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Geneva, 20-23 February 2018

Item 9 of the provisional agenda

Results of the meetings of the Bureau of the Inland Transport Committee

Results of the meetings of the Bureau of the Inland Transport Committee in 2017

Note by the secretariat

Summary

This document contains the results of the meetings held by the Bureau of the Inland Transport Committee in 2017.

The Committee is invited to **consider** document ECE/TRANS/2018/19 and refer to the decisions of the Bureau under the relevant items of its agenda.

Introduction

1. In accordance with the decisions of the Inland Transport Committee (ITC or the Committee) (ECE/TRANS/125, paras. 14 and 15 and ECE/TRANS/254, para. 163), the Bureau of the ITC met on 24 February, 13 June, and 30 November and 1 December 2017.
2. In accordance with the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) plan of action, the Bureau fulfils the following functions related to the organization of the annual sessions of the Committee:
 - (a) the preparation of a well-focused agenda with defined objectives and allocated times for the items;
 - (b) the indication of main topics where decisions are needed;
 - (c) the selection of themes of discussion for the session;
 - (d) the monitoring and evaluation of the work since the previous session;
 - (e) the monitoring and coordination of activities in order to avoid duplication with the work of other relevant organizations;
 - (f) and the proposal of priorities in the programme of work, listing, where possible, various options (E/ECE/1347, chapter III, A, 2 (b)).
3. The annexes present the results of the meetings of the Bureau for consideration by the Committee, in line with the mandate of its Bureau.

Annex I

Results of the sixth meeting of the 2016-2017 Bureau of the Inland Transport Committee (24 February 2017)

I. Attendance

1. The meeting was chaired by Mr. Jerzy Kleniewski (Poland) and was attended by the following members: Mr. Sergey Andreev (Russian Federation), Ms. Ingeborg Annette Dettbarn (Germany), Mr. Sergei Dubina (Belarus), Mr. Antonio Erario (Italy), Mr. Bob Oudshoorn (the Netherlands), Ms. Isabelle Paillet (France), Mr. Jean-Claude Schneuwly (Switzerland), Mr. Kristof Schockaert (Belgium), and Mr. Roman Symonenko (Ukraine). Ms. Carmen Giron (Spain) and Mr. Ravil Isgandarov (Azerbaijan) were unable to attend.

II. Matters arising from the seventy-ninth session of the Inland Transport Committee

2. The Bureau expressed satisfaction for the excellent organization of the seventieth anniversary and the seventy-ninth session of the Committee, in particular for the ministerial meeting on 21 February and several high-impact side events on 20 and 22 February, i.e. the Global Road Safety Film Festival, the ECE-UNEP Conference on the export of used vehicles, the High Level Conference on Inland Water Transport, the joint capacity-building workshop by the Islamic Development Bank and ECE on United Nations transport conventions. The exhibition and brochure on the 70-year history of the ITC attracted particular praise from Bureau members. Attendance levels from the senior level of ministers and deputy minister were record setting for the Committee and for ECE as a whole. Close to 40 ministers and deputy ministers/secretaries of State, and more than 500 high level participants from 90 countries as well as virtually all major transport stakeholders attended the meeting. The ministerial meeting culminated with a very important ministerial resolution on 'Embracing the new era for sustainable inland transport and mobility', that was ceremonially signed by 58 governments and the European Union Commissioner of Transport, Ms. Violeta Bulc, and will greatly strengthen the Committee in the years to come. The high level of attendance and the senior level of representatives led to the adoption by the Committee of several important decisions on 24 February 2017. The Bureau welcomed the timely preparation and dissemination, before the annual session, of the official documents and translations, of a streamlined draft list of main decisions in all three ECE official languages, and thanked the secretariat for having delivered such a landmark event in the history of the ITC.

