ESCAP activities for sustainable transport connectivity in Asia and the Pacific

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Three pillars of ESCAP work on sustainable transport connectivity

Platform for intergovernmental cooperation and policy dialogue
Committee on Transport Ministerial Conference
Working Groups on AH, TAR and DP

Comprehensive capacity building programme
Operational connectivity
Transport Facilitation Models
Private Public Dialogue

Analytical work and data collection
Specialized monographs, bulletins and periodic assessments of transport connectivity in the region
Sustainable transport

Broad considerations

Contribution of the transport sector to achieving the SDGs has been broadly acknowledged.

Transition to sustainable transport sector is key for delivering on the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda.

ESCAP resolution 73/9 on Regional roadmap for implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific refers to transport connectivity as one of the key areas.

Transport-related Mandates

The Ministerial Declaration on Sustainable Transport Connectivity in Asia and the Pacific, 2016.


ESCAP resolution 73/4 of 19 May 2017
### Challenges to the sustainable transport connectivity in Asia and the Pacific

#### Regional Action Programme on Sustainable Transport Connectivity in Asia and the Pacific

**Phase I, 2017-2021**

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<th>Category</th>
<th>Challenges</th>
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<td><strong>Infrastructure Connectivity</strong></td>
<td>• Missing links along the transport networks,</td>
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<td>• Sub-standard quality of the networks</td>
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<td>• Uneven capacity along the same corridors</td>
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<td><strong>Operational connectivity</strong></td>
<td>• Weak regulatory frameworks</td>
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<td>• Lack of harmonization of standards</td>
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<td>• Lack of coordination (domestic and regional level)</td>
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<td><strong>Euro-Asian Connectivity</strong></td>
<td>• Obstacles to inter-regional trade</td>
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<td>• Lack of coordination and synergies</td>
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<td><strong>Countries with Special Needs</strong></td>
<td>• Least Developed Countries</td>
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<td>• Landlocked Developing Countries</td>
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<td>• Small Island Developing Countries</td>
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<td><strong>Sustainable Urban Transport</strong></td>
<td>• Congestion</td>
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<td>• Pollution and Emissions</td>
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<td>• Affordability and accessibility</td>
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<td><strong>Rural transport connectivity</strong></td>
<td>• Limited connection of rural roads to wider networks</td>
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<td>• Quality of rural infrastructure</td>
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<td><strong>Road safety</strong></td>
<td>• 60% of global road safety fatalities happen in Asia and the Pacific</td>
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<td>• 2020 Road Safety targets yet to be achieved</td>
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I. Infrastructure Connectivity

**ASIAN HIGHWAY NETWORK**
- Intergovernmental Agreement on Asian Highway network
- In force since July 2005
- 30 Contracting Parties, including all SPECA Countries
- 143,000 kms in 32 countries
- Working Group on the Asian Highway

**TRANS-ASIAN RAILWAY NETWORK**
- Intergovernmental Agreement on Trans-Asian Railway network
- In force since June 2009
- 20 Contracting Parties, including Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan
- 118,000 kms in 28 countries
- Working Group on the Trans-Asian Railway Network

**DRY PORTS**
- Intergovernmental Agreement on Dry Ports
- Entered into force in April 2016
- 13 Contracting Parties [+ 1], including Afghanistan, Kazakhstan, Tajikistan and Turkmenistan
- 247 dry ports in 27 countries
- Working Party on Dry Ports
II. Operational connectivity: Frameworks, issues and transport facilitation tools

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Framework</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<td>Regional Strategic Framework for the Facilitation of International Road Transport (2012)</td>
<td>1. Road transport permits &amp; traffic rights, Visas for professional drivers &amp; crews, Temporary importation of road vehicles, Vehicle weights &amp; dimensions</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Regional Cooperation Framework for Facilitation of International Railway Transport (2015)</td>
<td>Standards for railway infrastructure, facilities and equipment, Break-of-gauge, Different legal regimes for railway transport contracts, Coordination of regulatory controls and inspections at border-interchange stations</td>
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The Transport facilitation models on: Secure Cross Border Transport, Efficient Cross Border Transport, Integrated Controls at Border Crossings, the Time Cost Distance methodology and Logistics Information Systems
II. Operational Connectivity: selected current projects of interest to SPECA

Harmonizing Standards on Weights, Dimensions and Emissions of Road Vehicles for Facilitation of Transport along the Asian Highway Network

Commercialization of Kazakhstan-Turkmenistan-Iran Railway Corridor

Operationalizing Transport Connectivity along the China - Central Asia - West Asia Corridor

Railway Network Connectivity and Interoperability Challenges
Example of the current projects:
Operationalizing Sustainable Transport Connectivity along China-Central Asia-West Asia Economic Corridor to achieve 2030 Agenda

Areas of focus:
- Overly complex existing agreements
- Low people to people connectivity
- Under-utilization of smart technologies
- Lack of information sharing of transport assets

Activities:
- Collect and analyze information on the bilateral and multi-lateral agreements on transport
- Assess physical infrastructure gaps, freight transport assets and operational challenges along major transport corridors.
- Collect and evaluate the potential of the application of ITS
- Analyze and improve existing transport indicators to better evaluate sustainable transport connectivity
- Develop of recommendations on alignment of existing agreements/legal instruments
- Develop strategies for improved sustainable freight transport
III. Euro-Asian transport connectivity

Establishment of an interregional coordination on transport between Asia and Europe

- The Inter-regional Expert Group Meeting on Transport Connectivity between Asia and Europe, 30-31 January 2019 in Bangkok
- Follow-up meeting under the Forum on Sustainable Transport Connectivity between Europe and Asia 30 October 2019, Geneva

IV. Countries with special needs

Support to countries with special needs (least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States)

- Vienna Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries for the Decade 2014-2024 – Midterm review
- UNDA project on strengthening connectivity between Central and South Asia
V. Sustainable urban transport

Innovative policies and frameworks to assess, plan, develop, improve and maintain sustainable urban transport systems and services

Sustainable Urban Transport Index

- Sustainable Development Goal 11
- Planning, access, safety, quality and reliability, affordability, and emissions.
- Pilot application – Colombo, Greater Jakarta, Hanoi, and Kathmandu

VI. Rural transport connectivity

Greater rural connectivity coverage and connections to the wider transport networks

Rural transport can contribute to the reduction of poverty in rural areas, as well as the attainment of several SDGs

- EGM on “Enhancing rural transport connectivity to regional and international transport networks” on 9-10 July 2019 in Bangkok
VII. Improving road safety

Road Safety in SPECA countries

16,166 road crash deaths occurred in seven SPECA countries in 2016. The death rate was 14.2 per 100,000 population, which was lower than the ESCAP average rate of 18.4.

Road death numbers reduced in four SPECA countries (Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Turkmenistan) between 2013 and 2016.

Pedestrians are the most vulnerable road users as they account for 34.6% road crash deaths in the SPECA countries, which is much higher than the ESCAP average of 13.5%.

ESCAP activities

Annex IIbis on Road Safety to the Intergovernmental Agreement in the Asian Highway Network

Support to the United Nations Road Safety Fund (UNRSF).

Capacity building project on the two main causes of road crashes, speeding and drink-driving

Towards establishment of the Asia-Pacific Road Safety Observatory (APRSO).
SPECA as the main platform for enabling transition towards safer, smarter and greener transport connectivity

Integrated approach to infrastructure and facilitation

Potential of Intelligent Transport Systems and use of innovation

Promoting intermodality and sustainable modal split

Resilience and climate change

Sub-regional and regional coordination
THANK YOU

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