

28 – 31 March 2021

Documentation of the Work of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) NMUN Simulation*



**TOGETHER
TOWARDS
TOMORROW**

Conference A

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United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE)

Committee Staff

Director	Kelsea Gillespie
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Agenda

- I. Promoting the Development of Sustainable Transportation Infrastructure
- II. Strengthening Regional Cooperation to Ensure Sustainable Energy
- III. Supporting Emerging Economies through Technical Cooperation

Resolutions adopted by the Committee

Code	Topic	Vote
UNECE/1/1	Promoting the Development of Sustainable Transportation Infrastructure	Adopted by Acclamation
UNECE/1/2	Promoting the Development of Sustainable Transportation Infrastructure	Adopted by Acclamation
UNECE/2/1	Strengthening Regional Cooperation to Ensure Sustainable Energy	Adopted by Acclamation
UNECE/2/2	Strengthening Regional Cooperation to Ensure Sustainable Energy	Adopted by Acclamation

Summary Report

The United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) held its annual session to consider the following agenda items:

- I. Promoting the Development of Sustainable Transportation Infrastructure
- II. Supporting Emerging Economies through Technical Cooperation
- III. Strengthening Regional Cooperation to Ensure Sustainable Energy

The session was attended by representatives of 22 Member States.

On Sunday, the committee adopted the agenda of I, III, II, beginning discussion on the topic of “Promoting the Development of Sustainable Transportation Infrastructure”. By Monday afternoon, the Dais received a total of three proposals covering a wide range of sub-topics, including public-private partnerships, information-sharing, reducing greenhouse gas emissions from transportation infrastructure, and promoting the development of renewable energy sources suitable for the transportation sector. The debate of the committee was positive and collaborative throughout the conference, and delegates worked hard to build consensus amongst the working groups.

On Wednesday, two draft resolutions had been approved by the Dais, none of which had amendments. The committee adopted both resolutions following voting procedure, all receiving unanimous support by the body. The committee moved on to discuss the second topic on Wednesday morning, “Strengthening Regional Cooperation to Ensure Sustainable Energy”. The committee quickly established two working groups, one focusing on smart cities and sustainable energy, and the other focusing on information and communication technologies. By the afternoon session, the Dais accepted two more draft resolutions, both of which were adopted by acclamation and had no amendments. The tone of delegates throughout the week was appreciative, collaborative, and congratulatory. There was a sense of pride amongst the committee for having produced high quality substantive work on two of the topics before the committee.



Code: UNECE/1/1

Committee: The United Nations Economic Commission for Europe

Topic: Promoting the Development of Sustainable Transportation Infrastructure

The United Nations Economic Commission for Europe,

Acknowledging the importance of technological innovation in achieving the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 7, 9, 11, and 17, and further commending the work of the United Nations Sustainable Transport Conference of 2020 and its initiative to promote equitable and sustainable transport,

Highlighting the success of the European Public-Private Partnership (PPP) Expertise Centre (EPEC) and the International Transport Forum (ITF) in strengthening capacities of the public sector to enter into public-private partnership (PPP) transactions,

Bearing in mind the UNECE's Capacity Development Action Plan of 2019's goal of ensuring that countries across the UNECE region are well-equipped to implement evidence-based policymaking and exchange Member States' best practices, information, and experience,

Alarmed by the data in the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's Fourth Assessment Report which states that motorized road traffic causes an increasing incidence of accidents with 1.27 million people killed each year,

Emphasizing the need for Member States to have access to readily accessible information on sustainable transportation infrastructure (STI) and support through the monitoring of the Member States' projects undertaken by PPPs, as noted by the work of the Berkeley Research Group,

