

The seventh session of the Committee on Transport 23-25 November 2022 Bangkok Thailand (UNESCAP)

Agenda item 3(a): Major issues in transport: Efficient and resilient transport and logistics networks and mobility for economic growth.

- Honorable representatives of each country, Expert Speakers and Moderators; Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,
- It is indeed a honour to participate in the Seventh session of the Committee on Transport. Let me first thank the UNESCAP for organizing this timely Committee.
- It is significant, along with all other maritime countries, that interregional and maritime connectivity is newly selected as one of the Seven thematic working areas of the new Regional Action Programme.
- The Republic of Korea has cooperated with ESCAP member countries in all directions to achieve Sustainable Development Goals in the shipbuilding, maritime and port sector, and is proud of its contribution not only through financial support but also through in-kind service to the sustainable transport development projects developed by Transport Division.
- We recognize that Transport Division provide analytical works, capacity building and technical assistance to respond to various challenges facing Member states, such as lack of investment resources, connectivity gap, technology and digital divide, human resource shortage, and lack of integrated governance.
- However, it is also pointed out that the current achievements of individual projects and the approaches of subregions or individual countries have limitations in addressing the current issues of the entire ESCAP region.
- In this respect, Korea would like to request the Transport Division to review the formation of a ‘maritime working group’ to establish a multimodal transport system that connects roads, railways, and ports, and to synthesize various ongoing discussions and dialogues.
- The Maritime Working Group is expected to be a forum for systematically addressing the current issues faced by most maritime countries as well as Small Island Developing States in the Pacific, and a well-connected multimodal transport system is expected to be beneficial to landlocked countries as well.

- Finally, I would like to reiterate the importance of strengthening sustainable maritime connectivity and express our readiness for close cooperation and partnerships to implement the new Regional Action Programme. Thank you.