

## **Moscow Declaration**

The 21<sup>st</sup> Meeting of the Greater Tumen Initiative Consultative Commission  
November 23, 2021

We,

representatives of the GTI member states: the People's Republic of China (hereinafter "China"), Mongolia, the Republic of Korea (hereinafter "ROK"), and the Russian Federation (hereinafter "Russia"), on the occasion of the 21<sup>st</sup> Meeting of the GTI Consultative Commission (CC) on 23 November 2021 via video conference with the main venue in Moscow, Russian Federation, reaffirming goals of regional development and prosperity have reached the following decisions and consensus, to

### **1. Strategic Development**

*recognize* that member states continued responding effectively to new COVID-19 outbreaks with appropriate measures including massive vaccination, border control, social distancing, *application of relevant digital tools*, and massive testing and treatment. *appreciate* the efforts made by member states to minimize economic and social impacts of the pandemic, especially for the most vulnerable, including those living in remote and rural areas; *note with satisfaction* that GTI has been maintaining its activities online well; *urge* the GTI Secretariat jointly with member countries to take necessary measures to accelerate the implementation of delayed cooperation projects and revitalize stagnant cooperation channels.

*express* concerns about global economic uncertainties such as slow economic recovery and rising protectionist measures, expected inflation, long-term risks of climate change, disruptions in global and regional supply chains and unstable financial markets amidst a lingering pandemic; *note* that resilient and sustainable post-pandemic recovery is a key priority; *strive* to reinforce state-level policy coordination to stabilize global financial markets and strengthen policy measures to provide a strong recovery of international trade and investment flows; *recognize* that building resilient, stable and strong supply chains, incorporating sustainable finance practices into national policies as well as maintaining open, free, inclusive, non-discriminatory, transparent, predictable and stable trade and investment environment in the region are crucial in the context of current challenges.

*acknowledge*, with high esteem, the successful implementation of the initiative of the Russian government to hold the NEA Policy Dialogue on Sustainable Finance which contributed to sharing member states' knowledge and experience in developing sustainable finance frameworks on the path to a sustainable recovery and to exploring options for further cooperation in developing sustainable finance instruments in the region;

*note* efforts of member states in developing national green taxonomies as essential parts of their national sustainable finance frameworks and the progress achieved: during the two-year period (2020-2021) China and Russia have adopted green taxonomies and the ROK has also adopted the Green New Deal for 2020-2025; *welcome* the promotion of the 2030 Agenda and the harmonization of green finance instruments verification systems.

*strive* to facilitate financial stability and adopt inclusive trade and investment policies, consolidate infrastructure connectivity and enhance industrial cooperation, increase energy efficiency, with a view to converging NEA regional development strategies of member states.

*reiterate* our commitment to facilitate regional integration by fully utilizing GTI cooperation channels such as Trade and Investment Committee (hereinafter "TIC"), Local Cooperation Committee (hereinafter

“LCC”), Exim Banks Association (hereinafter “EBA”), Business Association (hereinafter “BA”), etc.; *expect* the GTI Strategic Action Plan 2021~2024 to be implemented as scheduled.

*recognize* the significance of intentions to enhance the GTI’s role, as a well-designed cooperation platform in dealing with developing infrastructure projects, and fostering economic prosperity in the region, *reiterate* the importance of continuing negotiations on the GTI’s transformation into an intergovernmental cooperation institution and *strive* to make further efforts to reach consensus on the pending issues.

*strive* to maximize the synergy between GTI and the Member States’ key policy areas and regional cooperation initiatives, such as “Eurasian Economic Union”, “Belt and Road Initiative”, “Northeast Revitalization Strategy”, “Steppe Road Program”, “New Northern Policy”, and “New Southern Policy”, and others alike, and to collaborate with regional partners to expand scale and scope of these activities and enhance practical outcome.

*expect* that the upcoming Beijing Winter Olympic Games and Winter Paralympic Games will be successfully organized and held in 2022.

*hope* that DPRK considers rejoining the GTI at its earliest convenience to contribute to achieving peace and prosperity on the Korean Peninsula.