3. The Bureau concluded that the ministerial meeting on the 'Past and Future of the ECE Inland Transport Committee' created a unique opportunity to raise the visibility of the Committee, link it to the top levels of transport decisions makers from around the world and strengthen its position within a strategically versatile and fast-changing environment. In light of the ministerial's results and impact in capitals around the world, the Bureau unanimously supported the idea that ministerial meetings should be regularly organized by the Committee. Various ideas were explored as to the periodicity and regularity of such meetings. One idea was that the next ministerial could be organized already in 2018. Another recommendation was to aim to organize a ministerial at the Committee's seventy-fifth anniversary in 2022. A third recommendation was to organize a ministerial every four or five years, modelled on the successful experience of the Environment Division of ECE

and its ministerial process “Environment for Europe”. Regardless of the timing of the event, adequate time should be given to survey lead agencies in countries for topics for the meeting.

4. Furthermore, the Bureau acknowledged the political significance of the ministerial resolution that was endorsed by the Committee on 24 February. Two elements stood out in the discussions. The first is decision 1 of the ministerial resolution and the necessary follow-up during the sixty-seventh session of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (Geneva, 26-27 April 2017), which is expected to submit a request to ECOSOC to mandate the Committee’s parallel reporting to the global body, as outlined in decision 1. The Bureau expressed its commitment and determination to actively support the implementation of this decision in national capitals, in Geneva (during the Commission session) and in New York (during the ECOSOC deliberations) through the appropriate channels.

5. The second element was identifying key thematic areas in the resolution where the work of the Committee and its subsidiary bodies needed further strengthening, including accelerated work on ITC and autonomous vehicles, digitalization and the creation/management of databases, the sustainable development goal targets and road safety; the finalization of unified railway law, and Euro-Asian connectivity. In light of this discussion, the Bureau stressed the importance of the strategic review of the Committee and the need to ensure that the consultation process is open, inclusive and transparent, by involving the Working Parties in the deliberations for the finalization of the Committee’s strategy, along the lines of the Decisions taken by the Committee on 24 February 2017. The next step in the process would be the finalization in a timely way of the strategy paper by the secretariat in close consultation with the Bureau and with Chairs and Bice-Chairs of Administrative Committees and the Committee’s subsidiary bodies.

6. As the global community moves in the direction of the implementation of the sustainable development goals, the ministerial resolution affirmed that the transition to sustainable mobility and transport is at the heart of the work of the Committee, which is an indispensable platform that will help ensure the success of this transition. The Committee’s work received valuable support from ministers and deputy ministers from around the world, further consolidating its role as an international platform for promoting policy dialogue, bringing together senior policymakers, disseminating best practices, providing capacity-building and carrying out analytical activities and all these in addition to its core regulatory work. Transport leaders from the governments, from all major sectoral and cross-sectoral transport stakeholders, from intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, and from the industry and academia recognized the Committee’s role as (a) a centre of international agreements and conventions that accelerating the introduction of common standards and internationally agreed regulations for sustainable transport and mobility, including in urban environments, (b) a forum that collects and disseminates best practices from around the world, (c) a platform for policy and institutional analysis and (d) a coordinator for enhanced capacity-building and technical assistance to relevant member States and contracting parties.

7. The Bureau welcomed the results of the seventh meeting of the Chairs of the Committee’s subsidiary bodies that was held as a restricted meeting for government-delegates only. In total 70 representatives from 35 countries, including 11 non-ECE member States and 22 Chairs and Vice-Chairs of Working Parties and Administrative Committees participated. The debate that ensued stirred insightful and productive exchanges on how to strengthen the participation of non-ECE Contracting Parties in the work of the Committee and its subsidiary bodies and is contained in Annex VII (ECE/TRANS/270/Add.1).

8. The Bureau welcomed the active participation of non-ECE member states at the various agenda items and supported the continuation of this trend in the future but with the expectation that the focus will be on interventions by governments.
9. The June meeting of the Bureau should consider the topic for next year's meeting. Potential themes were not discussed during the Bureau meeting.
10. Given the decisions at the restricted session that were adopted by ITC on a strategic review of the Committee at its 80th annual session, the topic for next year's restricted session would focus on this strategic matter.
11. The Bureau noted with regret the news about the retirement of one of its longest serving members, Mr. Bob Oudshoorn (the Netherlands) and expressed its gratitude for his consistent support to the work of the Committee and to various subsidiary bodies over the years.

