



**Thematic Working Group on Sustainable Transport, Transit and
Connectivity (TWG-STTC)**

22nd Session
1-2 November 2017
Astana, Kazakhstan

PROGRAMME OF WORK 2018-2019
(Item 5 of the Agenda)

Note by the UNECE / UNESCAP

1. This document presents the draft Programme of Work 2018-2019 of the SPECA Thematic Working Group on Sustainable Transport, Transit and Connectivity (TWG-STTC).
2. The draft Programme of Work 2018-2019 has been prepared by UNECE/UNESCAP in line with the Vienna Programme of Action (2014), the Ministerial Declaration on Sustainable Transport Connectivity in Asia and the Pacific (2016) and the recommendations on 11th SPECA Governing Council (2016).

Issues for consideration

At its twenty-second session in Astana, Kazakhstan, the TWG-STTC is invited to:

- (a) Review and, if necessary, modify the Draft Work Programme 2018-2019;
- (b) Adopt the Programme.

Background

3. As stated in the previous Programmes of Work, SPECA TWG-STTC the following activities were implemented:

- Support SPECA member States in accession and efficient implementation of UN Transport Legal Instruments to facilitate sub-regional and international land transport (e.g. legal instruments recommended by ESCAP resolution 48/11, agreements on Asian Highway, Trans-Asian Railway and Dry Ports)
- Oversee the implementation of transport-related activities and initiatives at national and sub-regional level, including development of road and railway networks, dry ports/intermodal terminals as well as facilitate intermodal transport in SPECA member States;
- Support the establishment and operation of national coordinating mechanisms for transport facilitation.
- Assist in identification and elimination of major bottlenecks (both physical and non-physical) along international transport routes in SPECA region and beyond.
- Facilitate the development of the SPECA TWG special database on transport and border crossing activities for the SPECA member States as well as collection of transport statistics.
- Promote public-private partnerships in the SPECA region
- Work towards improving road safety to reduce road traffic fatalities and casualties in the SPECA region.

4. Based on the 10th SPECA Governing Council decision, the Thematic Working Group on Sustainable Transport, Transit and Connectivity will serve as a platform for supporting the efforts of SPECA member States towards achieving the transport-related Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and targets. Although transport activities span across a number of SDGs and the work of UNECE and UNESCAP have a direct impact on most of the SDGs, the TWG-STTC will mostly focus on the following transport-related SDGs:

- a) **Goal 3.** Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages (Road Safety)
- b) **Goal 9.** Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation (Sustainable infrastructure)
- c) **Goal 11.** Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable (Sustainable (urban) transport for all)

Other SDGs and targets (e.g. Goal 7, 8 and 12) will be taken into account based on a SPECA member States special request.

4. In relation to SDGs, the TWG will: support the efforts of SPECA member States to implement the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda, facilitate regional transport cooperation in SDGs implementation and collection and dissemination of transport statistics for SDGs monitoring. This could be achieved through exchange of best practices and experiences, consultation, TWG-STTC activities and implementation of transport projects, when possible, in line with relevant SDGs and targets to contribute to the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda.

5. In order to build on the previous experiences and take into account the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda, it is proposed to merge together actions stated in the SPECA TWG-STTC Terms of Reference with SDGs in the Programme of Work 2018-2019.

DRAFT PROGRAMME OF WORK 2018-2019

In line with the Vienna Programme of Action (2014), the Ministerial Declaration on Sustainable Transport Connectivity in Asia and the Pacific (2016) and the recommendations of 11th SPECA Governing Council (2016)

1. Organization of regular sessions of SPECA PWG-TBC

Activity 1.1 The SPECA member States will host the twenty third and twenty fourth sessions of SPECA TWG-STTC with assistance of UNECE/ UNESCAP. The TWG-STTC agreed that venue and date of the next meeting will be decided at the later stage.

2. Development and implementation of sub-regional transport projects of common interest to SPECA member States

Activity 2.1 Subject to funding availability, SPECA member States and UNESCAP/UNECE/NIITK develop/implement sub-regional transport projects of common interest.

3. Enhancement of legal frameworks for efficient sub-regional and international transport, transit and connectivity

Activity 3.1 SPECA members States take necessary actions to implement the ESCAP Resolution 73/4 of 22 May 2017 on the Implementation of the Ministerial Declaration on Sustainable Transport Connectivity in Asia and the Pacific, including the Regional Action Programme for Sustainable Transport Connectivity in Asia and the Pacific, phase I (2017-2021) adopted at the Third Session of the Ministerial Conference on Transport held on 5-9 December 2016 in Moscow, Russian Federation;

Activity 3.2 UNECE/UNESCAP provide technical assistance to SPECA member States, upon request, in the form of workshops, seminars or advisory services, on accession to, and implementation of major UN transport legal instruments.

Activity 3.3 SPECA member States take steps to accede to and efficiently implement UN transport legal instruments, recommended for accession at the 2nd session of SPECA TWG-STTC, as well as Conventions relating to transport of dangerous goods and perishable foodstuffs.

Activity 3.4 SPECA member States take policy measures for transport facilitation in line with the Regional Strategic Framework for the Facilitation of International Road Transport and Regional Cooperation Framework for the Facilitation of International Railway Transport.

Activity 3.5 UNESCAP organize meetings of the Working Groups on the Asian Highway, Trans-Asian Railway Networks and Dry Ports and SPECA countries contribute to their work to ensure coordinated development of each of the networks.

