



## Changchun Declaration

The 19<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Greater Tumen Initiative Consultative Commission  
August 22, 2019

We,

representatives of the GTI Member States: the People's Republic of China (hereinafter "China"), Mongolia, the Republic of Korea (hereinafter "Korea"), and the Russian Federation (hereinafter "Russia"), on the occasion of the 19th Meeting of the GTI Consultative Commission (CC) in Changchun on August 22, 2019, reaffirming goals of regional development and prosperity *have reached the following decisions and consensus, to*

### 1. Strategic Development

*strive* to advance negotiations in a constructive manner to transform GTI into effective, result-oriented, member-driven intergovernmental economic cooperation institution, and building on past progress, *urge* National Coordinators (NCs) to facilitate for and make every effort to consolidate any pending intra-governmental and intergovernmental discussions and negotiations, and reach consensus,

*acknowledge* the importance of the improvement of operational effectiveness of GTI activities and the overall capacity building of GTI, and *direct* the NCs to explore the possibilities to make GTI activities more project-oriented and efficient, and, hence, *confirm* our further enhanced support for the GTI Secretariat and GTI's institutional structures to strengthen the operational, technical and institutional capacity of the Secretariat and to progress project schemes and achievements in the work of respective sectoral boards and committees and affiliated bodies; *urge* NCs to support and foster various initiatives, project proposals and activities put forward and implemented at different levels by the GTI Secretariat, and boards and committees ensuring theme-specific, goal-oriented and sustainable approach,

*recognize* regional interconnectivity as the main driver for regional economic cooperation and integration where facilitation of trade and transport, among others, are key cornerstones for seamless connectivity; hence, given that trade and transport facilitation faces many common challenges, *encourage* the Member States to promote policy coordination, facilities connectivity, unimpeded trade, financial integration and people-to-people bonds with a view to gradually increase regional connectivity at different levels through maximizing the synergy between GTI and the Member States' key policy areas and regional cooperation initiatives, such as "Eurasian Economic Union" and its outreach initiatives, "Belt and Road Initiative", "Northeast Revitalization Strategy", "Development Road Program", "New Northern Policy", "New Southern Policy", and others alike, and to collaborate with regional partners to expand scale and scope of these activities and enhance practical outcome; also *acknowledge* that this cross-sector approach should be examined and applied across all of the key priority areas of GTI with a focus on the long-term development of regional value chains supported by "hard" and "soft" infrastructures, integrated logistics network and multilateral frameworks and schemes for interconnectivity; *express* concerns about rising protectionism and *reiterate* our commitments to build up an open, free and inclusive NEA economy,

*acknowledge* the significance of GTI's partners' contribution to our development efforts and call on to further strengthen cooperation schemes with existing and potential partners by developing frameworks as well as joint agendas around ongoing and potential new programs, activities and initiatives in areas of mutual interest supported and operationalized by mid-term or multiyear joint rolling planning instruments; *stress* the importance of partnership building, conducting outreach and further

strengthening network with development partners to seek support for GTI's development agenda and its activities,

*welcome* a number of technical exchange, capacity building and other related activities implemented in trade facilitation, trade development and other priority sectors of GTI, including with the support from our development partners, and *encourage* to develop and provide an overall framework and/or multiyear roadmap as a tool for multi-stakeholder coordination and organization of ongoing, recurrent, planned and potential programs and activities for the purposes of improving cohesiveness, relevance and outcome; *advise* the Secretariat to advance works in knowledge management development and employ innovative tools to improve efficiency and effectiveness of overall operations, institutional and organizational development as well as capacity building in key policy areas,

*welcome* the creation of North-East Asia Business Association and *encourage* members and stakeholders to develop various modalities for joint activities in private sector collaboration, public and private partnerships, project development, capacity building etc., in different forms and at different levels, in collaboration with other GTI institutions and relevant organizations and fora in the region,

*acknowledge* the continuous endeavor of the leaders of two Koreas to enhance peace and prosperity in NEA, which brought about the inter-Korean summit in Pyongyang in 2018, and support the Pyongyang Joint Declaration agreed between the two leaders; *hope* that the meeting held at Panmunjeom on June 30, 2019, will lead to peace and prosperity on the Korean Peninsula,

maintaining our existing position, *express* our hope that DPRK considers rejoining the GTI at its earliest convenience.

