

**REPORT**

**OF THE 24<sup>th</sup> SESSION OF THE SPECA THEMATIC WORKING GROUP  
ON SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORT, TRANSIT AND CONNECTIVITY<sup>1</sup>**

18–19 November 2019  
Ashgabat, Turkmenistan

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

## **INTRODUCTION**

### **Organization**

The twenty-fourth session of the SPECA Thematic Working Group on Sustainable Transport, Transit and Connectivity (the Thematic Working Group, or TWG-STTC) was held on 18 and 19 November 2019 in Ashgabat, Turkmenistan. The session was organized jointly by the Government of Turkmenistan, the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) and the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP) and was hosted by the Ministry of Industry and Communications of Turkmenistan. The session was conducted in the English language with simultaneous interpretation into the Russian language.

### **Attendance**

Representatives of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, the Republic of Azerbaijan, the Republic of Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic, the Republic of Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and the Republic of Uzbekistan participated in the session. The session was attended by representatives of the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO), UNECE and UNESCAP. The list of participants is attached to the present report.

## **PROCEEDINGS**

### **1. Opening of the session**

The session was opened by His Excellency Mr. Baymurat Annamammedov, Deputy Minister of Industry and Communications of Turkmenistan, the Chair of the TWG-STTC. In his speech, the Chair welcomed the participants and emphasized the valuable contribution of activities in the SPECA framework for the development of the SPECA sub-region, the facilitation of export operations, unlocking technical potential of SPECA countries and the promotion of regional transport cooperation. The Chair highlighted great efforts and the ongoing work by Turkmenistan for the realization of international agreements on transport corridors and major international infrastructure projects, the development of the transport system in conformity with global state-of-the-art standards and safety norms and stressed that Turkmenistan considered the development of international cooperation as one of the priorities in the transport sector. Opening statements were also delivered by Mr. Y. Li, Director of the UNECE Sustainable Transport Division, and Mr. E. Chong, Economic Affairs Officer, UNESCAP.

### **2. Adoption of the Agenda**

The Thematic Working Group considered and adopted the provisional agenda of its 24<sup>th</sup> session as contained in documents SPECA/TWG-STTC (24)/A.1 and SPECA/TWG-STTC (24)/A.2. The conclusions and recommendations made by the Thematic Working Group on each of the agenda items are attached to the present report (SPECA/TWG-STTC (24)/11).

### **3. Adoption of the report on the 23<sup>rd</sup> Session of the TWG-STTC**

The Thematic Working Group adopted the report of its 23<sup>rd</sup> Session held on 27 and 28 August 2018 in Astana, Kazakhstan, which was available in English and Russian.

## 4. Review of transport infrastructure projects, activities and initiatives

### 4.1 *Transport infrastructure projects, activities and initiatives at national and international level, including development of dry ports to facilitate intermodal transport in SPECA countries*

#### **Background document:** SPECA/TWG-STTC (24)/1

UNECE and UNESCAP presented their respective projects, actions and initiatives and efforts for promoting the development of transport infrastructure in SPECA countries and provided the analysis of the existing challenges in this field. UNECE mentioned, in particular: (a) the progress made in the development of transport infrastructure Master Plans, (b) the outcome of the International Conference on Making Euro-Asian Transport Corridors Operational (Geneva, Switzerland, 3 September 2018), (c) the adoption of the Convention on Facilitation of Border Crossing Procedures for Passengers, Luggage and Load-Luggage Carried in International Traffic by Rail, (d) Forum on Sustainable Transport Connectivity between Europe and Asia held in Geneva on 30 October 2019 at the sixty-second session of the UNECE Working Party on Intermodal Transport and Logistics, and (e) the International Transport Infrastructure Observatory.