III. Date of next meeting

12. The Bureau agreed to hold its next meeting on Tuesday, 13 June 2017 starting at 10 a.m. in Salle V.

Annex II

Results of the seventh meeting of the 2016-2017 Bureau of the Inland Transport Committee (13 June 2017)

I. Attendance

1. The meeting was chaired by Mr. Jerzy Kleniewski (Poland) and was attended by the following members: Mr. Sergey Andreev (Russian Federation), Ms. Ingeborg Annette Dettbarn (Germany), Mr. Antonio Erario (Italy), Ms. Carmen Giron (Spain), Ms. Isabelle Paillet (France), Mr. Jean-Claude Schneuwly (Switzerland), Mr. Kristof Schockaert (Belgium), Mr. Hans Gerard Scholten (the Netherlands) and Mr. Roman Symonenko (Ukraine). Mr. Sergei Dubina (Belarus), and Mr. Ravil Isgandarov (Azerbaijan) were unable to attend. Mr. Franciszek Labno attended on behalf of the European Commission.

II. Taking stock of the seventy-ninth session of the Inland Transport Committee

2. At its meeting on 24 February 2017, the Bureau discussed the outcome of the seventy-ninth session of the Committee and expressed its satisfaction for the excellent organization of the seventieth anniversary, in particular the ministerial meeting on 21 February and the several high-impact side events on 20 and 22 February 2017. Furthermore, the Bureau unanimously supported the idea that ministerial meetings should be regularly organized by the Committee and requested the secretariat to prepare an informal document with options for the future (Informal document No. 1).

3. After consideration of the various alternative scenarios for the organization of ministerial meetings by the Committee contained in Informal document No. 1, the Bureau expressed stronger support for option 1, 'Ad-hoc ministerial meetings, based on major "in-house" achievements' and option 2, 'Ad-hoc ministerial meetings, based on landmark dates'. Both options had been tried successfully by the Committee in the past. Option 3, 'Regular ministerial meetings, at agreed periodicity', received less support, as it had never been tried before, but it was decided to keep the option for future consideration. The Bureau expressed its support for the organization of future ministerial meetings in Geneva and the Palais des Nations, due to significant advantages in terms of administrative support, conference infrastructure and secretariat services. Should credible offers come from member States that address the cost and organizational issues, they would be assessed case-by-case. Potential dates for future ministerial meetings proposed by the secretariat were 2020 with the completion of the United Nations Decade of Action for Road Safety, and 2022 as the 75th anniversary of the Inland Transport Committee. A third option for 2018 was discussed with the completion of EATL phase III, but the short timeline for the preparation of the ministerial was noted.

Documentation

Informal document No. 1

III. Meeting of the ITC Chair with the Executive Committee

4. The Bureau was informed by the Chair about his participation in the ninety-first meeting of the Executive Committee (EXCOM) of ECE on 24 March 2017, at which the concrete and tangible results of the Committee and its subsidiary bodies had been presented. The extensions for Groups of Experts were approved, and the financing of DETA had been openly discussed.

Documentation

ITC Chair report to EXCOM, power point presentation

IV. Transport at the sixty-seventh session of the Commission

5. The Bureau was informed about the strong presence of the work of the Committee at the sixty-seventh session of the Commission (Geneva, 26-27 April 2017) and the transport-related decisions. The Bureau took note that the Commission had adopted (a) a decision on the parallel reporting of ITC to ECOSOC and (b) a decision on the development of the United Nations Road Safety Fund. Both decisions were included in the Commission's report to ECOSOC (E/ECE/1480). Furthermore, three resolutions that had been adopted by the Committee, as decided by the Committee, were presented to the Commission for information.

