

Expert Group Meeting on Documentation and Procedures for Rail-Based Intermodal Transport Services in Northeast and Central Asia

Bangkok, 30-31 August 2016

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

1. The Expert Group Meeting on Documentation and Procedures for Rail-Based Intermodal Transport Services in Northeast and Central Asia was organized under the project on "Development of Seamless Intermodal Transport in Northeast and Central Asia for Enhancing Euro-Asian Transport Linkages" and held in Bangkok, Thailand, on 30-31 August 2016.

2. The Meeting was attended by the representatives of China, Kazakhstan, Mongolia, Republic of Korea and the Russian Federation, the representatives of Korea Transport Institute (KOTI), JSC "Russian Railways", PJSC "Transcontainer", as well as by resource persons. The list of participants and the programme of the Meeting are attached to this document (Annex 1 and 2).

3. The participants of the Meeting shared views on the development of intermodal transport with a railway element and associated documentation and procedures in their respective countries.

4. The UNESCAP secretariat presented the draft report on documentation and procedures for rail-based intermodal transport in Northeast and Central Asia developed under the captioned project, including the draft unified multimodal transport document as the central recommendation.

5. Having reviewed the presented draft report and considering the information provided by the experts during the Meeting, the participants agreed that increasing the efficiency of intermodal transport operations should be addressed by a wider set of issues, i.e. technological, institutional and legal, discussed amongst all stakeholders in the public and private sectors with a view to defining and further implementing related actions.

6. The participants of the Meeting agreed on the potential importance of a unified multimodal transport document as a means of increasing the efficiency of intermodal transport operations with railway element among their countries. They reviewed the draft unified multimodal transport document proposed by the secretariat, agreed that it could form a good basis for further development and suggested that the secretariat should continue its work in this direction.

7. The Meeting noted that the draft study report should be further reviewed by relevant experts of government authorities and the transport industry and agreed on the following:

(a) The secretariat will circulate the draft study report, including the proposed unified multimodal transport document to the countries involved by 9 September 2016, for further detailed comments;

(b) The countries agreed to provide their comments to the secretariat by 10 November 2016 for incorporation in the draft;

(c) Subject to timely submission of the comments, the secretariat will further notify countries of a programme of follow-up activities related to the development of the unified multimodal transport document.

8. The Meeting thanked the representatives of the participating countries, experts and resource persons for their valuable contribution to the deliberations of the Meeting.

9. The participants of the Meeting expressed their gratitude to the Government of the Russian Federation for its generous financial support and to the UNESCAP secretariat for organizing the Meeting.

10. These conclusions and recommendations were adopted on 31 August 2016 in Bangkok.

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