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## **Economic Commission for Europe**

Inland Transport Committee

### **Global Forum for Road Traffic Safety**

**Eighty-seventh session**

Geneva, 25-29 September 2023

Item 9 of the provisional agenda

### **Comments on the draft “Terms of reference and rules of procedure of the Global Forum for Road Traffic Safety (WP.1)”**

#### **Submitted by the United States of America**

1. This document contains ECE/TRANS/WP.1/100/Add.1/Rev.4 with track changes made to date (including those which were adopted at WP.1’s 86<sup>th</sup> session in March 2023). At the last session, WP.1 discussed Rules 21, 22, 27 and 28.
2. Changes were made to Rules 22, 27 and 28, and participants were asked to consider the proposed changes ahead of the discussion at this session. The WP.1 Chair also invited all the delegates to research the question of quorum in the context of decision making and voting for this session.
3. At this session, WP.1 should finalize its discussions on Rules 21, 22, 27 and 28 and thereafter start to discuss from Rules 28 bis until the end of the document.
4. If there is time, WP.1 should return to the ROP and the start of the TOR, and finalize its discussion on Rules 1 to 20 taking into account the secretariat’s suggestions based on ITC’s “Draft recommendations for harmonized elements in the Terms of Reference of ITC Working Parties” per ECE/TRANS/2023/4 as highlighted in this document for ease of reference.

## Terms of reference of the Global Forum for Road Traffic Safety (WP.1)

1. The Global Forum for Road Traffic Safety (WP.1) (hereinafter referred to as WP.1), acting within the framework of the policies of the United Nations and the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE), and in conformity with the Terms of Reference of the Economic Commission for Europe, Guidelines for the establishment and functioning of working parties within UNECE (ECE/EX/1), Guidelines for the establishment and functioning of teams of specialists within UNECE (ECE/EX/2/Rev.1), Guidelines on procedures and practices for ECE bodies, Appendix III, E/ECE/1468, UNECE Framework for the Engagement with the business sector (Informal document no 2017/40), under the supervision of the Inland Transport Committee (ITC), and consistent with the legal instruments listed below shall:

Secretariat: Per paragraph 1 of Annex II of ECE/TRANS/2023/4, "The following clauses are recommended for harmonized coverage in the TOR of ITC Working Parties, based on the analysis in Annex I":

1. The Global Forum for Road Traffic Safety (WP.1) (hereinafter referred to as WP.1) [and its subsidiary body/bodies] will act within the framework of the policies of the United Nations and the Economic Commission for Europe (hereafter ECE) and under the general supervision of its parent body, the Inland Transport Committee (hereafter ITC) and in conformity with the Terms of Reference of ECE (E/ECE/778/Rev.5) and ITC (E/RES/2022/2 and ECE/TRANS/316/Add.2) consistent with the legal instruments in the annex.

2. WP.1 will operate in accordance with the Guidelines for the establishment and functioning of Working Parties within ECE as approved by the ECE Executive Committee at its fourth meeting on 14 July 2006 (ECE/EX/1). These guidelines refer to its status and characteristics, including the review of its mandate and extension every five years, its membership and officers, its methods of work and its secretariat provided by the ECE Sustainable Transport Division.

3. WP.1 will...

Initiate and pursue actions aimed at reinforcing and improving road safety, by inter alia developing and harmonizing traffic regulations and rules for road signs and signals while simultaneously strengthening relations among countries. To this end:

(a) Maintain, manage and keep up to date the following legal instruments:

- Convention on Road Traffic, of 19 September 1949;
- Protocol on Road Signs and Signals, of 19 September 1949;
- European Agreement on the Application of Article 23 of the 1949 Convention on Road Traffic concerning the Dimensions and Weights of Vehicles Permitted to Travel on Certain Roads of the Contracting Parties, of 16 September 1950;
- Convention on Road Traffic of 8 November 1968;
- Convention on Road Signs and Signals of 8 November 1968;
- European Agreement supplementing the Convention on Road Traffic (1968), of 1 May 1971;
- European Agreement supplementing the Convention on Road Signs and Signals (1968), of 1 May 1971;
- Protocol on Road Markings, Additional to the European Agreement supplementing the Convention on Road Signs and Signals, of 1 March 1973;
- Agreement on Minimum Requirements for the Issue and Validity of Driving Permits of 1 April 1975,

and develop new legal instruments as necessary.

