



## Shenyang Declaration

The 23<sup>rd</sup> Meeting of the Greater Tumen Initiative Consultative Commission  
6 December, 2023

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 23<sup>rd</sup> Meeting of the GTI Consultative Commission (CC) on 6 December 2023 in Shenyang, Liaoning Province, China, reaffirming goals of regional development and prosperity, have reached the following decisions and consensus, to

### 1. Strategic Development

*recognize* that member states entered successfully into the stage of post-Covid-19; *note with satisfaction* that during the previous 3 years' hard times, in the face of the pandemic and other negative impacts, member states have shown more solidarity by sharing a pragmatic approach to tackle the difficulties to minimize the negative economic and social impacts of the pandemic; *urge* the GTI Secretariat jointly with member states 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 and demand 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; *recognize* that building 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.

*strive* to reinforce member states' coordinated efforts to stabilize global inflation and financial markets, revitalize global and regional supply chains, adopt inclusive trade and investment policies, consolidate infrastructure connectivity, enhance industrial and agricultural cooperation, and increase energy efficiency, with a view to converging Northeast Asia (hereinafter "NEA") regional development strategies of member states.

*acknowledge* that the digital economy is an increasingly important driver of global economic growth and plays a significant role in accelerating economic development; *note* that member states are at different levels of digital development and; *recognize* the need to focus GTI cooperation on overcoming digital divides, ensuring shared benefits of digitalization and addressing challenges; *welcome* the endorsement of the GTI Digital Economy Cooperation Roadmap aiming at advancing cooperation in the areas of trade facilitation, investment cooperation, inclusive digital transformation, MSMEs cooperation, capacity building & policy and practices sharing; *highlight* the need to explore ways to leverage digital opportunities, accelerate digital transformation and build new momentum for sustainable development in the region.

*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"), NEA Exim Banks Association (hereinafter "EBA"), GTI Research Institution Network (hereinafter "RIN"), NEA 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 to deal with developing infrastructure projects and foster 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 member states' key policy areas and regional cooperation initiatives such as "Belt and Road Initiative", "The Eurasian Economic Union", "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**

*highlight* the significance of enhanced transport connectivity for ensuring efficiency and resilience of supply chains in the region; *recognize* the importance of information exchange in international logistics, wider utilization of digital technologies and innovative solutions in the transport sector; *note* the organization of the joint GTI-CCTT (International Coordinating Council on Trans-Eurasian Transportation) conference "Reliable, safe and effective transportation – a key element for regional development" held in February 2023 in Moscow; *look forward to* organization of the 12th GTI Transport Board meeting in China in December 2023 and; *welcome* the on-going coordination and exchanges with UNESCAP and encourage further cooperation with UNESCAP in the transport sector in line with the MOU.

### **Trade and Investment**

*emphasize* the importance of enhancing trade and investment cooperation in NEA; *highlight* the role of digital economy in facilitating international trade; *note* that all GTI member states are now the parties to the Framework Agreement on Facilitation of Cross-border Paperless Trade in Asia and the Pacific and encourage joint efforts to contribute to its successful implementation in the region; *acknowledge* with high esteem the successful implementation of the 5<sup>th</sup> NEA Policy Dialogue on Industrial Parks under the theme "Build New Consensus on Regional Cooperation and Create New Driving Forces for Opening Up and Development"; *welcome* the endorsement of the Roadmap for the Trade and Investment Cooperation for 2024-2026; *note* the seamless implementation of the project "Inward and Outward Processing Procedures in NEA" and look forward to its outcomes; *believe* that TIC and CSC may actively develop joint activities with NEA BA, UNESCAP and other stakeholders; *welcome* the practical role of private sector in the promotion of regional cooperation and; *look forward to* the 6<sup>th</sup> meeting of TIC and CSC in early 2024 as well as the NEA Policy Dialogue on Industrial Parks in late 2024.

### **Tourism**

*recognize* efforts made by member states in building capacity for regional tourism cooperation and recovery of the tourism industry in NEA; *commend* continued information exchanges and policy coordination among tourism authorities in NEA; *note* the commencement of preparation of the Handbook on NEA Ecotourism Routes as part of the project "Ecotourism Development in NEA" and; *look forward to* the 15th GTI Tourism Board Meeting and the GTI Seminar on Ecotourism Promotion in 2024 in Russia.