UNESCAP highlighted the progress made in operationalizing the Asian Highway and Trans-Asian Railway networks, the identification of a set of dry ports of international importance and other relevant activities and initiatives: (a) a project on Strengthening the Capacity for Operationalizing Sustainable Transport Connectivity along the China-Central Asia-West Asia Economic Corridor, (b) the capacity building workshop on railway network connectivity and interoperability challenges (Dushanbe, Tajikistan, 5 and 6 September 2018), (c) the workshop on cross-border co-deployment of fibre optic infrastructure along road and rail networks (Bangkok, Thailand, 22 November 2018), (d) the Eighth Biennial Meeting of the Working Group on the Asian Highway (Bangkok, 18 and 19 September 2019), (e) the Third Meeting of the Working Group on Dry Ports (Bangkok, 13 and 14 November 2019), and (f) the Sixth Biennial Meeting of the Working Group on the Trans-Asian Railway to be held in Bangkok on 10 and 11 December 2019.

Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Tajikistan and Turkmenistan informed the session on the progress made in international and regional projects and initiatives, aimed at enhancing connectivity, logistics and trade across the SPECA sub-region, in particular, the East-West and North-South international transport corridors, the Trans-Caspian International Transport Route, the Lapis Lazuli Route and the Black Sea-Caspian Sea Route initiative. The speakers provided a detailed information on the current status and operability of national transport networks, the volumes and structure of freight transport by international routes, national programmes, plans and measures to facilitate international traffic and multimodality, including the construction of dry ports, cargo terminals and multimodal hubs, and prospects for further cooperation. ECO presented an overview of trade facilitation and connectivity in the ECO region and the ongoing activities including the action plan of the strategy for trade facilitation and connectivity.

### 4.2 *Accession and implementation of International Conventions and Agreements*

#### **Background document:** SPECA/TWG-STTC (24)/2

UNECE informed the participants about (a) the current status of fifty-nine United Nations transport-related legal instruments, (b) a new Convention on Facilitation of Border Crossing Procedures for Passengers, Luggage and Load-Luggage Carried in International Traffic by Rail, adopted on 22 February 2019, (c) new accessions to United Nations transport-related legal instruments and (d) the adoption of the Inland Transport Committee Strategy until 2030 at the eighty-first session of the Inland Transport Committee (Geneva,

19–22 February 2019). UNECE invited SPECA countries to intensify their efforts to accede all legal instruments listed in the protocol of the second session of the Thematic Working Group as soon as possible, take measures for the efficient implementation of the relevant international transport conventions and consider acceding to the Convention on Facilitation of Border Crossing Procedures for Passengers, Luggage and Load-Luggage Carried in International Traffic by Rail.

UNESCAP informed the session about (a) the accession status to the seven core international transport-related conventions recommended by UNESCAP resolution 48/11, (b) the Intergovernmental Agreement on International Road Transport along the Asian Highway Network, signed by China, Mongolia and the Russian Federation on 8 December 2016 and entered into force in 2018, which was supported by UNESCAP Resolution 73/4 and (c) the progress made on the Database of Agreements on International Road Transport. UNESCAP invited SPECA countries to consider accession to the Intergovernmental Agreement on International Road Transport along the Asian Highway Network.

Azerbaijan, Kyrgyzstan and Turkmenistan provided information on the progress in the implementation of international transport-related conventions, international transport and infrastructure agreements and plans for acceding to other United Nations transport-related legal instruments. Azerbaijan informed the participants about finalizing the necessary internal procedures for the accession to the Intergovernmental Agreement on Dry Ports.

#### *4.3 Establishment and operation of national coordinating mechanisms for transport facilitation*

##### **Background document:** SPECA/TWG-STTC (24)/3

UNECE emphasized the need for a horizontal and vertical coordination as a key element of transport facilitation and addressed the existing mechanisms, projects and initiatives for border crossing facilitation, including: (a) the relevant transport-related legal instruments administered by UNECE, (b) the UNDA funded project “Sustainable Transport Connectivity and the implementation of transport-related Sustainable Development Goals in selected landlocked and transit/bridging countries” and (c) the ongoing work on the corridor operationalization performance and corridor management. Furthermore, UNECE provided information on the outcome of the workshop on quantifying transport costs for landlocked developing countries held in Geneva on 2 September 2019 in collaboration with the United Nations Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States and the ongoing work on developing a harmonized model to quantify transport costs for landlocked developing countries. UNECE invited SPECA countries to actively engage in this work.

