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

22<sup>nd</sup> Session  
1-2 November 2017  
Astana, Kazakhstan

**CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS  
OF THE 22<sup>nd</sup> SESSION OF THE SPECA THEMATIC WORKING GROUP ON  
SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORT, TRANSIT AND CONNECTIVITY<sup>1</sup>**

1-2 November 2017  
Astana, Kazakhstan

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<sup>1</sup> This report has been issued without formal editing

## CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Following the presentation and consideration of the session documents as stipulated in the Agenda of the 22<sup>nd</sup> session of SPECA Thematic Working Group on Sustainable Transport, Transit and Connectivity (TWG-STTC), the Thematic Working Group adopted the following conclusions and recommendations:

1. The TWG adopted the report of its 21<sup>st</sup> session.
2. The TWG encouraged those SPECA States which have not already done so, to 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 aforementioned Intergovernmental Agreements.
3. The TWG invited SPECA member States to exchange information with the secretariat (e-mail: [escap-ttd@un.org](mailto:escap-ttd@un.org)) on a regular basis on the latest status of key national and regional road and rail infrastructure projects, and provide the secretariat with information on ongoing and/or planned initiatives relating to policies and projects aiming at developing dry ports of international importance in their respective States.
4. The TWG encouraged SPECA member States to implement the recommendations of the Phase III of the EATL Project. The TWG invited SPECA member States to actively participate in the planned 2018 international conference for launching the “operationalization of Euro-Asia Transport Links” and to work closely with UNECE and other interested parties in organizing it.
5. The TWG reaffirmed the importance of the UN transport-related legal instruments and invited SPECA member States to intensify their efforts to accede to and effectively implement them.

6. The TWG encouraged SPECA countries to take actions to support 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).
7. The TWG highlighted the importance of identifying any outstanding issues related to the accession to and implementation of the transport-related UN legal instruments, and took note of UNECE and UNESCAP secretariats readiness to provide assistance in this regard.
8. The TWG took note of the UNESCAP transport facilitation efforts including Regional Strategic Framework for the Facilitation of International Road Transport, Regional Cooperation Framework for the Facilitation of International Railway Transport
9. The TWG invited SPECA countries to apply transport facilitation tools including the Model Subregional Agreement on Transport Facilitation, Model Bilateral Agreement on International Road Transport, Model Multilateral permit for International Road Transport and Standard Model of Logistics Information Systems.
10. The TWG encouraged SPECA member States to consider acceding to the Intergovernmental Agreement on International Road Transport along the Asian Highway Network.
11. The TWG appreciated the development of the regional online database of bilateral agreements on international road transport by the UNESCAP secretariat and invited SPECA member States to further update and refine the database.
12. The TWG invited SPECA member States to delegate members to the UNESCAP Regional Network of Legal and Technical Experts on Transport Facilitation and to further participate in its activities.
13. The TWG invited SPECA member States to consider introducing new technologies in the implementation of the UN transport-related legal instruments by joining those allowing electronic information processing (additional protocol to CMR (e-CMR), and TIR Convention (e-TIR)).

14. The TWG welcomed progress on the pilot tests, encouraged member States to actively participate in the activities of the Group of Experts towards the Unified Railway Law and provide comments on the draft legal provisions.
15. The TWG encouraged SPECA member States to provide statistical data on the inland transport sector for the regional databases to support SDGs monitoring. The TWG welcomed transport statistics capacity building initiatives, in particular SPECA Workshop on Transport related SDGs, to be held back-to-back with the 22<sup>nd</sup> SPECA TWG-STTC meeting and encouraged SPECA member States to use the Workshop conclusions.
16. The TWG invited SPECA member States to raise efforts to develop and implement national road safety strategies and action plans with goals and targets in line with the Decade of Action for Road Safety and SDG Target 3.6. The SPECA member States should ensure the collection of quality road safety data and seek technical assistance in data collection to facilitate the regular monitoring of the SDG on road safety.
17. The TWG acknowledged the updated Regional Road Safety Goals, Targets and Indicators for Asia and the Pacific;
18. Building on the results of Road Safety Performance Review and SafeFITS projects, the TWG encouraged SPECA member States to identify the most pressing road safety issues which could be subject to technical assistance in road safety through RSPR preparation.
19. The TWG reiterated its commitment to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) reflected in the future SPECA TWG-STTC activities and adopted the TWG Programme of work 2018-2019.
20. The TWG approved the Draft Agenda for the 23<sup>rd</sup> session of the SPECA TWG-STTC.
21. The TWG encouraged all SPECA countries to actively participate in the forthcoming sessions of SPECA TWG-STTC.

22. The TWG agreed that the date and location of the next session would be decided later and invited SPECA member States to express their interest in hosting the 23<sup>rd</sup> session of SPECA TWG-STTC.
23. The TWG expressed high appreciation to the Islamic Development Bank for the continuous support to SPECA TWG-STTC activities.
24. The TWG expressed its sincere gratitude to the Ministry of Investment and Development of the Republic of Kazakhstan for hosting the 22<sup>nd</sup> session of SPECA TWG-STTC and excellent arrangements made for the session.
25. The conclusions and recommendations of the 22<sup>nd</sup> session of SPECA TWG-STTC were unanimously adopted on 2 November 2017 in Astana, Kazakhstan.