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**Economic Commission for Europe****Inland Transport Committee****Eighty-fifth session**

Geneva, 21-24 February 2023

Item 5 (b) of the provisional agenda

**Governance Issues and Business Critical Decisions  
for the Inland Transport Committee and its Subsidiary Bodies:  
Results of the Meetings of the Bureau  
of the Inland Transport Committee****Results of the meetings of the Bureau of the Inland Transport  
Committee in 2022****Note by the secretariat***Summary*

This document contains the results of the meetings held by the Bureau of the Inland Transport Committee in 2022.

The Committee is invited to consider document ECE/TRANS/2023/10 and refer to the decisions of the Bureau under the relevant items of its agenda.

**Introduction**

1. In accordance with the decisions of the Inland Transport Committee (ITC or the Committee) (ECE/TRANS/125, paras. 14 and 15 and ECE/TRANS/274, para. 130), the Bureau of ITC met on 14 June (hybrid meeting), and 21 and 22 November 2022 (hybrid meetings).
2. In accordance with the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) plan of action, the Bureau fulfils the following functions related to the organization of the annual sessions of the Committee:
  - (a) the preparation of a well-focused agenda with defined objectives and allocated times for the items;
  - (b) the indication of main topics where decisions are needed;
  - (c) the selection of themes of discussion for the session;
  - (d) the monitoring and evaluation of the work since the previous session;
  - (e) the monitoring and coordination of activities in order to avoid duplication with the work of other relevant organizations;



(f) and the proposal of priorities in the programme of work, listing, where possible, various options (E/ECE/1347, chapter III, A, 2 (b)).

3. In accordance with the Committee's Rules of Procedure (ECE/TRANS/294, Annex III, Rule 18), the key functions of the Bureau are:

(a) To monitor and ensure implementation of decisions and recommendations of the Committee, as appropriate, during intersessional periods;

(b) To ensure effective and transparent preparations of forthcoming sessions and, for that purpose, to collectively outreach to and consult with all members of the Committee, and other stakeholders as appropriate;

(c) To ensure effective conduct of business during the sessions and to facilitate reaching agreement on decisions and recommendations.

4. The annexes present the results of the meetings of the Bureau for consideration by the Committee, in line with the mandate of its Bureau.

## Annex I

### Results of the first hybrid meeting of the 2022– 2023 Bureau of the Inland Transport Committee (14 June 2022)

#### Items decided under silence procedure<sup>1</sup>

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	<p><b>Agenda Item 1. Adoption of the agenda</b> [TRANS/BUR.2022/2]</p>
No. 1	<p>The Bureau <b>adopted</b> the provisional agenda</p>
	<p><b>Agenda Item 2. Outcomes of the ITC report to the Executive Committee</b> [ITC report to EXCOM and power-point presentation] [<i>No decisions</i>]</p>
	<p><b>Agenda Item 3. Preparing for the eighty-fifth session of the Inland Transport Committee</b> [Informal Documents No 1 and 2]</p>
	<p><b>3A. Draft provisional agenda for the 85<sup>th</sup> session of the Committee</b> [Informal Document No 1]</p>
No. 2	<p>The Bureau <b>considered</b> Informal document No. 1 and <b>approved</b> the provisional agenda with the following modifications and comments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Agenda item 7(c) should cover at least two subitems, one of which would be more general and the other would focus on the issues that emerged from the war in Ukraine. It should be placed in square brackets to allow flexibility for finalization in November in addressing these issues depending on developments and the ongoing situation in Ukraine.</li> </ul>
No. 3	<p>The ITC roundtable’s theme should be option 2 (Connectivity).</p> <p><b>3B. Possible themes for the high-level segment</b> [Informal Document No 2]</p>
No. 4	<p>The Bureau <b>selected option no 1 on Climate Change</b> as the topic of the High-level policy segment with the following modifications and considerations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• in addition to climate change mitigation, the HLS theme might be expanded to include also adaptation.</li> </ul>
No. 5	<p>The Bureau <b>reached consensus</b> on the basis of Informal Document No 2, on the following plans for the annual session:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• at the end of the High-level Segment (HLS), the debates are to be followed by the adoption of a high-level outcome document that will take the form of a ministerial declaration on a policy direction for inland transport;</li> </ul>

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<sup>1</sup> Documentation referenced in the draft decisions is available under the dedicated Bureau website.

