

Discussion Document for the Program of Work of the Working Party on Automated/Autonomous and Connected Vehicles (GRVA)

In preparation for this first session of the new Working Party, the United States of America (U.S.), as a Contracting Party (CP) to the 1998 Global Agreement, under the World Forum for Harmonization of Vehicle Regulations (WP.29), appreciates the opportunity to put forth this discussion paper. The paper is intended to outline many of the considerations and issues that need to be resolved for the work of this new body to satisfy the WP.29 mandate.

As agreed at the June 2018 WP.29 meeting, all work on automated/autonomous and connected vehicles will be conducted under the auspices of the 1998 Agreement. The parties will also ensure that all 1998 signatories are aware of the activities underway and are given the opportunity to review and participate in these discussions. Finally, the new structure will be reviewed in June 2019.

Discussion Points

A. Developing the Program of Work for GRVA

1. As interest in the activity of this new GR is high among many of the stakeholders of the World Forum, the most inclusive approach is to work collectively under the 1998 Agreement.
2. WP.29 agreed that this approach is the best way forward.
3. With the establishment of the new GR, it is likely that new CP's and other stakeholder will engage in this effort to a greater extent than the past and should be given ample opportunity to make important contributions.

B. Managing Existing Work

1. There currently are several established Informal Working Groups (IWG), Task Forces, and Sub-Groups that are active in cyber security and OTA; certification, audit, and real world test drive procedures; and automated steering.

2. The work of some of these groups appears to have been focused on delivering text written specifically for application under the 1958 Agreement, and solely as a regulation. Given the approach adopted by WP.29, there is a need to re-focus the work to be suitable for adoption under the 1998 Agreement and leave open the decision whether to implement the work as regulation, guidelines or best practices.

3. To accomplish this refocus, the widest possible group of CPs and other stakeholders should be given the opportunity to participate in the IWG meetings. To enable that, teleconference availability, adequate meeting room size, and location selection should be a priority agenda item for discussion during each formal session of GRVA.

4. As an example, under point number B.3. above, the IWG on Cyber Security has been planning to complete two documents for approval by WP.29 at its November WP.29 session. However, as currently written, neither document is suitable for adoption under the 1998 Agreement. For one of these, the OTA software update document, the U.S. has volunteered to offer revisions that are likely needed to make the document suitable for adoption under the 1998 Agreement. Further, our initial review shows that some of the requirements/elements of that document, as currently drafted, may create unintended consequences, regardless of whether the document were to be adopted under the 1958 Agreement or 1998 Agreement.