### **Energy**

*recognize* the importance to achieve SDG7, maintain balanced energy mix, assure open technology transfer on voluntary and mutually agreed terms; *acknowledge* the critical need of finding solutions,

pathways, approaches including strengthening transboundary critical energy infrastructure to enhance energy security, achieve market stability and ensure universal energy access; *recognize* the increasing significance of hydrogen energy in global efforts to implement clean energy development and energy transitions strategies, and *note with satisfaction* the open exchange and discussion among officials and experts of member states during the GTI Workshop on Hydrogen Energy, organized by Russia in June 2023; *welcome* the dialogue and suggestions during the 11th GTI Energy Board Meeting (with the main theme “Energy Cooperation in NEA after the Pandemic”) back-to-back with the UNESCAP-GTI Seminar “Energy Cooperation in NEA: Cross-Border Power Trading in NEA: Status, Challenges and Perspectives”; *welcome* the project report “ESCAP-GTI Capacity Building Needs Assessment for Effective Power Interconnection Cooperation in NEA” and; *look forward to* further cooperation and development of joint energy projects.

#### Environment

*encourage* to identify priority areas for the GTI Environmental Board to be reflected in the strategic framework planning on environmental cooperation, and to promote the development of practical research projects in future; *encourage* to expedite the progress on the study on the GTI Environmental Cooperation Strategy, and; *welcome* the exchange of national progress and strategies on environmental protection and updates on NEA regional environmental cooperation during the 9th GTI Environmental Board Meeting held in November 2023 in Seoul back-to-back with the NEASPEC 26<sup>th</sup> Senior Officials Meeting.

#### Agriculture

*emphasize* the importance of enhancing cooperation to achieve sustainable agricultural development while ensuring food security in NEA; *recognize* the opportunities provided by international e-commerce platforms for the development of agricultural trade and encourage the GTI member states to explore them; *welcome* further cooperation among GTI member states 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.

### 3. Partners’ Collaboration and Partnership Development

*acknowledge* with high esteem the 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; *look forward to* the continued discussion on the Infrastructure connectivity financing by Northeast Asia Exim Banks Association, and; *call for* further collaboration to exchange best practices and experiences including organizing mutual internships; 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 2019-2023 and their contribution as a think tank; *expect* progress in looking for new joint research projects in the 8<sup>th</sup> working level meeting which will be held in early 2024.

*note* the endorsement of LCC’s Hohhot Declaration 2023; *praise* that the sharing of the implementation of the project “Sub-regional Survey Study on the Impact of Transport and Trade Facilitation Measures” financed by UNESCAP, *recognize* the LCC members and partners has strengthened the interaction among the central governments, local governments and partners; *acknowledge* the LCC is an important platform that plays a critical role in facilitating the NEA local cooperation and effectively complements the GTI work in priority sectors; *hope* that against the

background of post-Covid-19 era, LCC members and observers would engage more actively and utilize the full potential of the LCC to put forward more cooperation ideas and carry out more activities within the LCC, including the Logistics Sub-Committee and the Marine Cooperation Sub-Committee.

*recall* the outcomes of the NEA Business Association (BA) work under the MNCCI (Mongolian National Chamber of Commerce and Industry) presidency, including the endorsement of “GTI NEA BA Strategic Action Plan for 2022-2025”; support NEA BA joint activities and initiatives with partner organizations, including UNESCAP and its ENEA office and; *look forward* to the NEA BA meeting in December 2023 under the CCOIC (China Chamber of International Commerce) presidency and; *expect* NEA BA to become a robust platform to develop private sector cooperation, to facilitate B2B and B2G policy dialogues and practical partnership exchanges including outreach activities with business associations from neighboring regions such as the EAEU Business Council and Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP).

*acknowledge*, with high esteem, the Policy Dialogue on Digital Economy and the 2nd Annual Forum on Connectivity held by the Ministry of Commerce of China and UNESCAP back-to-back with the CC meeting.

*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 2023-2024 Work Plan, 2022 Expenditure, and 2023-2024 Budget Proposal.

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

The governments of Mongolia, ROK and Russia extend their appreciation to the Chinese government for its chairmanship since the 22nd GTI CC Meeting and the successful hosting of the 23rd GTI CC Meeting in Shenyang, Liaoning Province, China.

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

*Express* further appreciation to Mr. Andrey Smorodin, former Director of the GTI Secretariat, for the diligent work and continued commitment during his tenure.

*Look forward to* convening the 24th GTI CC Meeting in 2024 hosted by the government of ROK.