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- in terms of the modalities of the high-level document, **requested** the secretariat to develop the pre-zero draft for review by the Bureau at its session in November 2022
- No. 6      Considering the importance of the topics expected to be on the agenda of the Committee in 2023, the Bureau **requested** the secretariat to explore possibilities to increase the length of the 85th session by one half-day meeting, adjusting, as necessary the number of half-day meetings of the ITC Bureau, during the ITC week.
- Agenda Item 4.      Implementation of the ITC Strategy until 2030, following ECOSOC's endorsement of the ITC ToR**
- [Informal Documents No. 3, No. 4 and No. 5]
- 4A.      Enhancing the role of the Bureau to support delivery of mandates and decisions**
- [Informal Documents No. 3 and No. 4]
- No. 7      The Bureau **took note** of Informal document No. 3 on the draft ToR and RoP of the Bureau and Informal document No. 4 that contained information on the governance structures of ICAO, IMO and ITC.
- No. 8      The Bureau, **noting** the various differences and similarities in the governance structures of ICAO, IMO and ITC and **recalling** existing UNECE practices, agreed to revisit the issue of enhancing the implementation of the ITC decisions at its November session.
- 4B.      Operationalization of ITC ToR/ RoP and implementation of related decisions**
- [No Documentation]
- No. 9      The Bureau **took note** of the presentation by the secretariat on the available solutions for the operationalization of the ITC ToR vis-a-vis the rights of non-ECE members of the Committee and **requested** the secretariat, when preparing the preliminary draft list of ITC decisions for the review of the Bureau at its November session as per standard practice, to do so in a manner that is suitable and consistent with the ITC ToR
- No. 10      The Bureau, **took note** of the follow-up to the Committee's invitation to those of its Working Parties that have not adopted their own RoP to inform ITC about their plans to align themselves with those of the Committee, or the compelling reasons that might necessitate following ECE RoP, or developing their own (ECE/TRANS/294, para 18)
- No. 11      The Bureau **requested** the secretariat to develop a template for the terms of reference of its working parties and submit it to the Bureau for consideration at its November 2022 meeting, with a view to its possible referral to the ITC for its consideration and possible approval during its 85<sup>th</sup> annual session.

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- 4C. Summary report on status of implementation of the ITC Strategy**  
[Informal Document No. 5]
- No. 12 The Bureau **took note** of the work done since the 84<sup>th</sup> session of ITC for the promotion of the implementation of the ITC Strategy.
- Agenda Item 5. Other topics of strategic nature**  
[Informal Documents No. 6 and No. 7]
- 5A. Enhancing the capabilities of ECE to attract resources for the transport subprogramme**  
[Informal Document No 6]
- No. 13 The Bureau, **recalling**: (a) the commitment of Ministerial resolution “Ushering in a decade of delivery for sustainable inland transport and sustainable development” to supporting the implementation of the ITC Strategy until 2030 in the interest of enabling the Committee to deliver in full its enhanced programme of work and address the needs of regional and global inland transport, and (b) the endorsement of the revised terms of ITC by ECOSOC in February 2022 and the enhanced responsibilities this entails for the programme of work of the Committee, **decided** to continue the consideration of this topic at its November meeting in order to enhance the capabilities of ECE to attract resources for the transport subprogramme .
- 5B. Update on the implementation of ITC decisions related to the 85<sup>th</sup> ITC plenary session**  
[Informal Document No. 7]
- No. 14 The Bureau **welcomed** the information about the joint letter signed by the ITC Chair and the Director of the Sustainable Transport Division inviting working parties and their chairs to follow-up and support the implementation of, inter alia, ITC decisions No. 10 on the new ECE Road Safety Action Plan until 2030; No. 32 on current activities in the field of information and computerization technologies and intelligent transport systems; and No. 34 on Climate Change mitigation.
- No. 15 The Bureau **took note of** the information provided by the secretariat on options to enhance the monitoring of key conventions, as contained in Informal document No. 7 and **noted** that this information will provide the basis for the policy paper that will be presented to ITC at its eighty-fifth session.
- 5C. Preparations for the 70th session of the Economic Commission for Europe**
- No. 16 The Bureau **took note** of information provided by the secretariat on the ongoing preparations for the seventieth session of the Economic Commission for Europe
- Agenda Item 6. Other business**
- No. 17 Ukraine **expressed** its appreciation to the secretariat for its work and plan on Ukraine, and **stressed** the importance of enhancing transport capacity to export and import goods, including critical commodities like wheat, in order to tackle worsening famine in developing countries, as well as meet Ukrainian urgent requirements that the war created.