(b) Encourage accessions to the Conventions and the legal instruments mentioned above.

**ITC recommendation re clauses on legal instruments:**

- Develop and keep up to date [legal instruments / Conventions on WPs topic] as well as other relevant legal instruments on [insert relevant topic] that the ITC may charge it/[WP] with administering.
- Encourage the accession of new countries to the Conventions and Agreements mentioned above.
- Create a working environment that facilitates the fulfilment by Contracting Parties of their obligations set forth in the respective legal instruments.

(c) Maintain, manage and keep up to date the following resolutions:

- Consolidated Resolution on Road Traffic (R.E.1)
- Consolidated Resolution on Road Signs and Signals (R.E.2)
- Resolution on the deployment of highly and fully automated vehicles in road traffic, 21 September 2018,

and develop other resolutions or sets of recommendations as necessary.

(d) Encourage participation in its activities by fostering regional and global cooperation and, as necessary, organizing dedicated events in the area of its competence.

**ITC recommendation:** Encourage participation in the activities of [insert WP] by fostering cooperation and collaboration with [list of relevant stakeholders, e.g., the countries, other ECE Divisions], particularly [xxx], the European Commission, the international governmental organizations, particularly [xxx], the international non-governmental [insert relevant topic] organizations and the other United Nations regional commissions on issues of common interest.

(e) Encourage exchanges of data between countries by compiling and circulating information on road accidents and their causes and on the legal provisions in force in the countries and best national and international road safety practices.

(f) Collaborate closely with other United Nations regional commissions and other organizations and agencies of the United Nations system, with intergovernmental organizations, and with nongovernmental organizations in the area of road safety, and sustainable and inclusive mobility.

(g) Collaborate closely with the other subsidiary bodies of the Inland Transport Committee, particularly the World Forum for Harmonization of Vehicle Regulations (WP.29), the Working Party on Road Transport (SC.1), the Working Party on the Transport of Dangerous Goods (WP.15), and the Working Party on Transport Statistics (WP.6) and the Working Party on Transport Trends and Economics (WP.5), on issues of common interest involving road safety.

(h) Define and implement a work programme relating to the legal instruments mentioned above.

(j) Continue to consider safe mobility as a tool for promoting inclusiveness, sustainability and development goals

(i) Collaborate closely with the United Nations Secretary-General's Special Envoy on Road Safety by supporting his mandate to improve road safety at the global level.

**ITC recommendation:** (j) Ensure openness and transparency of the work of [WP].

2. These Terms of Reference and Rules of Procedure apply to WP.1 and do not modify the provisions of the legal instruments mentioned above.

# Rules of procedure of the Global Forum for Road Traffic Safety (WP.1)

## Chapter I

### Participation

#### Rule 1

Suggestion by University of South Carolina:

(a) A member state of the UNECE may participate as a full member of WP.1. It is counted for the purpose of quorum and has full voting rights.

(b) If agreed by the Inland Transport Committee in accordance with paragraph 2<sup>1</sup> of the Guidelines for the establishment and functioning of Working Parties within UNECE (ECE/EX/1), a non-UNECE member states or a member of a UN agency may participate as a full member of WP.1. It is counted for the purpose of quorum and has full voting rights.

(c) A contracting party to any of the legal instruments listed in the terms of reference above may participate as a limited member of WP.1. It is not counted for the purpose of quorum and has [participation and] voting rights with respect to any legal instrument to which it is a contracting party.

(d) A relevant international organization or nongovernmental organization may participate as an observer in WP.1.

(a) Member countries of the UNECE shall be full participants. ADOPTED

(b) **Non ECE member States which are Contracting Parties to any of the legal instruments listed in terms of reference above shall be full participants if agreed by the Inland Transport Committee in accordance with paragraph 2<sup>2</sup> of the Guidelines for the establishment and functioning of Working Parties within UNECE (ECE/EX/1). ADOPTED**

(c) **Non-ECE Member States have the right to participate as full participants to the segments of the WP.1 session that deal with legal instruments<sup>3</sup> to which they are contracting parties and remain in a consultative capacity in other parts.** (Chair sceptical)

(c) *All other Member countries of the United Nations may participate in a consultative capacity in WP.1 on any matter of particular concern to those countries.* ADOPTED

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<sup>1</sup> Paragraph 2: Working Parties are open for participation by all UNECE member States. Non-UNECE member States can participate as observers or, if agreed by the parent Sectoral Committee, as full members. In addition, relevant international organizations and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) can also be invited as observers, in compliance with the UN rules and practices in this respect.

