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Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific Committee on Transport

Seventh session

Bangkok and online, 23–25 November 2022

Annotated provisional agenda

The present document contains the provisional agenda for the seventh session of the Committee on Transport (section I) and the annotations thereto (section II).

I. Provisional agenda

1. Opening of the session:
 - (a) Opening statements;
 - (b) Election of officers;
 - (c) Adoption of the agenda.
2. Review of the implementation of the Regional Action Programme for Sustainable Transport Development in Asia and the Pacific (2022–2026).
3. Major issues in transport:
 - (a) Efficient and resilient transport and logistics networks and mobility for economic growth;
 - (b) Environmentally sustainable transport systems and services;
 - (c) Safe and inclusive transport and mobility.
4. Other matters.
5. Adoption of the report of the Committee on its seventh session.

II. Annotations

1. Opening of the session

(a) Opening statements

The programme for the session will be available online at www.unescap.org/events/2022/committee-transport-seventh-session.

(b) Election of officers

The Committee will elect a chair and two vice-chairs for the session.

The list of participants will be available online at www.unescap.org/events/2022/committee-transport-seventh-session.

(c) Adoption of the agenda

Documentation

Provisional agenda (ESCAP/CTR/2022/L.1)

Annotated provisional agenda (ESCAP/CTR/2022/L.2)

Annotation

The provisional agenda will be considered and adopted by the Committee, subject to such changes as may be necessary.

2. Review of the implementation of the Regional Action Programme for Sustainable Transport Development in Asia and the Pacific (2022–2026)

Documentation

Review of the implementation of the Regional Action Programme for Sustainable Transport Development in Asia and the Pacific (2022–2026) (ESCAP/CTR/2022/1)

Activities implemented under the Regional Action Programme for Sustainable Transport Development in Asia and the Pacific (2022–2026) (ESCAP/CTR/2022/INF/1)

Annotation

The Fourth Ministerial Conference on Transport, held in Bangkok and online from 14 to 17 December 2021, adopted the Ministerial Declaration on Sustainable Transport Development in Asia and the Pacific and the Regional Action Programme for Sustainable Transport Development in Asia and the Pacific (2022–2026), a new action programme for the region. The latter features seven thematic areas: (a) regional land transport connectivity and logistics; (b) maritime and interregional transport connectivity; (c) digitalization of transport; (d) low carbon mobility and logistics; (e) urban transport; (f) road safety; and (g) inclusive transport and mobility.

At its seventy-eighth session, held from 23 to 27 May 2022, the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific adopted resolution 78/3 on the implementation of the Ministerial Declaration, in which it endorsed the Ministerial Declaration and the Regional Action Programme for Sustainable Transport Development in Asia and the Pacific and requested the secretariat to accord priority to the implementation of commitments contained in the Ministerial Declaration.

In the Ministerial Declaration, the secretariat is requested to assess periodically the progress made on the Regional Action Programme, at national and subregional levels, analyse results within the Commission's Committee on Transport, and work out relevant policies and recommendations on promoting and accelerating the implementation process.

Document ESCAP/CTR/2022/1 contains highlights of ongoing and planned activities for the Regional Action Programme. It should be read in conjunction with information document ESCAP/CTR/2022/INF/1, which provides a full summary of the ongoing and planned activities under the Regional Action Programme.

The Committee may wish to provide feedback on the status of the implementation of the Regional Action Programme and provide guidance on its future implementation.

3. Major issues in transport

(a) Efficient and resilient transport and logistics networks and mobility for economic growth

Documentation

Efficient and resilient transport and logistics networks and mobility for economic growth (ESCAP/CTR/2022/2)

Encouraging a regional approach to sustainable multimodal freight transport in Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP/CTR/2022/3)

Annotation

The Asia-Pacific region attracts a high share of international transport of goods by land and sea, and its role in the global freight movement will continue to grow. Efficient and resilient transport connectivity and logistics therefore remain a priority for the region.

Document ESCAP/CTR/2022/2 describes the developments in Asia and the Pacific that influence the resilience and efficiency of international freight operations. It provides an update on the implementation of the Intergovernmental Agreements on the Asian Highway Network, the Trans-Asian Railway Network and Dry Ports, with a focus on the relevant working groups' increased consideration of resilience and sustainability issues. The document also contains a discussion of issues related to sustainable and resilient maritime and land transport connectivity between Europe and Asia.