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- No. 18      The Bureau notes the position of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe Executive Committee (UNECE EXCOM) expressed in its decision L.6 of 24 March 2022, in which it “requests all committees and subsidiary bodies to take into account the ongoing Russian Federation’s aggression and gross violation of international law when deciding on nominations to the leadership positions, including chairmanship and seats on bureau and steering committees, and invitations to events of the Economic Commission for Europe”. Individual statements can be found in the Appendix of the list of Decisions.
- 6A. Division-related matters of interest**
- No. 19      The Bureau **thanked** the Director of the Sustainable Transport Division for the updated information about the latest developments with regard to the Division.
- No. 20      The Bureau **reiterated** its support for the recent reorganization of the Transport Division in order to achieve synergies between the WP.1 and WP.29 teams of the secretariat and **encouraged** the Division to maintain such a momentum in order to support the implementation of the ITC strategy and the efficient delivery of the programme of work.
- 6B. Next meeting of the Bureau**
- No. 21      The next meeting of the Bureau will tentatively be held on Thursday and Friday, 24-25 November 2022.
- No. 22      The Bureau **expressed** its support for the organization of the annual session in hybrid format.
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## Appendix

### Individual statements related to Decision 18

**The following statement was supported by: Belgium, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, Poland, Switzerland, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and the United States of America:**

“Having in mind the principles of international law, including the United Nations charter, we feel compelled to condemn the invasion of Ukraine by the Russian Federation and facilitated by Belarus in line with UNGA Resolution ES-11/1 entitled “Aggression against Ukraine”. Russia’s attacks harming the Ukrainian civilian population and infrastructure have far-reaching consequences on transport services both in Ukraine and abroad. The blockage of maritime transport and trade starting from the Black Sea Ukrainian seaports compromises global food chains and gravely endangers the global food security situation.

We emphasize that the Russian Federation’s unprovoked war against Ukraine, facilitated by Belarus, undermines the achievement of the UN Sustainable Development Goals, already off track by the COVID-19 pandemic.

We reiterate that such unprovoked war is a flagrant breach of international law, including the United Nations Charter, and inconsistent with UN General Assembly Resolutions that state that any attempt aimed at the partial or total disruption of the national unity and territorial integrity of a State or country or at its political independence is incompatible with the purposes and principles of the Charter.

We therefore:

- Appeal to all relevant authorities of the Russian Federation to completely and unconditionally withdraw all of its military forces from the territory of Ukraine within its internationally recognised borders.
- Call on the Russian Federation to immediately cease any and all actions destroying transport infrastructure of Ukraine as well as to stop blocking free access to Ukrainian seaports.”