A Working Party elects its officers: a Chairperson and an agreed number of Vice-Chairpersons; and establishes the term of its officers.

<sup>2</sup> Paragraph 2: Working Parties are open for participation by all UNECE member States. Non-UNECE member States can participate as observers or, if agreed by the parent Sectoral Committee, as full members. In addition, relevant international organizations and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) can also be invited as observers, in compliance with the UN rules and practices in this respect.

A Working Party elects its officers: a Chairperson and an agreed number of Vice-Chairpersons; and establishes the term of its officers.

<sup>3</sup> See appendix for the list of legal instruments.

ITC recommendation: (c) States that do not fall under subparagraphs (a) and (b) may participate in WP.1 sessions in a consultative capacity.

(d) United Nations specialized agencies, intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council, in accordance with paragraphs 12<sup>4</sup> and 13<sup>5</sup> of the Terms of Reference of the ECE, may, after notification of the secretariat, participate in a consultative capacity in WP.1 in the consideration of any matter of particular concern to those agencies or organizations.

ADOPTED

ITC recommendation: (d) Specialized agencies, intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council, may, in accordance with paragraphs 12<sup>6</sup> and 13<sup>7</sup> of the Terms of Reference of the Economic Commission for Europe (“ECE” or “the Commission”), participate in a consultative capacity in WP.1 in discussions that WP.1 may hold on any matter of particular concern to those agencies or organizations.

(e) Non-governmental organizations not in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council may, subject to the approval of the Committee and respecting the principles set forth in Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31, parts I and II, participate with consultative status in discussions that WP.1 may hold on any matter of interest to these organizations.

(f) Consultations with specialized agencies and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) shall be conducted in accordance with Rule 51 of the Rules of Procedure of ECE.

(g) Consultations with non-governmental organizations shall be conducted in accordance with Rules 52 and 53 of the Rules of Procedure of ECE. Non-governmental organizations with consultative status under paragraph (d) shall be treated as non-governmental organizations included on the list.

## Chapter II

### Sessions

#### Rule 2

Sessions shall be held on dates fixed by the ECE secretariat. ADOPTED

#### Rule 3

Sessions shall ordinarily be held at the United Nations Office at Geneva (UNOG), Switzerland. WP.1 may, with the concurrence of the Inland Transport Committee, hold a session outside of UNOG to promote its global role and international legal instruments under

<sup>4</sup> Paragraph 12: “The Commission shall invite representatives of specialized agencies and may invite representatives of any intergovernmental organizations to participate in a consultative capacity in its consideration of any matter of particular concern to that agency or organization, following the practices of the Economic and Social Council.”

<sup>5</sup> Paragraph 13: “The Commission shall make arrangements for consultation with non-governmental organizations which have been granted consultative status by the Economic and Social Council, in accordance with the principles approved by the Council for this purpose and contained in Council resolution 1296 (XLIV), parts I and II.

<sup>6</sup> Paragraph 12: “The Commission shall invite representatives of specialized agencies and may invite representatives of any intergovernmental organizations to participate in a consultative capacity in its consideration of any matter of particular concern to that agency or organization, following the practices of the Economic and Social Council.”

<sup>7</sup> Paragraph 13: “The Commission shall make arrangements for consultation with non-governmental organizations which have been granted consultative status by the Economic and Social Council, in accordance with the principles approved by the Council for this purpose and contained in Council resolution 1996/31, parts I and II.”

its mandate. In that case, the relevant United Nations rules and regulations shall apply.  
ADOPTED

**Rule 4 discussion to be continued on the Chair's suggestion. Canada asked a question about the definition/difference between formal and informal documents, and if it has been dealt with in other WP TORs.**

**Secretariat comment: ITC ROP refers to basic documents. Suggest stay with basic or just refer to documents (as this rule essentially establishes the difference between formal and informal documents without saying so).**

The secretariat shall, at least six (6) weeks before the commencement of a session of WP.1, distribute a notice of the opening date of said session, together with a copy of the provisional agenda. ADOPTED

**Chair suggestion:**

**Any participant as specified in Rule 1 may submit documents relating to each item appearing on the provisional agenda of a session. Documents should be submitted to the secretariat prior to or during a session. In order to be translated into the official languages of the ECE, documents need to be submitted twelve weeks prior to a session. All documents shall be made available on the ECE WP.1 website.**

