

Summary Assessment

Third session of the Ministerial Conference on Transport

Moscow

5-9 December 2016

I. Introduction

The third session of the Ministerial Conference on Transport was held in Moscow, from 5-9 December 2016.

A questionnaire assessing the relevance, effectiveness and quality of the meeting was distributed to each delegation of ESCAP members and associate members. In total, 17 of the 40 members and associate members in attendance submitted questionnaires. The overall response rate is therefore 43 per cent. The present assessment was prepared on the basis of these questionnaire responses.

The main purpose of this assessment is to support the Secretariat's ongoing efforts to improve its servicing of the sessions.

II. Attendance

The session was attended by 65 per cent of all ESCAP members and associate members (40 of 62). In total there were 273 participants, of which 64 were female. A number of other entities participated including other States, United Nations bodies and agencies, intergovernmental organizations, and non-governmental organizations. From these entities there were 52 participants of which 17 were female.

All of delegations were headed by officials from the respective Capital (100 per cent) – twenty-nine of which (73 per cent) at ministerial level.

III. Methodology

For each statement below, an index between 100 and 0 is given, whereby, at a value of 100, all respondents strongly agree with the statement, and, at a value of 0, all respondents strongly disagree. The formula¹ we have used is based on the same principles as the United Nations Development Programme's (UNDP) Human Development Index² (HDI). This allows the calculation of a unit-free index between 0 and 1 from all received responses for each statement. This enables indices to be added together as well as compared among each other.

¹ Index = actual value of all aggregated responses - minimum value of all aggregated responses / maximum value of all aggregated responses - minimum value of all aggregated responses

² More can be found at http://hdr.undp.org/sites/default/files/hdr_2013_en_technotes.pdf

IV. Relevance of the session

Respondents felt that the session was relevant to the needs of the region. As seen in the aggregate ratings in Table 1, there was a very positive agreement that the agenda items reflected the present development trends and issues in the transport sector in the Asian and Pacific region (91), and that they also reflected the needs and priorities of their respective countries (82).

There were some suggestions and comments that the session should consider the different levels of development for countries and to concentrate more on the development of rural transportation connectivity.

Table 1

EVALUATED STATEMENT	INDEX (0-100)
The agenda items reflected the present development trends/issues in the transport sector in the Asian and Pacific region.	91
The agenda items are relevant to the needs and priorities of my country/territory.	82

V. Effectiveness of the session

Overall, respondents found the session to be effective in highlighting regional transport development trends and issues (84), identifying priority areas and emerging issues in the region (86), and promoting dialogue on regional and subregional approaches (84). The respondents found the session to be effective in addressing gender-related issues, but slightly less so (68)

The respondents also found the session documents were of high quality, concise and clear (82).

Table 2

EVALUATED STATEMENT	INDEX (0-100)
The session effectively highlighted regional transport development trends and issues.	84
The session effectively identified priority areas and emerging issues in the region.	86
The session effectively promoted dialogue on regional and subregional approaches to transport development.	84
The session effectively addressed gender-related issues.	68
The session documents were of high quality, concise and clear.	82

VI. Efficiency of the session

The overall efficiency of the session was rated again positively (See Table 3). Respondents felt that the time available for discussion during the meeting was adequate (83), that the servicing by the secretariat was efficient and effective (87), that the organization of work prior to and in between sessions enabled the session to proceed efficiently (84). Respondents also indicated that the communications from the secretariat to the member States on the preparations for the meeting were effective (83).

Table 3

EVALUATED STATEMENT	INDEX (0-100)
The time available for discussion during the meeting was adequate.	83
The servicing by the secretariat was efficient and effective.	87
The communications from the secretariat to the member States on the preparations for the meeting were effective.	83
The organization of work prior and in between sessions enabled the session to proceed efficiently (ACPR, working groups, task forces, communication with the secretariat).	84

VII. Other comments

According to respondents, the most useful and successful aspects of the session and other suggestions for improvement included:

- All member States could reach a consensus on the agenda by this conference.
- Discussion of the Draft Action Plan phase 1 and side events
- Hoping for work effective action for the Pacific in the next work/action programme
- It was a good platform to exchange the risks, experience and issues.
- On behalf of delegation, I believe this is the first time we attend this meeting and it has given us wide knowledge and experience on how we may set our goal or road map on the transportation connectivity and I look forward to 2017 and 2021 to be more involved.
- We would emphasize for operational compatibility of railway operation among different gauge systems so that it should be seamless and cost-effective.

VIII. Conclusion

Overall, in conclusion, responding delegations felt that the Ministerial Conference on Transport was successful.

To summarize the main trends highlighted above, the session was overwhelmingly seen as relevant to the needs of the region, and very effective in identifying priority areas and emerging issues in the region. The efficiency of the session also received positive feedback, in particular, the organizing and servicing of the session by the secretariat.