



# Economic and Social Council

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## Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

Working Group on Dry Ports

### Fifth meeting

Bangkok and online, 12 and 13 September 2023

## Annotated provisional agenda

The present document contains the provisional agenda for the fifth meeting of the Working Group on Dry Ports (sect. I) and the annotations thereto (sect. II).

### I. Provisional agenda

1. Opening of the meeting:
  - (a) Election of officers;
  - (b) Adoption of the agenda.
2. Status of the Intergovernmental Agreement on Dry Ports.
3. Policies and issues related to dry ports of international importance.
4. Developments and trends in the digitalization of transport corridors and multimodal transport operations involving dry ports in Asia and the Pacific.
5. Consideration of proposals for amending the Intergovernmental Agreement on Dry Ports.
6. Other matters.
7. Adoption of the report of the Working Group on its fifth meeting.

### II. Annotations

#### 1. Opening of the meeting

##### (a) Election of officers

In accordance with the rules of procedure of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), the Working Group on Dry Ports will elect a Chair and two Vice-Chairs, who shall hold office until their successors are elected.

**(b) Adoption of the agenda**

**Documentation**

Provisional agenda (ESCAP/DP(5)/1)

Annotated provisional agenda (ESCAP/DP(5)/1/Add.1)

**Annotation**

In accordance with the rules of procedure of ESCAP, the Working Group will be invited by the Chair to consider and adopt the provisional agenda, subject to such changes as may be necessary.<sup>1</sup>

**2. Status of the Intergovernmental Agreement on Dry Ports**

**Documentation**

Status of the implementation of the Intergovernmental Agreement on Dry Ports (ESCAP/DP(5)/2)

**Annotation**

At its fourth meeting, the Working Group considered and adopted amendments to annex I to the Intergovernmental Agreement on Dry Ports (see ESCAP/DP/WG/2021/3). At its fifth meeting, the Working Group will be informed about depositary notifications issued and the entry into force of amendments to annex I since its previous meeting and about changes in the number of parties, if any.

Member States that have not yet become parties to the Agreement may also wish to update the Working Group on progress made towards ratifying, accepting, acceding to or approving the Agreement.

**3. Policies and issues related to dry ports of international importance**

**Documentation**

Policies and issues related to dry ports of international importance and the development of multimodal transport in Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP/DP(5)/3)

**Annotation**

The Working Group will be informed of policies and issues related to dry ports of international importance and, in particular, of ongoing and emerging issues affecting the development and operation of such ports. The Working Group will also be informed of the work done by the secretariat in that regard. Trends and progress in the application of digital solutions for the operation of dry ports will be highlighted.

Member States may wish to inform the Working Group of any national, bilateral, multilateral or subregional plans and projects undertaken to develop dry ports of international importance in their territories and highlight specific challenges. In this regard, the Working Group will be invited to share and

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<sup>1</sup> The tentative programme, the list of participants and the documents for the meeting will be made available in due course at [www.unescap.org/events/2023/5th-meeting-working-group-dry-ports](http://www.unescap.org/events/2023/5th-meeting-working-group-dry-ports).

consider policy approaches for the integration of dry ports into supply chains and discuss the measures required for the efficient operation of dry ports.

The Working Group may wish to provide additional guidance to strengthen the secretariat's future activities aimed at assisting member States in developing dry ports.

**4. Developments and trends in the digitalization of transport corridors and multimodal transport operations involving dry ports in Asia and the Pacific**

**Documentation**

Policies and issues related to dry ports of international importance and the development of multimodal transport in Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP/DP(5)/3)

**Annotation**

Pursuant to a request made by the Working Group at its third meeting (ESCAP/DP/WG/2019/5, para. 31), the secretariat will inform the Working Group of its ongoing and planned activities to support the development of multimodal transport corridors and other activities on multimodal transport operations in the region.

The Working Group will be invited to discuss policy approaches aimed at facilitating digitalization and at strengthening the regulatory frameworks for multimodal transport corridors and operations involving dry ports. The Working Group will also be invited to provide additional guidance to strengthen the secretariat's future activities on this topic.

**5. Consideration of proposals for amending the Intergovernmental Agreement on Dry Ports**

**Documentation**

Consideration of proposals for amending the Intergovernmental Agreement on Dry Ports (ESCAP/DP(5)/4)

**Annotation**

On 7 March 2023, a note verbale was sent to the parties to the Intergovernmental Agreement on Dry Ports, inviting them to submit to the secretariat proposals for amending the Agreement. In accordance with article 7, paragraph 3, article 8, paragraph 3, and article 9, paragraph 3, of the Agreement, the secretariat circulated the proposals to be considered at the fifth meeting of the Working Group 45 days before the opening of the meeting.

The Working Group will be invited to consider the proposed amendments.

**6. Other matters**

An enlarged policy segment on the digital transformation of rail and multimodal transport operations in North and Central Asia and beyond will be held in the morning of 13 September 2023, in conjunction with the fifth meeting.

In addition, the Working Group may wish to consider other matters brought to its attention.

**7. Adoption of the report of the Working Group on its fifth meeting**

**Documentation**

Draft report (ESCAP/DP(5)/L.1)

**Annotation**

The Working Group will consider and adopt the report on its fifth meeting.

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