6. The Bureau was further informed by Chair about his active participation in an informal side event, 'Breakfast with the Chairs of ECE Sectoral Committees' that focused on cross-sectoral cooperation in ECE to promote the implementation of the sustainable development goals and the main achievements of the Committee. After a brief discussion, upon the suggestion of the Executive Secretary, the Chairs of ECE Sectoral Committees agreed that closer cooperation between the Sectoral Committees is strongly advisable, including presence during parallel meetings of the bodies in Geneva. The exchange of planned meetings between the Committees is foreseen/expected.

7. The Bureau welcomed information about the outcomes of the sixty-seventh session of the Commission, especially vis-à-vis the parallel reporting of the ITC to ECOSOC and the inclusion of the relevant decision and draft ECOSOC resolution in document E/2017/15/Add.1.

Documentation

Programme of the sixty-seventh session of ECE

V. Follow-up to the governments-only restricted session

8. The Bureau recalled that, in recognition of the need for the Committee to adapt to a fast-changing global environment, the Committee had decided that the secretariat should draft a strategy paper on priorities and main directions, in close consultation with the Bureau, the Chairs of ITC subsidiary bodies and the Administrative Committees of United Nations transport conventions under the purview of the Committee.

9. Taking into account a significant delay in preparing the ITC strategy, the Bureau reiterated its request to receive a final version of the complete document one month before the November Bureau meeting, to allow for a thorough analysis in the member States and their national administrations. It further expressed its support for the ITC decision to invite its subsidiary bodies to support these efforts by proposing partial strategy concepts to the secretariat for further analysis and visionary synthesis.

10. Furthermore, the Committee had invited at its seventy-ninth annual session, the Working Parties to submit suggestions for the development of the Committee's strategy. The secretariat provided information on the preparations and plans for finalizing the paper. The Bureau took note that the full paper will be discussed at its November Bureau meeting, and provide the basis for the official document for the restricted session of the Committee's 2018 annual session in three languages. Due to the document's length that far exceeds the limits of official documents, the secretariat will seek ways to ensure its timely and full translation in the three official languages.

Documentation

Informal document No. 2 (not issued)

VI. Preparing for the eightieth session of the Inland Transport Committee

11. The Bureau discussed the preparation of the eightieth session of the Committee on the basis of the draft provisional agenda prepared by the secretariat (Informal document No. 3), and on the secretariat's proposals on possible themes for the high-level policy level segment (Informal document No. 4).

12. Taking into account the experiences and the need to keep sufficient time for real discussions during the annual sessions, the Bureau decided that:

- all relevant documents should be prepared and sent to the Bureau members at least one month in advance of the session;
- the number of speakers should be limited; and
- presentations of the secretariat should continue to be checked internally beforehand, to ensure that time limits are not exceeded.

13. The Bureau decided that the policy segment of the provisional agenda should be extended to a full day, and that the order of the agenda was successful and should be maintained. At the same time, the importance of adequate time was emphasized for the presentations of organizations which had been invited to intervene under the agenda item 'Partnerships and activities of other organizations of interest to the Committee'.

14. The Bureau considered various options in Informal document No.4 and decided that the topic for the 2018 high-level policy segment should be option 3 on 'Intermodality: The key to sustainable mobility. The Bureau members agreed that sustainable mobility and transport are at the core of the work of the Inland Transport Committee, and that intermodality carries the potential to unlock the future of sustainable transport and mobility at the international, regional and local/city levels. Therefore, option 3 is a very important and timely theme to be addressed in a holistic approach involving all relevant ITC subsidiary bodies. Furthermore, Bureau members agreed that this topic would greatly benefit from enriching it with the impact of innovation.

15. The Bureau further deliberated the question of optimizing the impact of the outcomes of the policy segment to the work of the Committee's subsidiary bodies. It was therefore deemed important that the concerned Working Parties make substantive suggestions for the preparation of the policy segment, and that decisions or other types of outputs resulting from the policy segment be taken on-board by them.

