

## **Minutes of the 6<sup>th</sup> International North-South Transport Corridor (INSTC) Coordination Council Meeting**

**[21<sup>st</sup> August, 2015; New Delhi]**

The 6<sup>th</sup> International North-South Transport Corridor (INSTC) Coordination Council meeting was held on 21 August, 2015 in New Delhi, India. The meeting was attended by the representatives of the following countries: Azerbaijan, India, Iran, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, Russian Federation, Tajikistan and Turkey. Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan participated as Special Invitee. The list of participants is attached at Annexure-I.

Dr. Guruprasad Mohapatra, Joint Secretary, Department of Commerce of India welcomed the participants. He thanked all participant countries for their contribution in conducting the 7<sup>th</sup> Expert Group meeting on 19-20 August, 2015 and requested continued support from member countries in implementing the decisions taken at the Expert Group Meeting.

Ms. Rita Teatota, Commerce Secretary of India and Chair of the INSTC Council Meeting welcomed the participants and noted the developments since the 5<sup>th</sup> Coordination Council meeting in Baku. She called for greater cooperation between member countries to address bottlenecks in the INSTC for realizing full trade potential between member countries. She requested the Council to resolve issues such as discount on tariff, completion of Ghazvin-Rasht-Astara rail link, improving port facilities, banking and insurance for effective implementation of the corridor.

Shri S. Jaishankar, Foreign Secretary, Ministry of External Affairs in his Keynote Address called for the speedy implementation of decisions to make the Corridor viable for the trading community. He noted that the potential for the INSTC spanned the entire region from the Persian Gulf to South East Asia, which could use the Corridor for trading links with Eurasia. He also proposed that the two Working Groups that had been set up should meet at the earliest and also called for consideration of the proposed Transit Agreement.

Mr. Jafar Jamili, Deputy of Transit and border Terminals Bureau, Road Maintenance & Transportation Organization of Islamic Republic of Iran, representing the INSTC Secretariat thanked Government of India for organizing the 7<sup>th</sup> Experts Group and 6<sup>th</sup> Coordination Council meetings and briefed the Council on the outcomes of the Experts Group meeting and its recommendations.

### **Remarks by Heads of Delegation of the member countries:**

- Iran gave an overview of the rapid developments carried out by its Government to improve its rail, road and port infrastructure over the last few months. It urged all member countries to play a more effective role in creating necessary infrastructure required for this Corridor and also welcomed member countries to invest in development of infrastructure in Iran, particularly in the Rasht-Astara project. Islamic Republic of Iran further called member countries to work towards facilitating transit, adopting modern technologies such as use of

electronic data, nominating focal points and coordinating with the Secretariat for early and effective operationalization of the Corridor. Iran also sought early meeting of the two Working Groups and for finalizing a common framework document among customs authorities

- Russia commended successful organization of the meeting and called for active cooperation by the member countries to implement various outcomes of the Expert Level meeting for effective implementation of the Corridor. Russia proposed using video-conferencing between the members to expedite decision-making.
- India underlined tremendous potential offered by the Corridor for channelizing trade between India as well as South East Asia and Europe. India requested Iran and Azerbaijan to complete the Rasht-Astara missing rail link at the earliest and urged member countries to adhere to timelines agreed upon for expediting implementation of the project. Referring to discussions held during the recent visit of Prime Minister of India to Central Asia, India urged Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan to take early measures towards joining the INSTC.
- Azerbaijan stated that active measures such as modernization of rail and road transport systems, reduction of tariffs on railways and development of new port Alyat are being taken for facilitating transit through its territory. It further called for direct communication between the member countries for faster implementation of decisions.
- Kazakhstan outlined various developments being carried out by its Government in improving rail and road infrastructure. It further informed the Council about Kazakhstan's involvement in development of terminals in Bandar Abbas in Iran and in India, which will enhance transit facilities.
- Kyrgyz Republic conveyed its commitment to the INSTC and briefed the Council on steps to modernize its road network.
- Tajikistan conveyed its special interest in eastern section of the INSTC and its focus on development of rail network connecting central and southern Tajikistan. It further informed the Council about its active participation in development of the rail transport corridor connecting China and Iran. It further hoped for an early accession of Afghanistan to the INSTC.
- Turkey, highlighting its key location connecting Asia and Europe, reiterated its commitment to development of this Corridor.
- INSTC Secretariat hoped that the member countries would take necessary measures for effective implementation of decisions taken during the Experts Group meeting.