1. *Establishes* a conference by no later than 2025, meeting every seven years, entitled "The UNECE Sustainable Transport Infrastructure (STI) Conference", which will:
 - a. Be hosted by Member States on a rotating basis, at the headquarters of UNECE in Switzerland, and will:
 - i. Be funded by the UNECE's regular budget, supplemented by voluntary contributions from Member States and non-governmental organizations;
 - ii. Offer a blended conference with both virtual and in-person options for participation;
 - b. Bring together public, private, and non-governmental representatives to facilitate discussion on PPPs and regional collaborative efforts between Member States in the implementation of STI projects;
 - c. Address the gaps in transportation and STI between developing and developed Member States;
 - d. Analyze and seek solutions to the barriers in participation that exist within PPPs, which include, but are not limited to:
 - i. Complex administrative procedures;
 - ii. Regulatory frameworks that differ amongst Member States;
 - e. Promote the strengthening of Member States' resolve in sharing information and capacity building initiatives to further develop STI in Member States with emerging economies;

- f. Present suggestions for Member States to give tax incentives for water-based transportation infrastructures when investments are made towards environmentally friendly technology;
 2. *Recommends* the UNECE Inland Transport Committee (ITC) to expand its relationship with the ITF by:
 - a. Expressing interest to the ITF in creating a joint platform between the ITC and ITF, that encourages the inclusion of the private sector holistically into this new joint framework by:
 - i. Reaching out to investment banks to work as an intermediary in fostering viable financial partnerships towards achieving STI in pursuit of the SDGs;
 - ii. Develop scaling-guidance in order to better assist Member States with securing financing and project implementation, following the methodologies employed in previously successful projects;
 - iii. Including a formal system for the private sector to pitch their solutions to the ITC and the ITF;
 - b. Instructing the ITC to create a working group dedicated to researching the gaps in transportation infrastructure and technological innovations that persist between developing and developed States which will function by:
 - i. Utilizing the annual UNECE regular budget, supplemented as needed through budgetary requests to ECOSOC and by funds from willing Member States;
 - ii. Expanding the relationship with EPEC to include all Member States to provide information which can be accessed by tech companies and Member States for future projects, including case-studies of successful PPPs in the sphere of smart transportation in collaboration with members of the Network of National ITS Associations;
 - iii. Creating a review board to determine if the working group's existence continues to be necessary;
 - iv. Presenting this aforementioned data at the annual UNECE STI Conference;
3. *Proposes* a review by the UNECE's Working Group on Environmental Impact Assessment and Strategic Environmental Assessment of the projects undertaken through PPPs, which will be facilitated by the ITC at the STI Conference, in which:
 - a. All information about each project will be publicly available;
 - b. Reviews will be conducted following the example set by the United Nations Development Group's Results Based Management Handbook;
4. *Commends* the initiative of the Road Safety Trust Fund, which economically aids emerging economies in the development of transportation systems, further facilitating a green transport transition, and encourages attendees of the UNECE STI Conference to:
 - a. Initiate a conversation between Member States regarding the creation of a new trust for UNECE Member States to request assistance from to fund STI projects;

- b. Present potential revisions to UNECE transportation trust funds to narrow the focus on sustainable transportation and to include Asian countries;
5. *Suggests* Member States follow the successful examples in traffic management in the international community and implement such initiatives as automatization of road administration and smart pedestrian crosswalk, which monitors the situation on traffic lanes and sidewalks.



Code: UNECE 1/2

Committee: United Nations Economic Commission for Europe

Topic: Promoting the Development of Sustainable Transportation Infrastructure

The United Nations Economic Commission for Europe,

Emphasizing the importance of international cooperation of Member States in achieving Sustainable Development Goals 7, Affordable and Clean Energy; 9, Industry Innovation and Infrastructure; 11, Sustainable Cities and Communities; and 13, Climate Action; as set in the *2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (2030 Agenda)*,

Keeping in mind the Transport, Health and Environmental Pan-European Programme (THE PEP), in collaboration with the World Health Organization (WHO), established five goals to help contribute to sustainable development, promote a more sustainable transportation system, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and promoting policies that encourage healthy and safe modes of transportation,

Inspired by the success of the *Nordic Hydrogen Partnership and the Potential Blue Economy* regarding the transboundary research and development of hydrogen energy and hydrogen fuel-cells as it relates to the major industries of automotive, railway, and shipping,

