



## 2<sup>nd</sup> ESCAP-GTI Seminar on Transport Issues in North-East Asia

Harmonization of legal frameworks for multimodal transport in Asia and the Pacific

Strengthening transport connectivity between Asia and Europe

UN COVID-response: proposed crisis-response provisions for the agreements on international road transport

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# I. Harmonization of legal frameworks for multimodal transport in Asia and the Pacific

- An on-going project being implemented by ESCAP
- Response to the request of the 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting Working Group on Dry Ports in November 2019 reconfirmed at the 4<sup>th</sup> meeting in June 2021
- Analyzed existing legal frameworks for multimodal transport operations in the ESCAP region and beyond
- Two expert meetings held in 2020-21
- Identified modalities and options for harmonization of legal frameworks in the region





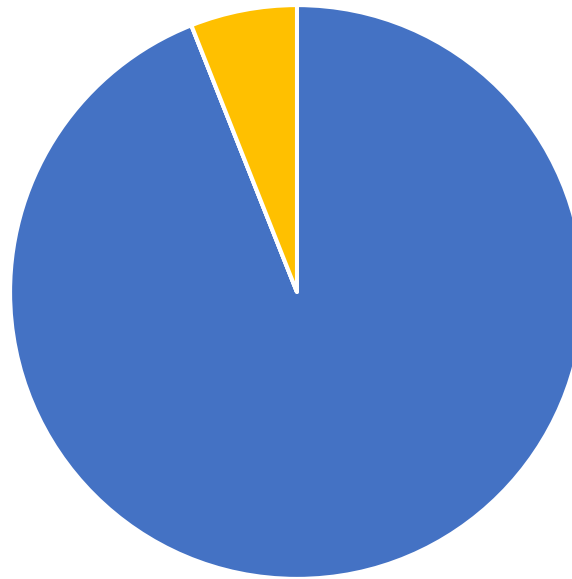
## Options:

- Option 1: Development of a new legal instrument on multimodal transport
- Option 2: Development and dissemination of guidelines that could serve to harmonize the understanding and applications of certain related processes within national legal systems
- Option 3: Dissemination of existing standardized recommended contractual rules
- Option 4: Elaboration of a flexible contractual basis for multimodal transport based on harmonized transport document, for pilot applications



