



Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
10 December 2018

Original: English

Economic Commission for Europe

Inland Transport Committee

Eighty-first session

Geneva, 19-22 February 2019

Item 2 of the provisional agenda

Automation in Transport

Draft concept note of the high-level policy segment “Automation in Transport” and related high-level side events

Note by the secretariat

Summary

This document outlines the background, outlook, concept and main themes of the high-level policy segment on “Automation in Transport”, as part of the eighty-first annual session of the Inland Transport Committee. The document also contains information on planned activities, side events and social events. The highlight of this Committee’s session will be the adoption of the landmark ITC strategy 2030 and the Resolution on “Enhancing Cooperation, Harmonization and Integration in the Era of Transport Automation”.

I. Eighty-first annual session of the Inland Transport Committee: A milestone in the Committee’s history

Background, general outlook and expected level of attendance

1. The eighty-first annual session of the Inland Transport Committee (ITC) in 2019 is expected to mark a milestone in its history: the Committee is expected to decide on the adoption of its strategy until 2030. It is expected to do so, meeting in the very same location (Salle XVII) where in 2017 Ministers from all over the world gathered alongside more than 500 participants to celebrate the seventieth anniversary of the ITC and called for the development and adoption of the new ITC strategy.
2. Over 70 years, the Committee has evolved into the centre of UN inland transport conventions. Recognizing the worldwide impact of the regulatory work of the Committee,

the increasingly global geographical scope of its legally binding instruments and the urgent need to make the worldwide regulatory framework that governs inland transport more inclusive and accessible to all and support the implementation of SDGs, the 2017 ministerial resolution called for the development and adoption of the new ITC strategy. In 2018, with the participation of Ministers from Africa, Asia, Europe and the Middle East, the Committee decided to consider and adopt its strategy until 2030 at its eighty-first annual session in 2019 (19-22 February 2019).

3. Building on the high level of participation by transport leaders in 2017 and 2018 and in view of the important decisions that will determine the future of the Committee, the recommended attendance at the eighty-first annual session is at the level of Minister or Vice-Minister/State Secretary for panel positions and speaking slots, and senior decision makers otherwise. Heads of key transport international governmental and non-governmental organizations and companies are also expected to participate at the policy segment.

II. High-level Policy Segment: Automation in Transport

4. Building on recommendations by the ITC and Bureau debates, the policy segment's theme in 2019 will be on "*Automation in Transport*". This theme will create space for reflection of the Committee's past achievements, current performance and future trajectory, highlighting its value added and underlining its future potential.

5. The draft programme on *Tuesday, 19 February 2019 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.*, includes:

- (a) Opening statements;
- (b) One or two keynote speeches on the importance of automation and digitalization in inland transport for the future of mobility and the role of ITC;
- (c) Two consecutive panel debates with up to five participants each and followed by up to three scheduled interventions from the floor;
- (d) The highlight of the meeting will be the adoption of the Resolution on: "*Enhancing Cooperation, Harmonization and Integration in the Era of Transport Automation*".

A. Opening and Keynote speeches

6. After the opening statements, a keynote speech will follow on the importance of automation and harmonization for sustainable inland transport in the global agenda and will address challenges for the future of automation as well as the strategic role of the Committee in providing a comprehensive cooperation platform to forge harmonized solutions and enhance international cooperation. Automation in transport holds the keys to advancing the global efforts for the provision of universal access to sustainable mobility for citizens around the world and for the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030. The Committee's achievements in the past 70 years show that its regulatory work has direct impact on the supply and delivery side of businesses and industries globally, that in turn improve dramatically the daily lives of people and communities around the world. The long and consistent record of the Committee's achievements provide a solid foundation for its current and future role in "*Enhancing Cooperation, Harmonization and Integration in the Era of Transport Automation*".

B. Panel debates

7. Two high-level panel debates will follow, with themes on critical cross-cutting issues of direct relevance to the future of automation in transport and the work of the ITC and its subsidiary bodies. The panel themes are:

- (a) Panel I: Role and trends of Automation in Transport: Safety, efficiency and sustainability;
- (b) Panel II: Challenges and synergies in advancing automation for all modes of transport.

8. Each panel debate will accommodate up to five high-level panellists.

9. Each debate will be moderated, and will last 45 minutes, starting with short statements of 5-7 minutes by the panellists. The panellist's statements will be followed by scheduled interventions (up to 3 minutes each). Statements and interventions will be followed by an open discussion.