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

### Transport

*recognize* that transport connectivity is one of the key elements for the strong post-pandemic economic recovery; *emphasize* the importance of enhancing cooperation and technical exchanges among transport authorities in the region to ensure a steady improvement of the cross-border transportation system and resilience of regional transport networks;

*welcome* the approval of the GTI Regional Transport Strategy 2021-2024 which provides recommendations and guidance to the activities of the GTI Transport Board;

*note* the completion of the first stage of the GTI-KRRI (Korea Railroad Research Institute) collaborative project “Research on Empirical Strategy of Dual Gauge Bogie in the Greater Tumen Region”; *welcome* intensified coordination and exchanges with UNESCAP in the transport sector and organization of the 2nd UNESCAP-GTI Seminar on Transport Issues in NEA which focused on transport cross-sectoral linkages towards resilient connectivity; encourage further cooperation and exchanges with UNESCAP and organization of joint activities in the transport sector; *welcome* the ongoing cooperation in the transport education and knowledge exchange among the GTI member states; *note* the organization of the webinar “Common Approaches to Training of Logistics Personnel in NEA” by Maritime State University named after admiral G.I. Nevelskoy (MSUN).

### Trade and Investment

*emphasize* the importance of strengthening trade and investment cooperation in GTR; *acknowledge*, with high esteem, the successful implementation of “NEA Policy Dialogue on Industrial Parks: Strengthening Cooperation on Industrial and Supply Chains in Northeast Asia” and *consider* that industrial parks and special economic zones in GTR could foster regional economic connectivity and reinforce the regional value chains; *welcome* that member states agreed to annualize the Policy Dialogue on Industrial Parks; *note* the outcomes of the 9<sup>th</sup> GTI Trade and Investment EXPO; *welcome* the

implementation of the project on “Inward and Outward Processing Procedures in NEA”; *encourage* TIC and CSC to envisage the next phase of the Roadmap; continuously *emphasize* the important role of private sector in the promotion of regional cooperation and *believe* that TIC and CSC may actively develop joint activities with NEA EBA, NEA BA and other stakeholders.

### Tourism

*commend* the joint efforts made by GTI member states to strengthen information exchanges and policy coordination to build capacity for regional tourism cooperation and revival of the tourism industry in GTR; *note* with satisfaction the organization of the 14<sup>th</sup> GTI Tourism Board meeting; *look forward to* continued cooperation with international partners such as UNWTO in knowledge exchange, sharing of best practices and other forms of joint activities for supporting the sustainable recovery of regional tourism; *acknowledge* the potential of eco-tourism development in the NEA; *note* the presentation of the “Land of the Leopard” ecotourism cluster at the present CC Meeting.

### Energy

*welcome* the productive discussion among member states and partners on regional energy cooperation, in particular, during the ESCAP-ADB-GTI joint workshop where expediency of the implementation of projects on interstate trade in electric energy on North-East Asia Regional Power Grid Interconnection have been discussed, and the “ESCAP-GTI Seminar on Energy Cooperation in North-East Asia: Regional Power Trade and Connectivity” back-to-back with 9th GTI Energy Board Meeting; *encourage* to further develop the project on holding the workshop “Distributed Generation for Remote Communities in the GTI Region” and *consider* adding the topic on new technology development such as hydrogen energy to workshop’s questions for discussion, and; *look forward to* the successful implementation of the new project “Capacity Building Needs Assessment for Effective Power Interconnection Cooperation in North-East Asia”.

### Environment

*highlight* the importance of regional collaboration on environmental conservation and climate change adaption and mitigation; *welcome* commitments on carbon neutrality made by several member states and their efforts in developing low-emissions development strategies and other practical steps to tackle climate change; *welcome* the outcome of 7th GTI Environmental Board Meeting; *hope* the increasing number of initiatives on information and policy exchange as well as concrete project proposals on addressing environmental issues to be undertaken, and; *encourage* to expedite the progress on the study on GTI Environmental Cooperation Strategy.