The Coordination Council deliberated on developments since the last Coordination Council meeting held in Baku in June 2013. The member states shared

current status of the INSTC routes and agreed upon the following for effective implementation of the Corridor:

- i. Members will provide details of their Focal Point, for all coordination on INSTC related matters, within two weeks of the receipt of the formal request from the Secretariat through diplomatic channel.
- ii. A Working Group on Customs, comprising Azerbaijan, India, Iran and Russia, will be held in Russia in October/November 2015. INSTC Secretariat would circulate a draft agenda and terms of reference of this Working Group to the four members at the earliest. The Group would submit its findings to the Secretariat in December 2015.
- iii. Another Working Group on Commercial and Operational issues will be held in Iran in January 2016 to discuss issues such as port facilities, visa related issues and other logistical issues. Member countries interested in joining the Group will nominate a representative from their side to constitute the group to INSTC Secretariat by mid-September 2015. Findings of the Working Group would be submitted to the Council subsequently. The INSTC Secretariat will decide the terms of reference for the above group and circulate it to the member countries.
- iv. Expert Group meetings will be held every six months in future to review the implementation of the decisions taken.
- v. Member countries will provide details of their trade volume and types of cargo with other INSTC member countries for understanding infrastructure and investment requirements on the INSTC route. INSTC Secretariat will devise a format to capture this information and circulate this to the member countries by mid-September 2015. Member countries are requested to send required information as per the format by mid-October 2015.
- vi. India, with FFFAI assistance, would devise a template for INSTC website highlighting various parameters including tariff, details of ports, railways, freight forwarders, shipping agents, banking, insurance and logistics support for collation of trade information and circulate to INSTC member countries by December 2015. Member countries will also provide periodical updates of these data for uploading on the website.
- vii. The Secretariat will formally communicate the draft Transit document, circulated by the Indian side, through diplomatic channels to all the Member countries. Member countries will study the draft transit document, to provide legal basis for transportation of goods along the INSTC routes and offer their comments at an early date. The next Expert Group meeting will negotiate the draft for early finalisation.

- viii. Member countries will cooperate in facilitating banking and insurance related issues for seamless transportation of goods along the INSTC routes.
- ix. All possible modes and ports of the INSTC member countries will be utilized for transportation of goods and commodities in the INSTC routes.
- x. INSTC Secretariat would formally share requests for accession to INSTC received from Afghanistan and Kuwait to the member countries. The Secretariat will write to Ukraine and Kyrgyz Republic requesting them to deposit their Instruments of Accession with the Secretariat.
- xi. The next INSTC Experts Group meeting would be held in April 2016 and the Coordination Council meeting would be held in August/September 2016. Venue will be decided by the Secretariat in consultation with member countries.

The meeting was conducted in an extremely congenial environment. The Council reaffirmed that the INSTC has tremendous potential to transform trade relations among INSTC member countries and called for continued cooperation in implementing decisions taken at the Experts Group and Coordination Council for expediting implementation of the INSTC for the common benefit of the member countries and the region at large.

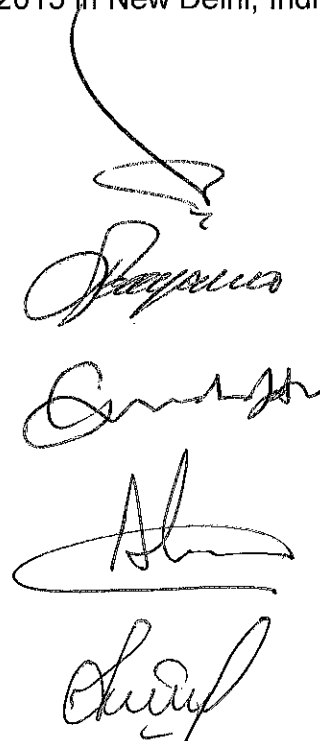
The meeting participants expressed their gratitude to the Government of India for the excellent arrangements made to ensure the successful work of the meeting.

The Council ended with Vote of Thanks by Shri Shambhu S. Kumaran, Joint Secretary, Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India and the INSTC Secretariat.

Signed in English, on 21 August, 2015 in New Delhi, India.

