire provided by the Governments, the quality of the answers provided and their contribution to Group's final report and the schedule of Group's work based on the initial work plan. The experts agreed that the replies to the questionnaire should not be circulated by email or uploaded publicly on Group's web site. The secretariat suggested the preparation of an extranet on Group's web site where experts will have access with a username and password. All information collected on Group's work will be uploaded on this restricted area where access will be given only to the members of the Group.

15. Furthermore, the experts agreed that most probably an extension of the mandate of the group for one or two more years might need in order to finalize its report and achieve its

objectives. The experts agreed that they should readdress this issue next year while they will have a better view on Group's progress of work.

VI. Other business (agenda item 5)

16. There were no other items.

VII. Date and place of next meeting (agenda item 6)

17. The Group of Experts twelfth session is tentatively scheduled to take place in Geneva on 27-28 March 2017.

VIII. Summary of main decisions (agenda item 7)

18. The Group adopted its main decisions of its eleventh session and requested the secretariat and the Chair to prepare the full and complete report for circulation to the members of the Group for comments on items other than those contained in its main decisions.
