



Ulaanbaatar Declaration

The 22nd Meeting of the Greater Tumen Initiative Consultative Commission
December 8, 2022

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 22nd Meeting of the GTI Consultative Commission (CC) on 8 December 2022 via video conference with the main venue in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia, reaffirming goals of regional development and prosperity have reached the following decisions and consensus, to

1. Strategic Development

recognize that member states entered successfully or have been preparing for the exit stage of 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 the negative economic and social impacts of the pandemic and prepare for the post Covid-19 period; *note with satisfaction* that GTI has been maintaining its activities through various means, including online meetings; *urge* the GTI Secretariat jointly with member countries to prepare necessary measures to normalize delayed cooperation projects and stagnant cooperation channels.

express concerns that global economic challenges such as increased commodity and energy prices, growing protectionist measures, disruptions in global and regional supply chains and unstable financial and exchange markets have been exacerbated; *note* that resilient policy measures among member states to address the challenges are strongly required; *strive* to reinforce members' coordinated efforts to stabilize global financial markets and to provide a strong recovery of international trade and investment flows; *recognize* that building a more interconnected, resilient, stable and strong supply chains, incorporating sustainable finance practices into national policies as well as maintaining open, free, fair, inclusive, non-discriminatory, transparent and predictable trade and investment environment in the region are essential in the context of current challenges.

acknowledge, with high esteem, the successful implementation of the initiative of the Mongolian government and UNESCAP to hold the first Annual Forum on Connectivity which contributed to sharing member states' knowledge and experience in maintaining resilient supply chains and preserving seamless cross-border trade and transport connectivity especially focusing on food security challenges and promoting agriculture development.

strive to stabilize global inflation and financial market, revitalize global and regional supply chains, adopt inclusive economic and trade policies, consolidate infrastructure connectivity, and enhance industrial and agricultural cooperation, increase energy efficiency, with a view to converging Northeast Asia (hereinafter "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"), Research Institution Network (hereinafter "RIN") Business Association (hereinafter "BA"), etc.; *expect* the GTI Strategic Action Plan 2021~2024 to be implemented as scheduled.

recognize the significance of intentions to revitalize and enhance the GTI's role in the new environment, 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 "The Eurasian Economic Union", "Belt and Road Initiative", "Northeast Revitalization Strategy", and "Steppe Road Program" and to collaborate with regional partners to expand scale and scope of these activities and enhance practical outcomes.

hope that the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) considers rejoining the GTI at its appropriate time to contribute to achieving peace and prosperity on the Korean Peninsula.

2. Development in Priority Sectors

Transport

recognize the importance of transport connectivity as one of the key elements for the post-pandemic economic recovery in the NEA region; *emphasize* the significance of information exchange in international logistics and transportation and utilization of technology and innovative solutions to further improve efficiency and resilience and environmental sustainability in the transport sector, including to facilitate transportation processes; *welcome* the open exchange on the national progress in the transport sector in accordance with the GTI Regional Transport Strategy by members during the 11th GTI Transport Board Meeting; *note* the completion of the GTI-KMI partnership study project "Feasibility of the Pilot Project for Sea-Land Intermodal Freight Transport in the Greater Tumen Region (GTR)"; *welcome* intensified coordination and exchanges with UNESCAP in the transport sector and organization of the 3rd UNESCAP-GTI Seminar on Transport Issues in NEA under the theme of Digitalization of Transport: towards Resilient, Seamless and Sustainable Connectivity; *encourage* further cooperation activities with UNESCAP in the transport sector.

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: Maintain the Momentum of Regional Economic Integration, Deepen Cooperation on Industrial and Supply in Northeast Asia in the Post-pandemic Era" under new circumstances due to profound changes in the development of global supply chains, with new opportunities from regional economic integration promoting industrial integration and development and by new momentum created by digital and green economy; *welcome* the implementation of the project on "Inward and Outward Processing Procedures in NEA"; *encourage* Trade and Investment Committee (TIC) and Customs Sub-Committee (CSC) to envisage the next phase of "the Roadmap for the Trade and Investment Cooperation"; *emphasize* the important role of private sector in the promotion of regional cooperation; *believe* that TIC and CSC may actively develop joint activities with NEA BA, UNESCAP and other stakeholders and; *look forward to* the 5th meeting of the GTI TIC and CSC as well as the 10th International Seminar on Trade Facilitation in Northeast Asia in early 2023.

