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**Economic Commission for Europe**

Inland Transport Committee

**Eighty-seventh session**

Geneva, 11-14 February 2025
Item 6 (b) of the provisional agenda
**Programmatic issues:**

**Programme Plan for 2026**

 Programme Plan for 2026

 Subprogramme 2: Transport

 Note by the secretariat

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| --- |
| *Summary* |
|  The proposed template for 2026 is aligned with the annual framework endorsed by General Assembly in its resolution 77/267. |
|  Based on the instructions from the United Nations Controller, the ECE secretariat has prepared the proposed programme plan for 2026 for subprogramme 2 (Transport), which was shared for comments with the Inland Transport Committee (ITC) Bureau and EXCOM as part of the ECE proposed programme plan for 2026. The consolidated ECE proposed programme budget for 2026, modified as appropriate, will subsequently be submitted to the Committee for Programme and Coordination and the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions at their sessions in mid-2025. Their conclusions and recommendations therein will be transmitted to the General Assembly at its eightieth session in 2025 when it considers the Secretary-General’s proposed programme budget for 2026. |
|  The Committee **may wish to note** that the information contained in this document was reviewed by the ITC Bureau at its session on 13-14 November 2024. The Committee **is invited to review and provide comments** to this document, as necessary. |
|  |

 I. Objective

1. The objective, to which the subprogramme contributes, is to advance an intraregional and interregional sustainable inland transport (road, rail, inland waterway and intermodality) system by making it safer, cleaner, more efficient, more inclusive and more affordable, both for freight transport and people’s mobility.

 II. Strategy[[1]](#footnote-2)

2. To contribute to the objective, the subprogramme will:

 (a) Service the Inland Transport Committee and its 21 working parties and 13 administrative committees, as well as the **ECOSOC** Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods and on the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals and more than 50 formal and informal expert networks, **accounting for the Inland Transport Committee’s central role in leading and coordinating its subsidiary bodies and its extended inter-regional geographical scope following the endorsement of the Committee’s revised Terms of Reference by ECOSOC, and promote the achievement of the objectives of the Inland Transport Committee’s Strategy until 2030 and the Inland Transport Committee’s Strategy on Reducing Greenhouse Gas Emissions from Inland Transport;**

 (b) Administer the international regulatory framework for inland transport, which includes 61 United Nations legal instruments on safety, pollution, efficiency, multimodality and effectiveness (normative function) and ensure that the **Inland Transport** Committee’s regulatory functions are up to date with current technologies and transport innovations – such as intelligent transport systems, autonomous vehicles, digitization of customs and transport documents, and electric vehicles – and all legal instruments are open to all United Nations Member States, as appropriate, by developing new and updating existing legal instruments, as necessary, including maintaining the database of international regulatory frameworks for inland transport;

 (c) Provide an intergovernmental policy dialogue platform at the annual sessions of the Inland Transport Committee to review emerging challenges and emergency situations; support consensus-building during the Committee’s events in favour of regional and interregional connectivity, and climate change mitigation and adaptation, among other matters, including through the adoption of strategies, action plans, high-level statements or resolutions on harmonized actions by member States and contracting parties in order to enable the full implementation of the Committee’s mandate;

 (d) Analyse and provide technical assistance and capacity-building on accession to and implementation of legal instruments, at the request of member States and contracting parties within and beyond the ECE region;

 (e) Facilitate global improvements in road safety, through policy dialogue at Committee meetings, and by contributing to the work of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for Road Safety and the operation of the United Nations Road Safety Fund, in cooperation with other international organizations, and provide capacity-building and advisory assistance with regard to promoting legal instruments, calls for proposals and other related activities, as appropriate;

 (f) Support the efforts of member States to respond to and recover from emergency situations, including pandemics, and foster the functioning and development of national, regional and international inclusive transport systems and the implementation of the sustainable development agenda;

 (g) Promote knowledge-sharing and cooperation among Governments and key stakeholders, raise awareness of emerging issues and best responses, contribute to the improved monitoring and measuring of the Sustainable Development Goals, facilitate the adaptation of legally binding instruments and frameworks to new realities, and prepare new guidance materials.

 3. The above-mentioned work is expected to contribute to the achievement of Sustainable Development Goals 3, 5, 6 to 9 **as well as** 11 to 13 and result in:

 (a) Improvements in sustainable mobility, and in monitoring and measuring the Goals;

 (b) Improvements in inland transport, leading to safer, cleaner, more efficient, more inclusive and more affordable multimodal systems for contracting parties to the United Nations inland transport conventions;

 (c) Enhanced efforts towards net-zero emissions by 2050, guided by a strategy for reducing greenhouse gas emissions in inland transport adopted by the Committee in February 2024;

 (d) More efficient and resilient cross-border flows of goods and people regionally and globally;

 (e) Enhanced intergovernmental cooperation in emergency situations and minimized disruptions to the continued implementation and updating of United Nations inland transport conventions.

