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Economic Commission for Europe

Inland Transport Committee

Working Party on Transport Trends and Economics

Group of Experts on Assessment of Climate Change Impacts and Adaptation for Inland Transport

Twenty-fifth session

Geneva, 30 and 31 October 2023

Item 1 of the provisional agenda

Adoption of the agenda

Annotated provisional agenda for the twenty-fifth session*

to be held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva starting at 10:00 a.m. on Monday,
30 October, Room IX, Palais des Nations

I. Provisional agenda

1. Adoption of the agenda.
2. Initiatives in climate change impact assessment and adaptation for inland transport.
3. Climate change and transport assets data.
4. National and sub-national projects on climate change impact assessment and transport asset adaptation needs.
5. Database on adaptation measures.
6. Guidelines for integrating climate change considerations in planning and operational processes.
7. Other business.
8. Date and place of next meeting.

* For reasons of economy, delegates are requested to bring copies of all relevant documents to the session. There will be no documentation available in the conference room. Before the session, documents may be downloaded from the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe Transport Division's website (www.unece.org/trans/main/wp5/wp5.html). On an exceptional basis, documents may also be obtained by e-mail (maria.mostovets@un.org).

Delegates (including those holding long-duration badge) are requested to register online at: <https://indico.un.org/event/1002233/> and delegates who do not hold a long-term access badge should obtain an identification badge at the UNOG Security and Safety Section, located at the Pregny Gate (14, Avenue de la Paix). In case of difficulty, please contact by telephone the ECE secretariat (internal extension 75975). For a map of the Palais des Nations and other useful information, see www.unece.org/meetings/practical.html.



9. Summary of main decisions.

II. Annotations

1. Adoption of the agenda

The Group of Experts on Assessment of Climate Change Impacts and Adaptation for Inland Transport (GE.3) is invited to adopt its agenda as contained in ECE/TRANS/WP.5/GE.3/49.

Documentation

ECE/TRANS/WP.5/GE.3/49

2. Initiatives in climate change impact assessment and adaptation for inland transport

GE.3 is expected to continue its discussion on initiatives in climate change impact assessment and adaptation for inland transport with a view to understand if any approaches, tools and/or methodologies are being developed that could be integrated by GE.3 in its work.

In this regard, the International Union of Railways (UIC) may wish to update GE.3 about new developments in the project 'Resilient Railways facing Climate Change: Heavy Rains (ReRa-Rain)'.

World Association for Waterborne Transport Infrastructure (PIANC) and United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) may wish to present on any new developments in its work on adaptation of transport to climate change.

University of Aegean may provide updates, if any, on new research on impacts from climate change on inland transport.

GE.3 should also discuss the possibility of using Global Warming Levels (GWL) in its analysis of climate impacts on transport. To facilitate this discussion, good practice in GWL application on a regional scale should be presented, as far as possible.

GE.3 should then further to its discussion at the previous session on the annotated outline for the final report, consider specific outlines for chapters on (a) policies and legislation, (b) methodologies for assessing climate hazard, and (c) effective adaptation proposed respectively by UNCTAD, Climate Sense and PIANC.

Informal document WP.5/GE.3 (2023) No. 5 contains these specific outlines together with updated annotated outline for full final report based on changes made at the twenty-fifth session.

GE.3 may then draw up a timetable for the elaboration of the final report based on the agreed outline.

Documentation

Informal document WP.5/GE.3 (2023) No. 5

3. Climate change and transport assets data

GE.3 agreed to start elaboration of maps presenting projections depicting the future changes for the following indices by using the same methods as in ECE/TRANS/283:

- High temperatures: annual count of days when daily maximum temperature is greater than 25, 32 and 43°C.
- Heavy precipitation: annual count of days with daily precipitation greater than 50, 100 and 150mm and annual count of days with 3-day precipitation greater than 50, 100 and 150mm.

- Wind gust: annual count of days with a wind gust exceeding 17m/s

Ms. M. Tomaszkiwicz (United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia) and the secretariat will present maps developed with the projections.

