



**ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMISSION FOR ASIA AND
THE PACIFIC**

Final Expert Group Meeting on Digital Transformation of Railway and Multimodal Transport in North and Central Asia

12-13 March 2024, Tashkent and online

Background

The Subregional Office for North and Central Asia of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), in cooperation with ESCAP's Transport Division, is implementing a project on "New technologies and digital transformation in support of more resilient and competitive railway operations in North and Central Asia". The main objective of the project is to assist participating member States in reducing inefficiencies which impede cross-border railways transport operations, introduce advanced solutions of rail and multimodal transport operations involving railway transport, which could contribute to increase of railways' share in the international transport of goods. The project also aims at improving resilience of transport networks and operations to disruptive developments in North and Central Asia.

Objectives

Under the project, the ESCAP secretariat prepared the draft recommendations on digital transformation of multimodal transport and logistics sector in North and Central Asia which were shared with participants of the Enlarged policy segment on the digital transformation of rail and multimodal transport operations in North and Central Asia and beyond held in September 2023 in conjunction with the fifth meeting of the Working Group on Dry Ports.

Furthermore, the ESCAP secretariat is currently working on a capacity building programme on digitalization of land transport, focusing on railway and multimodal transport operation for the countries of North and Central Asia.

The Final Expert Group Meeting on Digital Transformation of Railway and Multimodal Transport in North and Central Asia will review and finalize the proposed recommendations and discuss the best ways to proceed with the capacity-building programme, mindful of available good practices in this filed.

The Meeting will also be informed of the new Annex to the Intergovernmental Agreement on the Trans-Asian Railways on "General principles on electronic information exchange/data interchange among railways and between railways and control agencies along the Trans-Asian Railway Network" has been adopted upon at the eight meeting of the Working Group on the Trans-Asian Railway Network, along with the of the "2030 Strategy on Accelerating Rail Digital Transformation in the Asia-Pacific Region".

Participants

Representatives of different government authorities involved into digital development of railway and multimodal transport in their respective countries, including authorities in charge of transport, customs and digital development, as well as of transport industry associations and companies from the countries participating in the project are encouraged to join the Expert Group Meeting.

TENTATIVE PROGRAMME

DAY 1 12 March 2024	
<i>(Tashkent time, GMT+5)</i>	
09:00 - 09:30	Registration of participants
09:30 - 09:40	Opening and welcome remarks by a representative of the Host country and a representative of ESCAP
09:40 - 10:00	Digitalization of railway and multimodal transport in North and Central Asia The ESCAP secretariat will provide context to the meeting discussions by presenting the rationale, objectives and course of implementation of the project entitled “New technologies and digital transformation for more resilient and competitive railway operations”.
10:00 - 10:30	Policy recommendations on digitalization of railway and multimodal transport in North and Central Asia The secretariat will introduce its vision of the draft policy recommendations on digital transformation of railway and multimodal transport in North and Central Asia to be further developed under the project.
10:30 - 10:45	Questions and answers
10:45 - 11:00	Break
11:00 - 13:00	Country presentations and comments Representatives of participating member States will be invited to present their national perspectives, challenges and practices on digitalization of transport, in the context of the meeting.

13:00 - 14:00	Lunch Break
14:00 – 14:45	Presentations by transport industry representatives
14:45 - 15:15	Development on railway transport digitalization in the Asia-Pacific region Information by the secretariat on the new annex to the Intergovernmental Agreement on the Trans-Asian Railways on “General principles on electronic information exchange/data interchange among railways and between railways and control agencies along the Trans-Asian Railway Network and the “2030 Strategy on Accelerating Rail Digital Transformation in the Asia-Pacific Region”.
15:15 -15:30	<i>Questions and answers</i>
15:30 - 15:45	Break
15:45 - 16:25	Formulation of the recommendations of the Meeting on the way forward
16:25 - 16:30	Concluding remarks for Day 1
DAY 2 13 March 2024	
10:00 - 11:30	Presentations on a proposed capacity-building programme on digitalization of land transport, focusing on railway and multimodal transport operation for the countries of North and Central Asia.
11:30 - 11:40	Break
11:40 - 13:00	Discussion on the priorities for developing capacity on transport digitalization in North and Central Asia
13:00 - 14:00	Lunch Break
14:00 - 15:00	Adoption of the Meeting report
15:00 - 15:15	Concluding remarks and closing of the Meeting