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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

Twentieth session

Geneva, 22 and 23 April 2021

Item 1 of the provisional agenda

Adoption of the agenda

Annotated provisional agenda for the twentieth session*

to be held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva starting at 10 a.m. on Thursday,
22 April 2021, hybrid Geneva and WebEx, Room TBC, 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 (unece.org/transport/trends-and-economics). On an exceptional basis, documents may also be obtained by e-mail (maria.mostovets@un.org).

Delegates are requested to register online at: uncdb.unece.org/app/ext/meeting-registration?id=cEgjdtr to complete the registration form available for download at the ECE Sustainable Transport Division's website: unece.org/info/events/unece-meetings-and-events/transport-trends-and-economics. It should be transmitted to the UNECE secretariat two weeks prior to the session by e-mail (maria.mostovets@un.org). Delegates should obtain an identification badge at the UNOG Security and Safety Section, located at the Pregny Gate, 14, Avenue de la Paix (for this, please contact the secretariat).

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.3/39.

Documentation

ECE/TRANS/WP.5/GE.3/39

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

GE.3 is invited to continue its discussion on initiatives in climate change impact assessment and adaptation for inland transport with a view to understand if any new approaches, tools and/or methodologies exists or are being developed that could be integrated by GE.3 in its work. In particular GE.3 may wish to consider (a) adaptation guidelines for inland waterways of the World Association for Waterborne Transport Infrastructure (PIANC), (b) Railadapt of the International Union of Railways (UIC), (c) International Organization for Standardization 14090 framework, (d) stress test methodology used in Germany (as included as case study 6 Chapter 2, part II in ECE/TRANS/283), and (e) European Flood Awareness System (EFAS) and a new system in development for emergency coastal flooding awareness (ECFAS).

University of Aegean is invited to present their review of articles from scientific journals, summarized in Informal document WP.5/GE.3 (2021) No. 1, on ongoing initiatives in climate change impact assessments and creation and availability of databases with climate projections as well as with geology maps.

Documentation

Informal document WP.5/GE.3 (2021) No. 1

3. Climate change and transport assets data

GE.3 decided at its previous session to construct and disseminate a simple survey for consulting transport infrastructure managers on climate change impacts of most interest to them as well as on relevant thresholds of climate indices. The developed survey is presented in ECE/TRANS/WP.5/GE.3/2021/1. The responses to the survey should be received by 12 March 2021.

Experts from Canada, Germany and Climate Service Germany supported by the secretariat will present a preliminary analysis of responses received summarized in Informal document WP.5/GE.3 (2021) No. 2.

GE.3 will be then invited to consider this analysis with the view to select as far as possible indices for: (a) general climate projections analysis for the entire Economic Commission for Europe's region, and (b) detailed climate projections analysis of an important international transport corridor and of selected specific geographical region.

GE.3 is also expected to continue its discussion on sources for collection of transport assets and their usage (transport flows) data.

Documentation

ECE/TRANS/WP.5/GE.3/2021/1, Informal document WP.5/GE.3 (2021) No. 2.

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

Experts will be invited to inform about their national or sub-national concluded, ongoing or planned projects on climate change impact assessment and transport asset adaptation needs. In particular, regarding the concluded and ongoing projects, experts will be invited to inform about (a) features and conditions identified for a specific transport asset which make it vulnerable to projected impacts of climate change or extreme weather events, and (b) measures designed to adapt the transport asset to the future projected conditions.

Experts from countries with little experience in climate change adaptation work will be invited to inform about opportunities and demands for climate change impact analysis for specific transport assets on a national or sub-national basis. GE.3 may then wish to consider establishment of internationally supported projects in response to such demands, subject to availability of funding.

Experts from Ireland and the Netherlands volunteered to make presentations at the current session.

5. Database on adaptation measures

At its previous session, GE.3 agreed to conduct literature and resource review on existing databases. The secretariat will present its work on such review.

GE.3 also requested: (a) Canada to make a detailed presentation on their work linking risk assessment with adaptation needs, (b) Germany to make a presentation on an approach adopted in Germany in their research project to structuring adaptation measures, (c) United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) to present the data requirement sheets on transport assets prepared in their small island developing states (SIDSport-ClimateAdapt) project.

Canada, Germany and UNCTAD will be invited to make their respective presentations.

GE.3 will be then expected to consider this information so as to suggest an approach to the development of a database on adaptation measures to be further worked out by a small group of volunteers consisting of Ireland, Russian Federation and UNCTAD.

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

GE.3 agreed to hold workshops during which future users of the guidelines for integrating climate change adaptation considerations in transport planning and operational processes, in particular policy makers on the one hand, and planning and operational staff on the other hand, could be consulted on their needs.

A small group of experts from Ireland, Germany, Netherlands and UNCTAD with support of the chairs and the secretariat will have organized the first workshop on 26 March 2021, based on the concept presented in ECE/TRANS/WP.5/GE.3/2021/2.

These experts will report on the workshop and its results. GE.3 will be then invited to consider these results and use them as a basis to start design the guidelines.

GE.3 may also wish to provide its guidance for organization of further workshops.

Documentation

ECE/TRANS/WP.5/GE.3/2021/2

7. Other business

GE.3 considered at its previous session Informal document WP.5/GE.3 (2020) No. 2 presented by the secretariat on the establishment of a funding project (GE.3 fund) in support of its activities. Experts agreed to explore funding possibilities in support of GE.3 work. To this end, experts will be invited to inform if their governments/organizations are in position to support the GE.3 work with financial contributions.

8. Date and place of next meeting

GE.3 may wish to note that its twenty-first session will be held in Geneva on 2 and 3 September 2021.

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-Chair(s), will prepare the final report.