16. The secretariat suggested including an item on the Euro-Asian Transport Links (EATL) project in the agenda for its upcoming session of ITC a more in-depth discussion on Asia and Europe transport connectivity. The Bureau will return to discussing inclusion

of EATL in the agenda of eightieth annual session of ITC at its meeting in November, following the decisions on the EATL project taken at the WP.5 meeting in September.

17. The Bureau was informed by the secretariat about the ESCAP transport ministerial (5-9 December 2016, Moscow), at which the ESCAP and ECE secretariats were invited to explore the possibilities to set up an Interregional Coordination Committee on Transport between Asia and Europe (ICCTAE). The Bureau confirmed its constant support for any developments in transport connectivity in a consistent way through many different projects, e.g. TEM, TER, via Carpatia, and the EATL project. The Bureau requested drafts of the workplan and the terms of reference of ICCTAE. The Bureau reconfirmed its open approach to ICCTAE, provided that the creation of this body would not lead to any duplication of existing structures or work.

18. The Bureau took note of the information that the ESCAP secretariat had been mandated at the ministerial meeting in 2016, though the ECE secretariat had not.

19. The Bureau decided that a mandate by ITC, ECE member States and EXCOM would be required to establish the joint body given the programme-budget implications, and its impact on the current intergovernmental mechanisms. Naturally, the ECE secretariat could hold informal consultation with the ESCAP secretariat about the draft concept and the terms of reference. The ECE secretariat should inform the Bureau about these consultations.

20. Finally, the Bureau concluded that, ideally, a draft concept note with the terms of reference and additional supporting documents from informal consultations between the ESCAP and ECE secretariats should be submitted to the next November Bureau meeting for consideration and comments. Only after a thorough assessment that the structures and workplans would not be duplicated, would the Bureau would positively recommend ICCTAE to ITC.

21. The Bureau discussed the topic for the next meeting of the ECE Inland Transport Security Forum and agreed that it should focus on 'security issues and solutions to shared mobility'.

22. The Bureau noted that the mandate of the Group of Experts on Legal Aspects of the Computerization of the TIR Procedure (WP.30/GE.2) had expired on 31 May 2017, and that the Group at its fourth session (16 and 17 May 2017, Geneva) had submitted a request to WP.30 (13-16 June 2017, Geneva) for an extension of the mandate to complete the development of a new annex to the TIR Convention. The Bureau approved a provisional extension for the Group until the formal ITC decision, and approved the scheduling of a meeting of the Group of Experts on 30 and 31 October 2017. The Bureau noted that the formal extension of the mandate of the Group would be considered by ITC in February 2018.

Documentation

Informal document No. 3, Informal document No. 4

VII. Date of next meeting

23. The Bureau noted that its next meeting would be held on Thursday and Friday, 30 November and 1 December 2017.

VIII. Retirement of the Sustainable Transport Division's Director

24. The Bureau expressed its deep appreciation for the contribution of Ms. Eva Molnar, Director of the Sustainable Transport Division, in light of her pending retirement. Despite the many challenges, the Division managed to successfully service its core mandates, expand into new ones and advance sustainable mobility by regulatory, analytical, policy and capacity-building work. Ms. Molnar's leadership as the Director of the Division was decisive in achieving these results.

Annex III

Results of the eighth meeting of the 2016-2017 Bureau of the Inland Transport Committee (30 November - 1 December 2017)

I. Attendance

1. The meeting was chaired by Mr. Jerzy Kleniewski (Poland) and was attended by the following members: Mr. Kristof Schockaert (Belgium), Ms. Isabelle Paillet (France), Ms. Ingeborg Annette Dettbarn (Germany), Mr. Antonio Erario (Italy), Mr. Hans Gerard Scholten (the Netherlands), Mr. Sergey Andreev (Russian Federation), Ms. Carmen Giron (Spain), Mr. Jean-Claude Schneuwly (Switzerland) and Mr. Stefano Paci (European Commission). Mr. Dominik Schmalen (Germany) and Mr. Mykhailo Harmash (Ukraine) also attended. Mr. Ravil Isgandarov (Azerbaijan), Mr. Sergei Dubina (Belarus) and Mr. Roman Symonenko (Ukraine) were unable to attend.