UNESCAP continued with a brief information on the UNESCAP guidelines on establishing and strengthening national coordination mechanisms which complemented the existing UNECE guidelines on setting up national trade facilitation bodies.

Azerbaijan and Turkmenistan informed the participants about the implemented national coordinating mechanisms for transport facilitation, the positive impact on the functionality of transport networks and the expected benefits.

#### *4.4 Identification, isolation and elimination of major bottlenecks along international transport routes*

##### **Background document:** SPECA/TWG-STTC (24)/4

UNECE highlighted the recent activities on this issue: (a) the latest developments related to the International Convention on Harmonization of Frontier Controls of Goods, the Customs Convention on the International Transport of Goods under Cover of TIR Carnets (1975) and e-TIR procedures, (b) the Convention on the

facilitation of crossing of frontiers for passengers and baggage carried by rail, opened for signature on 4 April 2019, (c) the ongoing work on developing a set of Sustainable Inland Transport Connectivity Indicators (SITCIN) in the framework of the UNDA funded project “Sustainable Transport Connectivity and the implementation of transport-related Sustainable Development Goals in selected landlocked and transit/bridging countries” launched in autumn 2018 and (d) the workshop on strengthening security on inland freight routes (Geneva, 3 and 4 September 2019) organized in collaboration with the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe.

UNESCAP informed the participants on the progress achieved and activities in terms of transport facilitation: (a) the outcome of the Fifth Session of the Committee on Transport (Bangkok, 19–21 November 2018), in particular, the endorsement of the Sustainable Urban Transport Index (SUTI), (b) the Capacity Building Workshop on Railway Network Connectivity and Interoperability Challenges, Facilitation of International Railway Transport (Dushanbe, 5 and 6 September 2018), (c) the Expert Group meeting on Harmonization of Technical Standards, Rules and Regulations for Enhanced Railway Linkages between Northeast, Central and West Asia (Almaty, Kazakhstan, 17 and 18 September 2019), (d) the development of Euro-Asian transport connectivity and (e) enhancing transport connectivity of landlocked developing and transit countries. UNESCAP further mentioned the ongoing projects and the existing and forthcoming facilitation tools aimed to support countries in increasing the effectiveness of facilitation programmes and projects and accelerating the development of international transport through long-term targets and addressing major bottlenecks. (A detailed information is available in document SPECA/TWG-STTC (24)/4).

SPECA countries continued with the activities and measures for the facilitation of transport operations along international transport routes. Turkmenistan provided information on (a) the activities of the State Customs Service aimed to facilitate border-crossing procedures and enhance the quality of customs services and (b) tasks and activities of OJSC “Transport and Logistics Centre of Turkmenistan” in the field of the development of transport and logistics services along international transport corridors. Azerbaijan focused on the progress made in the field of the facilitation of transport and border-crossing procedures by means of digitalization of TIR procedures and international cooperation towards fully digital corridors and the effective use of TIR procedures.

In conclusion, invited expert Mr. B. Bulekbaev presented the main findings and recommendations of the report “United Nations transport-related legal instruments – an efficient tool to improve transport corridors in the SPECA region” which included the need to join efforts towards the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals, for the harmonization of the legislative basis, consolidation of infrastructure objects, increasing the transit potential and future priorities in the development of connectivity in the SPECA sub-region. The Thematic Working Group took note of the findings and recommendations of the report.