C. Adoption of the Resolution on: *“Enhancing Cooperation, Harmonization and Integration in the Era of Transport Automation”*

10. At the end of the meeting, Ministers and Heads of delegations of Contracting Parties will be invited to adopt a resolution on: *“Enhancing Cooperation, Harmonization and Integration in the Era of Transport Automation”*, highlighting the relevance of the Committee in ensuring that the accelerated pace of innovation in transport automation and digitalization will be characterized by harmonization and interoperability, as well as safety, equitable access and intermodal integration, as essential preconditions for the achievement of the Sustainable Development Agenda. In broad terms, the Resolution will address the need for an enhanced cooperation in the area of automation in transport, to ensure that benefits are shared as widely as possible and to avoid the emergence of fragmented, non-interoperable systems.

III. Scheduled high-level side-events

A. Exhibition/demos

11. The high-level policy segment will be accompanied by exhibitions or demonstrations of new technologies related to the automation in transport, including:

- Transfer of participants through automated vehicles/shuttles
- Automated/autonomous driving demo
- Driving simulators.

B. Side event *“Automation in Transport: Safe Deployment of Automated Vehicles in Traffic” (18 February 2019)*

12. This will be a day-long joint event of the Global Forum for Road Traffic Safety (WP.1) and the World Forum for the Harmonization of Vehicle Regulations (WP.29), in implementation of an ITC decision (ECE/TRANS/274, para. 37).

C. “Automation in Transport: Digitalization and e-documents as precursors of growth and development” (19 February 2019, p.m.)

13. A half-day meeting on “Automation in Transport: Digitalization and e-documents as enablers of growth and development” will take place concurrently with the restricted segment of ITC on adopting the ITC strategy 2030, thus enabling non-governmental high-level participants, who cannot attend the restricted session, as well as larger country delegations to engage in a meaningful dialogue on the benefits of digitalization, e.g. through eTIR and eCMR, for trade, growth and development and on addressing existing regulatory, political and technical bottlenecks.

Annex I

Draft weekly programme (18-22 February 2019)

Monday, 18 February	10.00- 18.00	Side event 1: Joint WP.1-WP.29 event* Room XVII	ITC Bureau meeting* Room VII	The 2019 ITC Exhibition and demos
Tuesday, 19 February	10.00- 13.00	ITC high-level policy segment* Room XVII		
	13.00- 15.00	Lunch break		
	15.00- 18.00	ITC annual session - Restricted session* (Government representatives only) Room XVII	Side event 2: Digitalization and e-documents* - Room VII	
	18.00 - 20.00	Cocktail/Receptions (Palais des Nations)		
Wednesday, 20 February	10.00- 13.00	ITC annual session* Regular session Room XVII		
	13.00- 15.00	<i>Break</i>		
	15.00- 18.00	ITC annual session* Regular session (cont'd) Room XVII		
Thursday, 21 February	10.00- 13.00	ITC annual session* Regular session (cont'd) Room XVII		
	13.00- 15.00	<i>Break</i>		
	15.00- 18.00	ITC annual session* Regular session (cont'd) Room XVII		
Friday, 22 February	10.00- 13.00	ITC annual session* Regular session cont'd) Room XVII		
	13.00- 15.00	<i>Break</i>		
	15.00- 18.00	ITC Bureau meeting* - Room XVII		
* Simultaneously in English/French/Russian				

Annex II

Draft Programme

High-level policy segment

“Automation in Transport”

19 February 2019, 10 a.m. - 1 p.m., Salle XVII

Palais des Nations, Geneva

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| 10-10.20 a.m. | Opening statements and welcome speeches |
| 10.20-10.45 a.m. | Keynote speech |
| 10.45-11.30 a.m. | Panel I: Role and trends of Automation in Transport: Safety, efficiency and sustainability
<i>Discussion and scheduled interventions (3' each max)</i> |
| 11.30 a.m.-12 p.m. | <i>Coffee Break</i> |
| 12-12.45 p.m. | Panel II: Challenges and synergies in advancing automation for all modes of transport
<i>Discussion and scheduled interventions (3' each max)</i> |
| 12.45-1 p.m. | Adoption of the ITC declaration/resolution and closing statements |
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