Regional Cooperation Mechanism on Low Carbon Transport: Establishment and Implementation of Low Carbon Transport Targets and Timelines in Asia and the Pacific

Session 1: Introduction

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Background

• The implementation of the Paris Agreement requires economic and social transformation in all sectors, including the transport sector, which contributes to 24 per cent of direct CO₂ emissions from fuel combustion globally.

• As one of the fastest growing CO₂ emitting sectors, it is currently not on track to meet its decarbonization target by 2050.

• Further collaboration and cooperation between sectors and across regions will be essential to advance decarbonizing transport goals but institutional mechanisms are still lacking.
Transport, Energy and CO₂ in Asia and the Pacific

Final Consumption of Oil Products and CO₂ Emissions in Asia and the Pacific (IEA, 2021)

Transport accounts for almost 50% of oil consumption and 13% of CO₂ emission in Asia and the Pacific in 2021.
Transport CO₂ Emissions Trajectory

Transport CO₂ emissions are set to rise, not fall

CO₂ emissions could be nearly 70% less in 2050 compared to 2015

Total transport CO₂ emissions by scenario
(Gigatonnes CO₂)

Source: ITF Transport Outlook 2021
Note: ITF models used in this Outlook are typically run by five-year increments, therefore the 2020 to 2025 recovery trend may not necessarily be linear despite being shown as such in the figure. The shape of this "recovery curve" will depend on policy implementation and economic trajectories. Estimates of the emissions levels needed to meet 1.5°C warming levels were sourced from https://data.ene.iiasa.ac.at/iamc-1.5c-explorer similarly to ICCT (2020). Transport sector emissions pathways with low or no overshoot were selected before estimating the median emissions in each year, error bars represent the 25th and 75th percentiles of scenarios. Emissions of black carbon are excluded as these are not estimated in the ITF MoMo models.
Out of the 51 ESCAP member States that have submitted their Nationally Determined Contributions, 38 of them have specified transport measures, including transport emission reduction targets from a few countries.

ESCAP member States’ NDCs are primarily focused on the promotion of public bus transport, alternative energy sources and electric mobility.

Source: https://www.itf-oecd.org/ndc-tracker/en
The Development of a Regional Cooperation Mechanism on Low Carbon Transport

- The Regional Action Programme for Sustainable Transport Development in Asia and the Pacific (2022–2026) includes a specific activity to “establish a regional cooperation mechanism to promote low carbon transport, including a shift to electric mobility and clean energy technologies to contribute to transport emissions reductions.”

- To help ESCAP member States identity and develop policies for low carbon mobility, clean energy technologies and logistics.

- Dependent upon regional and multi-stakeholder collaboration and supported by relevant data and policy analysis.

- Complement ESCAP’s existing intergovernmental processes for transport and strengthen and accelerate collaborative efforts on low carbon transport action in between Committee on Transport sessions.
Objectives

• **Deepen regional collaboration** through the sharing of experiences, information and best practice knowledge, and identifying common interests and policy priorities

• Provide a platform for **multi-stakeholder engagement**, discussion and beyond

• **Enhance regional dialogue** on transport and climate change

• Outputs of this mechanism will contribute to the:
  1. Development of transport specific targets in NDCs,
  2. Identification of national and regional low and zero carbon transport goals and implementation action, and
  3. Strengthening of linkages between high-level regional and global dialogues on decarbonizing transport policies
Outputs and Timeline (2022 – 2026)

Phase 1 - Identification of subregional and regional priorities and the development of a cooperation framework (2022 – 2023)

Phase 2 – Implementation of the cooperation framework (2023 – 2026)

Key activities and outputs include:

- Three subregional consultations covering more than 30 countries
- One regional meeting in 2023; three regional meetings in 2024
- Summary reports on priority transport and climate change action in Asia and the Pacific
- Policy papers according to the priority topics identified by member States
- Cooperation framework that will enable joint work, knowledge transfer and data sharing on low and zero carbon transport for ESCAP member States
- Contribute to regional and global high-level dialogues and initiatives on transport and climate change
- Identification of focus areas for 2024-2026
Focus Areas (2024 – 2026)

- Climate Finance for Low Carbon Transport (May 2024)
- Development of Low Carbon Transport Targets and Timelines (July 2024)
- Establishment of Green Transport Corridors (September 2024)
Meeting Objectives

- Strengthen regional cooperation in areas of common interest and relevance for ESCAP member States across the Asia Pacific region to accelerate transport and climate action

- Present relevant tools, policy frameworks, mechanisms, and partnerships that will support the development of low carbon transport targets and timelines in Asia and the Pacific

- Facilitate multistakeholder engagement

- Discuss next steps and the possibility of a regional action plan