**Member Country Representatives:**

1. **Mr. Hossein Ashoori,**  
Islamic Republic of Iran
2. **Mr. Vyacheslav Petrenko,**  
Russian Federation
3. **Dr. Guruprasad Mohapatra,**  
Republic of India
4. **Mr. Elkhan Asadov,**  
Republic of Azerbaijan
5. **Mr. Nurbek Kabizhan,**  
Republic of Kazakhstan



The image shows five handwritten signatures in black ink, arranged vertically on the right side of the page. Each signature is positioned to the right of its corresponding representative's name in the list. The signatures are: 1. A signature with a long, sweeping underline. 2. A signature that appears to be 'Vyacheslav'. 3. A signature that appears to be 'Guruprasad'. 4. A signature that appears to be 'Elkhan'. 5. A signature that appears to be 'Nurbek'.

**Annexure-I**

**List of Participants of 6<sup>th</sup> Coordination Council Meeting of INSTC during  
21<sup>st</sup> August 2015, New Delhi.**

**Iran:**

1. Eng. Davoud Keshavarzian, Deputy Minister and Head of Road Maintenance & Transportation Organisation (Head of delegation in Coordination Council Meeting)
2. Mr. Hossein Ashoori, Deputy Managing Director of Iranian Railway for Utilization (Head of delegation in expert meeting)
3. Mr. Bahman Agharazi, Advisor to Deputy Foreign Minister in Asia and Pacific Affairs and Commonwealth countries
4. Mr. Jafar Jamili, Deputy of Transit and border Terminals Offices, Road Maintenance & Transportation Organization (INSTC Secretariat)
5. Mr. Behrouz Iranzad, Deputy of Transit and Supervision Office, IRI Customs
6. Mr. Mohammad Ali Asl. Saeedipour, Deputy for port affairs and Especial Economic Zone of Shahid Rajaei port
7. Md(r). Hossein Shojaei, Dy. Chief of Mission, Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran
8. Mr. Hamid Mosadeghi, Third Secretary, Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran.
9. Mr. Hamidreza Nezaratzadeh, Economic Section, Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

**Russia:**

1. Mr. Andrey Grebenyuk, Head of Directorate for Coordination of Foreign Trade Activity, Department of International Cooperation, JSC "Russian Railways"
2. Mr Dmitry Antonov, Advisor to the President, JSC "United Transport & Logistics Company"
3. Mr. Pavel Komarov - Dy. Trade Commissioner;
4. Mr. Alexey Pogonin – Counsellor, Embassy of the Russian Federation in the Republic of India;
5. Mr Vitalii Fokin – Deputy Head of the Division, Trade Representation of the Russian Federation in the Republic of India;
6. Mr. Igor V. Kalinin - The Head of Representation of the Federal Customs Service of the Russian Federation, Counsellor of the Embassy of the Russian Federation in the Republic of India.
7. Mr. Vitaly Dzhussoer, Adviser to the President, Russian Railway.
8. Mr. Antonov, United Transport and logistics company, Russia
9. Mr. Ildar Batkaev-Adviser, Trade Representation of the Russian Federation in the Republic of India.

**India:**

1. Ms. Rita Teautia, Commerce Secretary,
2. Dr. S. Jaishankar, Foreign Secretary,
3. Dr. Guruprasad Mohapatra, Joint Secretary, D/o Commerce
4. Shri Saurabh Kumar, Indian Ambassador-designate to Iran