### Agriculture

*emphasize* the importance of enhancing cooperation to achieve sustainable agricultural development while ensuring food security in the GTR, particularly in case of emergency, for instance, in the context of the pandemic; *welcome* the approval of the renewed “GTI Agriculture Cooperation Strategic Action Plan for 2021-2025” which provides guidance to activities of the GTI Agriculture Committee; *note* with satisfaction the organization of the 6th GTI Agriculture Committee meeting; *commend* the successful completion of the project “Enhancing Smart Agriculture in Greater Tumen Region” proposed by the ROK; *encourage* further cooperation among GTI member countries to promote policy exchange and knowledge sharing on different areas of agricultural cooperation in order to develop trade and economic relations in the context of the post-Covid-19 pandemic; *look forward to* the 7th meeting of the GTI Agriculture Committee which will be tentatively held in China in 2022.

### 3. Partners' Collaboration and Partnership Development

*acknowledge* NEA EXIM Banks Association (EBA) members' efforts during the VEB.RF presidency in searching for GTI infrastructure investment projects, promoting sustainable finance instruments and responsible business principles and serving as a resource mobilization mechanism in the NEA; *commend* member's achievements in developing green finance taxonomies; *call for* further collaboration to exchange best practices and implement joint projects aligned with sustainable development; *appreciate* the continuation of efforts made by NEA EXIM Banks Association (EBA) members to actively explore joint projects such as the construction of 15 gas carriers for Arctic LNG 2 project; "the Land of Leopard" ecotourism cluster; LH's Korean Industrial Complex in Russia and others.

*commend* the progress made by the GTI Research Institutions Network (RIN) members in 2019-2021 and acknowledge their contribution as a think tank; *welcome* research results of the project "Evolution of Regional Value Chain and Logistics Networks in Greater Tumen Region" as a second joint research project of the RIN which provides an update on the current state of the GTI transport corridors and contribute to the revision of the Regional Transport Strategy and Medium-Term Transport Action Plan; *commit* our continuous support for looking for new joint research projects.

*note* the endorsement of LCC's Busan Declaration and praise the determination of local governments to be more united and more cooperative in responding to the challenges of the prolonged COVID-19 pandemic by taking pragmatic actions including policy dialogues, entrepreneurs symposiums, industrial matchmaking conferences as well as policies to support sea-land routes; *note* the significance of the dialogue on ways of cooperation including on risk resilience in digital logistic eco-systems and sea-land multimodal transportation with AIIB, UNESCAP, GIZ, ERINA and private companies; *note* the importance of cross-sectoral linkages for resilient connectivity and the approval of the "Sub-regional Survey Study on the Impact of Transport and Trade Facilitation Measures" financed by UNESCAP; *welcome* the newly completed Chart of Sea-land Multimodal Transport Routes in NEA and the Chart of China-Europe Railway Express; *commend* the progress made by local governments in the construction of sea-land transport network, including Gangwon multimodal transport network and the New Northern Multimodal Freight Routes in Busan.

*appreciate* the outcomes of the 2021 NEA Business Association (BA) work under the RSPP presidency, and *expect* the NEA BA to become a robust platform to develop private sector potential and cooperation and to facilitate B2B and B2G policy dialogues and exchanges for ensuring practical partnership in order to implement joint projects of mutual interest and enhance the business environment in the NEA.

*welcome* with appreciation joint activities and initiatives with partner organizations, including UNESCAP and its ENEA office, UNWTO, UNCTAD, EAEU, GIZ, AIIB, ADB, ERINA, TCS, as well as longstanding support on administration and fund management provided by the UNDP; *highlight* the significance of reinforcing the existing collaboration framework and increasing the number of potential development partners, initiatives and platforms, and *anticipate* the further progress in building partnerships and finding new paths of cooperation, resulting in more extensive and specific joint achievements.

### 4. Administration, Finance and Project Management

review and endorse the 2021-2022 Work Plan, 2020 Expenditure, and 2021 and 2022 Budget Proposal.

### 5. The Way Forward

The governments of China, Mongolia and ROK extend their appreciation to the Russian government for its chairmanship since the 20th GTI CC Meeting and the successful hosting of the 21st GTI CC Meeting via video conference with the main venue in Moscow, Russian Federation.

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

*look forward to* convening the 22nd GTI CC Meeting in 2022 hosted by the government of Mongolia.