# Survey-Questionnaire Updated results

Composition of respondents



■ Ministry/Government Agency

■ Intergovernmental Organization or UN entity

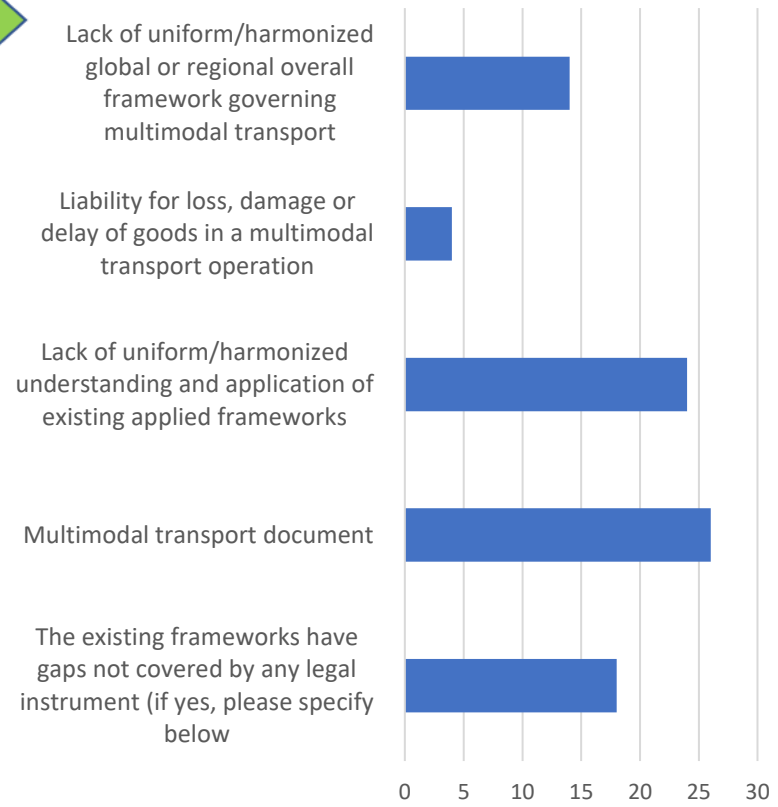
■ Academia

■ NGO or industry

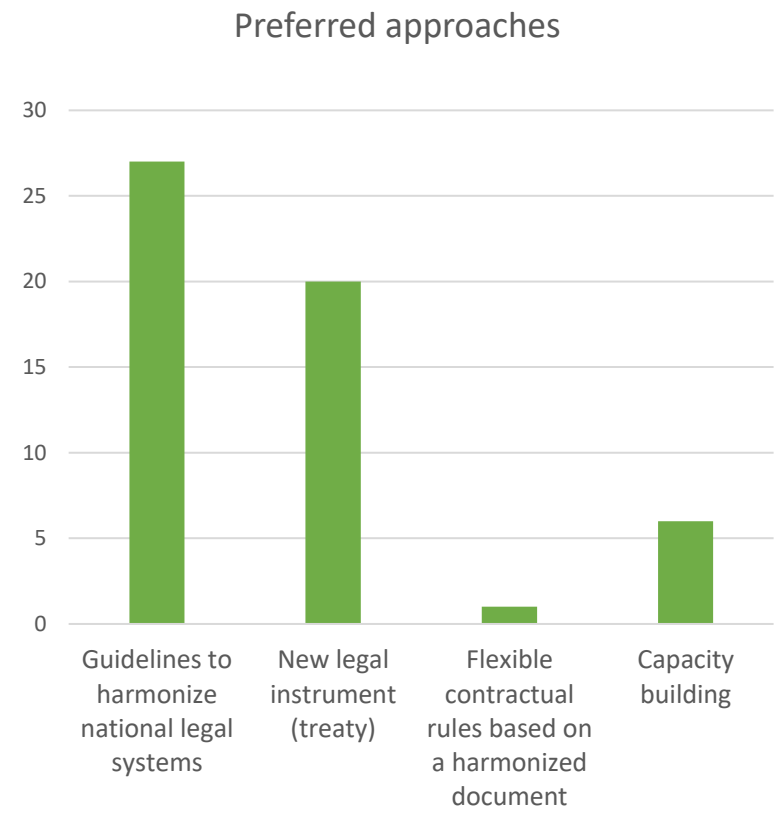




### Most problematic issue

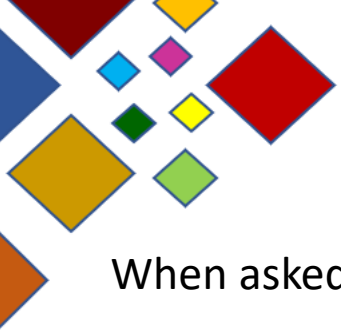


### However, a new treaty is not the most cited solution

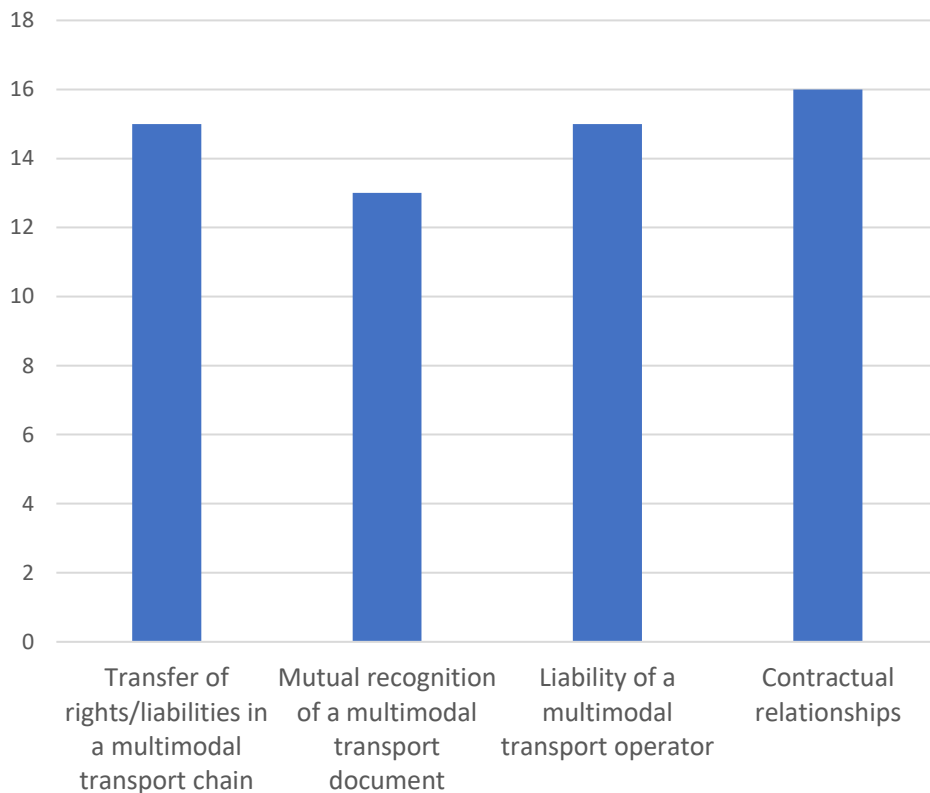


100% of respondents indicated that harmonization in the ESCAP region is necessary and would support efforts in that direction

