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Geneva, 27 April 2012

IRU RESOLUTION ON THE NEED FOR DIGITAL ROAD MAPS TO FURTHER PROMOTE SUSTAINABLE TRADE, TOURISM, TRAVEL AND INTERNATIONAL ROAD TRANSPORT

Unanimously adopted by the IRU General Assembly in Geneva on Friday 27 April 2012

IRU Resolution on the need for digital road maps to further promote sustainable trade, tourism, travel and international road transport.

The International Road Transport Union (IRU), representing the interests of bus, coach, taxi and truck operators through its national Member Associations in 73 countries across all five continents,

Aware of the significant contribution of digital road maps to improving productivity, facilitation, safety, quality of services and security of road transport in areas where electronic road maps are currently available;

Mindful of the huge potential to significantly expand trade, tourism and travel by road, and in so doing, drive progress, prosperity and ultimately peace by interconnecting every business to every major world trade and tourism market;

Cognisant of the need to have harmonised definitions of road types and road surfaces within and between countries;

Complementing the results already achieved in promoting, further developing and facilitating Eurasian trade, tourism, travel and international road transport, including programmes notably in the TRACECA countries as well as the BSEC and ECO regions dedicated to commercial road transport, as well as the IRU's New Eurasian Land Transport Initiative (NELTI) and Model Highway Initiative (MHI); and

Recognising that, in addition to the inappropriate procedures at borders, which account for 40% of time lost in transport and close to 40% of transport costs due to "unofficial payments", transport operations between border crossings are made even more difficult and less efficient due to a lack of accurate digital maps containing information relevant to making transport services and operations more efficient, secure and sustainable.

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Calls upon governments and competent intergovernmental organisations to

- Work in Public-Private Partnership with the IRU and the business community to define needs and in particular with digital map makers to urgently develop high quality, standardised digital road maps which include the location of secure parking areas and other necessary ancillary road infrastructure and support facilities for drivers and passengers;
- Define, in a harmonised way, road types (highways, trunk roads, etc.) and road surfaces (paved, unpaved) across all countries;
- Provide map makers with favourable conditions to permit them to develop digital maps;
- Assist digital map makers with the improvement of digital road data in a cost effective way by providing existing digital data, hard copy maps, satellite imagery and road surveys;
- Assist digital map makers with the regular update of road and ancillary infrastructure data; and
- Report expected progress at the coordination meeting of International Organisations and Financial Institutions involved in the promotion and development of trade, travel and tourism, which will meet in Amman, Jordan in the framework of the 7th IRU Euro-Asian Road Transport Conference & Ministerial Meeting on 12-13 June 2013.

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