## Annex II

### Results of the second hybrid meeting of the 2022–2023 Bureau of the Inland Transport Committee (21 and 22 November 2022)

#### Items decided under silence procedure<sup>2</sup>

*Decision No.*

	<b>Agenda Item 1. Adoption of the agenda</b>
	[TRANS/BUR.2022/3]
No. 1	The Bureau <b>adopted</b> the provisional agenda
	<b>Agenda Item 2. Consideration of the agenda of the 85<sup>th</sup> ITC session and related organizational matters</b>
	[draft ECE/TRANS/327 and Add.1]
No. 2	The Bureau <b>considered and approved</b> the provisional agenda of the eighty-fifth session of the Committee and reviewed the draft annotated Agenda. The Bureau <b>requested</b> the secretariat to proceed with the organization of the eighty-fifth session of the Committee and its related events accordingly, with the comment that the restricted session might: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cover the follow-up to the high-level segment, in particular how the key decisions on climate change in the ministerial declaration can be best integrated in the work of the Working Parties;</li> <li>• In the discussion of the implementation of the ITC strategy, not duplicate the presentations of working parties and focus on strategic aspects in the implementation of the ITC Strategy, in particular the continued alignment of the Working Parties with the TOR and ROP of the ITC.</li> </ul>
	<b>2A. High-level segment</b>
	[Informal Documents No. 1 and No. 2]
No. 3	The Bureau <b>considered</b> Informal document No. 1 and: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Confirmed</b> the proposed panels and allocation of time;</li> <li>• <b>Confirmed</b> the final title of High-level segment as: “Actions of the inland transport sector to join the global fight against climate change”;</li> <li>• <b>Thanked</b> the Swiss Federal Roads Office (FEDRO) for generously extending financial support for the organization of the 85th ITC;</li> <li>• <b>Thanked</b> the secretariat for its efforts to secure adequate conference meeting facilities in the Palais des Nations to host the 85th ITC session and its High-level segment;</li> <li>• <b>Noted with regret</b> that meetings by default will revert to in-person formats starting from January 2023 and that hybrid formats will only be possible when adequate XB funding is available. In this regard, <b>expressed its strong</b> preference for hybrid meetings over in-person only meetings, noting that this is a standing request from several intergovernmental bodies, subsidiary to ITC;</li> </ul>

<sup>2</sup> Documentation referenced in the draft decisions is available under the dedicated Bureau website.



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- **Expressed support** for the organization of the High-level Side Event on the ITC Road Safety Forum, emphasizing that it would offer the opportunity for a high-level discussion on the current worrying trends on road safety and how best to support solutions with recommended policies, measures and regulatory actions, as appropriate.
- No. 4 The Bureau **decided in favour** of proceeding with the draft Declaration and the proposed title, with the following observations:
- The role of rail and inland water transport should be also fairly reflected in the Declaration;
  - The Declaration should emphasize the importance of a prominent role for transport, including inland transport and the role of the ITC, at the next COP-28 that will take place in the United Arab Emirates;
  - The zero draft of the Declaration should include an operative paragraph on active mobility.
- No. 5 The Bureau **agreed to submit** substantive comments to the secretariat by 2 December
- No. 6 **Requested** the secretariat to circulate to all UN Member States in early December the draft outcome document and facilitate consultations for the finalization of the document by mid-January
- 2B. Business critical items for ITC consideration and/or approval**  
[Informal documents No. 3-6]
- No. 7 The Bureau **took note** of the two programmatic documents (PoW 2023 and PPB 2024) of the transport subprogramme
- No. 8 The Bureau **reviewed** the publications programme for 2024
- No. 9 The Bureau:
- **Took note** of the draft ITC Decisions (Informal document No. 6) and provided feedback to the secretariat;
  - **Expressed its support** for the new format of decisions for UNECE and non-UNECE members of the Committee, which is aligned with the ITC TOR and ROP currently in force.
- 2C. Other items of the agenda for the consideration of the Bureau**  
[ECE/TRANS/327 and Add.1]
- No. 10 The Bureau **reviewed** and **reflected** on remaining items on the draft provisional agenda and annotations of the eighty-fifth session of the Committee (draft ECE/TRANS/327 and Add.1)
- No. 11 The issue of the decision-making approach **was raised** in view of the recent voting in SC.1 on the AETR administrative arrangements and SC.2 on its way to continue its work for the Unified Railway Law. In this connection, the secretariat **alerted** the Bureau about the possible voting on the AETR administrative arrangements in the forthcoming session of ITC, in accordance with the statements made by some countries in the adoption of the SC.1's decisions. The secretariat **clarified** the questions on the responsibilities of ITC and its subsidiary bodies with reference to past similar cases.