## **2. Development in Priority Sectors**

### Transport

*reiterate* the importance of improved operability of transport corridors in NEA to be achieved by building capacity in the management of corridors and elimination of existing barriers along the transport routes, including multimodal; *welcome* joint International Seminar on Transport with UNESCAP which would become an additional platform for addressing existing and emerging issues related to the development and functioning of NEA transport corridors and enhancement of transport connectivity in the region; *commend* the GTI Secretariat's effort to renew the current Regional Transport Strategy and Medium Term Transport Action Plan and *welcome* the initiative of the combined cross-sector study in developing regional value chains which should lay the basis the update of the current state of the GTI corridors and further develop project pipeline for the action plan; *encourage* further cooperation in the transport education and knowledge exchange among the GTI Member Countries and note with satisfaction the launch of the pilot stage of a transport education program at the Far-Eastern Federal University (Russian Federation),

*welcome* recent exchanges with NEAL-NET (Northeast Asia Logistic Information Service Network) in the area of promoting regional logistics cooperation and removing obstacles to logistics connectivity, and *advise* to look into possibilities of joint research and joint promotion of the logistics information interchange in GTR for the purposes of advancement of the level of regional logistics and transportation network collaboration as well as *examine* NEAL-NET's experience and platform for formulating standards and supporting systems.

### Trade and Investment

taking stock of achievements on implementation of GTI Trade and Investment Cooperation Roadmap 2017-2020, *welcome* members' contributions to promote trade and investment cooperation in GTR; *emphasize* the importance of policy coordination and technical exchange on trade and investment cooperation in NEA and note the outcomes of the 7th Trade Facilitation Capacity Building Program on Risk management and the 6th GTI Trade and Investment EXPO; also *acknowledge*, with high esteem, the successful implementation of a variety of activities, "Study on the Soft Environment of Regional Supply Chain Connectivity", "Policy Dialogue on Industrial Parks", and "Workshop on FTAs/RTAs information sharing", expecting further practical follow-up activities among the member states, and *endorse* new project on "Prospect of Trade & Investment Cooperation in GTR",

*encourage* TIC and CSC to envisage the next phase of the roadmap while designing and implementing various projects under the current one ensuring continuity and sustainability gaining support and collaboration from UNESCAP, GIZ and others; continuously *emphasize* the crucial role of the private sector in promotion of regional cooperation and believe that TIC and CSC should actively develop joint activities with North East Asia Business Association (NEA BA) and other stakeholders.

### Tourism

*recognize* that marketing of tourism destinations and products in GTR and capacity building are a keystone for regional tourism development and, as such, *attach* priority to the development of regional tourism brand, promotion and development of regional tourism products and building capacity in the marketing of tourism destinations,

*note* with satisfaction the launch of Mongolia's social collaborative platform for promotion of tourism destinations and tourism products and *encourage* further efforts by the GTI Secretariat and GTI Tourism Board aimed at creation of a regional tourism promotion platform; *encourage* continued cooperation with UNWTO, international development agencies and other stakeholders in development of a regional tourism brand for the GTI region; *commend* the established practice of joint participation of GTI tourism stakeholders at travel expositions coordinated by GTI Secretariat seeing this as a practical approach to promote multi-destination tourism in the GTR; *welcome* the outcomes of the Research Report on International Tourism and Multidestination Tourism in GTR,

*welcome* the upcoming 23<sup>rd</sup> session of UNWTO General Assembly to be held on 9-13 September 2019 in Saint Petersburg, Russia.

### Energy

*welcome* efforts undertaken by the member countries, the Secretariat, UNESCAP and other relevant parties to research on the Northeast Asia Power Interconnection, based on regional electricity power demand and existing infrastructure,

*look forward* to the outcomes of upcoming GTI Energy Board Meeting held back-to-back with 2019 Seoul International Renewable Energy Conference and finalization of Project on Research on Regional Industrial Energy Efficiency Cooperation.

### Environment

*acknowledge* the importance of cooperation in the area of ecology and environment protection as one of the four priorities and a cross-cutting theme; *recognize* the role of Environmental Board as an important platform for sharing environmental policies and practice and the directions envisaged by the Board members to seek for future cooperation in promoting eco-friendly, green, and sustainable

development, and see that study on GTI Environmental Cooperation Strategy could explore more specific areas and themes in that direction for regional environmental cooperation.