#### *4.5 Progress towards Unified Railway Law*

##### **Background document:** SPECA/TWG-STTC (24)/5

UNECE reported on the progress made in preparing the draft Unified Railway Law and the ongoing work of the Group of Experts on Unified Railway Law and related issues, in particular, the outcome of the workshop on innovation in the railways held in Geneva on 21 November 2018 at the seventy-second session of the UNECE Working Party on Rail Transport. In 2019, The Group of Experts continued the discussion

on the scope of Unified Railway Law and its conversion into a legally binding instrument; a one-year extension of its mandate would allow to finalize this work. Pilot tests of the draft provisions of the Unified Railway Law contract of carriage were successfully conducted in April 2019 the Baku-Tbilisi-Kars line.

Turkmenistan highlighted the ongoing work and recent achievements towards Unified Railway Law in national and international transport, cooperation with other countries and international organizations and informed the session about the appointment of a permanent focal point for OSJD Committee.

The Thematic Working Group welcomed progress on the pilot tests and invited SPECA countries to actively participate in the activities of the Group of Experts on the Unified Railway Law and provide comments on the draft legal provisions.

#### *4.6 Progress report on the development of the SPECA TWG-STTC transport databases and public-private partnerships in the SPECA region*

**Background documents:** SPECA/TWG-STTC (24)/6 and SPECA/TWG-STTC (24)/7

UNECE presented its activities and developments in the collection and dissemination of transport statistics: (a) the collection of transport statistics for all inland transport modes using a common online questionnaire and the revised methodology, (b) the E-Road and E-Rail Censuses, (c) monitoring of transport-related Sustainable Development Goals and ways to improve the reporting on transport-related Sustainable Development Goals by countries, (d) project “Enhancing regional connectivity through geographical information system (GIS)” and the development of the International Transport Infrastructure Observatory.

UNESCAP provided information on (a) the Asian Highway database aimed to monitor the development of the Asian Highway network and (b) the ESCAP Statistical Database which offered a unique regional overview of socio-economic development in the Asia Pacific region over the last 25 years. SPECA countries were invited to regularly provide the updated information for the Asian Highway database to the UNESCAP secretariat.

UNESCAP made a presentation on the progress made in the promotion of public-private partnerships (PPPs), in particular, (a) the first, second and third meetings of the Infrastructure Financing and PPP Network of Asia and the Pacific held in 2018–2019, and (b) the publication “Infrastructure Financing for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific” issued in October 2019. (A detailed information is available in document SPECA/TWG-STTC (24)/7). UNESCAP invited SPECA countries to take part in the activities of the Infrastructure Financing and PPP Network of Asia and the Pacific.

#### *4.7 Road safety issues and policy interventions in the SPECA region*

**Background document:** SPECA/TWG-STTC (24)/8

UNESCAP recalled the Regional Road Safety Goals and Targets for Asia and the Pacific for 2016–2020 and provided the analysis of the road safety situation in SPECA countries. Among the ongoing activities, were mentioned (a) the Asia and Pacific Road Safety Observatory, (b) support to the United Nations Road Safety Fund, (c) studies on two major causes of road crashes and (d) three workshops on road safety held in 2019. UNESCAP invited SPECA countries to take part in the second meeting on the Road Safety Observatory to be held in Bangkok in December 2019.

UNECE continued with an overview of its activities, projects and initiatives in this field: (a) new accessions to the United Nations legal instruments relevant to road safety and recently adopted amendments to international conventions, (b) technical assistance to countries: the capacity development workshop (Tbilisi, Georgia, 20 and 21 May 2019), SafeFITS and the Road Safety Performance Review, (c) the activities of the United Nations Secretary-General's Special Envoy for Road Safety, (d) the United Nations Road Safety Fund, established in April 2018 and hosted by UNECE and (e) other relevant activities.

SPECA countries reported on the national activities in addressing road safety issues. Azerbaijan provided a brief information on various road safety measures implemented at the national level and the state programme for road safety for 2019–2023. Kyrgyzstan highlighted the new strategy for improving road safety for 2020–2024, the activities, ongoing projects and priorities of the Ministry of Transport and Roads in this field. Tajikistan informed the participants about the progress made harmonizing the national legislative framework for road safety with global standards. Turkmenistan made an overview of the approaches and measures implemented on rail and road transport in terms of traffic safety and the national legislation and technical norms in this field.

## **5. Draft Terms of Reference of the SPECA Thematic Working Group on Sustainable Transport, Transit and Connectivity and Programme of work 2020–2021 – Activities and initiatives to assist in implementation of the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda and achieving of transport-related SDGs**

*Background document:* SPECA/TWG-STTC (24)/9

The Thematic Working Group reviewed the draft of its Terms of Reference prepared by UNECE and UNESCAP.

The Thematic Working Group took note of the presentation by UNECE on the implementation of its Programme of Work 2018–2019. TWG-STTC reviewed and finalized the draft Programme of Work 2020–2021, prepared by UNECE and UNESCAP, available in SPECA/TWG-STTC (24)/9 in English and Russian.

## **6. Review of the draft agenda for the 25<sup>th</sup> session of the SPECA TWG-STTC**

*Background document:* SPECA/TWG-STTC (24)/10

The TWG-STTC reviewed the draft provisional agenda of the 25<sup>th</sup> session of the Thematic Working Group, prepared by UNECE and UNESCAP, available in SPECA/TWG-STTC (24)/10 in English and Russian.

## **7. Other business**

The Thematic Working Group was invited to consider the date and the venue of its 25<sup>th</sup> session and agreed that this issue would be decided later.

## **8. Adoption of the conclusions and recommendations**

The Thematic Working Group reviewed, finalized and adopted the conclusions and recommendations of its 24<sup>th</sup> session, based on the draft prepared by UNECE and UNESCAP in English and Russian. The adopted conclusions and recommendations are attached to the present report as SPECA/TWG-STTC (24)/11.

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

24<sup>th</sup> Session  
18–19 November 2019  
Ashgabat, Turkmenistan

**CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS  
OF THE 24<sup>th</sup> SESSION OF THE SPECA THEMATIC WORKING GROUP  
ON SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORT, TRANSIT AND CONNECTIVITY<sup>2</sup>**

18–19 November 2019  
Ashgabat, Turkmenistan

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## CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Following the presentation and consideration of the session documents as stipulated in the Agenda of the 24<sup>th</sup> session of the 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 23<sup>rd</sup> Session;
2. The TWG noted with satisfaction the information provided by the representatives of SPECA countries, UNECE, ESCAP and Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) on transport infrastructure development and international transport facilitation, road safety, other activities and initiatives at national and regional level;
3. The TWG invited SPECA countries to familiarize with vision, mission, goals and priority activities of the Inland Transport Committee Strategy until 2030 adopted by the Inland Transport Committee at its 81<sup>st</sup> session in February 2019;
4. The TWG encouraged SPECA countries to continue supporting 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);
5. The TWG took note of the outcomes of the Fifth Session of the Committee on Transport of ESCAP held from 19 to 21 November 2018 in Bangkok, Thailand which reaffirmed its commitment to implementation of transport-related Sustainable Development Goals as part of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;
6. The TWG reaffirmed the importance of the transport-related United Nations legal instruments, particularly those listed in ESCAP resolution 48/11 and the Protocol of this Working Group at its 2<sup>nd</sup> session, and invited SPECA countries to intensify their efforts to accede to and effectively implement them as well as actively participate in the meetings of the 34 working parties and administrative committees for the legal instruments, and also the new Convention on Facilitation of Border Crossing Procedures for Passengers, Luggage and Load-Luggage Carried in International Traffic by Rail;
7. The TWG encouraged those SPECA states which have not already done so, to take measures towards becoming parties to or implementing the Intergovernmental Agreements on the Asian Highway Network, on the Trans-Asian Railway Network and on Dry Ports through own initiatives and active participation in the ESCAP activities related to the development of Asian Highway and Trans-Asian Railway Networks and dry ports of international importance. In this connection, the TWG took note of the information by the Azerbaijan side about the progress in finalizing their internal procedures to become a Contracting Party to the Intergovernmental Agreement on Dry Ports;
8. The TWG invited SPECA countries to familiarize and use the Regional Framework for the Planning, Design, Development and Operation of Dry Ports;
9. The TWG took note of the outcomes of the Eighth Meeting of the Working Group on the Asian Highway Network (18–19 September 2019, Bangkok, Thailand) and the Third Meeting of the Working Group on Dry Ports (13–14 November 2019, Bangkok, Thailand);
10. The TWG invited SPECA countries to exchange information with the UNECE and ESCAP secretariats (e-mail: [infotransport@un.org](mailto:infotransport@un.org) and [escapttd@un.org](mailto:escapttd@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 transport infrastructure of international importance in their respective countries, including issues and challenges;

11. The TWG encouraged SPECA Governments to implement the recommendations of the Phase III of the EATL Project and invited SPECA countries to engage actively in the UNECE efforts to operationalize the EATL corridors, including the efforts for transport infrastructure construction costs data collection, taking place in the framework of the ongoing establishment of a web-based International Transport Infrastructure Observatory;
12. The TWG took note of UNECE and ESCAP secretariats willingness to provide assistance in identifying and resolving any issues related to the accession and implementation of the transport-related United Nations legal instruments;
13. The TWG acknowledged transport facilitation efforts of ESCAP including Regional Strategic Framework for the Facilitation of International Road Transport and Regional Cooperation Framework for the Facilitation of International Railway Transport, eight mutually complementary transport facilitation tools and models, as well as newly developed Framework on Enhancing the Efficiency of Railway Border Crossings along the Trans-Asian Railway network and beyond, and invited SPECA countries to apply them;
14. The TWG welcomed projects implemented by ESCAP on the operationalization of transport connectivity along China-Central Asia-West Asia economic corridor, enhanced railway network connectivity and interoperability, harmonizing standards on weights, dimensions and emissions of road vehicles for facilitation of transport along the Asian Highway Network, as well as harmonizing rules and regulations for facilitation of international railway transport and encouraged Member countries to use the studies developed by the Secretariat under these projects;
15. The TWG invited SPECA member States to consider acceding to the Intergovernmental Agreement on International Road Transport along the Asian Highway Network;
16. The TWG encouraged SPECA countries to actively participate in UNECE activities on border crossing facilitation, particularly by engaging actively in the TIR computerization process and support the adoption of the new Annex 11 of the TIR Convention;
17. The TWG invited SPECA countries to facilitate introducing new technologies in the implementation of the transport-related United Nations legal instruments by joining those digitalization processes (e-CMR, e-TIR);
18. The TWG gave its support to the preparation and implementation of the Unified Railway Law and encouraged Governments to actively participate in the activities of the Group of Experts towards Unified Railway Law, for instance, through the organization of real-time pilot test runs along specific corridors. The TWG took note of the information by Turkmenistan on the appointment of a permanent focal point for OSJD Committee, who could also be responsible for the cooperation with UNECE on this issue. The TWG encouraged all SPECA countries to appoint permanent focal points on this issue.
19. The TWG took note of the provided information and encouraged SPECA countries to establish or strengthen national coordination mechanisms and to mobilize public and private sector resources to finance the development of transport networks;

20. The TWG invited SPECA countries to provide regular, preferably on a yearly basis, updates to and active use of ESCAP Asian Highway network database and ESCAP Statistical database for Sustainable Development Goals and transport-related statistics, as well as to provide the texts of missing agreements, additions, corrections or updates to ESCAP's Database of Agreements on International Road Transport;
21. TWG welcomed ESCAP activities related to sustainable urban transport development and encouraged SPECA countries to familiarize and use the Sustainable Urban Transport Index (SUTI) for their urban development planning;
22. The TWG encouraged SPECA countries to renew efforts to provide annual transport and road safety specific statistics and provide data on the E-Road and E-Rail censuses to UNECE, noting their importance for monitoring Euro-Asian transport links;
23. The TWG requested SPECA countries to continue their efforts in developing and implementing national road safety strategies and action plans based on the concept of national road safety system, strengthen bilateral and multilateral cooperation to achieve goals and targets in line with the Decade of Action for Road Safety, updated Regional Road Safety Goals, Targets and Indicators for Asia and the Pacific as well as road safety-related Sustainable Development Goals;
24. The TWG encouraged SPECA countries to consider activities under the United Nations Road Safety Fund (UNRSF);
25. The TWG invited to build on the results of Road Safety Performance Reviews (RSPR) with the concept of safety system and encourage SPECA countries to ask UNECE for technical assistance in road safety through RSPR;
26. The TWG reviewed and approved its draft Programme of Work 2020–2021, subject to modifications agreed at the session, and submitted it for final adoption by the SPECA Governing Council;
27. The TWG reviewed and approved its draft Terms of Reference and submitted it for final adoption by the SPECA Governing Council;
28. The TWG approved the Draft Agenda for its 25th session;
29. The TWG agreed that the date and the place of its 25<sup>th</sup> session would be decided later and invited SPECA countries to express their interest in hosting the session;
30. The TWG invited Uzbekistan to transmit comments to the documents considered at the session, if any, later to include them in the final report of its 24<sup>th</sup> session;
31. The TWG invited all SPECA countries to actively participate in its future sessions;
32. The TWG expressed its appreciation to the Islamic Development Bank for the continuous support to SPECA TWG-STTC activities;
33. The TWG expressed its sincere gratitude to the Government of Turkmenistan for hosting the 24<sup>th</sup> session of SPECA TWG-STTC and excellent arrangements made for the session;
34. The conclusions and recommendations of the 24<sup>th</sup> session of SPECA TWG-STTC were unanimously adopted on 19 November 2019 in Ashgabat, Turkmenistan.

**List of Participants**  
**24<sup>th</sup> session of the SPECA Thematic Working Group**  
**on Sustainable Transport, Transit and Connectivity**  
**18–19 November 2019**  
**Ashgabat, Turkmenistan**

**SPECA countries:**

**Islamic Republic of Afghanistan**

1. Mohd Yamma Shams            General Director of the Afghanistan Railway Administration, Ministry of Transport and Transit of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan
2. Wais Sultani                    General Director of Ground Transport, Ministry of Transport and Transit of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan

**Republic of Azerbaijan**

3. Nijat Mikayilov                Senior Advisor, International Cooperation Department of the Ministry of Transport, Communications and High Technologies of the Republic of Azerbaijan
4. Vugar Orujov                    Senior Adviser, Transport Policy Department of the Ministry of Transport, Communications and High Technologies of the Republic of Azerbaijan

**Republic of Kazakhstan**

5. Yerzhan Nessibkulov         Director of the Department of International Cooperation of the Ministry of National Economy of the Republic of Kazakhstan

**Kyrgyz Republic**

6. Zhenishbek Nogoibaev        Deputy Minister of Transport and Roads of the Kyrgyz Republic
7. Taalaibek Shaparov            Chief Specialist, External Relations and Integration Department of the Ministry of Transport and Roads of the Kyrgyz Republic

**Republic of Tajikistan**

8. Melik Sainakov                 Deputy Head of the Department of International Transportation of the State Service for Supervision and Regulation in the field of Transport, the Ministry of Transport of the Republic of Tajikistan
9. Alexandr Shkurenko            Chief Specialist, Department of Inland Transportation of the Ministry of Transport of the Republic of Tajikistan

**Turkmenistan**

10. Baymurat Annamammedov     Deputy Minister of Industry and Communications of Turkmenistan
11. M. Akmammedov                Head of Directorate of the Development of Transport and Logistics of the Ministry of Industry and Communications of Turkmenistan

