



Seoul Declaration

The 24th Meeting of the Greater Tumen Initiative Consultative Commission
9 December 2024

We,

representatives of the GTI member states: the Republic of Korea (hereinafter “ROK”), Mongolia, the People’s Republic of China (hereinafter “China”), and the Russian Federation (hereinafter “Russia”), convened on 9 December 2024 in Seoul, ROK, at the 24th Meeting of the GTI Consultative Commission (CC), reaffirming the shared goals of regional development and prosperity, have reached the following decisions and consensus:

1. Strategic Development

acknowledge the member states’ efforts to recover from significant global economic challenges, including inflationary pressures, volatile energy prices, and lingering impacts of the Covid-19 pandemic; *commend* the solidarity demonstrated by member states in adopting pragmatic approaches to mitigate adverse economic and social impacts; *urge* the GTI Secretariat, in collaboration with member states, to intensify efforts toward implementing necessary measures to further deepen economic cooperation; *express* concerns over ongoing global economic instability due to rising protectionist measures, disruptions in global and regional supply chains, and market volatility; *emphasize* the need for resilient policy responses among member states to effectively address the challenges; *recognize* that building interconnected, resilient, stable supply chains, incorporating sustainable finance practices into national policies, and maintaining an open, free, fair, inclusive, non-discriminatory, transparent, and predictable trade and investment environment in the region are essential to navigating the current global landscape.

strive to strengthen coordinated efforts among member states to stabilize global inflation and financial markets, revitalize global and regional supply chains, promote inclusive trade and investment policies, enhance infrastructure connectivity, foster industrial and agricultural cooperation, and improve energy efficiency to advance the regional development of Northeast Asia (hereinafter “NEA”).

reaffirm our commitment to fostering innovative economic growth in NEA by accelerating digital trade /e-commerce development, recognizing it as a critical driver of regional integration and sustainable prosperity; *support* the enhancement of cross-border digital infrastructure, harmonization of regulatory standards, and expanded support for small and medium-sized enterprises in e-commerce; *note* the need to bridge digital divides among member states and ensure inclusive access to the benefits of the digital economy; *highlight* the importance of exploring opportunities provided by the development of digital technologies to enhance economic inclusivity, connectivity and competitiveness in the region.

reiterate our commitment to facilitating regional integration by fully utilizing GTI cooperation channels such as the Trade and Investment Committee (hereinafter “TIC”), the Local Cooperation Committee (hereinafter “LCC”), the NEA Exim Banks Association (hereinafter “NEA EBA”), the GTI Research Institution Network (hereinafter “RIN”), the NEA Business Association (hereinafter “NEA BA”); *welcome* the adoption of the *GTI Strategic Action Plan 2025~2029* which will provide mid-term guidance towards future GTI cooperation.

recognize the significance of efforts to revitalize and strengthen the GTI’s role as a cooperation platform to implement joint projects and foster economic prosperity in the region; *decide* on the feasibility of transformation of GTI into intergovernmental cooperation institution on the basis of results of consultations regarding the main parameters of such transformation in current global conditions.

reaffirm our commitment to promoting interconnected, resilient supply chains and infrastructure connectivity in NEA; *encourage* the alignment of GTI's cooperative activities with regional and global initiatives such as the "Belt and Road Initiative," the "Greater Eurasian Partnership" the "Northeast Revitalization Strategy," and the "Steppe Road Program."

hope that the former member state will consider rejoining GTI in the future to contribute to promoting regional economic cooperation.

2. Development in Priority Sectors

Transport

highlight the significance of connecting regional transport networks with the aim to establish the NEA integrated logistics network; *recognize* the importance of enhancing transport connectivity to ensure efficiency and resilience of supply chains in the region; *note* the successful organization of the 2nd joint GTI-CCTT (International Coordinating Council on Trans-Eurasian Transportation) conference on the theme "Growth Opportunities for Transport Logistics and Supply Chains in Northeast Asia and Beyond" in Russia in February 2024; and the 13th GTI Transport Board meeting, held back-to-back with the 4th ESCAP-GTI Seminar of Transport Issues in NEA in Mongolia in November 2024; *acknowledge* the signing of the MOU on cooperation between GTI Secretariat and Global Sustainable Transport and Innovation Knowledge Center(GSTIKC); *welcome* ongoing coordination and *encourage* further cooperation with international organizations and partner institutions such as UNESCAP, CCTT and GSTIKC;

Trade and Investment

emphasize the importance of trade and investment cooperation for accelerating economic growth in NEA; *recognize* the need for the enhancement of regional supply chains and improvement of the regional trade and investment environment; *note* the exchange of information on national digital trade /e-commerce policies, including on cross-border e-commerce and paperless trade, for facilitating trade in NEA during the 6th TIC and Customs Sub-Committee (CSC) meetings, held back-to-back with the International Seminar on Trade Facilitation in Mongolia in May 2024; *recognize* the successful 6th NEA Policy Dialogue on Industrial Parks under the theme "Sharing New Opportunities for Open Development and Creating a New Future or Regional Cooperation" in China in September 2024; *acknowledge* the work done by the customs administrations of the GTI member states on the project "Inward and Outward Processing Procedures in NEA"; *encourage* the use of the Handbook prepared as a final document of the project as a main guideline for the GTI customs administrations for the improvement and modernization of processing procedures in NEA; *encourage* the continued implementation of the Digital Economy Cooperation Roadmap and the Roadmap for Trade and Investment Cooperation(2024-2026); *encourage* TIC and CSC actively develop joint activities with NEA BA, UNESCAP and other stakeholders and; *look forward to* the 7th meeting of TIC and CSC as well as the NEA Policy Dialogue on Industrial Parks in 2025.

