

**STATUTE OF INTERNATIONAL “NORTH-SOUTH” TRANSPORT
CORRIDOR COORDINATION COUNCIL**

In pursuance of Article 6 of the Intergovernmental Agreement on International “North-South” Transport Corridor signed by the Republic of India, the Russian Federation and the Islamic Republic of Iran on September 12, 2000 in St. Petersburg and subsequently ratified.

The Coordination Council has agreed to the Statute as follows :

Article 1: Definitions

- 1.1 “Agreement” means Inter-governmental Agreement on International “North-South” Transport Corridor signed in St. Petersburg, Russian Federation on 12th September, 2000.
- 1.2 “Council” means Coordination Council as referred to in Article 6 of the Agreement.
- 1.3 “Parties” means the Government of Republic of India, the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Government of the Russian Federation as referred to in the Agreement and the Governments of other States, which may subsequently accede to the Agreement.
- 1.4 “Competent Authorities” of the Parties means such authorities as referred to in Article 3.2 of the Agreement.
- 1.5 “Observer” means any person or entity including organizations, institutions, firms and non-governmental agencies / entities etc., directly related to the activities of the Agreement, who are invited either to attend a particular meeting of the Council or on a permanent basis, but without the right to take part in decision-making process of the Council.

Article 2: Objectives

- 2.1 The objectives of the Council shall be:
- (a) Increasing the effectiveness of transport ties in order to organize goods and passenger transport along the International “North-South” Transport Corridor;
 - (b) Promotion of access to the international market through rail, road, sea, river and air transport of the state Parties to the agreement;
 - (c) Assistance in increasing the volume of international transport of passengers and goods;
 - (d) Providing security of travel, safety of goods as well as environmental protection according to the international standards.
 - (e) Harmonization of transport policies as well as law and legislative basis in the field of transport for the purpose of implementing the agreement;
 - (f) Setting up equal non-discriminatory conditions for all types of transport service providers from all the Parties in transport of passengers and goods within the framework of the International “North-South” Transport Corridor.
- 2.2 The above mentioned objectives from (a) to (f) are subject to the provision of Article 1.1 of the Agreement.

Article 3: Functions

- 3.1 The Council will be responsible for:
- (a) Regulating the issues related to implementation and application of the provisions of the Agreement;
 - (b) Consideration and settlement of any dispute, discord or claim among The Parties to the Agreement which relate to application, interpretation or violation of the Agreement and which cannot be settled by negotiation between the Competent Authorities;
 - (c) Suggesting any additions and amendments to the Agreement which may be introduced;
 - (d) Recommendation of Accession to the Agreement by the other countries.

3.2 In order to achieve the objectives stipulated in the Agreement (Article 2), the Council may establish the required Expert Committees to study, review and analyse available information and submit modalities, plans and proposals, interalia, covering the following areas:

- (a) reducing transit time and providing security of travel, safety of goods as well as environmental protection according to international standards;
- (b) reducing the cost of all modes of transport;
- (c) elaboration of documents regulating the transport process and simplifying and unifying documents and regulations and drawing up uniform documents;
- (d) economic evaluation of the corridor, forecasting the volume of movement of cargo and passengers, marketing and attracting investments and stipulating procedures regarding cooperation with international organizations;
- (e) developing transport infrastructures and prioritization;
- (f) propagating and advertising the corridor capabilities;
- (g) laying technical specifications for all modes of transport and corridor infrastructure;
- (h) coordination of transportation concepts.

3.3 The proposals and recommendations by the aforesaid committees will be implemented after approval by the Council.

Article 4: Members and Observers

4.1 The Council shall consist of duly nominated representatives of Competent Authorities of the Parties to the Agreement as specified in Article 3.2 of the Agreement.

4.2 Each Party may nominate at least one and up to four representatives to attend meetings of the Council and each Party shall have one vote, regardless of the number of representatives.

4.3 The Council will have the authority to invite any entity or person directly associated with the execution of the Agreement to attend a particular meeting of the Council,

provided members of the Council are consulted in advance in this regard and Parties agree to their participation.

- 4.4 Transport, economic, commercial, investing, technical and advising organizations and institutions directly related to the implementation of the Agreement may apply to be an observer at a particular meeting of the Council or on a permanent basis.
- 4.5 Such invitees as referred to in 4.3 and 4.4 above will not take part in the decision making of the Council.

Article 5: Procedures of the Meetings

- 5.1 The Council shall meet at least once a year or upon a request made by any Party to the Agreement and after mutual consultations among members of the Council.
- 5.2 The meetings of the Council will be organized in the countries of the Parties by rotation at a venue mutually agreed before fixing such a meeting.
- 5.3 Any deviation, if considered necessary, from the arrangement envisaged in 5.2 above may be mutually agreed and worked out.
- 5.4 While agreeing on the venue and date of the meeting of the Council, a suggested agenda shall also be worked out and agreed among the members of the Council.
- 5.5 The senior duly nominated representative of the host country on the Council will coordinate the conduct of the meeting of the Council where it is held.
- 5.6 Decisions of the Council will be based on consultations among the members and with the consent of all Parties.
- 5.7 Any dispute, discord or claim which the Council fails to settle, and when such a situation arises, shall be settled by such other means as the Parties, by common consent, agree.

- 5.8 Agreed minutes of the deliberations of the Council meetings in the form of recommendations will be recorded and signed on conclusion of the meetings at the meeting venue itself.
- 5.9 Agreed minutes of the Council will be submitted to the respective Parties to the Agreement by the participating members of the Council.
- 5.10 If any member of the Council has not been able to participate in a meeting of the Council, the agreed minutes of the meeting will record the method of transmitting such minutes to such country and action sought on the same.
- 5.11 The working language of the meetings of the Council and the documentation of the Council will be in English.

Article 6: Additions and Amendments

- 6.1 Additions and amendments to this Statute may be made by the Council with the consent of all members of the Council.