**ITC optional recommendation: The secretariat shall, at least forty-two days before the commencement of a session of WP.1, distribute a notice of the opening date of the session, together with a copy of the provisional agenda. The basic documents relating to each item appearing on the provisional agenda of a session shall be transmitted not less than fortytwo days before the opening of the session, provided that in exceptional cases the secretariat may, for reasons to be stated in writing, transmit such documents not less than twentyone days before the opening of the session.**

## Chapter III

### Agenda

#### Rule 5



The provisional agenda for each session of WP.1 shall be drawn up by the secretariat, in coordination with the Chairperson of WP.1. ADOPTED

#### Rule 6

The provisional agenda for any session of WP.1 may include:

- (a) Items arising from previous sessions of WP.1;
- (b) Items proposed by the ECE or the Inland Transport Committee;
- (c) Items proposed by any ~~member of the ECE or other full member of WP.1~~ **full participant as specified in Rule 1 (a) and (b); [Secretariat: in light of ITC recommendations, suggest replacing this with "Items proposed by any member of WP.1, or non-member of WP.1 which may propose items that are related to legal instruments to which they are contracting parties;]**
- (d) Items proposed by any participant **as specified in Rule 1** relating to the programme of work of WP.1; **[Secretariat: ITC's rule 6 (d) says "Items proposed by a specialized agency in accordance with the agreements of relationship concluded between the United Nations and such agencies; and"]**
- (e) Any other items which the Chairperson or Vice-Chairperson of WP.1 or the secretariat see(s) fit to include. ADOPTED

**Rule 7**

The first item on the provisional agenda for each session shall be the adoption of the agenda.  
ADOPTED

**Rule 8**

The order in which items on the agenda are considered may be modified at any moment by WP.1 during the session. ADOPTED

**Chapter IV**

**Representation (For March 2023, cross check the reference to participants and representatives in the context of rule 4)**

**Secretariat comment: ITC recommendations per below are recommended in light of ITC directive of harmonization. “The Working Parties’ ROP should be aligned with the terminology used by ITC. Thus, the rules should speak of “full members” rather than “full participants”.”**

**Rule 9**

~~Members of the ECE and the other participants~~ Participants as defined specified in Rule 1 shall be represented at sessions of WP.1 by a representative.

**ITC recommendation: Each full member, as defined in rule 1, shall be represented at WP.1 by an accredited representative.**

**Rule 10**

The representative may be accompanied by alternate representatives and/or advisers and, when absent, the representative may be replaced by an alternate representative.

**ITC recommendation: A representative may be accompanied to the sessions of WP.1 by alternate representatives, advisers and experts and, when absent, he or she may be replaced by an alternate representative.**

**Rule 11**

The names of representatives, alternate representatives and advisers, shall be submitted to the ECE secretariat before the holding of the session. A list of the names of all persons having participated in the session is prepared by the secretariat and made available during the course of the session.

**ITC recommendation: (a) Each full member shall submit the names of a representative, alternate representatives, advisers and experts to the secretariat at the latest one week before the opening of the session.**

**(b) The secretariat shall prepare a provisional list of above-mentioned persons scheduled to attend the session and make it available to the permanent missions and permanent observer missions to the United Nations Office at Geneva two working days before the opening of the session.**

**(c) The secretariat shall prepare a list of the names of all persons attending the session and make it available to them at the end of the session.**

## Chapter V

### Officers

#### Rule 12

Every two years, WP.1 shall, at the end of the last session of the second year, elect from among the representatives of ~~members of the ECE~~ **full participants as specified in Rule 1 (a) and (b)** a Chairperson and two Vice- Chairpersons, who shall take office at the start of the first session of the year following their election. The officers shall be eligible for re-election. ADOPTED

Secretariat: ITC terminology is full member. Also suggest the following sentence at the end of Rule 12: "Nominations for the positions of Chairperson and Vice-Chairpersons will be submitted to the secretariat, if possible, ~~ten~~ days before the start of the session during which elections will be conducted."