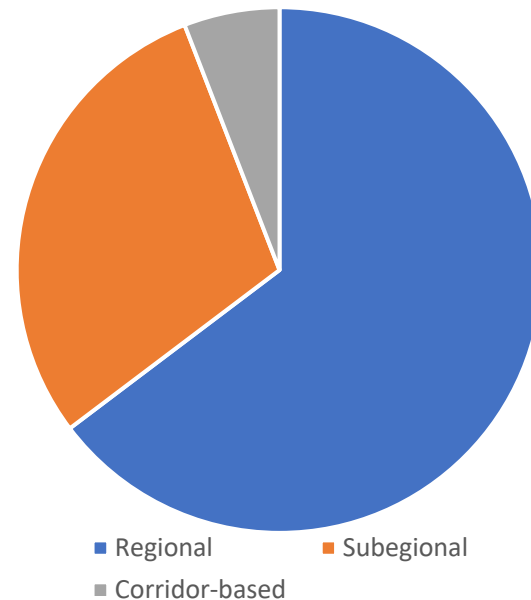




When asked what a new Treaty should cover, respondents replied:



Geographical scope of potential new instrument



The majority of respondents prefer a regional instrument, if an instrument is developed





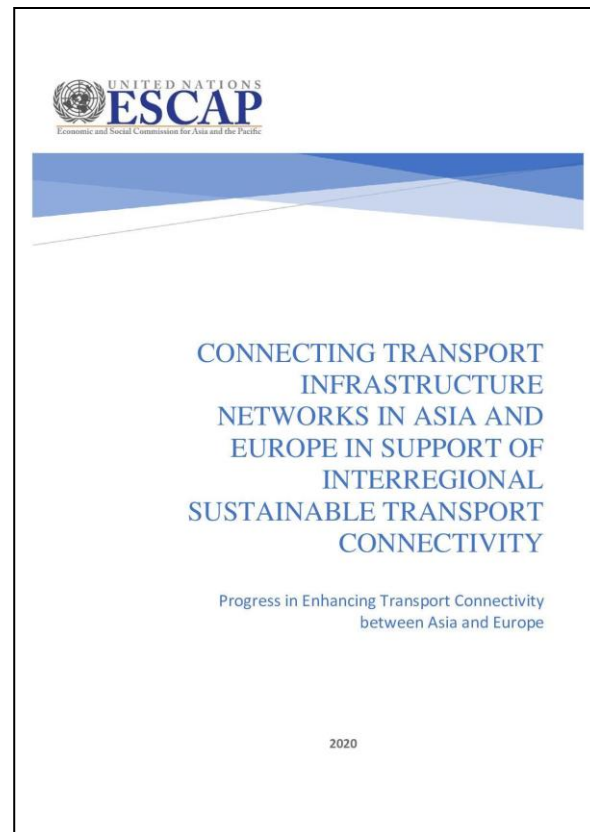
# Way forward:

- Development and dissemination of guidelines that could serve to harmonize the understanding and applications of certain related processes within national legal systems
- Development of a new legal instrument on multimodal transport (*new stand-alone instrument or an annex to an existing legal instrument?*)



## II. Transport connectivity between Asia and Europe

- Transport connectivity between Asia and Europe is one of the thematic areas of ESCAP's work in transport under the current Regional Action Programme
- In 2020, ESCAP prepared a study report on progress in enhancing transport connectivity between Asia and Europe *reflecting the latest trends in inter-regional transport connectivity, including the impact of COVID-19 pandemic outbreak on Euro-Asian transportation (with incorporation of important contributions by the UNECE STD)*
- *The study report is available at:*  
<https://www.unescap.org/kp/2020/connecting-transport-infrastructure-networks-asia-and-europe-support-interregional>







# Study report on the progress in transport connectivity between Asia and Europe (2020)

- An action-oriented document with a broad list of topics to be addressed in terms of enhancing inter-regional transport connectivity, based on the findings and recommendations on various Euro-Asian transport initiatives
  - Can serve as a basis for short-, mid- and long-term action plans on enhancing inter-regional connectivity
  - Efforts towards achieving harmonized legal frameworks for transport across Euro-Asia is an important objective
  - Current project on multimodal legal frameworks provides a contribution towards this objective
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# Practical arrangements and next steps

- Inter-regional fora could be organized and held in a manner utilizing synergies with existing ESCAP's and interested partners' platforms and cooperation mechanisms
- Organized under a dedicated theme topic related to Euro-Asian sustainable transport connectivity
- ESCAP secretariat is planning to organize one forum in late September-early October 2021
- Different modalities are now under consideration (depending on continued travel restrictions)
- Possibility of designation of dedicated experts by governments and other stakeholders for informal exchange of information/discussion of particular topics/sharing updates on latest trends, etc. between the fora



# III. Covid-19 response

## United Nations Inter-Agency Project on TRANSPORT AND TRADE CONNECTIVITY IN THE AGE OF PANDEMICS

### Transport and trade connectivity in the age of pandemics:

contactless, seamless and collaborative UN solutions

Proposals for crisis-response provisions in regional  
and bilateral transport agreements of the ESCAP  
member States



Component on developing crisis response  
through upgrading agreements on  
international land transport in Asia and  
the Pacific

Study report available at:

<https://www.unescap.org/kp/2021/proposals-crisis-response-provisions-regional-and-bilateral-transport-agreements-escap>



# Thank you!