### Agriculture

*appreciate* the endeavor of Agriculture Committee members in developing new projects in agriculture cooperation and call on for continued action in exploring ways to initiate and implement different activities and projects in line with the Agriculture Cooperation Strategic Action Plan to further build capacity at regional and local levels utilizing different training schemes, strengthen collaboration for the effective control of trans-boundary diseases, facilitate and address barriers to cross-border trade, promote investments and Public-Private Partnerships (PPP) , and enhance regional science and technology transfer etc., as a priority, actively utilizing GTI's network and partner relations; *believe* outcomes of the Report on Good Practice of Agricultural Cooperation in GTR could provide practical recommendations on implementing the goals and objectives of Agriculture Committee.

### **3. Partners' Collaboration and Partnership Development**

*value* NEA EXIM Banks Association (EBA) members' efforts in serving as a resource mobilization mechanism for GTI projects; *welcome* the active endeavors of the member banks to develop the project proposals further and explore potential candidates for additional Joint Projects that can be pursued with the current Zarubino Port Project in parallel; *anticipate* stronger resource-mobilized financial supports of NEA EBA toward infrastructure development in the region by extensive cooperation and close mutual consultation among the member banks,

*commend* the progress made by the GTI Research Institutions Network (RIN) members in 2018 and *acknowledge* their contribution as a think tank; *welcome* the results of "Promoting Connectivity in GTI in Physical, Institutional, and People-to-People Dimensions" as the first joint research projects of the RIN and commit our continuous support for the second round of joint research project of "Regional Value Chain in Greater Tumen Region",

*note* the endorsement of Tottori Declaration and *commend* the work of Local Cooperation Committee in attracting new members and broadening the involvement of the private sector; *appreciate* that interactions with Russian Far Eastern Customs Directorate and administrations of Vladivostok and Zarubino ports strengthened communication and efforts to improve customs clearance procedures; *congratulate* on the successful conclusion of the Pilot Transport Testing Project (Mudanjiang - Suifenhe - Grodekovo - Vladivostok - Donghae - Sakaiminato), the first trial of the new Pilot Transport Testing Project (Changchun - Hunchun - Zarubino - Vladivostok - Donghae - Sakaiminato); *recognize* that the "Go back to 2011" evaluation identified needs of LCC Members and the operation mode of LCC framework for the future; *warmly welcome* Yingkou City as a new member of the Logistics Sub-Committee,

*highly appreciate* the significant progress made in creation of North East Asia Business Association (NEA BA) and *congratulate* on its inauguration with the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding of the Establishment and Operation of the North East Asia Business Association; *expect* that NEA BA should become a robust platform for private sector development and cooperation and facilitate B2B and B2G policy dialogues and exchanges,

*highlight* our established cooperation with the UNESCAP and its ENEA office, and based on our common development goals and objectives in key policy areas, *encourage* to further strengthen institutionalization of cooperation by building joint plans and frameworks around activities and programs implemented by one another supporting the process with reciprocity and complementarity

while looking into cross-sector and cross-discipline frameworks with a focus on environmental sustainability alongside sector-specific cooperation,

*welcome* with gratitude the continuation of GIZ's program on support to regional economic cooperation initiatives and commencement of its next phase and *anticipate* more extensive joint work in continuing with follow-up activities and initiatives in trade development and trade facilitation, private sector promotion and capacity building, development of agricultural value chain and organizational evolution of GTI whilst focusing on sustaining outcomes of the past achievements, building incremental value and reinforcing the existing collaboration framework,

*attach* significance to the outcomes of Northeast Asia Economic Cooperation and GTI Seminar focused on themes of peace and prosperity in the region, and *look forward* to the continuation of this important event and next round to exchange views on future of sustainable regional development and cooperation,

recognizing challenges in capacity and funding for implementing GTI's initiatives and projects and acknowledging the importance of mobilizing resources and joint initiatives and platforms with existing and potential development partners, *urge* to continue further outreach, networking and exchange with partners building enhanced and extended institutional frameworks moving from ad-hoc and piecemeal activities to more comprehensive and programmatic collaborative engagement.

#### **4. Administration, Finance and Project Management**

*review* and *endorse* the 2019 Work Plan, 2018 Expenditure, and 2019 Budget Proposal.

#### **5. The Way Forward**

The governments of Mongolia, Korea, and Russia extend their gratitude to the government of China for its chairmanship since the 18th GTI CC Meeting and the successful hosting of the 19th GTI CC Meeting in Changchun, China,

We appreciate the GTI Secretariat for its effective implementation of the directives of the Consultative Commission.

We look forward to convening the 20th GTI CC Meeting in 2020 hosted by the government of Korea.