#### Rule 13

If the Chairperson is absent from a session, or part thereof, one of the Vice-Chairpersons, designated by the Chairperson, shall preside. ADOPTED

#### Rule 14

If the Chairperson ceases to represent a ~~member of the ECE~~ **full participant as specified in Rule 1 (a) and (b)**, or can no longer hold office, one of the Vice-Chairpersons, designated by WP.1, shall become Chairperson for the unexpired portion of the term. In that case, or if one of the Vice-Chairpersons ceases to represent a ~~member of the full participant as specified in Rule 1 (a) and (b)~~, or can no longer hold office, WP.1 shall elect another Vice-Chairperson for the unexpired portion of the term. ADOPTED

Secretariat: ITC terminology is full member.

#### Rule 15

The Vice-Chairperson acting as Chairperson shall have the same powers and carry out the same duties as the Chairperson. ADOPTED

#### Rule 16

The Chairperson shall participate in WP.1 in this capacity and not as the representative of his/her ~~State~~ **country**. WP.1 shall admit an alternate representative to represent that country, and to exercise its right to vote. ADOPTED

Secretariat: ITC terminology is State.

## Chapter VI

### Secretariat

#### Rule 17

The Executive Secretary shall act in that capacity at all sessions of WP.1. They may appoint another member of the staff to take their place. ADOPTED

#### Rule 18

The secretariat, acting in the framework of the ECE Sustainable Transport Division, shall make all the arrangements necessary for the organization and holding of the sessions of WP.1. ADOPTED



**Rule 19**

During the sessions, the secretariat shall assist WP.1 in complying with these Rules of Procedure. ADOPTED

**Rule 20**

The secretariat may present, with the agreement of the Chairperson, written or oral statements on any question examined. ADOPTED

**Chapter VII**

**Conduct of business (For March 2023, Chair suggested considering the question of a quorum and whether this should be included)**

Secretariat: ECE/TRANS/2023/4 (para 18) Any Working Party that does not have a rule on quorum shall apply ITC's revised ROP, requiring the presence of one third of ECE member States for any decision-making. Those Working Parties that have a rule on quorum which is limited to decisions on legal instruments in force shall follow the ITC approach for all other decision-making processes. All ROP should explicitly include a rule on quorum to ensure unambiguous and smooth decision-making processes.

**Rule 21**

As a general rule, WP.1 shall meet in private sessions. ADOPTED

**Rule 22**

As a general rule, the quorum of one-fifth of WP.1 full members is needed for the Chairperson to announce the opening of each session. The Chair shall direct the discussions, assure the application of the present rules of procedure and give the floor to speakers. The Chairperson may also call a speaker to order if their remarks are not relevant to the subject under discussion. The Chairperson may also limit the time allowed to each speaker.

**Rule 23**

At the end of each session, WP.1 shall adopt a report prepared by the secretariat. ADOPTED

**Rule 24**

The Chairperson may decide, in consultation with the secretariat, to reduce the length of a session or postpone it in the case of force majeure. ADOPTED

**Rule 25**

Rules ~~25~~ **29** to ~~28~~**32** and ~~30~~ **34** to ~~33~~**37**\* of the Rules of Procedure of ECE are applicable mutatis mutandis. ADOPTED

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\* **Rule 29:** During the discussion of any matter a representative may raise a point of order. In this case the Chairperson shall immediately state his/her ruling. If it is challenged, the Chairperson shall forthwith submit his/her ruling to the Commission for decision and it shall stand unless overruled.

**Rule 30:** During the discussion of any matter a representative may move the adjournment of the debate. Any such motion shall have priority. In addition to the proposal of the motion, one representative shall be allowed to speak in favour of, and one representative against, the motion.

**Rule 31:** A representative may at any time move the closure of the debate whether or not any other representative has signified his wish to speak. Not more than two representatives may be granted permission to speak against the closure.

**Rule 32:** The Chairperson shall take the sense of the Commission on a motion for closure. If the Commission is in favour of the closure, the Chairperson shall declare the debate closed.

**Rule 34:** Principal motions and resolutions shall be put to the vote in the order of their submission unless the Commission decides otherwise.

## Rule 26

Every representative has the right to declare their position and may request that it be reflected, in summarized form, in the report of the session of WP.1. ADOPTED

## Chapter VIII

### Voting

Secretariat: Use “Voting” for harmonization with ITC terminology.