Tourism

commend the efforts made by GTI member states in building capacity for regional tourism cooperation and revival of the tourism industry in the region and; *look forward to* continued information exchanges, sharing of best practices and policy coordination among the tourism authorities in NEA as well as with international partners such as UNWTO for supporting the sustainable recovery of regional tourism.

Energy

welcome the exchange and discussion among officials and experts of member states during the 10th GTI Energy Board Meeting (with the main theme on GTI Regional Energy Landscape) back to back with the UNESCAP-GTI Seminar on Energy Cooperation in North-East Asia: Capacity Building for Effective Power Interconnection Cooperation; *note* the progress on the steady implementation of “Capacity Building Needs Assessment for Effective Power Interconnection Cooperation in North-East Asia”; *encourage* further cooperation on joint energy projects, and; *look forward to* the organization of GTI Workshop on Distributed Generation and Hydrogen Economy planned in spring 2023.

Environment

highlight the importance to the regional collaboration on environmental conservation and sustainable development; *welcome* the open exchange of national progress and strategies on environmental protection and the updates on NEA regional environmental cooperation by members during the 8th GTI Environmental Board Meeting; *encourage* to identify prioritized areas for the Environmental Board to be reflected in the strategic framework planning on GTI Environmental Cooperation, and to promote the future development of concrete project research, 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; *note* with satisfaction the organization of the 7th GTI Agriculture Committee meeting in China; *commend* the successful completion of the project “Design on Developing Rural Tourism to Promote Rural Development and Revitalization in Greater Tumen Region: GTI Rural Tourism Promotion Meeting” proposed by China; *note* the idea on holding a seminar for agricultural products exporters of the GTI member countries on work via international e-commerce platforms introduced by the Russian Ministry of Agriculture; *welcome* 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 and; *look forward to* the 8th meeting of the GTI Agriculture Committee which will be tentatively held in Mongolia in 2023.

3. Partners’ Collaboration and Partnership Development

acknowledge NEA EXIM Banks Association (EBA) members’ efforts during the Development Bank of Mongolia (DBM) 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; *appreciate* the continuation of efforts made by NEA EXIM Banks Association (EBA) members to actively explore joint projects and; *call for* further collaboration to exchange best practices and implement joint projects aligned with sustainable development and explore further opportunities to invest in ecotourism projects.

acknowledge the progress made by the GTI Research Institutions Network (RIN) members in 2019-2022 and their contribution as a think tank; *welcome* research results of the project and; *expect* substantial achievements in looking for new joint research projects in the 8th working level meeting which will be held in early next year.

note the endorsement of LCC’s Beijing Declaration 2022 and the implementation timeline of the project “Sub-regional Survey Study on the Impact of Transport and Trade Facilitation Measures” financed by UNESCAP; *congratulate* the LCC on its tenth anniversary and its contribution to regional economic integration over the past decade; *praise* that the sharing of the “Study Report of the Feasibility of the Pilot Project for Sea–land Intermodal Freight Transport in the Greater Tumen Region” of the GTI Transport Board among the LCC members and partners has strengthened the interaction

among the central governments, local governments and partners and; welcome Tangshan city of Hebei Province of China as an observer of LCC.

appreciate the outcomes of the 2022 NEA Business Association (BA) work under the MNCCI (Mongolian National Chamber of Commerce and Industry) presidency; *note* the endorsement of “GTI NEA BA Strategic Action Plan for 2022-2025 and adoption of the project, “Cross-Sectoral Linkages towards Resilient Connectivity”; *welcome* BA’s joint activities and initiatives with partner organizations, including UNESCAP and its ENEA office and; *expect* the NEA BA to become a robust platform to develop private sector cooperation, to facilitate B2B and B2G policy dialogues and practical partnership exchanges.

welcome with appreciation joint activities and GTI’s initiatives with partner organizations, including UNESCAP and its ENEA office, UNWTO, UNCTAD, EAEU, GIZ, AIIB, ADB, ERINA, TCS, KMI, and CCTT; *appreciate* longstanding support on administration and fund management provided by 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 2022-2023 Work Plan, 2021 Expenditure, and 2022-2023 Budget Proposal.

5. The Way Forward

The governments of China, ROK and Russia extend their appreciation to the Mongolian government for its chairmanship since the 21st GTI CC Meeting and the successful hosting of the 22nd GTI CC Meeting via video conference with the main venue in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia.

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

Look forward to convening the 23rd GTI CC Meeting in 2023 hosted by the government of China.