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Inland Transport Committee

Eighty-first session

Geneva, 19-22 February 2019

Item 2 of the provisional agenda

Policy oriented segment: Automation in Transport

Draft Ministerial Resolution on Enhancing cooperation, harmonization and integration in the era of transport digitalization and automation

Note by the secretariat

1. In 2019, the Inland Transport Committee's high-level policy segment will be on "*Automation in Transport*", a critical component of its strategy until 2030. This theme will create space for reflection of the Committee's past achievements, current endeavours and future trajectory, highlighting its value added and underlining its future potential contribution.
2. At the end of the high-level policy segment, 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 Digitalization and Automation*".
3. The resolution, developed by the secretariat in consultation with the Bureau of the Inland Transport Committee and with the participation and inputs of UNECE member-States and States that are Contracting Parties to the UN Transport Conventions under the purview of the Committee, is intended to highlight 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 Goals.
4. The resolution is Annex to the present document.

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Annex

Draft Ministerial Resolution on Enhancing cooperation, harmonization and integration in the era of transport digitalization and automation

We, the Ministers and their representatives {of NAMES OF STATES} attending the eighty-first plenary session of the Inland Transport Committee,

Fully aware of the new era in international cooperation, marked by the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals,

Recalling General Assembly Resolutions 72/271 on road safety, 72/212 on intermodality and 70/197 on connectivity and corridors,

Affirming our commitment to implement the 2017 Ministerial Resolution on “Embracing the new era for sustainable inland transport and mobility”, and in particular decision 7, endorsed on the occasion of the seventieth anniversary of the Inland Transport Committee,

Bearing in mind the Ministerial Declaration on “Inland Navigation in a Global Setting”, in particular Strategic Action 22, adopted at the International Ministerial Conference on Inland Water Transport, held on 18 and 19 April 2018, in Wroclaw, Poland,

Acknowledging the unique role of the Inland Transport Committee as the specialized intergovernmental body for inland transport and as the centre of United Nations conventions that provide the platform that forms the international regulatory framework for inland transport and thus a key actor to achieve globally interoperable solutions for future transport,

Recognizing that digitalization, including of transport documents, the availability and exchange of essential data without compromising business secrets, and the deployment of new technologies, such as intelligent transport systems, automated driving, e-navigation and smart shipping, taking into account the e-navigation strategy and activities to enable maritime automation in the International Maritime Organization (IMO), improve the efficiency of transport and should therefore be accelerated,

Recognizing also that the accelerated, efficient and safe development and use of cutting-edge technology undergirds the strategic rethinking of the work of the Committee,

Aware that harnessing the full advantages of technological innovations and changes, while maintaining future-readiness, requires global interoperability and technology neutrality delivered through appropriate harmonized national and international regulatory frameworks and common specifications as well as facilitating exchange of decentralized transport data,

Recognizing that technical harmonization and common specifications for performance and availability of essential data are key factors in facilitating the interoperability of intelligent transport systems, thus paving the way for seamless mobility of people and goods between countries, reducing administrative barriers and promoting multimodality,

Aware that the effective development and successful deployment of digital solutions for transport require cross-sectoral, intermodal and multi-stakeholder collaboration, and appropriate intergovernmental platforms that facilitate that collaboration,

Recognizing the global relevance of the work of the Committee and its subsidiary bodies,

Acknowledging the Committee as a unique United Nations centre providing comprehensive regional and global platforms for the consideration of all aspects of inland transport development and cooperation, including digitalization of transport documents and data, and automation,

Decide to:

1. *Reaffirm* our commitment to strengthen the role of the Inland Transport Committee as the United Nations platform for inland transport and, therefore, to support the development, use and safe integration in transport systems of digital and other relevant technologies and innovations in all transport modes and in particular in the areas of TIR, CMR and AETR, and in general of transport data and documents, automated/autonomous and connected vehicles, e-navigation, river information services, and Intelligent Transport Systems, including smart infrastructure and smart mobility, as a main pillar of the Committee's Strategy until 2030,¹ thus improving traffic safety, environmental performance and efficient provision of transport and mobility services;

2. *Express* our resolve to ensure that the Committee's relevant regulatory functions, its greatest asset and top priority, keep pace with the cutting-edge technologies supporting transport innovation and remain open, inclusive and available to all United Nations Member States;

3. *Urge* Member States to promote the full use of information and communication technologies in inland transport, with particular emphasis on the computerization of procedures established under the United Nations transport conventions administered by the Committee and its subsidiary bodies, and to strengthen cooperation with International Financial Institutions to attract funding for innovative project;

4. *Pledge* to work towards the full implementation of the e-TIR system, the rapid entry into force of Annex 11 to the Customs Convention on the International Transport of Goods under Cover of TIR Carnets (TIR Convention), including by ensuring the required financing for and implementation of eTIR at the national level, and to promote accession to and the operationalization of e-CMR;

5. *Express* our conviction that harmonization, supported by common specifications and transparency of the criteria for decision-making on automated/autonomous and connected vehicles, is the cornerstone of trusted and interoperable transport systems, and that the greater use of new technologies in inland transport has vast potential to provide solutions that improve efficiency, prevent road accidents, increase intermodality and reduce pollution and greenhouse gases.

¹ ECE/TRANS/2019/R.1.