Also note the following comment in ECE/TRANS/2023/4 (para 21) “Rule 36 of ITC’s ROP, on the other hand, stipulates that decisions of the Committee shall normally be taken by consensus. In the absence of consensus, decisions of the Committee shall be made by a majority of the full members present and voting. Harmonization of the decision-making process would avoid ambiguity and enable a unified approach across ITC’s subsidiary bodies. However, the Working Parties might have to keep or add further rules on decision-making as it pertains to their individual legal instruments. For instance, WP.1 has full members that are non-ECE members. The WP.1 rule shall therefore be amended accordingly to reflect the changed membership and extend voting rights to its other full members.”

ECE/TRANS/2023/4 (para 20) also suggests that WPs may wish to consider including an exception for the European Union to vote in lieu of its member States through a REIO clause if this meets the needs of the WP.

## Rule 27

The presence of one third of WP.1 full members shall be required for any decision to be taken. Decisions shall be made by full members of WP.1. Decisions shall preferably be made on the basis of consensus.

### Voting

## Rule 28

~~Decisions of WP.1 shall preferably be made on the basis of consensus.~~ In the absence of consensus, each full member of WP.1 shall have one vote. Decisions shall be made by a majority of the full members present and voting. For the purpose of **this rule**, the phrase “members present and voting” means full members casting an affirmative or negative vote. Members which abstain from voting are considered as not voting.

**ITC recommendation:** Decisions of WP.1 shall normally be taken by consensus. In the absence of consensus, decisions of WP.1 shall be made by a majority of the full members present and voting.

For the purpose of these rules, the phrase “members present and voting” means **members** casting an affirmative or negative vote. Members which abstain from voting are considered as not voting.

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**Rule 35:** When an amendment revises, adds to or deletes from a proposal the amendment shall be put to the vote first, and if it is adopted, the amended proposal shall then be put to the vote.

**Rule 36:** If two or more amendments are moved to a proposal, the Commission shall vote first on the amendment furthest removed in substance from the original proposal, then, if necessary, on the amendment next furthest removed and so on, until all the amendments have been put to the vote.

**Rule 37:** The Commission may, at the request of a representative, decide to put a motion or resolution to the vote in parts. If this is done, the text resulting from the series of votes shall be put to the vote as a whole.

### Rule 28 bis

Notwithstanding Rule 28, in the absence of consensus decisions on an amendment to a legal instrument listed in the Annex shall be taken in the presence of no less than one third of the Contracting Parties to the legal instrument concerned.

Decisions shall be made by a majority of the Contracting Parties to the legal instrument concerned, present and voting. Each Contracting Party to the legal instrument concerned shall have one vote.

Proposed rule 28 bis above is covered by ITC reco for Rule 28 if accepted. Different amendment in place of current text of Rule 28 bis (note this recommendation comes from a rule in both ECE and ITC ROPs) suggested.

WP.1 shall take no action in respect of any country without the agreement of the Government of that country.

### Rule 29

Voting and elections of officers shall be held in accordance with Rules 3741 to 39 43\*\* of the Rules of Procedure of ECE.

## Chapter IX

### Languages

#### Rule 30

English, French and Russian are the working languages of WP.1. Statements made in one of these languages are interpreted into the other two languages.

## Chapter X

### Team/s of specialists

Secretariat: ECE/TRANS/2023/4 (para 25) says “While all Working Parties allow the establishment of groups of experts, Working Parties’ ROP use different terminology for such groups, for example referring to them as “team/s of specialists”. ECE uses the term “team of specialists” for groups of experts serviced by the secretariat... To align with the existing governance framework of ECE and to enable efficient delivery of the ITC mandates and programme of work, harmonizing the terminology across all ROP of the ITC subsidiary bodies would be helpful. For reasons of consistency and to avoid ambiguity and delays, the Committee, in exercising its right under the current “Guidelines for the establishment and functioning of teams of specialists within ECE” (ECE/EX/2/Rev.1, paragraph 1), re-confirmed the procedure in ECE/TRANS/304, paragraph 24, reminding that establishing formal groups of experts requires decisions first at ITC and then at EXCOM level.” Therefore, following ITC reco, suggest that this chapter be renamed “Team/s of specialists”.

\*\* **Rule 41:** The Commission shall normally vote by show of hands. If any representative requests a roll call, a roll call shall be taken in the English alphabetical order of the names of the members.

**Rule 42:** All elections shall be decided by secret ballot, unless, in the absence of any objection, the Commission decides to proceed without taking a ballot on an agreed candidate or slate.

