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Working Party on Intermodal Transport and Logistics

Sixty-third session

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Item 6 (d) of the provisional agenda

Emerging issues in freight transport and logistics:

Annual themes on Intermodal Transport and Logistics

Theme for 2021 workshop

Submitted by the secretariat

I. Background

1. The Working Party on Intermodal Transport and Logistics (WP.24) has been holding annual workshops exploring and discussing different issues relevant to intermodal transport and logistics for a number of years. These workshops serve an exchange of practices which should support further development of the sector in countries.

2. In the past five years the following workshops were held:

- 2020: Intermodal transport and logistics' role in making cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable - <http://www.unece.org/trans/wp24/wp24-themes/2020.html>

- 2019: Sustainable Transport Connectivity between Europe and Asia in the framework of the Working Party on Intermodal Transport and Logistics - <http://www.unece.org/trans/wp24/wp24-themes/2019.html>

- 2018: Operational challenges of regional intermodal transport and innovative solutions - <http://www.unece.org/trans/wp24/wp24-themes/2018.html>

- 2017: Railways, intermodal transport and the computerization of transport documents - <http://www.unece.org/trans/wp24/wp24-themes/2017.html>

- 2016: Promoting sustainable intermodal transport through innovating solutions - <http://www.unece.org/trans/wp24/wp24-themes/2016.html>

II. Proposed theme

3. At the current session, WP.24 is invited to endorse its Economic Commission for Europe Handbook for national master plans for freight transport and logistics (Informal document WP.24 No. 5 (2020), ECE/TRANS/WP.24/2020/6 and ECE/TRANS/WP.24/2020/7). Given the availability of the Handbook, and more importantly

a comprehensive list of actions recommended therein to develop freight transport and logistics in a sustainable way, WP.24 may wish to hold next one to two annual workshops (i.e. in 2021 and possibly also in 2022) in support of the implementation of these actions in the ECE countries (workshops in support of the sustainable development of intermodal transport and logistics).

4. To this end, WP.24 may wish to consider if the next workshops would focus on sharing of experience from the implementation of specific actions, as recommended in the Handbook, and an assessment of the action's impact on the development of the sector.

5. WP.24 could agree on actions for presentation and discussion at the subsequent workshop and identify and invite countries to present their actions.

6. WP.24 may then further extend the discussion to actions in other areas of relevance to the development of intermodal transport and logistics, in particular if such are connected to the actions targeted for the workshop.

7. For example, action aimed at making transport systems (assets and operations) resilient to the impacts from climate change may be considered in connection with actions such as:

(B) Infrastructure and networks:

- Removal of missing links;
- Infrastructure development at major locations for intermodal transport;
- Traffic monitoring and upgrade of infrastructure; and

(D) Strategic geographical location:

- Sustained high-level cooperation and collaboration for maintaining effective connectivity along corridors.

8. WP.24 may wish to consider that the Group of Experts on Assessment of Climate Change Impacts and Adaptation for Inland Transport agreed to hold workshops, when appropriate in partnership with other intergovernmental bodies, to dialogue about the needs of various audiences on how to integrate climate change considerations in transport planning and operational processes. The Group of Experts is interested in identifying such needs in order to prepare guidance targeted at various audiences for addressing climate change impacts on transport in order to avoid major damage or disruption to transport assets or operations.

9. WP.24 may wish to partner with the Group of Experts and hold a joint workshop to dialogue on the needs for integrating climate change considerations for intermodal transport and logistics in support of making intermodal transport and logistics more resilient to climate change.

10. WP.24 may also wish in such a workshop to focus on actions from the Handbook, whose implementation helps to mitigate climate change. These actions most of all prioritize intermodality as a solution to cut on externalities caused by freight transport.

11. Given that WP.24 would be interested in holding its future one to two annual workshops on sustainable development of intermodal transport and logistics building on the Handbook, and given the interests in partnering with the Group of Experts, as mentioned above, WP.24 may wish to agree for the workshop on selecting (a) actions linked to resilient transport infrastructure or operations as well as to climate mitigation, and (b) invite individual countries with experience in this work to share it in the workshop.