Activity 3.6 SPECA member States, which have not already done so, take measures towards becoming parties to or implementing the Intergovernmental Agreement on the Asian Highway Network, the Intergovernmental Agreement on the Trans-Asian Railway Network and Intergovernmental Agreement on Dry Ports and actively participate in the ESCAP's activities related to the development of these networks;

Activity 3.7 SPECA member States, with technical assistance from the ESCAP secretariat, consider becoming parties to the Intergovernmental Agreement on International Road Transport along the Asian Highway Network signed by China, Mongolia and the Russian Federation on 8 December 2016 during Third Session of the Ministerial Conference on Transport. Once in force, the agreement will be open for accession by other Asian Highway member countries.

Activity 3.8 Provide the text of agreements, additions, corrections or updates to the Database of Agreements on International Road Transport was developed by UNESCAP Transport Division.

Activity 3.9 SPECA member States, which have not already done so, are encouraged sign/accede to key UNECE infrastructure agreements (AGR, AGC and AGTC) and participate in the relevant Working Groups.

4. Assistance to SPECA member States in developing the mechanism for monitoring SDGs achievement and development and maintenance of SPECA TWG-STTC databases on transport indicators.

Activity 4.1 UNESCAP/UNECE/MID RK/Research Institute on Transport and Communications of Kazakhstan (NIITK) establish and maintain the databases with inputs of necessary data/information from SPECA member States (indicators related to road routes of international importance; rail routes of international importance; intermodal transport infrastructure and border crossing). Interaction between UNESCAP/UNECE/MID RK/Research Institute on Transport and Communications of Kazakhstan (NIITK) is strengthened and information on progress made on the development of Geospatial Data (GIS database) by UNESCAP is shared with SPECA member States.

Activity 4.2 SPECA member States provide data and national focal points for the relevant WebCoQ jointly managed by UNECE/EUROSTAT/ITF.

Activity 4.3 UNECE/UNESCAP provide technical assistance to SPECA member States, upon request, in collection and harmonization of data related to SDGs achievement.

5. Identification and isolation of major bottlenecks impeding smooth and efficient international transport in the SPECA region (SDG 9)

Activity 5.1 Subject to availability of resources, UNECE/UNESCAP provide technical assistance to SPECA member States upon request in identifying/isolating/addressing major bottlenecks for sub-regional and international inland transport within the framework of the results of the EATL project.

Activity 5.2 SPECA countries take measures for the application of UNESCAP transport facilitation models, namely the Time/Cost-Distance Methodology; the Secure Cross-border Transport Model; the Model on Integrated Controls at Border Crossings: simplified and streamlined procedures at border crossings; the Efficient Cross-border Transport Model; the model bilateral agreement on international road transport; the model sub-regional agreement on transport facilitation; the model multilateral permit for international road transport; and the standard model of logistics information systems. A reference to the UNECE/OSCE handbook on best practices at border crossings – a trade and transport facilitation perspective should be made.

6. Increased international and SPECA sub-regional collaboration to promote investment in transport infrastructure (SDG 9)

Activity 6.1 SPECA member States actively participate in the meetings of the UNECE Inland Transport Committee and its subsidiary bodies, UNESCAP Committee on Transport, Asian Forum of Ministers of Transport, and other international fora that will assist the global integration of the SPECA region transport systems as well as harmonization with existing international standards, norms, agreements and conventions.

Activity 6.2 SPECA member States regularly report on transport infrastructure developments and operations, including those within the SPECA region and those linking to neighboring member States. SPECA member States are advised to use results of the Euro Asian Transport links project Phase III.

Activity 6.3 SPECA member States take steps to ensure sufficient fund allocation for transport infrastructure development and maintenance and to improve business environment for strengthened public-private partnership in transport infrastructure development.

Activity 6.4 National transport planning authorities in the SPECA member States develop national transport infrastructure in accordance with the Intergovernmental Agreements on Asian Highway, Trans-Asian Railway Networks and Dry Ports, as well as the Infrastructure agreements under the purview of the ITC (AGR, AGC and AGTC) as a priority.

7. Establishment or strengthening of national facilitation coordinating mechanisms for improved collaboration between all stakeholders involved in international transport, both public and private sectors

Activity 7.1 UNESCAP/UNECE provide technical assistance to SPECA member States, upon request, in the form of workshops, seminars or advisory services, in establishing or strengthening national facilitation coordinating mechanisms.

8. Simplification/harmonization of border-crossing procedures and documentation for international transport and the application of new technologies

Activity 8.1 UNECE/UNESCAP provide technical support to the SPECA member States, upon request, in the simplification/harmonization of border-crossing procedures and documentation for international transport and the application of new technologies, including information and communication technology. The transport facilitation frameworks/models/tools developed by UNESCAP, could serve as a reference in that respect.

Activity 8.2 SPECA member States take an active part in the work carried out towards unified railway law, on the basis of Joint Declaration on the promotion of Euro-Asian rail transport and activities towards unified railway law, signed in Geneva on 26 February 2013.

9. Increased awareness and understanding of road safety issues and potential interventions, and improved collaboration in the SPECA region (SDG 3)

Activity 9.1 SPECA member States take steps to address road safety issues in line with Decade of Action for Road Safety 2011-2020, including Regional Road Safety Goals and Targets for Asia and the Pacific 2016-2020 adopted at the Third Session of the Ministerial Conference on Transport. SPECA member States are encouraged to use results of the “SafeFITS” and “Strengthening of the national road safety management capacities of selected developing member States and member States with economies in transition” projects. SPECA member States are invited to volunteer for preparation of Road Safety Performance Review (RSPR). Subject to availability of resources, UNECE will provide technical assistance to SPECA member States in RSPR preparation.

Activity 9.2. UNECE/UNESCAP provide technical assistance to SPECA member States in supporting their efforts to improve road safety and in setting regional/national goals, targets and indicators on road safety, improving vehicle safety and safety of vulnerable road users, based on the best practice and existing UN legal instruments.