5. Shri Shambhu S. Kumaran, Joint Secretary (Eurasia), MEA
6. Shri Sandeep Kumar, Commissioner (Customs & EP), CBEC
7. Dr. Shashank Saksena, Economic Advisor, D/o Financial Services.
8. Shri Madhup Vyas, Director, D/o Commerce
9. Shri Mukul Kumar, Director (Transport Planning), M/o Railways
10. Wg Cdr. Vishwajeet Kumar, JD Operations, IAF
11. Shri. D. K. Diamary, Deputy Secretary, D/o Commerce
12. Shri A.D. James, Deputy Secretary, M/o Road Transport & Highways
13. Ms. Pooja Tillu, Under Secretary (Eurasia), MEA
14. Shri Ramkumar C., Under Secretary (Eurasia), MEA
15. Shri M Mishra Natwar, Under Secretary, D/o Commerce
16. Shri K.B. Pandit, GM, RBI
17. Capt. R. K. Tandon, Sr. Vice-President, Shipping Corporation of India
18. Shri Hari Ram Rao, GM/T&E, RITES
19. Shri Punit Kumar, Group General Manager, RITES.
20. Shri S. S. Sood, DGM (Project), Central Warehousing Corporation
21. Shri Prashant Seth, JD, FIEO
22. Shri Sanjay Swarup, Group General Manager, CONCOR
23. Shri I. Ahmed, Advisor, Indian Ports Association (IPA)
24. Shri Ambati Ramesh, AD, IPA
25. Shri Kumar Shailendra, Section Officer, D/o Commerce.
26. Shri A.K. Bose, Chief Manager (Traffic), Jawaharlal Nehru Port Trust(JNPT).
27. Shri R. Ramamurti, DGM, UCO Bank
28. Shri R. Seshadri, AGM, UCO Bank
29. Shri Gurkirpal S. Ahluwalia, Vice-President, HDFC Bank
30. Shri Sitanshu Mitra, Executive Vice President, HDFC Bank
31. Shri Sanjiv Singh, DGM, The New India Assurance Company Ltd.
32. Dr. Meena Singh Roy, Research Fellow, Head West Asia Centre, IDSA
33. Shri Shankar Shinde, Vice Chairman, FFFAI.
34. Shri Soheli F. Kazani, FFFAI
35. Shri Pradip Kumar Arora, OSD, Indian Banks Association

### **Azerbaijan**

1. Mr. Elkhan Asadov-Head of Section at the Department of Marketing and Tariffs of the Azerbaijan Railways LTD.
2. Mr. Farid Valiyev, Inspector, Department of Customs Control of the State Customs Committee of the Republic of Azerbaijan
3. Mr. Navahid Abdullayeh

### **Kazakhstan:**

1. Mr. Kabizhan Nurbek, Head of Department of Railway Transport, Ministry of Investments and Development, Republic of Kazakhstan (leader)
2. Mr. Baurzhan Kussabayev, Head of Transport Logistics Development Division, Ministry of Investments and Development, Republic of Kazakhstan.
3. Mr. Sungat Kaskyrbayev- Head of the branch for the implementation of projects

- “Center for Development of Transport Logistics” of joint-stock company “State Company “Kazakhstan Temirzholy”(“Kazakhstan Railways”).
4. Mr. Saken Estay –Acting Head of Procurement and Internal Administration and Legal Department of joint-stock company “State Company “Kazakhstan Temirzholy”.

**Kyrgyz Republic:**

1. Mr. Evgeny Kablukov, Minister Counsellor, Embassy of Kyrgyzstan
2. Ms. Akmatkalykyzy Asel, Attache (Economic and Commercial

**Tajikistan:**

1. H.E. Mirzosharif A. Jalolov, Ambassador of Republic of Tajikistan
2. Ms. Gulchehra, Counsellor, Embassy of Tajikistan.

**Turkey:**

1. Mr. Yasar Durmus, Third Secretary, Turkish Embassy in New Delhi.
2. Mr. Halil Dinc, Second Secretary, Embassy of Turkey

**Ukraine:**

1. Mr. Rostyslav V. Zatspilin, Counsellor, Embassy of Ukraine in the Republic of India

**Turkmenistan:**

1. H.E. Mr. Parakhat Hommadovich Durdyev Ambassador of Turkmenistan in India.

**Uzbekistan:**

1. Mr. Avaz D. Khodjiev, Counsellor, Embassy of Republic of Uzbekistan.

Agenda for 6<sup>th</sup> Coordination Council Meeting  
on  
International North-South Corridor Project (INSTC)  
21<sup>st</sup> August, 2015; New Delhi

- I. Registration
- II. Welcome remarks by Joint Secretary, FT (CIS), Department of Commerce
- III. Chairperson's speech by Deputy Minister of India (Commerce Secretary) as the new chairperson of INSTC Coordination council
- IV. Keynote speech by Deputy Minister (Foreign Secretary) of India
- IV. Inauguration Speech of the Head of Secretariat of the INSTC Depository State regarding results of the two days expert meeting.
- V. Speech of Head of Delegation of INSTC Member States in order of - Iran, Russia, India followed by participant countries in alphabetical order.
- VI. Conclusion and Signing of final minute of 6<sup>th</sup> coordination council Meeting.
- VII. Wrapping up comments & Vote of thanks by Joint Secretary, ERS Division, Ministry of External Affairs.