 III. Programme performance in 2024

 Enhanced intergovernmental cooperation to accelerate decarbonization of inland transport

4. Inland transport is responsible for 72 per cent of the transport sector's total emissions[[2]](#footnote-3), driven primarily by road transport. In 2024 a strategy on the decarbonization of the Sector was adopted by the Inland Transport Committee, aligning efforts to decarbonize inland transport with those for civil aviation by the International Civil Aviation Organization and maritime transport by the International Maritime Organization. The subprogramme drafted a zero draft Strategy with inputs from Inland Transport Committee Working Parties and coordinated intergovernmental negotiations during 2023 and 2024, following the mandate granted by the Inland Transport Committee at its 85th session (ECE/TRANS/328, para 60(a)).

5. Progress towards the objective is presented in the performance measure below (see Table 1).

# Table 1

Performance measure

| *2022 (actual)* | *2023 (actual)* | *2024 (actual)* |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  |  |  |
|  | Inland Transport Committee mandated the development of the Inland Transport Committee Decarbonization Strategy (*(ECE/TRANS/328, para 60(a)),*  | Inland Transport Committee adopted the Inland Transport Committee Decarbonization Strategy at the Committee’s eighty-sixth plenary session (ECE/TRANS/344, Annex I) |

 IV. Planned results for 2026

 Result 1: increased number of new and updated legal instruments strengthening the capacity of United Nations Member States to address climate change

 Programme performance in 2024 and target for 2026

6. The subprogramme’s work contributed to 33 new and updated inland transport legal instruments strengthening the capacity of United Nations Member States to address climate change since the Paris Agreement, which exceeded the planned target of 32.

Figure I

Performance measure: number of new and updated United Nations legal instruments under ECE purview, entering into force annually and improving the climate performance of the transport sector (cumulative)*a*

 *a* The figure reflects data since the 2015 Paris Agreement.

 Result 2: increased accessions to core road safety conventions as an initial step to contribute to fewer worldwide road accident fatalities and injuries

 Programme performance in 2023 and target for 2025

7. The subprogramme’s work contributed to 491 accessions to core United Nations road safety conversions and 10 events on road safety convention implementation, which met the planned target for 2024.

8. Progress towards the objective and the target for 2026 are presented in the performance measure below (see Figure II).

Figure II

Performance measure: number of contracting parties to core United Nations road safety conventions and number of events during which member States share challenges and good practices on road safety convention implementation (cumulative)

 Result 3: Enhanced regulatory framework for sustainable inland transport systems

 Proposed programme plan for 2026

 9. The subprogramme’s work on enhancing the regulatory framework in recent years has led to the development of updates to legal instruments, policy advice as well as recommendations to support the efforts of member States and contracting parties to further develop sustainable inland transport systems.

*Lessons learned and planned change*

10. The lesson for the subprogramme was that the subprogramme should adjust its approach and focus to better support the growing demands of Member States with an expanding geographical scope in the development of sustainable inland transport systems. In applying the lesson, the subprogramme will scale up its efforts to support the development of sustainable inland transport systems internationally and ensure that its activities benefit the ECE region and provide best practices to other regions in their own efforts to curb the number of road traffic deaths and injuries; improve the environmental performance of inland transport systems, including the need to facilitate the circular economy and the sustainable use of natural resources and reduce emissions; and enhance efficiency, connectivity and accessibility for all, including persons with disabilities, through the digitization of documents and procedures related to transport and the promotion of automated vehicles. The subprogramme plans to enhance its regulatory support for the implementation of the Inland Transport Committee’s Strategy and Decarbonization Strategy by, among other things, developing tools and analyzing trends and challenges in other regions to encourage greater participation of countries from outside the ECE region and women in the activities of the Committee and its subsidiary bodies. It will also scale up outreach and capacity-building activities, including in partnerships with the United Nations system and external stakeholders.

