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Statement

by

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at

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Business Breakfast: “Digital Transformation of the Economy: International and Russian Experience in Digitizing the Transport Sector”

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Excellencies, Distinguished Guests,

It is my great pleasure to be here today and to contribute a UN perspective to this discussion on digitizing the transport sector. Thank you for inviting me here.

The UN Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) is one of the five Regional Commissions of the United Nations. Its membership covers North America, the countries of the Europe, Turkey, Israel, and all the countries of the former Soviet Union. UNECE is a technical organization which develops standards, norms, guidelines and best practices in various fields related to sustainable development, including transport. We believe that a strong legal and regulatory framework is necessary for safe and efficient digitalization of the transport sector. We have focused strongly on this in the past few years.

UNECE's Inland Transport Committee (ITC) is the only body in the United Nations focused on inland transport, namely road, railway, inland waterway and intermodal transport. For 72 years, the ITC has provided an intergovernmental forum where UN Member States come together to forge tools for economic cooperation, and negotiate and adopt international conventions on inland transport. These 59 conventions are considered indispensable for developing safe, efficient and sustainable inland transport systems. Accession to these conventions improves mobility, transit and connectivity. It also has several other benefits such as preserving the environment, enhancing trade facilitation, reducing poverty and decreasing the number of deaths and injuries from road traffic accidents. Examples of these instruments include the well-known TIR Convention. Thanks to international customs guarantees, the TIR enormously reduces transit time and cost for trucks crossing borders. The Russian Federation, China, India and 72 other States are Party. We are also working on digitizing this process and have launched e-TIR, for paperless transit between countries.

UNECE is also working on regulatory issues related to road safety and transport infrastructure. In the past few years, this has expanded to cover Intelligent Transport Systems. These technologies are revolutionary and can have enormous benefits to our lives, but they also create safety issues and regulatory challenges – for example, relating to liability and insurance. UNECE works to facilitate a safe deployment of these technologies and enhance their contribution to improving road safety, employment, urban development and environmental protection and reducing emissions. The UNECE World Forum for Harmonization of Vehicles Regulations (WP. 29) brings governments, vehicle manufacturers, ICT industries, insurances, consumers and academia together, to shape the technical regulations for conventional and automated/autonomous/connected vehicles, and ensure the safe introduction of future AI and Machine Learning technologies. We also host the Global Forum for Road Traffic Safety (WP.1), which helps develop traffic rules to regulate the use of vehicles, including automated vehicles.

I hope I have been able to illustrate how strong legal and regulatory frameworks can contribute to sustainable transport and the integration of transport infrastructure in the pan-European region and between Europe and Asia. UNECE is ready to cooperate with governments and other relevant stakeholders in these efforts.

Thank you.
