

GLOBAL FORUM FOR ROAD TRAFFIC SAFETY (WP.1)

OVERVIEW:

Road Safety has been declared as the key issue to be focused upon in this decade (2020-2030) by the United Nations. The necessity to consider road accident fatalities as a severe endemic, in order to highlight its brutal consequences was addressed by the United Nations as early as 1950. The UNECE established an ad hoc group working group with the objective of prevention of road accidents. This ad hoc working group was redefined as the Working Party 1 (WP.1) on Road Traffic Safety in 1988, an intergovernmental body working towards improving road safety. The Working Party changed its name to “Global Forum for Road Traffic Safety (WP.1)” in 2017.



Today, Global Forum for Road Traffic Safety (WP.1) remains the only permanent body in the United Nations system under the Inland Transport Committee that focuses on improving Road Safety.

WP.1 – INDIA CHAPTER

CIRT has been nominated as a Secretariat to MoRTH to technically assist the Ministry of Road Transport & Highways in matters and communication of WP. 1. CIRT has also shared responsibilities with MoRTH on various road safety initiatives in the country.

As a Secretariat to MoRTH, CIRT has initiated to establish a Working Party 1 – India Chapter in order to bring together leading organizations within the country that are

working towards improving road safety in India. The members of WP.1 India chapter include and are not limited to the following organizations:

MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT & HIGHWAYS	
Central Institute of Road Transport	Ministry of Heavy Industries
National Highway Authority of India	Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs
Association of State Road Transport Undertakings	Society of Indian Automobile Manufacturers
Indian Road Congress	Automotive Research Association of India
Central Road Research Institute	Institute of Road Traffic Education

CIRT is in process of identifying and associating with more stakeholders who can effectively contribute to the objectives of WP. 1 including non-governmental organizations, institutions, policy makers etc.

The main purpose of establishing WP. 1 - India chapter is as follows:

- To disseminate information to its members on various activities taken up by the WP.1 of UNECE in connection to improving road safety revolving around the session agenda
- Identify steps on how each of the member bodies can contribute to achieving WP.1's goals
- Encourage effective participation of members in the forthcoming WP. 1 sessions

LEGAL INSTRUMENTS:

India has been actively participating in the activities of Working Party (WP). 1 for road traffic safety. India is a contracting party to two of the WP. 1 conventions i.e., the Convention on Road Traffic of 1949 from the year 1962 and the Convention on Road Signs and Signals, 1968 from the year 1980. India has also signed the Protocol on Road Signs and Signals, of 19 September 1949 in December, 1949. However, India is yet to confirm its status on the Convention on Road Traffic of 1968.

ACTIVITIES:

The secretariat to MoRTH in WP.1 activities organize meetings of WP. 1 India Chapter, inviting stakeholders and decisions makers to formulate actions to be taken in effectively reducing road accident fatalities and improving road safety in India. Also, the Secretariat conducts detailed review of the existing legal instruments that come

under the purview of WP.1. This review further acts as guidelines to assess its applicability to Indian regulations with respect to road rules, traffic and road-user movement.

IMPORTANT LINKS:

Following is the list of legal instruments along with their links that come under the purview of WP. 1:

1. Convention on Road Traffic, of 19 September 1949:
<http://www.worlddriversassociation.com/pdf/CONVENTION%20ON%20ROAD%20TRAFFIC1949.pdf>
2. Convention on Road Traffic, of 8 November 1968:
http://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/trans/conventn/Conv_road_traffic_EN.pdf
3. Protocol on Road Signs and Signals, of 19 September 1949
<http://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/trans/conventn/ProtocolRoadSigns.pdf>
4. Convention on Road Signs and Signals, of 8 November 1968
http://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/trans/conventn/Conv_road_signs_2006v_EN.pdf
5. European Agreement supplementing the 1968 Convention on Road Traffic, of 1 May 1971
http://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/trans/conventn/Agreement_road_traffic_EN.pdf
6. European Agreement supplementing the Convention on Road Signs and Signals (1968), of 1 May 1971
<http://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/trans/conventn/E-ECE-812-EARSS.pdf>
7. European Agreement on the Application of Article 23 of the 1949 Convention on Road Traffic concerning the Dimensions and Weights of Vehicles Permitted to Travel on Certain Roads of the Contracting Parties, of 16 September 1950
http://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/trans/conventn/EA_Article_23-16_Sept_1950.pdf
8. European Agreement supplementing the 1949 Convention on Road Traffic and the 1949 Protocol on Road Signs and Signals of 16 September 1950

<http://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/trans/conventn/Suppl1949Conv1950Protocol.pdf>

9. European Agreement on Road Markings, of 13 December 1957

http://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/trans/conventn/ECE_303_road_marking.pdf

10. Agreement on Minimum Requirements for the Issue and Validity of Driving Permits (APC), of 1 April 1975

http://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/trans/conventn/IssueValidityDrivingPermits_e.pdf

ACTIVITIES:

The Indian delegation, constituting representatives from Ministry of Road Transport & Highways and CIRT participated in the 91st Session of WP.1, held at UNECE, Geneva, scheduled from 15 to 19 September 2025.