

vehicles, equipment and parts which can be fitted and/or be used on wheeled vehicles, and the potential value to international trade, consumer choice and product affordability of increasing convergences in existing and future technical regulations and their related standards;

RECOGNIZING that governments have the right to seek and implement improvements in the level of health, safety and environmental protection, and to determine whether the global technical regulations established under this Agreement are suitable for their needs;

RECOGNIZING the important harmonization work already carried out under the 1958 Agreement;

RECOGNIZING the interest and expertise in different geographic regions regarding safety, environmental, energy and anti-theft problems and methods of solving those problems, and the value of that interest and expertise in developing global technical regulations to aid in achieving those improvements and in minimizing divergences;

DESIRING to promote the adoption of established global technical regulations in developing countries, taking into account the special issues and circumstances for those countries, and in particular the least developed of them;

DESIRING that the technical regulations applied by the Contracting Parties be given due consideration through transparent procedures in developing global technical regulations, and that such consideration include comparative analyses of benefits and cost effectiveness;

RECOGNIZING that establishing global technical regulations providing high levels of protection will encourage individual countries to conclude that those Regulations will provide the protection and performance needed within their jurisdiction;

RECOGNIZING the impact of the quality of vehicle fuels on the performance of vehicle environmental controls, human health, and fuel efficiency; and

RECOGNIZING that the use of transparent procedures is of particular importance in developing global technical regulations under this Agreement and that this development process must be compatible with the regulatory development processes of the Contracting Parties to this Agreement;

HAVE AGREED as follows: