



Strengthening the inland transport sector`s pandemic resilience – A possible way forward

*WP.5, 34th session
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Agenda item 8 (a)*



Background



- Multidisciplinary Advisory Group on Transport Responses to COVID-19 has convened on three occasions (June, September 2020 and June 2021)
- The deliberations held in the framework of the group (including a detailed set of recommendations) were integrated into a secretariat document [ECE/TRANS/WP.5/2020/10/](#) entitled: [“Taking stock of the resilience of the inland transport sector to pandemics and international emergency situations”](#)
- ITC considered the document and decided *“to prolong the work of the Advisory Group for one more year until February 2022”* and *“to enhance cooperation between working parties, and between the ITC and other specialized agencies of the UN System, including IMO and ICAO contributing to a better coordinated delivery of programme of work and increased interoperability”*



Background

- Follow-up to ITC request: third Advisory Group session was held in June 2021 with IMO and ICAO participation
- Deliberations focused on the identification of commonalities and lessons learned in the way that the maritime, aviation and inland transport (sub-)sectors responded the COVID-19 pandemic
- Additional information, revised recommendations for possible further action reflected in a revised version of **ECE/TRANS/WP.5/2020/10/Rev.1**



Possible way forward

1. At international transport regulatory level

- Prioritize a human centered approach/ recognize the essential role of transport workers
- Evaluate how COVID-19 induced “temporary” measures (temporary extension of validity of permits and documents or temporary exemptions and facilitations measures) can be turned into emergency protocols



Possible way forward

2. At the level of existing international legal instruments

- Assess how infrastructure agreements AGTC, AGR, AGC and AGN could serve as the backbone for the identification of critically important routes and nodes that need to remain open under any circumstances
- Assess how in the framework of the Harmonization Convention for instance criteria could be defined for land border crossings that need to stay open at any time in order to enable the international transport of essential cargo and supplies



Possible way forward

3. At the level of continued sectoral and inter-sectoral dialogue on pandemic preparedness:

- Have pandemic / emergency preparedness as a recurrent agenda item for the forthcoming sessions of mode-specific WPs (SC.1, SC.2, SC.3, WP.24 and WP.30)
- Build further on the work done by the informal Advisory Group so far and continue to explore specific measures/ tools that could be developed aimed at increasing the resilience of the inland transport system to future pandemics, *e.g. contingency planning for rail, road and inland waterway sectors*



Thank you for your attention