11. Expected progress towards the objective is presented in the performance measure below (see Figure III).

Figure III

Performance measure: number of contracting parties to United Nations legal instruments on transport administered by the Economic Commission for Europe (cumulative)

 V. Legislative mandates

12. The list below provides all mandates entrusted to the subprogramme.

*General Assembly resolutions*

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| [58/9](https://undocs.org/en/A/RES/58/9) | Global road safety crisis |
| [68/269](https://undocs.org/en/A/RES/68/269); [72/271](https://undocs.org/en/A/RES/72/271); [74/299](https://undocs.org/en/A/RES/74/299) | Improving global road safety |
| [70/197](https://undocs.org/en/A/RES/70/197) | Towards comprehensive cooperation among all modes of transport for promoting sustainable multimodal transit corridors |
| [72/212](https://undocs.org/en/A/RES/72/212); [78/148](https://undocs.org/en/A/RES/78/148) | Strengthening the links between all modes of transport to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals |
| [76/255](https://undocs.org/en/A/RES/76/255) | Integration of mainstream bicycling into public transportation systems for sustainable development |
| [77/286](https://undocs.org/en/A/RES/77/286) | World Sustainable Transport Day |
| [77/330](https://undocs.org/en/A/RES/77/330) | Cooperation between the United Nations and the Economic Cooperation Organization |
| [78/149](https://undocs.org/en/A/RES/78/149) | The pivotal role of reliable and stable energy connectivity in driving sustainable development |

*Economic and Social Council resolutions*

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 1999/65 | Reconfiguration of the Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods into a Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods and on the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals |
| [2013/7](https://undocs.org/en/E/RES/2013/7) | Europe-Africa fixed link through the Strait of Gibraltar |
| [2021/13](https://undocs.org/en/E/RES/2021/13) | Work of the Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods and on the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals |
| [2022/2](https://undocs.org/en/E/RES/2022/2) | Revised terms of reference of the Inland Transport Committee of the Economic Commission for Europe |
| [2023/5](https://undocs.org/en/E/RES/2023/5) | Work of the Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods and on the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals |

*Economic Commission for Europe decisions*

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| [ECE/AC.21/2014/2](https://unece.org/sites/default/files/2023-06/1%20ECE.AC_._21._2014._2_E.pdf) | Report of the High-level Meeting on Transport, Health and Environment on its fourth session |
| [ECE/TRANS/224](https://unece.org/DAM/trans/doc/2012/itc/ECE-TRANS-224e.pdf); ECE/TRANS/236; ECE/TRANS/240 and Corr.1; ECE/TRANS/248; ECE/TRANS/254; ECE/TRANS/270;ECE/TRANS/274; ECE/TRANS/288; ECE/TRANS/294; ECE/TRANS/304; [ECE/TRANS/316](https://unece.org/sites/default/files/2022-09/ECE_TRANS_316E.pdf); [ECE/TRANS/328](https://unece.org/sites/default/files/2023-04/ECE_TRANS_328e.pdf)ECE/TRANS/344 | Reports of the Inland Transport Committee (seventy-fourth to eighty-sixth sessions) Adoption of ITC Strategy on Reducing Greenhouse Gas Emissions from Inland Transport (ECE/TRANS/344, Annex I) |
| B (66) | Endorsement of the Geneva Charter on Sustainable Housing |
| K (70) | Matters related to sustainable transport and mobility |

*Decisions of the treaty bodies of United Nations transport agreements*

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| [E/ECE/TRANS/ 505/Rev.3](https://unece.org/DAM/trans/main/wp29/wp29regs/2017/E-ECE-TRANS-505-Rev.3e.pdf) | 1958 Agreement Concerning the Adoption of Harmonized Technical United Nations Regulations for Wheeled Vehicles, Equipment and Parts which can be Fitted and/or be Used on Wheeled Vehicles and the Conditions for Reciprocal Recognition of Approvals Granted on the Basis of these United Nations Regulations |
| [ECE/RCTE/CONF/4](https://unece.org/DAM/trans/conventn/conf4e.pdf) | 1997 Agreement concerning the adoption of uniform conditions for periodical technical inspections of wheeled vehicles and the reciprocal recognition of such inspections |
| [ECE/TRANS/132](https://unece.org/DAM/trans/main/wp29/wp29wgs/wp29gen/wp29glob/tran132.pdf) | 1998 Agreement concerning the establishment of global technical regulations for wheeled vehicles, equipment and parts which can be fitted and/or used on wheeled vehicles |
| E[CE/TRANS/ ADN/CONF/ 10/Add.1](https://unece.org/DAM/trans/danger/publi/adn/adn_history/docs/ECE-TRANS-ADN-CONF-10a1e.pdf)  | European Agreement concerning the International Carriage of Dangerous Goods by Inland Waterways |
| [ECE/TRANS/ WP.30/AC.2/125](https://unece.org/DAM/trans/bcf/ac2/documents/ECE-TRANS-WP30-AC2-125e.pdf) | Report of the Administrative Committee for the TIR Convention 1975 on its sixty-first session  |
| [ECE/TRANS/ WP.30/AC.2/147](https://unece.org/DAM/trans/bcf/ac2/documents/2020/ECE-TRANS-WP30-AC2-147e.pdf) and [Corr.1](https://unece.org/sites/default/files/2021-03/ECE-TRANS-WP30-AC2-147c1e.pdf) | Report of the Administrative Committee for the TIR Convention 1975 on its seventy-second session  |
| [ECE/TRANS/ WP.30/AC.2/157](https://unece.org/sites/default/files/2022-08/ECE-TRANS-WP30-AC2-157f.pdf) | Report of the Administrative Committee for the TIR Convention 1975 on its seventy-seventh session (February 2022): AC.2, in line with annex 11, article 5, adopted the eTIR concepts and the eTIR functional specifications, including the amendments adopted by Technical Implementation Body (TIB) at its first session. This provides a complete legal and technical basis for those countries that are willing to implement the eTIR procedure |
| [ECE/TRANS/ WP.30/AC.2/TIB/2](https://documents.un.org/api/symbol/access?j=G2224984&t=pdf) | Report of the Technical Implementation Body (TIB) of the Administrative Committee for the TIR Convention, 1975, on its first session: TIB for eTIR implementation, adopted version 4.3 of the eTIR technical specifications and confirmed their alignment with version 4.3 of the eTIR concepts and the eTIR functional specifications |