12. A. Podarov  
Head of Division of the Development of Rail and Road Transport, Directorate of the Development of Transport and Logistics of the Ministry of Industry and Communications of Turkmenistan
13. O. Nepesliev  
Head of External Economic Relations Division of the Ministry of Industry and Communications of Turkmenistan
14. A. Annalyev  
Head of Division of the Development of Maritime and River Transport, Directorate of the Development of Transport and Logistics of the Ministry of Industry and Communications of Turkmenistan
15. A. Myradov  
Chief Specialist, Division of the Development of Rail and Road Transport, Directorate of the Development of Transport and Logistics of the Ministry of Industry and Communications of Turkmenistan
16. A. Khodzhamuradov  
Head of Marketing and Logistics Division, Directorate of the Development of Transport and Logistics of the Ministry of Industry and Communications of Turkmenistan
17. M. Niyazov  
Head of Directorate of Transportation and Logistics, Türkmen demirýollary Agency of the Ministry of Industry and Communications of Turkmenistan
18. M. Dadyev  
Head of Finance and Accounting Division of the Directorate of Economy and Finance, Türkmen demirýollary Agency of the Ministry of Industry and Communications of Turkmenistan
19. S. Gelenov  
Leading Specialist, Division of Transportation and Logistics, Türkmen demirýollary Agency of the Ministry of Industry and Communications of Turkmenistan
20. B. Berdyev  
Acting Director-General of OJSC “Transport and Logistics centre of Turkmenistan”
21. A. Shiriev  
Head of Marketing Division of OJSC “Transport and Logistics Centre of Turkmenistan”
22. A. Dovletova  
Head of Planning and Economic Division of Türkmen howaýollary Agency of the Ministry of Industry and Communications of Turkmenistan
23. T. Nepesov  
Leading Specialist, International Relations Division of Türkmen awtoulaglary Agency of the Ministry of Industry and Communications of Turkmenistan
24. B. Nurmammedov  
Specialist of Logistics and Analytics Division, Türkmen awtoulaglary Agency of the Ministry of Industry and Communications of Turkmenistan
25. Sh. Garabegov  
Leading specialist, External Economic Relations Division of Türkmen deniz derýaýollary Agency of the Ministry of Industry and Communications of Turkmenistan
26. A. Seidov  
Head of Security and Occupational Safety Division of the Ministry of Industry and Communications of Turkmenistan
27. O. Atabaev  
Acting Head of Directorate of the Development and Funding of Industries of the Ministry of Finance and Economy of Turkmenistan

28. A. Rakhmanov Head of Law and International Relations Division of the State Customs Service of Turkmenistan

29. Dovlet Chotbaev Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Turkmenistan

**Republic of Uzbekistan**

30. Khurshid Rakhmanov Deputy Head of Department of the Ministry of Investments and Foreign Trade of the Republic of Uzbekistan

**International organizations:**

**Economic Cooperation Organization**

31. Sayed Yahya Akhlaqi Deputy Secretary General

**United Nations Economic Commission for Europe**

32. Yuwei Li Director of the Sustainable Transport Division

33. Georgios Georgiadis Secretary of the Inland Transport Committee, Sustainable Transport Division

34. Victoria Ivanova Economic Affairs Officer, Sustainable Transport Division

**United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific**

35. Weimin Ren Director of Department of International Cooperation

36. Yann Duval Chief of Trade Facilitation Unit, Trade and Investment Division

37. Edouard Chong Economic Affairs Officer

38. Bekhzod Rakhmatov Associate Economic Affairs Officer, Transport Division

**Invited Experts:**

39. Berik Bulekbaev Scientific-Research Institute of Transport and Communications, the Republic of Kazakhstan, Association of Transport and Logistics in Central Asia

40. Anatoli Molokovitch School of Business and Management of Technology of the Belarus State University, the Republic of Belarus

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