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- 2D. Organization of work during the annual session under in-person format**  
[No documentation]
- No. 12 The Bureau **took note** with regret that the ITC plenary session, due to the organization-wide policy change on this matter, will be organized in in-person format by default or in hybrid format only if there is availability of extra-budgetary funding. In this regard, the Bureau **expressed its strong preference** for hybrid over in-person only meetings for ITC and its subsidiary bodies and **requested** that that this matter be further discussed at ITC and EXCOM levels, as appropriate.
- Agenda Item 3. Implementation of the ITC Strategy until 2030, following ECOSOC's endorsement of the ITC ToR**
- 3A. Operationalization of ITC ToR/ RoP and implementation of related decisions in relation to the ITC subsidiary bodies ToR and RoP**  
[Informal Document No. 7]
- No. 13 The Bureau **took note** of Informal document No. 7 and **requested** the secretariat to finalize it and submit it for discussion during the restricted session of the 85<sup>th</sup> ITC session, with the following observations:
- Bureau members could provide comments to the secretariat until 2 December.
- 3B. Summary report on status of implementation of the ITC Strategy**  
[Informal document No. 8]
- No. 14 The Bureau **took note** of the current status of the implementation of the ITC Strategy until 2030, as contained in Informal document No. 8 and **requested** the secretariat to present it during the restricted segment of the 85<sup>th</sup> ITC session, with the following observations:
- Overlaps with presentations of chairs under their working parties agenda items should be avoided in the verbal briefing to the ITC session;
  - The Bureau agreed to add as a next step in view of ECOSOC adoption of ITC ToR and ITC RoP's entry in force: "**Operationalize ITC ToR and RoP and achieve necessary alignments to ITC ToR/RoP by its subsidiary bodies**".
- 3C. Enhancing the role of the Bureau to support delivery of mandates and decisions**  
[Informal Document No. 9]
- No. 15 The Bureau, **noting** the various differences and similarities in the governance structures of ICAO, IMO and ITC that were discussed at its June meeting and **recalling** existing UNECE practices with a view to enhancing the role of the Bureau to support delivery of mandates and decisions promoting the implementation of the ITC Strategy, **decided** to revert to this discussion after the discussion at the ITC on the alignment of the ITC subsidiary bodies, at its next June 2023 meeting.

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**Agenda Item 4. Other topics of strategic nature****4A. Impacts of war on transport connectivity – ongoing study by the secretariat**

No. 16

The Bureau, **took note** of the information provided on the ongoing study by the secretariat and **decided unanimously in favour of** the inclusion of this agenda item as 7(c)(ii), **requested** the secretariat to update the ITC annotated and provisional agendas accordingly, and **indicated** the interest in continuous information-sharing on this activity, with the following considerations:

- Draft ITC decisions should reflect insights from the study by the secretariat that is currently underway;
- It would be useful to look into direct actions and what happens with other organizations, like IMO and ITF who are working in related although not identical lines of work;
- Written information on this paper would be welcome;
- Assessing the impact of winter conditions and attacks on vital infrastructure on migration waves would be highly useful;
- Consideration of both export from Ukraine and transport of international aids into Ukraine;
- Expressed the wish to include the agenda item on the war in Ukraine in future Bureau agendas.

**4B. Progress with the preparation of the UNECE Road Safety Action Plan 2023-2030, in support of the Second Decade of Action for Road Safety**

[Informal Document No. 10]

No. 17

The Bureau **welcomed progress** with the preparation of the UNECE Road Safety Action Plan 2023-2030, in support of the Second Decade of Action for Road Safety, and **requested** the secretariat to prepare it for consideration by the Committee at its 85<sup>th</sup> session, taking into consideration comments by the Bureau until 2 December and with a view to collecting inputs from the relevant Working Parties, following and subject to its endorsement by ITC.

