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Economic Commission for Europe

Inland Transport Committee

Global Forum on Customs Questions affecting Transport including Border Crossing Facilitation

169th session

Geneva, 3 (p.m.), 4 (p.m.) and 5(a.m.) June 2025

Item 1 of the provisional agenda

Adoption of the agenda

Annotated provisional agenda for the 169th session*, **

to be held in person at the Palais des Nations, Geneva, on Tuesday 3 June (p.m.), Wednesday 4 June (p.m.) and Thursday 5 June (a.m.) 2025, in Room III.

I. Provisional agenda

1. Adoption of the agenda.
2. Activities of United Nations Economic Commission for Europe bodies and other United Nations organizations of interest to the Global Forum:
 - (a) Outcomes of the eighty-seventh session of the Inland Transport Committee;
 - (b) Alignment of the work of the Global Forum with the Inland Transport Committee strategy on reducing Green House Gas emissions from inland transport.
3. Customs Convention on the International Transport of Goods under Cover of TIR Carnets (TIR Convention, 1975):
 - (a) Status of the Convention;

* For reasons of economy, delegates are requested to bring copies of the documents mentioned in this provisional agenda to the meeting. There will be no official documentation available in the meeting room. Before the meeting, documents may be obtained directly from the ECE Sustainable Transport Division (email: wp.30@un.org). Documents may also be downloaded from the ECE Border Crossing Facilitation website www.unece.org/trans/bcf/welcome.html.

All delegates are requested to register online, including those holding long-duration badges, at: <https://indico.un.org/event/1011790/> at the latest one week prior to the session. 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.

** The full text of the Conventions, as well as complete lists of contracting parties to the Conventions referred to in this agenda are available on the ECE website: www.unece.org/trans/conventn/legalinst.html#customs.



- (b) Revision of the Convention:
Amendment proposals to the Convention.
- (c) Application of the Convention:
 - (i) Comments to the TIR Convention;
 - (ii) eTIR:
 - a. eTIR international system: interconnection projects;
 - b. International TIR Data Bank and other related information technology projects;
 - c. Digitalization of the Certificate of Approval;
 - d. eTIR financing and resource requirements.
 - (iii) New developments in the application of the Convention;
 - (iv) TIR-related electronic data interchange systems;
 - (v) Settlement of claims for payments;
 - (vi) Other matters.
- 4. International Convention on the Harmonization of Frontier Controls of Goods, 1982 (Harmonization Convention):
 - (a) Status of the Convention;
 - (b) Issues in the application of the Convention.
- 5. Convention on the Facilitation of Border Crossing Procedures for Passengers, Luggage and Load-Luggage carried in International Traffic by Rail:
Status of the Convention.
- 6. Customs Conventions on the Temporary Importation of Private Road Vehicles (1954) and Commercial Road Vehicles (1956):
 - (a) Status of the Conventions;
 - (b) Issues in the application of the Conventions.
- 7. Introduction of new technologies in rail, road, road-based mobility, inland waterway, logistics and intermodal transport until 2030.
- 8. Activities of other organizations and countries of interest to the Global Forum.
- 9. Other business:
 - (a) Dates of the next session;
 - (b) Restriction on the distribution of documents;
 - (c) List of decisions.
- 10. Adoption of the report.

II. Annotations

1. Adoption of the agenda

In accordance with the Commission's rules of procedure, the first item to be considered is the adoption of the agenda.

Documentation

ECE/TRANS/WP.30/337

2. Activities of United Nations Economic Commission for Europe bodies and other United Nations organizations of interest to the Global Forum

(a) Outcomes of the eighty-seventh session of the Inland Transport Committee

The Global Forum will be orally informed about the discussions and outcomes of the eighty-seventh session of the Inland Transport Committee (ITC) (11–14 February 2025), as far as they relate to matters of interest to the Global Forum.