**Rule 43:** If a vote is equally divided upon matters other than elections, a second vote shall be taken at the next meeting. If this vote also results in equality, the proposal shall be regarded as rejected.

\* **Rule 41:** The Commission shall normally vote by show of hands. If any representative requests a roll call, a roll call shall be taken in the English alphabetical order of the names of the members.

**Rule 42:** All elections shall be decided by secret ballot, unless, in the absence of any objection, the Commission decides to proceed without taking a ballot on an agreed candidate or slate.

**Rule 43:** If a vote is equally divided upon matters other than elections, a second vote shall be taken at the next meeting. If this vote also results in equality, the proposal shall be regarded as rejected.

### Rule 31

Between sessions, WP.1 may be assisted in carrying out its tasks by **team/s of specialists**. The creation and the holding of meetings of these groups require prior approval by the Inland Transport Committee **and the Executive Committee of ECE**.

The above rules of procedure shall apply, mutatis mutandis, to the conduct of any such group except for rules 6, 12 to 15, 23 to 25 and 27 to 29. **In addition to applying ECE/EX/2/Rev.1**, the following particular rules shall be applied:

- The provisional agenda shall be drawn up by the secretariat on the basis of orientations or the mandate given by WP.1 to the **team of specialists**;
- **A** Chairperson shall be designated at the beginning of each meeting;
- Decisions of the **team of specialists** shall be made on the basis of consensus. In the absence of consensus, the question shall be submitted to WP.1 to decide on the follow-up to be given.
- The report of the meeting prepared by the secretariat shall be submitted for the adoption of WP.1
- The secretariat may, in consultation with the Chairperson of WP.1, decide:
  - 1) to postpone the meeting if the items on the provisional agenda are **not** sufficient
  - 2) to transform **a team of specialists** meeting into an informal meeting if it appears that the number of participants inscribed is insufficient. In this case, the meeting shall not be subject to the present Rules of Procedure.

## Chapter XI

### Amendments

#### Rule 32

Any of these Rules of Procedure may be amended, in accordance with Rule 28. However, any amendment proposal affecting Rules 1 and 27 which goes beyond the provisions in the ECE mandate, in particular those in paragraph 11, shall require the prior approval of the Commission.

**Secretariat: ECE/TRANS/2023/4 (para 26) says "all amendments to the Working Parties' ROP must be adopted by ITC. The Working Parties' ROP that currently do not require adoption (or "approval" as it is currently framed by many) by ITC shall be amended accordingly. In addition, the terminology shall be aligned: While ITC "adopts" the TOR and ROP of WP, EXCOM "approves" the TOR of WP..."**

**Therefore, suggest that the current text "However, any amendment proposal affecting Rules 1 and 27 which goes beyond the provisions in the ECE mandate, in particular those in paragraph 11, shall require the prior approval of the Commission" is deleted and replaced with "However, any proposal amendment shall require the approval of the Inland Transport Committee and the endorsement of the Executive Committee of ECE."**

## Annex

### List of legal instruments under the competence of WP.1, currently in force

- Convention on Road Traffic, of 19 September 1949;
- Protocol on Road Signs and Signals, of 19 September 1949;
- European Agreement on the Application of Article 23 of the 1949 Convention on Road Traffic concerning the Dimensions and Weights of Vehicles Permitted to Travel on Certain Roads of the Contracting Parties, of 16 September 1950;
- Convention on Road Traffic of 8 November 1968;
- Convention on Road Signs and Signals of 8 November 1968;
- European Agreement supplementing the Convention on Road Traffic (1968), of 1 May 1971;
- European Agreement supplementing the Convention on Road Signs and Signals (1968), of 1 May 1971;
- Protocol on Road Markings, Additional to the European Agreement supplementing the Convention on Road Signs and Signals, of 1 March 1973;
- Agreement on Minimum Requirements for the Issue and Validity of Driving Permits of 1 April 1975.

### List of Resolutions under the competence of WP.1

- Consolidated Resolution on Road Traffic (R.E.1)
- Consolidated Resolution on Road Signs and Signals (R.E.2)
- WP.1 resolution on the deployment of highly and fully automated vehicles in road traffic, 20 September 2018 (Annex I, ECE/TRANS/WP.1/165)
- WP.1 resolution on safety considerations for activities other than driving undertaken by drivers when automated driving systems issuing transition demands exercise dynamic control, 23 September 2022 (ECE/TRANS/WP.1/2021/2/Rev.1)