Further noting THE PEP's progress and the necessity for upgrading transportation infrastructure, sustainable energy development and research to provide accessible, renewable energy sources to emerging, or in-transition, economies,

Having devoted attention to existing platforms such the European Technology Platform on Industrial Safety (ETPIS), which facilitates cooperative exchanges of technology and information of Member States and stakeholders,

Reaffirming the importance of the World Bank's Sustainable Mobility For All (SUM4ALL) framework that promotes an environmentally safe, clean, and affordable system for the mobility of people,

Recalling the importance of international goals set by the *2015 Paris Climate Agreement*,

Confident in research by the United Nations Centre for Regional Development which shows the superiority of trains in safety, speed and efficacy as a main source of sustainable transportation,

Emphasizing the importance of Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs), in contributing funding for development of sustainable infrastructure,

Taking into account developing and transitioning economies that require aid and assistance in building and project areas,

1. *Encourages* Member States to meet and promote their nationally set targets for sustainable development and to promote the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) set in the 2030 Agenda, by focusing on SDGs 7, 9, 11 and 13;
2. *Calls for* Member States to increase collaboration and involvement keeping in mind sharing platforms established in the *Pan-European Programme (THE PEP)* and in the Inland Transport Committee's relationship with the International Transport Workers Federation (ITF), which will help facilitate the sharing of expert information as it relates to the development of alternative sustainable energy and fuel development in all major sectors of transportation, and:
 - a. Invites Member States to increase their domestic budgets for research and development of sustainable energy;

- b. Recognizes the sharing of information regarding sustainable energy and fuel development in the sectors of automotive, shipping, and railway transportation as the foundation of circular infrastructure development;
3. *Urges* research and development in electric, wind, hydrogen, hydro-electric, natural gas, and solar energy as sustainable alternatives for the transportation sectors (railways, shipping, and automobile) through:
 - a. Encouraging Member States to enter into collaborative frameworks, similar to *the Nordic Hydrogen Partnership*, for research and development of hydrogen as an alternative source of energy;
 - b. Emphasizing increased access for emerging and in-transition economies regarding information that is critical in the development of sustainable hydrogen energy as a fuel alternative in the automotive and light rail sectors;
4. *Promotes* the development of electrical grids and hydrogen fuel alternatives to assist with expansion of sustainable light rail and automotive infrastructure by:
 - a. Calling upon Member States to accelerate adoption of electric vehicles (EVs) and expand vehicle charging station availability throughout Member States;
 - b. Endorsing the research and implementation of hydrogen as a main fuel source for railways occurring throughout the EU;
5. *Proposes* the expansion of platforms comparable to the European Technology Platform on Industrial Safety (ETPIS), which focuses on technological innovations and knowledge-sharing among various stakeholders, including the public and private sectors together with non-governmental organizations in the UNECE region;
6. *Recommends* to the Sustainable Mobility for All (SUM4ALL) Secretariat the development of a new Sustainable Service Station Framework, to be included in their Catalogue of Policy Measures (CPM), and strengthen the transition to carbon neutral transportation by:
 - a. Encouraging the international community to further cooperate with the SUM4ALL Country Mobility Dashboards (CMDs) to spread public awareness of the benefits of electric transportation in reducing misconceptions regarding cost efficiencies and carbon neutrality goals;
 - b. Suggesting the international community further participates in information sharing initiatives to communicate successful models in implementing carbon neutral transportation to other Member States for all to learn and benefit from;
 - c. Proposing the Steering Committee incorporate regional cooperation as one of their guiding principles to encourage the achievement of the *2030 Agenda*;
7. *Directs attention* to the importance of regulating carbon emissions through:
 - a. Continuing to work with the United Nation Environment Programme and Global Environment Outlook to monitor transit-delivered levels of carbon emissions as a result of expansions in transit systems;
 - b. Calling for Member States to implement cap and trade systems to meet their individual emissions goals;

