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Economic Commission for Europe

Inland Transport Committee

Working Party on Transport Trends and Economics

Group of Experts on Assessment of Climate Change Impacts and Adaptation for Inland Transport

Twenty-seventh session

Geneva, 1 and 2 October 2024

Item 1 of the provisional agenda

Adoption of the agenda

Annotated provisional agenda for the twenty-seventh session*

to be held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva starting at 10:00 a.m. on Tuesday,
1 October, Room IX, Palais des Nations

I. Provisional agenda

1. Adoption of the agenda.
2. Initiatives in climate change impact assessment and adaptation for inland transport.
3. Climate change and transport assets data.
4. National and sub-national projects on climate change impact assessment and transport asset adaptation needs.
5. Database on adaptation measures.
6. Guidelines for integrating climate change considerations in planning and operational processes.
7. Other business.
8. Date and place of next meeting.

* For reasons of economy, delegates are requested to bring copies of all relevant documents to the session. There will be no documentation available in the conference room. Before the session, documents may be downloaded from the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe Transport Division's website (<https://unece.org/transport/trends-and-economics>). On an exceptional basis, documents may also be obtained by e-mail (maria.mostovets@un.org).

All delegates are requested to register online, including those holding long-duration badges, at <https://indico.un.org/event/1007272/>. Delegates without a valid long-duration badge should obtain an identification badge at the UNOG Security and Safety Section, located at the Pregny Gate (14, Avenue de la Paix). In case of difficulty, please contact ECE secretariat by phone +41 22 917 59 75 or email: maria.mostovets@un.org. For a map of the Palais des Nations and other useful information, see www.unece.org/meetings/practical.html.

9. Summary of main decisions.

II. Annotations

1. Adoption of the agenda

The Group of Experts on Assessment of Climate Change Impacts and Adaptation for Inland Transport (GE.3) is invited to adopt its agenda as contained in ECE/TRANS/WP.5/GE.3/53.

Documentation

ECE/TRANS/WP.5/GE.3/53

2. Initiatives in climate change impact assessment and adaptation for inland transport

GE.3 is expected to continue its discussion on initiatives in climate change impact assessment and adaptation for inland transport. In this regard, GE.3 should consider issues such as: (a) biological changes including loss of vegetation and their impact on adaptation of transport to climate change, (b) nature-based transport adaptation solutions, and (c) Global Warming Levels (GWL) for regional climate change impact assessment.

To support consideration of the above issues, World Association for Waterborne Transport Infrastructure (PIANC) will present on ways to incorporate biological changes in the adaptation work. University of Birmingham will share experience and practices in applying nature-based solutions in adaptation of transport to climate change as well as further insights regarding GWL application for regional climate change impact assessment.

Other experts may wish to provide updates on ongoing initiatives as appropriate.

Under this item, lead authors for the chapters of the final technical report will present the initial drafts:

- Informal document WP.5/GE.3 (2024) No. 3 on climate variability and change – observed changes (section I) and also incorporating insight on marine heatwave and trends.
- Informal document WP.5/GE.3 (2024) No. 4 on existing international and national policies and legislation for acting on adaptation of climate change in transport.
- Informal document WP.5/GE.3 (2024) No. 5 on methodologies for assessing climate change hazards on transport systems.
- Informal document WP.5/GE.3 (2024) No. 6 on measures for effective adaptation of transport systems to climate change hazards.

The Chairs and the secretariat should then present a simple review form to be applied for providing comments on the chapters in the final report.

GE.3 may then review draft case studies should such be submitted by experts to the current session using the case study template.

GE.3 should also continue its discussion commenced at the previous session on options for continuation of work on adaptation of transport to climate change upon expiry of the GE.3 current mandate.

Documentation

Informal document WP.5/GE.3 (2024) No. 3; Informal document WP.5/GE.3 (2024) No. 4; Informal document WP.5/GE.3 (2024) No. 5; Informal document WP.5/GE.3 (2024) No. 6

3. Climate change and transport assets data

GE.3 will be invited to formulate in detail the content of the section II of the Chapter on climate variability and change which should present the projections maps and analysis for climate impacts on transport networks and nodes projected for temperature, precipitation, and wind gust/windstorms.

For this purpose, the secretariat will present Informal document WP.5/GE.3 (2024) No. 7 which contains an advanced outline and lists the already elaborated maps.

GE.3 should then continue its discussion on how to address and present windstorms projections in section II, Chapter on climate variability and change of the final report. In doing so, GE.3 will consider the work done in Germany on windstorms for the coastal areas based on regional coupled ocean-atmosphere models.

Under this item, GE.3 should also continue its discussion on needs for common data structure on the damages/costs caused by climate change impacts to transport and linking them with key performance indicators (KPIs) used in transport sectors. In this discussion, GE.3 should consider outcomes on this subject from a call undertaken as part of intersessional work.

Documentation

Informal document WP.5/GE.3 (2024) No. 7

4. National and sub-national projects on climate change impact assessment and transport asset adaptation needs

Experts are invited to inform about their national or sub-national concluded, ongoing or planned projects on climate change impact assessment and transport asset adaptation needs.

Further to exchanges made at the previous session, the following can be presented:

- Climate Sense on outcomes of work in the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland on multi-hazard and cascading events in winter seasons.
- France on outcomes from its assessment of rolling stock adaptation requirements to heatwaves and evaluation of resilience of supply chains.
- Germany on outcomes of work on measurable adaptation goals for different sectors, as well as on relevant measures to achieve these goals and specific indicators for assessing success in attaining the goals.
- University of Aegean on a project carried out in Greece to assess climate risk of 154 Greek ports incorporating port criticality assessment through a multicriteria analysis.

5. Database on adaptation measures

GE.3 may wish to explore potential case studies on application of the adaptation pathways methodology to selected transport assets.

6. Guidelines for integrating climate change considerations in planning and operational processes

GE.3 will be invited to discuss potential case studies for applying the framework for stress tests.

The TER project managers will report on the TER workshop, which took place on 16 May 2024 and included a simulation to stress test a fictive railway line section based on the GE.3 framework for stress test using a qualitative assessment approach.

GE.3 should then discuss updated guide for assessing transport asset criticality further developed since the previous session. Informal document WP.5/GE.3 (2024) No. 8 contains the draft guide.

The secretariat will inform GE.3 about collection of additional data on impacts of climate/weather related events on transport infrastructure (road and rail).

At the previous session, GE.3 requested the secretariat to explore options for setting up an electronic United Nations hub for climate change adaptation through which the resource material could be made accessible in an interactive and user-friendly way. The secretariat will discuss possible options.

Documentation

Informal document WP.5/GE.3 (2024) No. 8

7. Other business

At the time of preparing the agenda no issues have been raised under this item.

8. Date and place of next meeting

The secretariat will inform GE.3 about the date and place for the twenty-eighth session.

9. Summary of main decisions

In accordance with established practice, the Chair will briefly summarize the decisions taken. Following the session, the Secretary, in cooperation with the Chair and Vice-Chairs, will prepare the final report.