Tourism

emphasize the importance of continued information exchanges on national tourism policies and best practices and policy coordination among tourism authorities in NEA; *note* efforts to contribute to the development and promotion of multi-destination tourism routes and tourism products with due attention to the environmental preservation and sustainable tourism practices; *acknowledge* the successful organization of the 15th GTI Tourism Board Meeting and the GTI Seminar on Ecotourism Promotion in NEA in Baikalsk, Russia in March 2024; *welcome* the publication of the Handbook on NEA Ecotourism Routes as a part of the project "Ecotourism Development in NEA"; *call for* the distribution of the Handbook among GTI member governments and tour operators to maximize its impact and; *look forward to* the 16th GTI Tourism Board Meeting in Mongolia in 2025.

Energy

recognize the importance of maintaining a balanced energy mix, and promoting the voluntary transfer of technology on mutually agreed terms; *acknowledge* the critical need of finding solutions, pathways, approaches including strengthening critical energy infrastructure to enhance energy cooperation and security, achieve market stability and ensure universal energy access; *recognize* the increasing significance of sustainable and transitional fuels, energy sources and technologies, including, but not limited to, fossil fuels with mitigation technologies, biofuels, natural gas, low-carbon sources including renewables, nuclear and hydrogen energy in global efforts to implement clean energy development and energy transitions strategies; *look forward to* the 12th GTI Energy Board Meeting.

Environment

highlight defining priority areas for environmental cooperation by the GTI Environmental Board members; *welcome* the exchange of information on national strategies and interests on environmental protection as well as efforts to identify priority areas (biodiversity protection, waste management, education, etc.) and to promote the development of practically oriented research projects in the future; *encourage* the implementation of the study project on the GTI Environment Cooperation Strategy; *recognize* the transition to low-carbon economy and the implementation of projects contributing to decarbonization as a perspective area of cooperation; and *look forward to* the 10th GTI Environmental Board Meeting.

Agriculture

emphasize the vital role of strengthened cooperation in achieving sustainable agricultural development and food security in NEA; *acknowledge* the importance of developing trade in livestock products among GTI member countries; *welcome* continued cooperation among GTI member states to promote policy exchanges and knowledge sharing across various areas of agricultural collaboration; and *look forward to* the 9th meeting of the GTI Agriculture Committee Meeting.

3. Partners' Collaboration and Partnership Development

acknowledge the progress made by the RIN members in driving research and policy development; *strengthen* the interaction between the RIN members by increasing the number of meetings; *improve* the communication between the RIN members and relevant GTI Boards and Committees in order to make joint research projects in priority sectors; *anticipate* further collaboration on joint research projects in 2025 and beyond.

reiterate the importance of the role of NEA EBA serving as a resource mobilization mechanism in NEA to explore joint projects; *anticipate* continued discussion on the infrastructure connectivity financing by NEA EBA, and; *urge for* finding ways to revitalize discussions of all NEA EBA members to explore further opportunities to invest in priority sectors; *look forward to* witnessing the prompt normalization of NEA EBA operations as international and domestic situation improve.

note the endorsement of LCC's *Shenyang Declaration 2024*; *encourage* LCC's role in local and regional cooperation with local governments and partners; *reiterate* the importance of local government and stakeholders involvement within the LCC, including the Logistics Sub-Committee and the Marine Cooperation Sub-Committee, in facilitating the NEA local cooperation and effectively complementing the GTI work in priority sectors; *encourage* the GTI Secretariat to initiate a research project on the theme "Future Development of GTI LCC".

recall the outcomes of the 2023 NEA BA work under the China Chamber of International Commerce(CCOIC) presidency, including the exchange of member states' national framework and achievements in e-commerce trade and their involvement of SMEs; *support* NEA BA joint activities



and initiatives with partner organizations, including UNESCAP and its ENEA office and; *look forward* to the 2024 NEA BA meeting under the Korea Chamber of Commerce and Industry(KCCI) presidency in December 2024, and the agreement of the MOU on cooperation between NEA BA and Eurasian Economic Union(EAEU) Business Council proposed by Russian Union of Industrialists and Entrepreneurs(RSPP).

highlight the significance of reinforcing the existing collaboration framework and increasing the number of development partners and initiatives and; *anticipate* 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 2024-2025 Work Plan, 2023 Expenditure, and 2024-2025 Budget Proposal.

5. The Way Forward

The governments of China, Mongolia and Russia extend their appreciation to the ROK government for its chairmanship since the 23rd GTI CC Meeting and the successful hosting of the 24th GTI CC Meeting in Seoul, ROK.

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

look forward to convening the 25th GTI CC Meeting in 2025 hosted by the government of the Russian Federation.