 VI. Deliverables

 13. Table 2 lists all deliverables of the subprogramme.

# Table 2

Subprogramme 2: Deliverables for the period 2024–2026, by category and subcategory [*To be updated in January 2025*]

| *Category and subcategory* | *2024 planned* | *2024 actual* | *2025 planned* | *2026 planned* |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  |  |  |  |  |
| **A. Facilitation of the intergovernmental process and expert bodies** |  |  |  |  |
|  **Parliamentary documentation** (number of documents) | **1 145** |  | **1 155** |  **1158** |
|  1. Documentation for the Inland Transport Committee |  |  |  |  **998** |
|  a. Inland Transport Committee and Bureau | 31 | 35 | 31 | 31 |
|  b. World Forum for Harmonization of Vehicle Regulations | 550 | 510 | 550 | 550 |
|  c. Working Party on the Transport of Perishable Foodstuffs | 33 | 33 | 33 | 33 |
|  d. Working Party on the Transport of Dangerous Goods | 160 | 220 | 160 | 160 |
|  e. Working Party on Transport Trends and Economics and subsidiary groups of experts | 23 | 23 | 28 | 28 |
|  f. Working Party on Transport Statistics | 14 | 14 | 14 | 14 |
|  g. Working Party on Road Transport and subsidiary groups of experts | 15 |  | 26 | 18 |
|  h. Global Forum for Road Traffic Safety and subsidiary groups of experts | 22 | 14 | 20 | 20 |
|  i. Working Party on Rail Transport and subsidiary groups of experts | 30 | 31 | 30 | 24 |
|  j. Working Party on Intermodal Transport and Logistics | 12 | 12 | 12 | 25 |
|  k. Working Party on Inland Water Transport | 45 | 48 | 45 | 45 |
|  l. Working Party on Customs Questions Affecting Transport and subsidiary groups of experts | 50 | 72 | 50 | 50 |
|  2. Documentation for the Economic and Social Council |  |  |  | **157** |
|  a. Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods and on the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals | 5 | 5 | 1 | 5 |
|  b. Subcommittee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods | 120 | 140 | 120 | 120 |
|  c. Subcommittee of Experts on the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals | 32 | 32 | 32 | 32 |
|  3. Documentation for the High-level Meeting on Transport, Health and Environment | 3 | 3 | 3 | **3** |
|  **Substantive services for meetings** (number of three-hour meetings) | 407 |  | 410 |  **409** |
|  4. Meetings of the Inland Transport Committee |  |  |  |  **367** |
|  a. Inland Transport Committee and Bureau | 16 | 19 | 16 | 16 |
|  b. World Forum for Harmonization of Vehicle Regulations | 121 | 113 | 121 | 121 |
|  c. Working Party on the Transport of Perishable Foodstuffs | 8 | 8 | 8 | 8 |
|  d. Working Party on the Transport of Dangerous Goods | 58 | 52 | 58 | 58 |
|  e. Working Party on Transport Trends and Economics and subsidiary groups of experts | 18 | 22 | 18 | 18 |
|  f. Working Party on Transport Statistics | 6 | 6 | 6 | 6 |
|  g. Working Party on Road Transport and subsidiary groups of experts | 12 |  | 24 | 12 |
|  h. Global Forum for Road Traffic Safety and subsidiary groups of experts | 28 | 27 | 28 | 28 |
|  i. Working Party on Rail Transport and subsidiary groups of experts | 24 | 23 | 30 | 24 |
|  j. Working Party on Intermodal Transport and Logistics | 6 | 5 | 6 |  | 18 |
|  k. Working Party on Inland Water Transport | 18 | 18 | 18 |  | 18 |
|  l. Working Party on Customs Questions Affecting Transport and subsidiary groups of experts | 50 | 31 | 40 |  | 40 |
|  5. Meetings of the Economic and Social Council |  |  |  |  | **40** |
|  a. Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods and on the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals | 1 | 1 | – |  | 1 |
|  b. Subcommittee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods | 29 | 27 | 25 |  | 29 |
|  c. Subcommittee of Experts on the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals | 10 | 10 | 10 |  | 10 |
|  6. Meetings of the High-level Meeting on Transport, Health and Environment | 2 | 2 | 2 |  | **2** |
