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Economic Commission for Europe**Inland Transport Committee****Working Party on Rail Transport****Group of Experts towards Unified Railway Law****Twentieth session**

Geneva, 9–11 July 2019

Item 2 (c) of the provisional agenda

Scope of URL and its conversion into a legally-binding instrument**Draft preamble****Note by the secretariat**

At its nineteenth session, the Group of Experts towards Unified Railway Law (Group of Experts) requested the secretariat to prepare a document which would contain the draft preamble for Unified Railway Law needed for converting it into a legally-binding instrument.

The secretariat prepared the current document containing such a draft preamble.

The Group of Experts is invited to consider the draft preamble and modify and/or expand it as necessary to make it best respond to the core provisions of the Unified Railway Law.

“The States that are parties to this Convention, hereinafter referred to as the “Parties”,

Conscious of the need to facilitate international transport by rail,

Conscious of the rapid increase in east-west transport by rail and the need to increase the market share of rail transport to reduce the environmental impact of freight transport by easing the administrative and contractual barriers that exist in the sector.

Considering that in order to facilitate such transport, it is essential to standardize the conditions for governing the contract of international carriage of goods by rail, particularly with respect to the documents used for such a carriage and to the carrier’s liability,

Considering that it is also essential to [expand on another issue covered],

Noting the importance of increasing the competitiveness of rail transport vis-à-vis other transport modes,

Have agreed upon the following provisions/Have agreed as follows:”
