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Working Party on Intermodal Transport and Logistics

Sixty-first session

Geneva, 19-21 November 2018

Item 5 of the provisional agenda

Code of Practice for Packing of Cargo Transport Units

Terms of Reference of the ECE Group of Experts on IMO/ILO/UNECE Code of Practice for Packing of Cargo Transport Units (CTU Code)

Note by the secretariat

I. Scope of issues and achievements expected

1. In line with the decision of the Inland Transport Committee (ECE/TRANS/274 para 71) on 20/23 February 2018, as well as with the current version of the Code of Practice for Packing of Cargo Transport Units prepared by IMO/ILO/UNECE in 2014, the Group during its mandate will focus its work on the following issues:

(a) Enhance the provisions of the CTU Code on the necessary technical requirements (for instance transportation by containers by rail) in order to ensure if possible completion of those requirements;

(b) Examine all possible options and identify and analyse the most efficient and convenient one in order to prepare an electronic version of the CTU Code that would be:

1. Source / library of different case studies (good practices / incidents);
2. Source of statistics / data not only regarding the use of the code but also on the reasons why the code is being used and by whom;
3. A mechanism that automatically updates/ suggests updates of the technical requirements based on good practices implemented;
4. A daily tool for the market (i.e smartphone application);

II. Methods of work

2. The Group of Experts will be established and function in accordance with the ECE guidelines for teams of specialists approved by the Executive Committee of ECE on 31 March 2010 (ECE/EX/2/Rev.1). At its first meeting, the Group of Experts will adopt a work plan, clearly defining its objectives and activities, including a time schedule for their implementation.

3. The Group of Experts is expected to meet twice in 2019, at least three times in 2020 and at least two times in 2021 at the Palais des Nations in Geneva, before concluding its activities with the transmission of a report to the Working Party on Intermodal Transport and Logistics at its sixty fourth session (November 2021, Geneva). This report shall also contain proposals for monitoring procedures and follow-up activities.

4. Translation of documents and simultaneous interpretation of its sessions in English, French, and Russian shall be provided by United Nations services (UNOG) for the sessions held at the Palais des Nations in Geneva.

5. Participation in the Group of Experts is open to all concerned United Nations member countries and experts. Concerned intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, concerned railway companies, freight and forwarding industries are invited to participate and provide expert advice in compliance with United Nations rules and practices.

III. Secretariat

6. ECE will provide secretariat services for the Group of Experts and shall ensure close cooperation with all stakeholders, including the International Maritime Organization (IMO), the International Labour Organization (ILO), the European Commission and concerned regional commissions of the United Nations.