II. Meeting of the Chairs of the Committee's Subsidiary Bodies and the Administrative Committees of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe legal instruments

2. The discussions of the Bureau focused on the future strategy of ITC based on the draft prepared by the secretariat (Informal document No. 2) from the background report on the ECE ITC strategy. The Bureau decided:

- To request the secretariat to integrate comments from its discussions to the draft ITC strategy, as contained in Informal document No. 2.
- To request the secretariat to circulate to the Bureau, in writing and in English, its comments to the revised draft ITC strategy. Once integrated, the secretariat would provide further opportunity for comments and final approval, following which the document would be distributed as a discussion paper (an informal document) to the restricted session of the Committee.
- The discussion paper to the restricted session should be presented for orientation, as an informal document in English only. However, the Bureau proposes to consider the possibility of submitting the document to the participants in all working languages;
- Following the session of the Committee, to hold extraordinary meetings of the Bureau, virtual or, ideally, in Geneva, to initiate the drafting of the strategy, with a view to adoption at the eighty-first session of the Committee in 2019. To this effect, the Bureau requested the secretariat to (a) explore options for hosting additional meetings of the Bureau on an ad hoc basis, and (b) provide detailed information on the budgetary implications of ongoing reflections. To this effect, the secretariat may consult with relevant Working Parties, as appropriate.
- To provide timely inputs in English to the secretariat who will assist the Bureau members in drafting the strategy document. The bureau meeting after the ITC annual session will be dedicated to developing a road map of the next steps.

3. The Bureau had the opportunity to review the full paper (Informal document No. 1 - "Background Report on the ECE ITC Strategy"), of which the advance executive summary had been discussed at the restricted session of the seventy-ninth annual session of the Committee (ECE/TRANS/2017/R.1). The Bureau decided that Informal document No.1 would be submitted to the restricted session, as outlined in the draft ITC annotated agenda.

Documentation

Informal document No. 1, Informal document No. 2

III. Topics of a strategic nature

A. Euro-Asian Transport Links project

4. The Bureau was informed about the recent activities of the EATL project, and considered the executive summary and conclusions (Informal document No. 3) of phase III of the project. The final report will be prepared following the activities of 2013-2017 of the Group of Experts. It contains crucial recommendations for further operationalisation of the rail and road links between Europe and Asia. It was endorsed by WP.5 at its thirtieth session (4-6 September 2017, Geneva).

5. The Bureau also deliberated on the future of the EATL project, following the completion of phase III, including the intergovernmental conference planned for the 2018 WP.5 annual session. The Bureau considered the potential impacts of completing Phase III of EATL, and requested the secretariat, if possible, to change the dates of the WP.5 session, to facilitate the successful organization of the conference.

Documentation

Informal document No. 3

B. Interregional Coordinating Committee on Transport between Europe and Asia

6. The Bureau considered the latest developments of the proposed Interregional Coordinating Committee on Transport between Europe and Asia (ICCTEA) (Briefing note No. 1). The Bureau took note that, in line with the decisions of the Bureau, the secretariat had proceeded with consultations with ESCAP on its proposed plans/ToRs for ICCTEA. In September 2017, however, the ESCAP secretariat decided to postpone its plans for ICCTEA due to its overwhelming workload.

7. The Bureau decided to add the topic of ICCTEA to the ITC agenda, in the spirit of taking note of: the decision of the Moscow Ministerial, as a potential successor to the completion of EATL Phase III; underlying its will to consider the initiative, ensuring there is no duplication and mindful of the potential budget implications.

Documentation

Briefing note No. 1

C. International Road Organization

8. In November 2016, ESCAP launched an initiative to establish an International Road Organization (IRO). The initiative is described in the ESCAP Paper “Making the Road Sector a Key Vehicle for Sustainable Development”.