- c. Permitting a subcommittee of the UNECE to be established to evaluate and provide further funding (from the listed funding sources in 7(a)) to countries who have less resources to help them research and implement sustainable transportation measures and abide by the carbon emissions cap;
- 8. *Invites* Member States to make efforts to support the development of sustainable railroads, in turn lowering carbon emissions on national and regional levels in order to accomplish SDGs 7 and 9, as well as the recommendations from the *Paris Agreement* by:
 - a. Suggesting that Member States provide necessary financial support for sustainable railways such as:
 - i. PPPs to mobilize expertise, innovation and financial resources that present an investment opportunity; providing incentives for low-emission transportation;
 - ii. International financial institutions such as the World Bank, and the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development to push for development by scaling up financing for sustainable transport;
 - iii. Member States are encouraged to set aside a budget for the research and implementation of sustainable railways;
 - iv. Will create an oversight committee to watch over and regulate the use of funding in Member States;
 - b. Further suggesting that Member States make the necessary efforts to provide funding and research in sustainable railways to:
 - i. Integrate rail traffic into intelligent, low carbon supply chains;
 - ii. Cooperation between public and private stakeholders to investigate the needs and opportunities of the existing rail infrastructure and to exchange best sustainable practices.



Code: UNECE/2/1

Committee: United Nations Economic Commission for Europe

Topic: Strengthening Regional Cooperation to Ensure Sustainable Energy

The United Nations Economic Commission for Europe,

Noting with concern the lack of reliable methods of renewable energy storage,

Acknowledging the existing disparities between Member States renewable energy infrastructure and technology,

Noting the importance of achieving the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 11; Sustainable cities and communities, set out in the *2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (2030 Agenda)*, as the world's cities occupy just 3% of the Earth's land but account for 60-80% of energy consumption and 75% of carbon emissions,

Referring to the guidelines of the "Sustainable Energy for All" (SEforAll) initiative in assisting with affordable green energy for everyone,

Recognizing the various forms of alternative sustainable energy sources and the pressing need for Member-States to utilize these resources,

Cognizant of the need to upgrade existing infrastructure in order to increase energy efficiency, and the share of renewables in energy baseloads,

Highlighting the success of regional initiatives such as the North Sea Grid in raising cost effectiveness and cooperation between UNECE states,

Encouraging member states to continue following the *Integrated National Energy and Climate Plan of 2021 to 2030*,

1. *Expresses* its endorsement on researching and financing the storage of renewable energy including wind, solar, hydroelectric, and biomass;
2. *Affirms* the importance of SDG 11, as it relates to the development of localized frameworks for the advancement of sustainable energy initiatives:
 - a. *Acknowledging* that Member States have access to disparate sustainable resources and implementation strategies;
 - b. *Endorses* advancement in all fields of sustainable energy such as, but not limited to:
 - i. Solar energy;
 - ii. Wind energy;
 - iii. Hydroelectric energy;
 - iv. Geothermal energy;
 - v. Biomass energy;
3. *Requests* Member States to pursue Smart Sustainable Cities initiatives within their regions in accordance with the frameworks established in ICLEI - Local Governments for Sustainability and:
 - a. *Invites* Member States to enhance cooperation with the private sector to develop more expansive energy storage facilities and sustainable energy production centers;