| **B. Generation and transfer of knowledge** |  |  |  |  |  |
|  **Field and technical cooperation projects** (number of projects) | **2** | **2** | **2** |  | **2** |
|  7. On the Trans-European North-South Motorway  | 1 | 1 | 1 |  | 1 |
|  8. On the Trans-European Railway | 1 | 1 | 1 |  | 1 |
|  **Seminars, workshops and training events** (number of days) | **13** | **13** | **11** |  | **11** |
|  9. Workshops for government officials and other stakeholders in the ECE region and in contracting parties to legal instruments under the purview of the Inland Transport Committee on intelligent transport systems; transport statistics and trends; road, rail, inland water, intermodal and intersectoral transport issues; and vehicle agreements and regulations | 10 | 10 | 5 |  | 5 |
|  10. Seminars for national coordinators, experts, customs officials and transport industry on the efforts to digitalize the inland transport conventions  | 3 | 4 | 6 |  | 6 |
|  **Publications** (number of publications) | **10** |  | **11** |  | **11** |
|  11. On the transport of dangerous goods  | 2 | 2 | 3 |  | 2 |
|  12. On the transport of perishable foodstuffs | 1 | 1 | 1 |  | 1 |
|  13. On decarbonization of the inland transport sector and safe transport and cross-cutting issues | 4 | 4 | 4 |  | 4 |
|  14. On vehicle regulations | 1 | 1 | 1 |  | 1 |
|  15. On statistics | 1 | 1 | 1 |  | 1 |
|  16. On border crossing facilitation | 1 | 1 | 1 |  | 1 |
|  **Technical materials** (number of materials) | **2** | **2** | **2** |  | **2** |
|  17. Recommendations for performance evaluation of automated driving systems | 1 | 1 | 1 |  | 1 |
|  18. Transport statistics – country profiles | 1 | 1 | 1 |  | 1 |
| **C. Substantive deliverables** |  |  |  |  |
|  **Consultation, advice and advocacy**: advisory services for contracting parties of United Nations transport conventions administered by ECE on legal instruments relating to inland transport, facilitation of transport, border crossing, road safety, vehicle construction, and transport of dangerous goods and other special cargo.  |
|  **Databases and substantive digital materials**: the International TIR Data Bank for users from more than 70 contracting parties of the TIR Convention; TIR and eTIR portals; the eTIR international system; the International Transport Infrastructure Observatory; the Sustainable Inland Transport Connectivity Indicators online user platform; database of main standards and parameters of the E waterway network; inventory of existing European Agreement on Main International Railway Lines and European Agreement on Important International Combined Transport Lines and Related Installations standards and parameters; databases on transport statistics, road traffic accidents, transport of dangerous goods, transport of perishable foodstuffs, urban transport and transport and environment; Rail Security Observatory; digitized signs and signals (E-CoRSS) under the Convention on Road Signs and Signals; and smart and sustainable connectivity e-learning platform.  |
| **D. Communication deliverables** |  |  |  |  |
|  **Outreach programmes, special events and information materials**: information materials, including brochures on legal instruments and activities of the subprogramme for global and regional access.  |
|  **External and media relations**: press releases for the subprogramme.  |
|  **Digital platforms and multimedia content**: LearnITC and other digital platforms and multimedia content on sustainable transport and mobility; and website of the subprogramme. |

1. Differences with Section I “Strategy” of the 2025 Programme of Work (ECE/TRANS/2025/15) are marked with bold. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
2. IPCC, 2022: Climate Change 2022: Mitigation of Climate Change. Contribution of Working Group III to the Sixth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, p. 1056. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)