GE.3 will be invited to analyse these maps in particular how the thresholds of weather phenomena are changing due to changing climate, and whether it wishes to pursue its discussion about elaboration of a guide or a note on how the changes in thresholds influence existing infrastructure construction standards and/or policies.

GE.3 should then, further to its request made at the previous session, consider proposals from the Birmingham University concerning (a) applicability of data model for wind-related delays as developed in the United Kingdom, and (b) catalogue of wind impacts.

Documentation

ECE/TRANS/283

4. National and sub-national projects on climate change impact assessment and transport asset adaptation needs

Experts are invited to inform about their national or sub-national concluded, ongoing or planned projects on climate change impact assessment and transport asset adaptation needs.

5. Database on adaptation measures

Further to the discussion at the previous session and a conclusion that GE.3 would find it interesting if collected case studies in the 2022 World Road Association (PIARC) report could be reviewed from the angle of return of investment on adaptation with the view to work out concrete examples of return of investments from adaptation, PIARC may wish to update GE.3 if any review was undertaken, and if so, what are the results.

PIARC may also wish to report if any collection of information on maladaptation was done and assessed.

GE.3 should then review and may endorse the updated guidance on adaption pathways in the transport sector based on comments provided at the last session and in writing. The background information to the guidance is contained in ECE/TRANS/WP.5/GE.3/2023/1 while ECE/TRANS/WP.5/GE.3/2023/2 introduces the guidance.

GE.3 may then wish to consider ways for applying the guidance in case studies for a specific transport asset. To this end, experts are requested to explore interest of transport asset managers in their countries in applying the guidance prior to the session.

Documentation

ECE/TRANS/WP.5/GE.3/2023/1; ECE/TRANS/WP.5/GE.3/2023/2

6. Guidelines for integrating climate change considerations in planning and operational processes

GE.3 encourages holding workshops with the aim to raise awareness on the importance of adaptation of transport systems to climate change. These workshops should help collect information on the needs of transport professionals for guidance, as appropriate, to assist them in better integrating climate change adaptation considerations in transport planning and operational processes.

In this regard, France and the secretariat will report to GE.3 about the Conference for the Mediterranean region which took place in Marseille on 15 and 16 May 2023.

PIARC and secretariat will also report on the Foresight session on Stress tests as tools to assess the resilience of road asset to climate change hazard held during the PIARC XXVII World Road Congress in Prague on 6 October 2023.

GE.3 will be also invited to endorse the framework for transport system stress test to climate change hazard. The updated framework based on comments provided at the last session and in writing is contained in ECE/TRANS/WP.5/GE.3/2023/3.

GE.3 may also consider ways for applying the framework for conducting specific transport asset stress tests and prepare case studies which would describe the test and its results. To this end, experts are requested to explore interest of transport asset managers in their countries in conducting asset stress tests.

GE.3 should then discuss progress made in the development of a guide for assessing transport asset criticality based on the outline agreed at the previous session. Informal document WP.5/GE.3 (2023) No. 6 contains the draft guide.

GE.3 will be also apprised by the secretariat on the initial analysis done on the data collected through the surveys on impacts of climate/weather related events on transport infrastructure (road and rail). Informal document WP.5/GE.3 (2023) No. 7 contains this initial analysis. Based on this document, GE.3 may wish to discuss how to use this information for elaborating a guide or material on how to systematically register costs and how to improve available data to link them to source/cause so that it can be distinguished what was the regular and what was the extraordinary cost item.

Documentation

ECE/TRANS/WP.5/GE.3/2023/3; Informal document WP.5/GE.3 (2023) No. 6; Informal document WP.5/GE.3 (2023) No. 7

7. Other business

At the time of preparing the agenda no issues have been raised under this item.

8. Date and place of next meeting

The secretariat will inform GE.3 about the date and place for the twenty-sixth session.

9. Summary of main decisions

In accordance with established practice, the Chair will briefly summarize the decisions taken. Following the session, the Secretary, in cooperation with the Chair and Vice-Chair(s), will prepare the final report.