9. The Bureau was informed by the secretariat about IRO on the basis of Briefing note No. 2 and agreed to continue sharing information internally and with the secretariat.

Documentation

Briefing note No. 2

D. Sustainable Development Goals and the Inland Transport Committee

10. The Bureau considered ongoing developments with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals and their potential implications for ITC and the Division. The Bureau was informed about the increasing attention of the international community and particularly of the United Nations on achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (Briefing note No. 3), and the involvement of the Committee in the three major transport-related processes/initiatives to monitor implementation of the transport-related Goals. The Bureau took note also of the strengthened focus on achieving the Goals in the draft annual report of activities in 2017 by the different intergovernmental bodies serviced by the ECE Sustainable Transport Division, including ITC and its subsidiary bodies (Informal document No. 4).

11. Decision 1 of the 2017 ministerial resolution on the parallel reporting of ITC was also discussed under this agenda item. The Bureau noted the information provided by the secretariat on the outcome of the ITC request for parallel reporting of ITC to ECE and ECOSOC (ECE/TRANS/270, para. 14; E/ECE/1480, paras. 2, 5 and 6, and decision E/67; E/2017/15/Add.1, section I (B) para. 2, p. 4).

Documentation

Briefing note No. 3, Informal document No. 4

E. United Nations Economic Commission for Europe policy on engagement with the private sector

12. The Bureau was informed about the ECE policy on engagement with the private sector that has recently been adopted by EXCOM and the potential implications for ITC work. The Bureau considered favourably the ECE policy on engagement with the private sector.

Documentation

EXCOM Informal document No. 2017/40, EXCOM Informal document No. 2017/41

F. Road safety: World Health Organization initiative on voluntary road safety indicators

13. The Bureau took note of developments of the WHO initiative on voluntary road safety targets and indicators, and the role and potential contributions of the Committee. The Bureau was informed by the secretariat, and considered the implications for ITC and its subsidiary bodies, of the discussion on voluntary road safety targets and indicators. It

reiterated its strong support for the role of the Committee's work on road safety, as well as its commitment to a serene cooperation with WHO.

IV. Programmatic documents for Inland Transport Committee 2018 requiring review and/or decisions by the Bureau¹

14. The Bureau considered the draft biennial evaluation (programme performance assessment) of its work in 2016-2017 (Informal document No. 5); the programme of work and expected accomplishments and related indicators of achievement proposed for each cluster of activities of the Transport programme of work for the period 2018-2019 (Informal document No. 6 and Add.1); the plan for biennial performance evaluation for 2018-2019 (Informal document No. 7); and the ECE Transport Subprogramme draft strategic framework (biennial programme plan) for the period 2020-2021 (Informal document No. 8).

15. The Bureau:

- recommended the Committee to approve the 2016-2017 programme performance assessment at its eightieth session in 2018;
- recommended the Committee to approve the draft programme of work and its addendum for 2018-2019, following the updating of the relevant documents with the outcomes of the relevant meetings of the Working Parties. Possible finalization of the parts of the programmes might be addressed at ITC session;
- recommended the Committee to approve the plan for biennial performance evaluation for 2018-2019;
- reviewed the ECE Transport Subprogramme draft Strategic Framework for the period 2020-2021.

Documentation

Informal document No. 5, Informal document No. 6 and Add.1, Informal document No. 7, Informal document No. 8

V. Consideration of items of the agenda for the eightieth session of the Inland Transport Committee

16. The Bureau reviewed the provisional agenda of the eightieth session of the Committee (ECE/TRANS/273) and the annotated agenda (ECE/TRANS/273/Add.1).

17. The Bureau considered the draft annotated agenda of ITC.

18. The Bureau was informed about the organization of the policy segment of 20 February 2018 on "Intermodality: The key to sustainable mobility", and the concept note (Informal document No. 9). The Bureau decided that the duration should be one day, as contained in Informal document no 9.