**4C. Climate change mitigation in inland transport at an inflection point– follow-up to related 84<sup>th</sup> ITC decisions**

[Informal Documents No. 11 and No. 13]

No. 18

The Bureau, **expressed its strong support for** information included in Informal document No. 11 containing a comprehensive picture of the Committee's existing work on climate change mitigation and action-oriented options for the Committee and its Working Parties and **requested** the secretariat to submit it for consideration at the Committee's 85<sup>th</sup> plenary session with the following observations:

- The to-be-developed strategy should be ambitious and supported by a strong action plan with milestones;
- The phrase “from cradle to cradle” may be replaced with the term “life cycle”.

No. 19

The Bureau, **welcomed** progress in the preparation of the first assessment of issues on electric vehicle charging that need addressing in the realm of the Committee (Informal document No. 13) and **requested** the secretariat

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to submit this document for consideration at the Committee's 85th plenary session with the following considerations:

- Inclusivity internally: the recommendations should be supported by Working Parties;
- It would be helpful to cover issues of standardization also from the viewpoint of the end-user, especially those concerning payment systems for charging;
- Retrofitting existing factory installations to build electric is an increasingly important area with several challenges that deserves to be looked up;
- Addressing the trend toward e-mobility and transport requires close cooperation between several subsidiary bodies and that WP.5 continues to play a pivotal role in monitoring this trend in relation to future work of the Committee.

#### **4D. Enhancing the capabilities of ECE to attract staff-related resources for the transport subprogramme**

[Informal Document No. 12]

No. 20

The Bureau **deliberated on options to enhance the capabilities of the ECE to attract staff-related resources and gave the following comments:**

- The Bureau expressed satisfaction with the progress in receiving JPOs as part of the in-kind contributions included in the document;
- This document can be re-visited after the completion of the planned independent external programmatic evaluation on the implementation of the ITC Strategy.

#### **4E. Preparations for the seventieth session of the Economic Commission for Europe**

No. 21

The Bureau **took note** of information about ongoing preparations for the seventieth session of the Economic Commission for Europe, including on possible decisions on transport related matters in relation to the Commission's theme and expressed its strong support.

#### **4F. UNECE 2024 evaluation plan and the transport subprogramme**

No. 22

The Bureau **took note** of information about current plans for the UNECE 2024 evaluation plan and expressed its support for the current proposal for the transport subprogramme, which is to evaluate the implementation of the ITC Strategy until 2030, given its central role in the work of ITC, its subsidiary bodies and the Division.

### **Agenda Item 5. Other business**

#### **5A. Division-related matters of interest**

No. 23

The Bureau **thanked** the Director of the Sustainable Transport Division who updated the Bureau members about latest developments with regard to the Division.

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- No. 24      The Bureau:
- **Welcomed** Ms Christine Seifert who started her duties as a JPO for the Division in October 2022 and **expressed its appreciation** to the German Government for its in-kind support to the work of the Division;
  - **Welcomed** the update on the new JPO who will be starting his duties in January 2023 and expressed its appreciation to the Chinese Government for its in-kind support to the work of the Division.
- 5B. Bureau membership-related issues**
- No. 25      The Bureau:
- **Welcomed** Mr. Régis Farret, as France’s vice-Chair member of the Bureau, and expressed its gratitude to Ms Marie-Pierre Meganck for her great service and role in the successes of the Committee during her tenure as vice-Chair;
  - **Took note** of information from Switzerland on future changes concerning the coordination of the Swiss Confederation’s participation at the Bureau and **thanked** the Swiss FOT for the steady leadership and continuous support for the work of the ITC.
- 5C. Date of next meetings**
- No. 26      The Bureau **decided to hold** its next meeting on 20 February 2023 from 3 to 6 p.m. (room tbc). The Bureau also noted that, following its decision at its June meeting to increase the duration of the ITC session by one half-day meeting, its post-ITC meeting will take place informally during the lunch break of 24 February 2023 (exact modalities tbc). The Bureau requested to move the dates of the November session earlier to provide more time for the Bureau to consider comments and meanwhile to allow the secretariat to submit documents to UNOG on time.
- No. 27      The Bureau **expressed** its support for the organization of the annual session in hybrid format.
-