



*Joint UNECE – UNCTAD Workshop
“Climate Change Impacts on International Transport Networks”
Geneva, Switzerland, 8 September 2010*

Climate change poses a serious threat to human development and prosperity, with implications for water and food security, transport infrastructure, human health, biodiversity, migration, global trade and security. Given the magnitude of the challenge, it is imperative that climate change impacts and related adaptation requirements be considered as a matter of priority along with initiatives aimed at mitigating global warming and climate change. A better understanding of climate change impacts, risks and vulnerabilities is a pre-condition to well-designed and effective adaptation response measures that enhance the resilience of systems, structures and processes and minimize the adverse effect of climatic factors.

The Workshop is part of a series of UNECE activities focused on climate change and transport, and builds on the expertise and earlier work by UNCTAD on related issues. It is expected to raise awareness among UNECE and UNCTAD member States, transport industry stakeholders, and intergovernmental/non-governmental organizations about the potentially important challenges climate change impacts and adaptation requirements present for international transportation - a complex set of issues that has so far received little attention. The event will provide an opportunity to share best practices, consider different national strategies and explore opportunities for concerted actions and synergy, including in respect of any further work in the field that the meeting may decide to recommend.

It is hoped that the Workshop will provide a platform for fruitful and considered discussions and set the pace for future work on how best to bridge the knowledge gaps related to our understanding of climate change impacts on transport networks with a view to identifying adequate adaptation responses. Discussions are expected to cover issues relating to different modes of transportation in international supply-chains, taking into account the situation in both developed and developing countries. The Workshop will be conducted in English, French and Russian.

Additional information pertaining to the Workshop will be posted on the UNECE website at <http://unece.org/trans/main/wp5/wp5.html?expandable=99> and on the UNCTAD website at www.unctad.org/ttl/legal.

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