19. The Bureau was informed about road safety and, in particular, the United Nation Road Safety Trust Fund (Briefing note No. 4); the activities of the United Nations Secretary-General's Special Envoy for Road Safety, Mr. Jean Todt; and progress with implementing SafeFITS. The Bureau requested the secretariat to provide written

¹ Required for securing resources for the transport subprogramme for 2018-2019 and 2020-2021.

information on the Secretary-General's decisions on possibly establishing the Trust Fund and on the role of ECE.

20. Furthermore, the Bureau was informed about the status of the establishment of the type-approval database DETA (Briefing note No. 5); about progress in the eTIR project; and about the implementation of the ITS Road Map (Briefing note No. 6).

21. The Bureau noted that ITC should decide on the extension of the mandate of the corresponding Group of Experts on Unified Railway Law based on new terms of reference and requested the secretariat to adapt the annotations of the ITC agenda accordingly.

22. Furthermore, the Bureau was informed about progress with TEM/TER. It was also updated about progress with the preparations for the Inland Water Transport global conference.

23. The Bureau was updated about progress with the preparation of THE PEP Ministerial, scheduled to take place in Vienna in 2019. The Bureau expressed its support for the development of a study on transport and urban planning for the 5th High-level Ministerial Meeting in Vienna in 2019 and requested the secretariat to support this work, subject to availability of adequate funding.

24. The Bureau considered and approved the provisional agenda of the eightieth session of the Committee and reviewed the draft annotated agenda. A modification of the annotations on the eighth meeting of the Chairs was requested.

Documentation

Draft ECE/TRANS/273 and Add.1, Informal document No. 9, Briefing note No. 4, Briefing note No. 5, Briefing note No. 6

VI. Other business

A. Election of officers for the Committee's sessions and members of the Bureau for the years 2018 and 2019

25. The Bureau exchanged views on the forthcoming election of officers for the Committee's sessions and the Bureau for 2018 and 2019. The secretariat informed the Bureau about the modalities of the elections and size of the Bureau, as contained in the Commission's terms of reference and rules of procedure (fifth revised edition) and the EXCOM guidelines. The secretariat also informed the Bureau that according to existing guidelines the nominations need to be made available "well in advance", which was not always practicable as under current practices there was no recommended deadline for the submission of nominations by member States, which sometimes reached the secretariat even on the day when the ITC begins.

26. *(Forthcoming)*

B. Schedule of the ITC and its Bureau meetings 2019-2020

27. The Bureau discussed the possibility of moving its November session earlier in the year, in order to create more room between the meeting and the official deadline for the submission of official documents for the annual session of ITC. The Bureau concluded that this would not be possible, since the basic principle of having the meeting of the Bureau at the end of the year is to follow all meetings of the key Working Parties, in order to perform its tasks efficiently.

28. The Bureau considered and approved Informal document No. 10 containing the proposed schedule for ITC and its Bureau meetings in 2018 and 2019.

Documentation

Informal document No. 10

C. Modalities of preparing documents for Bureau meetings

29. The Bureau decided that the documents for its sessions should be prepared as follows:

- Agendas: not later than 4 weeks before the meeting;
- Informal documents for decisions by the Bureau: 3 weeks before the meeting; and
- Informal documents for information only: as soon as possible.

D. Retirement of the Chief of Section of the Transport of Dangerous Goods and Special Cargos

30. After 35 years of service in the United Nations, Mr. Olivier Kervella, Chief of the Transport of Dangerous Goods and Special Cargos Section of the Sustainable Transport Division, retired, effective 1 December 2017. The Bureau expressed its deep appreciation to Mr. Kervella for his contribution to the work of the Committee, and for his long and distinguished career in Transport and particularly, in the Transport of Dangerous Goods.

E. Date of next meeting

31. The Bureau noted that its next meeting would be on Monday, 19 February 2018, from 3 to 6 p.m. in room XII. The Bureau also noted that its meeting following the eightieth session of the Committee will be held on 23 February 2018, in the afternoon.
