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Working Party on Road Traffic Safety

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Item 9 of the provisional agenda

Programme of work, 2014–2018 and biennial evaluation

Programme of work, 2014–2018

Note by the secretariat¹

1. The Working Party on Road Traffic Safety (WP.1) approved its previous programme of work at the sixty-second session in 2011 (ECE/TRANS/WP.1/133 and ECE/TRANS/WP.1/2011/7).
2. The Working Party may wish to examine and revise its draft programme of work for 2014-2018 and, in particular, the continued relevance of priorities assigned to individual work elements and the expected outputs identified for this period.

Draft Programme of Work for 2014-2018

Programme activity 02.15: ROAD TRAFFIC SAFETY

Description:

Mindful of the worldwide scope of its work, the Working Party on Road Traffic Safety (WP.1) will examine issues and adopt measures aimed at improving road traffic safety. To this end, it will consider, inter alia, the implementation of the Conventions on Road Traffic and on Road Signs and Signals, 1968, and the European Agreements of 1971 supplementing them and elaborate proposals for updating these legal instruments as well as the Consolidated Resolutions on Road Traffic and on Road Signs and Signals (R.E.1 and R.E.2). WP.1 will also seek to promote the global application of its work and adapt itself to the dynamics of road safety by including in its debates more policy-related issues. WP.1

¹ The UNECE Transport Division has submitted the present document after the official document deadline due to resource constraints.

will also develop activities to promote road traffic safety awareness in the framework of the UN Decade of Action for Road Safety (2011-2020).

Work to be undertaken: The Working Party on Road Traffic Safety will pursue the following activities:

Continuing Activities

- (a) Encouraging accession to and effective implementation of the Conventions on Road Traffic and on Road Signs and Signals, 1968, and the European Agreements of 1971 supplementing them and the Protocol on Road Markings, and elaboration of amendment proposals to these legal instruments with a view to strengthening and harmonizing road safety standards.

Priority: 1

Output expected:

- Consideration and/or adoption where appropriate of new amendment proposals to the above instruments concerning, inter alia, the relationship between the Convention on Road Traffic, 1968 and UNECE Vehicle Technical Regulations, and possibly the relevant security measures concerning road traffic recommended by the Multidisciplinary Group of Experts on Inland Transport Security.
- Dissemination of the consolidated versions of the Conventions on Road Traffic and on Road Signs and Signals, 1968, in all official United Nations languages.
- Dissemination of the published Consolidated Resolutions on Road Traffic (R.E.1) and on Road Signs and Signals (R.E.2).

Priority: 1

- (b) Publication of the two resolutions in an attractive and modern format and wide dissemination, with priority to the UN Regional Economic Commissions;

Priority: 3

- (c) Definition and implementation of a well-functioning implementation monitoring mechanism for the Conventions on Road Traffic and on Road Signs and Signals, 1968.

Priority: 1

- (d) Definition of a mechanism of inquiry with the Contracting Parties to the Convention on Road Traffic, 1949, in order to identify their possible difficulties in ratifying acceding to and implementing the 1968 Conventions and design support measures for the Contracting Parties to be in a position to overcome such difficulties.

Priority: 1

- (e) Further promotion and strengthening international, national and regional cooperation amongst competent authorities involved in road traffic safety, within the framework of the Decade of Action for Road Safety (2011-2020), proclaimed by UN General Assembly resolution 64/255 of March 2010. To this end, continue to make full use of the findings of the project "Improving global road safety: setting regional and national road traffic casualty reduction targets", funded by the United Nations Development Account, as well as all ongoing Road Safety studies and those undertaken in the previous years.

Priority: 1

- (f) Exchange of information on national road safety programmes, in particular taking into account means and mechanisms of financing of road safety activities, under the Decade of Action for Road Safety cluster of activities.

Priority: 1

- (g) Exchange of information on road safety regulations and requirements in force in member States and circulation of such information.

Priority: 2

Output expected:

An updated set of tables reflecting current national road traffic safety requirements, national legal instruments and national methods of training and follow-up for categories A and B driving licences. Possible addition of new tables dealing, for example, with complementary safety equipment required on board vehicles as well as issuance of information regarding road safety campaigns conducted by member countries.

- (h) Assisting countries in transition and developing countries in the establishment of sound and up-to-date traffic safety practices and procedures.

Priority: 2

Output expected:

Replies to requests for technical assistance from other regional commissions or their member countries.

- (i) Encouraging the establishment by Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA), Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) and Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) of Regional Road Safety Groups, following (working structures similar to those of WP.1), aimed at bringing member States closer and improving collaboration between all the road safety stakeholders in that specific their respective regions.

Priority: 3

- (j) Considering the development of a draft legal instrument on road traffic safety, open to worldwide participation, covering actual and measurable needs, that are not currently dealt with by other (existing) instruments.

Priority: 2

- (k) Consideration of selected timely topics related to road safety in the form of an in-depth discussions based on papers prepared by experts and undertaking appropriate follow-up action with a view to finding concerted solutions to the most urgent problems in the field of traffic safety in view of the increased demand for road safety solutions under the UN Decade of Action for Road Safety.

Priority: 1

Activities of limited duration

- (l) Regular and coordinated organization of high visibility/ high impact road safety campaigns and events aimed at awareness raising, with the cooperation of member States and other international and regional governmental and non-governmental organizations.

Priority: 1

- (m) Establishment of a new Group of Experts on Safety at Level Crossings and of a new Expert Group on Road Signs and Signals.

Priority: 1

Outputs Expected:

Description, assessment and better understanding of the safety issues at a road/rail interface as well as development of a multi-disciplinary strategic plan aimed at reducing the risk of death and/or injury at level crossings.

Description, analysis and better understanding of the issues related to uniform interpretation and a more effective implementation of the 1968 Convention on Road Signs and Signals and the 1971 European Agreement supplementing the 1968 Convention on Road Signs and Signals.

- (n) Encouraging Contracting Parties to UNECE Conventions from outside the UNECE region to attend WP.1 and participate actively in the activities of the United Nations Road Safety Collaboration.

Priority: 1

- (o) Encouraging additional countries outside of the UNECE region to accede to the UNECE road safety conventions.

Priority: 1