- b. Encourages Member States to collect and share data in regard to energy and material input-output flows for the purpose of developing more efficient and effective storage and production initiatives;
 - c. Affirms the effectiveness of city and community based subsidized energy programs and energy buyback initiatives, allowing for sufficient funding within communities and cities, further diminishing reliance on external financing measures;
- 4. *Calls upon* Member States to take into account the local and cultural challenges that may arise in the implementation of sustainable energy initiatives and further create opportunities for partnerships amongst these diverse communities;
- 5. *Encourages* Member States to come together to implement joint sustainable infrastructure in the following forms:
 - a. Offshore grid systems, drawing from the success of the North Seas Countries' Offshore Grid Initiative;
 - b. Seawater thermal pump technologies to be utilized in coastal Member States;
 - c. Ocean energy using ideas presented by the pan-European Project the Ocean Power Innovation Network, in order to assist Member States in harnessing ocean energy as a sustainable source;
 - d. Solar energy use in the private sector;
 - i. Funded through individual member state subsidy programs targeting low-income communities;
 - ii. Including using Solar net-metering and buyback programs;
- 6. *Resolves* to work through the UNECE Sustainable Energy Division to focus on fostering partnerships based on sub regional departments to integrate more closely the efforts between various countries with similar objectives and raise market competitiveness by:
 - a. Establishing a Group of Experts on Renewable Energy placing its focus on upgrading ancillary services;
 - i. Carrying out research projects on upgrading ancillary services, and establishing guidelines for upgrading ancillary services based on the findings from the research projects;
 - ii. Tracking the progress of upgrading ancillary service in Member States;
 - b. Prioritizing economic investment and support for sustainable energy infrastructure and technological projects by:
 - i. Encouraging Member States to approach international financial institutions and private investors, such as the World Bank, International Finance Corporation, and European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, to assist with energy related projects at the industry and municipal level;
 - ii. Guiding Member States to invest in renewable energy infrastructure in their pursuit of more stable operational financing forecasts through better, inflation-protected contractual arrangements and regulatory regimes.



Code: UNECE/2/2

Committee: United Nations Economic Commission for Europe

Topic: Strengthening Regional Cooperation to Ensure Sustainable Energy

The United Nations Economic Commission for Europe,

Recalling with appreciation the contributions of The Protocol on Energy Efficiency, and Related Environmental Aspects, and its forum where experience and policy advice on energy efficiency issues are shared,

Acknowledging the “Sustainable Energy for All” (SEforAll) Policy and Regulatory Frameworks platform, which provides a virtual knowledge hub that offers country-specific support to solar economies,

Recognizing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (2030 Agenda) adopted by the UN General Assembly in 2015, specifically Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 7, 8, 11, 13, and 17,

Commending the message of General Assembly Resolution 62/277 (2008) entitled “System-wide coherence”, which encourages Member States to deliver on the 2030 Agenda as one,

Considering and acknowledging the success of the individual Member States with information and communications technology (ICT) firms and the potential for further in-depth relationships with international ICT firms,

Emphasizing the important role ICTs can take in knowledge transfer to emerging economies,

1. *Encourages* Member States to incorporate ICTs in processes of addressing outdated power grids, especially by:
 - a. Maintaining annual reports of the life-span and continued efficiency of power grids within UNECE;
 - b. Employing the United Nations Framework Classification for Resources to define the environmental and socio-economic viability of projects which seek to implement updates to power grids;
 - c. Drawing on the UN Environment Programme Finance Initiative to incentivize the contributions of private sector financial aid for the updating of power grids;
2. *Proposes* a subcommittee be created called “ICTs on Sustainable Energy (ICTSE)” which will focus on improvement of ICTs skills, knowledge, and trade in the energy sector via the following steps:
 - a. Inviting experts of the European Distribution System Operators to conduct online workshops for the employees in the energy-related companies on the topic of ICTs utilization in energy sphere;
 - b. Create a working group within the ICTSE to record and organize the need and desired trade of sustainable energy between Member States to allow a greater flow of transportation of energy between Member States as well as help provide a greater amount of sustainable energy to those countries less advanced in their sustainable energy technology;
3. *Invites* the World Telecommunication/ICT Indicators Database to collaborate with UNECE in building stronger partnerships with ICT firms in expanding its data collection on sustainable

energy infrastructure from the private sector, with the data being readily and available to all Member States;

4. *Expands* the scope of the UNECE's Regional Advisory Services, which provide operational advice and technical assistance to countries with economies in transition, by:
 - a. Increasing partnerships with other regional advisory bodies on the subject of ICTs, and;
 - b. Increasing awareness of the UNECE Regional Advisory Services body as well as the partnerships between it and other regional advisory bodies.