Document ESCAP/CTR/2022/3 contains an outline of a regional approach to sustainable multimodal freight transport and of general principles for enhancing the sustainability of freight transport in the region.

The Committee may wish to take the following actions:

(a) Provide feedback and guidance to the secretariat on ongoing and planned activities related to efficient and resilient transport and logistics networks and mobility for economic growth, including the proposed new annex to the Intergovernmental Agreement on the Trans-Asian Railway Network on electronic information exchange;

(b) Support the proposed general principles for enhancing the sustainability of freight transport in Asia and the Pacific;

(c) Welcome the finalization of guidelines on the harmonization of legal frameworks for multimodal transport operations in Asia and the Pacific and the revised Model Subregional Agreement on Transport Facilitation;

(d) Take note of the conclusions of the Asia-Pacific Regional Forum on Connecting to Global Supply Chains through Interregional Land Corridors and Maritime Routes.

(b) Environmentally sustainable transport systems and services

Documentation

Environmentally sustainable transport systems and services
(ESCAP/CTR/2022/4)

Annotation

In the Asia-Pacific region, the transport sector accounted for more than 50 per cent of the total oil consumption in 2019. The sector contributes nearly 14 per cent of the total carbon dioxide emissions in the region, with road vehicles continuing to account for the majority of the sector's emissions. The sector's total final energy consumption and carbon dioxide emissions have doubled since 2000 due to the rapid growth in population and economic development, as well as motorization, and will continue to increase in a business-as-usual scenario.

Document ESCAP/CTR/2022/4 contains a discussion of the need to accelerate the transition of the transport sector in Asia-Pacific countries and in the region to more environmentally sustainable transport infrastructure, systems and services. Also addressed are policy and other measures on low carbon transport, including energy efficiency in transport, the transition to electric mobility, integrated urban transport development and the digitalization of transport in the region. The document also provides background information on potential mechanisms relevant to the establishment of a regional cooperation mechanism to promote low carbon transport and to an initiative on electric mobility to contribute to transport emissions reductions.

The Committee may wish to share updates and selected highlights with regard to national, bilateral and multilateral policies and initiatives related to environmentally sustainable transport systems and services, consider policy directions, actions and activities described in the document and provide further guidance to the secretariat on the ongoing and planned activities in support of environmentally sustainable transport infrastructure, systems and services. The Committee may also wish to provide feedback on the way forward for the establishment of a regional cooperation mechanism to promote low carbon transport and to support the Asia-Pacific initiative on electric mobility, which would help to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from the transport sector.

(c) Safe and inclusive transport and mobility

Documentation

Safe and inclusive transport and mobility (ESCAP/CTR/2022/5)

Annotation

Document ESCAP/CTR/2022/5 contains information on the status of road safety and progress made as well as on challenges related to social inclusion and reducing poverty and inequality in the transport sector in the region. It also contains a part of the Regional Plan of Action for Asia and the Pacific for the Second Decade of Action for Road Safety 2021–2030 in line

with the Global Plan for the Second Decade of Action for Road Safety 2021–2030, the latter of which was launched in October 2021.

In addition, the document contains suggested policies and measures that would support socially inclusive planning and designing of transport services, infrastructure and systems, as well as workforce diversity and a just transition to sustainable transport, that can measurably contribute to reducing poverty and inequality in the region. The key question of how transport and mobility can be made accessible to all, regardless of age, gender, health, income, ability and geographical location, as the sector evolves to be more digitalized, automated and decarbonized, is explored.

The Committee may wish to provide guidance on further regional, subregional and national efforts to significantly reduce road fatalities as well as to enhance social inclusion in the transport sector in the region. As the endorsement of a regional plan of action for the Second Decade of Action for Road Safety is one of the indicators of achievement under the Regional Action Programme for Sustainable Transport Development in Asia and the Pacific (2022–2026), the Committee may wish to endorse the part of the Regional Plan of Action for Asia and the Pacific for the Second Decade of Action for Road Safety that is contained in document ESCAP/CTR/2022/5.

4. Other matters

The Committee may wish to consider other matters not covered under the items mentioned above.

5. Adoption of the report of the Committee on its seventh session

Documentation

Draft report (ESCAP/CTR/2022/L.3)

Annotation

The Committee will consider and adopt the report on its seventh session for submission to the Commission at its seventy-ninth session.