(b) Alignment of the work of the Global Forum with the Inland Transport Committee strategy on reducing Green House Gas emissions from inland transport

The Global Forum may wish to recall that, at its previous session, it had noted that while some degree of consensus was starting to emerge on aligning its work with the ITC strategy on reducing Green House Gas (GHG) emissions from inland transport adopted in 2024, further changes would need to be incorporated in the relevant document prior to its adoption and requested the secretariat to prepare a new document (see ECE/TRANS/WP.30/336, paras. 7 and 8). Against this background, the Global Forum will be invited to resume its considerations on this issue, based on document ECE/TRANS/WP.30/2025/2, prepared by the secretariat and containing a consolidated new version of previous documentation including all previous revisions, corrigenda and additional changes as requested at the 168th session, for final consideration and possible adoption.

Documentation

ECE/TRANS/WP.30/2025/2

3. Customs Convention on the International Transport of Goods under Cover of TIR Carnets (TIR Convention, 1975)

(a) Status of the Convention

The Global Forum will be orally informed about the entry into force of amendments to Annexes 3,4 and 6 of the TIR Convention, 1975, pursuant to Depositary Notification C.N.115. 2025. TREATIES-XI-A-16 dated 10 March 2025. The Global Forum will also be informed about the operationalization of the TIR system in Iraq, effective 1 April 2025, bringing the number of contracting parties with which TIR operations can be established to sixty-six. The Global Forum will also be informed of changes, if any, to the number of contracting parties and of any other development with regard to the status of the Convention. Detailed information on this issue as well as on depositary notifications is available on the TIR website.¹

¹ www.unece.org/tir/

(b) Revision of the Convention**Amendment proposals to the Convention**

There are, at present, no amendment proposals to the Convention submitted for consideration by the Global Forum.

(c) Application of the Convention**(i) Comments to the TIR Convention**

There are, at present, no comments to provisions of the Convention submitted for consideration by the Global Forum.

(ii) eTIR*a. eTIR international system: interconnection projects*

The Global Forum will be informed about the latest developments in the eTIR international system, including the status of the various interconnection projects and the efforts of the TIR secretariat to make the eTIR procedure operational in as many contracting parties as possible.

b. International TIR Data Bank and other related information technology projects

The Global Forum will be informed about developments related to the International TIR Data Bank (ITDB) and information technology projects managed by the TIR secretariat, as far as they relate to matters of interest to the Global Forum.

c. Digitalization of the Certificate of Approval

The Global Forum will be invited to resume discussion on the prospect of the digitalization of the Certificate of Approval and may wish to recall the results of the survey on the life cycle of a Certificate of Approval, considered at its previous session (Informal document WP.30 (2025) No. 1), as well as the decision to continue considering the various questions of this topic under a dedicated agenda item (ECE/TRANS/WP.30/336, paras. 19–20). Against this background, the Global Forum may wish to consider document ECE/TRANS/WP.30/2025/3, containing the key elements of the survey analysis, elaborating in more detail various issues to be examined and incorporating views expressed and questions raised by the various delegations during the 168th session. The Global Forum will be invited to provide further guidance and input on the key considerations and advise on any next steps towards digitalizing the Certificate of Approval management procedures.

Documentation

ECE/TRANS/WP.30/2025/3

d. eTIR financing and resource requirements

Further to the request of the TIR Administrative Committee at its eighty-fifth session, the Global Forum will be invited to host additional discussions of the TIR Contracting Parties within its 169th session, as an interim platform to advance discussions prior to the next session of the Committee in October 2025. Against this background, delegations may wish to consult documents ECE/TRANS/WP.30/2024/9/Rev.1–ECE/TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/2024/6/Rev.1, ECE/TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/2025/6 and ECE/TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/2025/7, as well as the report of the eighty-fifth session of the TIR Administrative Committee (ECE/TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/173, paras. 49–54) for background.

To further support the discussions, the Global Forum will also be briefed by the secretariat on informal consultations convened online with interested Contracting Parties in spring 2025 to informally advance discussions on eTIR financing.

Documentation

ECE/TRANS/WP.30/2024/9/Rev.1–ECE/TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/2024/6/Rev.1;
ECE/TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/2025/6; ECE/TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/2025/7

(iii) New developments in the application of the Convention

The Global Forum is invited to raise new developments in the application of the TIR Convention, if any.

(iv) TIR-related electronic data interchange systems

The Global Forum will be informed by the International Road Transport Union (IRU) about the latest statistical data on the performance of contracting parties in the control system for TIR Carnets — SafeTIR system.

