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**Statement**

**by**

**Ms. Olga Algayerova**

**United Nations Under-Secretary-General**

**Executive Secretary of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe**

**at**

**Eightieth session of the Inland Transport Committee**

**Policy segment: “Intermodality: The key to sustainable transport and mobility”**

**20 February 2018**

**Salle XII, 11.00 - 18.00**

***Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen,***

It is a great pleasure for me to welcome you to the 80<sup>th</sup> session of the Inland Transport Committee. I would like to extend a special welcome to those who are at the podium with me today, namely:

- Mr Jean Todt, United Nations Secretary-General's Special Envoy for Road Safety,
- Mr Umberto De Pretto, Secretary General of International Road Transport Union (IRU) and
- the new Director of the Sustainable Transport Division, Mr Yuwei Li, who has come to UNECE with a long history of achievement in the Transport Division of UNESCAP and also great promise for advancing our mission and objectives at a time of global change and challenges – [*Yuwei, once again, a warm welcome from all of us*].

This session takes place one year after the seventieth anniversary of the Committee - a global event that attracted transport leaders from around the world: Some 40 Ministers and deputy Ministers, alongside 500 participants from 90 countries, including 45 from outside the UNECE region! Looking at the global leaders present here today – including Ministers/Vice-ministers from Africa, Asia, Europe and the Middle East, as well as leaders of international organizations – it is obvious that the momentum is still strong. As we

are about to embark on a new strategy for the Inland Transport Committee, there is a **global demand that we are called upon to meet.**

What is this global demand? Nothing less than the **implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, where transport and mobility are embedded in the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).**

This year's session will contribute to the global debate and help build consensus on how transport and intermodality can support the implementation of the SDGs.

First, it is no accident that it opens with the launch of the road safety policy-making tool "**SafeFITS**". This ground-breaking tool is the result of open and inclusive cooperation between policy-makers, academics, NGOs and the road safety community, under the leadership of UNECE's Sustainable Transport Division. This effort would not have been possible without generous funding from the International Road Transport Union (IRU); I take here the opportunity to thank Mr. De Pretto for IRU's continued and dedicated support to our mission.

For this official launch of SafeFITS, we are also honoured to have with us the Secretary General's Special Envoy for Road Safety, Mr Jean Todt, who has worked tirelessly with UNECE to promote road safety around the world.

**SafeFITS builds on two assets of the Committee: our record**

**in developing decision-making policy tools and our unique role in advancing road safety.**

In terms of the former, there is of course the CO<sub>2</sub> assessment policy-making tool ForFITS – short for “For Future Inland Transport Systems” - that was developed as a UNDA project with the support of all UN Regional Commissions and under the leadership of UNECE.

In terms of road safety, ITC and its subsidiary bodies have a 360-degree approach, which includes servicing the global Road Safety Conventions, analytical and statistical work, and promoting policy dialogues. Since 2015, we have provided the secretariat to the Special Envoy for Road Safety. Further, I am very pleased to report that the Secretary-General has tasked UNECE, in collaboration with the Special Envoy, to establish the United Nations Trust Fund on Road Safety. We will provide the secretariat to the Fund, and I look to all governments here for political and financial support of this important initiative.

Today’s SafeFITS launch is a tangible contribution to our road safety efforts. Having said that, there is no time for complacency. The success of SafeFITS will come from its wide use. I therefore call on the global leaders assembled here for support, and invite you to help us calibrate the tool with actual real-world applications.

This year’s **high-level policy segment is dedicated to “Intermodality: The key to sustainable transport and mobility”**.

Intermodality is about efficiency, connectivity and access. This year's topic is timely and relevant. We have a high calibre, diverse group of invited panellists who bring to the table cutting-edge policy, business and academic perspectives. I am sure that this debate will identify new opportunities in the context of the SDGs, especially when it comes to leveraging intermodality as a means of enhancing connectivity and access.

We will also have a **session with the Chairs of the Working Parties** – a governments-only part of the meeting **that will define the ITC's strategy and mission going forward**, in order to better position the Committee and increase its usefulness and impact in our region and beyond.

Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen,

The ITC is indeed the centre for inland transport legal instruments, such as those related to road safety, vehicle regulations, transport of dangerous goods, and border crossing facilitation. Most of these are of global importance. The Committee is a unique forum with excellent, concrete achievements.

I am confident that you will take important messages back home from the discussions at this session, and that you will be inspired to promote the necessary changes in the transport sector.

In conclusion, I would like to thank you for your presence at the eightieth session of this unique United Nations body that is the Inland

Transport Committee. I wish you fruitful deliberations and every success in your work.

Thank you.

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