Documentation

Informal document WP.30 (2025) No. 5

(v) Settlement of claims for payments

The Global Forum will be informed by customs authorities and IRU about the current situation on the settlement of claims for payments made by customs authorities against national guaranteeing associations.

Documentation

Informal document WP.30 (2025) No. 6

(vi) Other matters

The Global Forum may wish to recall the discussions at its previous session related to a letter transmitted to the secretariat from the Association of Estonian International Road Carriers (Informal document WP.30 (2025) No.4), raising a number of concerns in relation to ongoing discussions in the TIR Administrative Committee on the financing of eTIR (ECE/TRANS/WP.30/336, paras. 26–30). Against this background, the Global Forum will be informed about a virtual workshop organized by the secretariat and IRU for national guaranteeing associations on 20 March 2025, with the participation of interested customs authorities.

Documentation

Informal document WP.30 (2025) No. 7

4. International Convention on the Harmonization of Frontier Controls of Goods, 1982 (Harmonization Convention)

(a) Status of the Convention

The Global Forum will be orally informed about the status of the Convention. More detailed information on the status of the Convention as well as on various depositary notifications is available on the ECE website.²

(b) Issues in the application of the Convention

The Global Forum may wish to recall its decision at its 168th session (ECE/TRANS/WP.30/336, para. 33) to allocate half a day from its June 2025 session to the convening of the Administrative Committee of the Harmonization Convention (AC.3) pursuant to article 4 of Annex 7 of said Convention, whereby AC.3 should be convened not less frequently than every five years. In line with this mandate, the Global Forum will be informed about the thirteenth session of AC.3 held on 4 (a.m.) June 2025, drawing upon—among others, previous deliberations of the Global Forum on the future role of Harmonization Convention and ways to strengthen this legal instrument to better serve the contemporary needs of interested contracting parties as well as attract new contracting parties.

² www.unece.org/tir.

5. Convention on the Facilitation of Border Crossing Procedures for Passengers, Luggage and Load-Luggage carried in International Traffic by Rail

Status of the Convention

The Global Forum may wish to recall that Belarus became the second contracting party to the Convention after Chad, having signed (23 September 2022) and ratified (21 August 2023) the Convention.³ The Global Forum will be informed about the latest developments on this issue, if any.

6. Customs Conventions on the Temporary Importation of Private Road Vehicles (1954) and Commercial Road Vehicles (1956)

(a) Status of the Conventions

The Global Forum will be informed on the status and the number of contracting parties to the Customs Conventions on the Temporary Importation of Private (1954) and Commercial (1956) Road Vehicles. More detailed information on this issue as well as on depositary notifications is available on the ECE website.⁴

(b) Issues in the application of the Conventions

The Global Forum will be orally briefed about the establishment of a formal Group of Experts on eCPD and the outcomes of the third session of the informal Ad hoc Expert Group on digitalization of the Carnets de Passage en Douane, held online on 8 April 2025. Delegations are also invited to raise, under this agenda item, any other issue in the application of the Conventions, as far as they relate to matters of interest to the Global Forum.

7. Introduction of new technologies in rail, road, road-based mobility, inland waterway, logistics and intermodal transport until 2030

As part of the contribution of the Global Forum to the ITC Strategy until 2030, delegations are invited, under this standing agenda item, to raise technological developments that could be introduced or applied within the context of the legal instruments under the auspices of the Global Forum.

8. Activities of other organizations and countries of interest to the Global Forum

The Global Forum will take note of activities by regional economic commissions or Customs Unions as well as by other intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, and countries, as far as they relate to matters of interest to the Working Party.

9. Other business

(a) Dates of the next session

The secretariat has made tentative arrangements to hold the 170th session on 21–22 and 24(a.m.) October 2025, subject to potential adjustments due to the ongoing United Nations liquidity crisis. The Global Forum may wish to confirm these dates.

³ www.unece.org/tir

⁴ www.unece.org/tir

(b) Restriction on the distribution of documents

The Global Forum should decide whether there shall be any restrictions on the distribution of documents issued in connection with its current session.

(c) List of decisions

The list of adopted decisions will be attached to the final report.

10. Adoption of the report

In accordance with established practice, the Global Forum will adopt the report on its 169th session on the basis of a draft prepared by the secretariat.
