ESCAP Regional Cooperation Mechanism on Low Carbon Transport

Activities at UNECE’s Inland Transport Committee

Regional Meeting
17 - 18 July 2024

François CUENOT
UNECE secretariat
- About UNECE
- Activities from the Inland Transport Committee (ITC) and the ITC decarbonization strategy
- International collaboration in Transport Carbon Emissions Reduction Targets and Timelines
  - Common data repository: the Transport Data Commons
  - International modelling exchange: the International Transport and Energy Modelling (iTEM) partnership
- Conclusions and Next steps
About UNECE and ITC

- One of the 5 Regional Commissions of the UN (covering Continental Europe and North America)
- On transport, the Inland Transport Committee (ITC) equivalent to IMO and ICAO for inland transport
  - 60 legal instruments: 49 in force, 30 have countries outside of ECE region
  - 11 Working parties and 14 treaty bodies
  - 152 countries are Contracting Parties (CPs) to at least one transport legal instrument
- Activities on decarbonization steeply ramping up in recent years
Most ESCAP countries CPs to at least one UN Transport legal instruments

The darker the more legal instruments the countries have signed

43 ESCAP countries are signatories to at least 1 UN transport legal instruments
More than 440 signatories in total

More info
https://unece.org/transport/contracting-parties
ITC Decarbonization Strategy (ECE/TRANS/2024/3) & the “big picture” of decarbonizing Transport

• The International Maritime Organization (IMO) adopted an initial strategy on reduction of GHG emissions from ships in 2018, which was updated in July 2023

• The International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) set a long-term aspirational goal of net zero carbon emissions from aviation by 2050 in 2022, following the setting of previous global aspirational goals

• The UNECE Inland Transport Committee (ITC) adopted the ITC Decarbonization Strategy in February 2024, with the **aspirational goal of net zero greenhouse gas emissions from inland transport by 2050.**

- The whole transport sector decarbonization agenda is now covered by the UN system
ITC Decarbonization Strategy

Key take-aways

- Aims to support Member States’ efforts to reduce GHG emissions from inland transport, which accounted for 72% of global transport GHG emissions in 2019.

- Aspirational goal of net zero GHG emissions from inland transport by 2050.

- Provides integrated solutions for the reduction of GHG emissions from the inland transport sector.

- Draws from an effective avoid-shift-improve decarbonization framework, taking into account that there is no one-size-fits-all prescription.

- Contains 33 initial, coordinated actions for the ITC and its subsidiary bodies.

- Recommends actions the inland transport sector of countries may wish to take.
ITC Decarbonization Strategy Outline

I. Inland transport and climate
II. ITC vision and mission for climate action
III. Strategic objectives
IV. ITC-administered instruments to assist in mitigating climate change
V. Initial ITC Climate Action Plan with milestones – ITC to help deliver on climate goals and priorities
VI. Resource mobilization for the delivery of this Strategy
VII. Partnerships
## ITC Decarbonization Strategy Content

### Vision
- Taking action towards the aspirational goal of net zero GHG emissions from inland transport by 2050

### Mission
- Contribution through enhanced regulatory support, intergovernmental policy dialogue and increased coordination and partnership
- Application of a broad decarbonization framework, drawing on avoid-shift-improve measures

### Initial ITC Climate Action Plan with milestones
- Contains initial action items for ITC and its subsidiary bodies to drive the change towards achieving the vision, mission and strategic objectives for curbing GHG emissions from inland transport
- Joint and coordinated action among subsidiary bodies
- Indicative target years for implementation of each action
- **Living document**: Biennial reviews to allow for adjustments and additional actions proposed by subsidiary bodies and for removal of completed actions
ITC Decarbonization Strategy Content

- Actions linked to national, regional or global emission reduction targets and associated timelines
  - Actions 4, 5, 15, 16, 22 and 23 among the most relevant on reduction targets and associated timelines

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Action number</th>
<th>Specific action</th>
<th>Target year</th>
<th>Related Objective(s)</th>
<th>ASI pillar addressed</th>
<th>Responsible bodies</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Take stock of existing policies or current efforts to reduce GHG emissions of vehicles. Explore the potential to harmonize regulatory tools among relevant markets, or to set tailpipe reduction targets for countries, if appropriate for them</td>
<td>2026</td>
<td>A.(a) / C.</td>
<td>Improve</td>
<td>WP.29</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>If relevant, set tailpipe GHG emission reduction target</td>
<td>2028</td>
<td>A.(a) / C.</td>
<td>Improve</td>
<td>WP.29</td>
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<td>Assess the feasibility of the preparation and benefits resulting from the availability of national, subregional/regional inland transport decarbonization action plans</td>
<td>2026</td>
<td>A.(b)</td>
<td>Avoid/Shift/Improve</td>
<td>ITC</td>
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<td>16</td>
<td>Establish, if appropriate, partnership with UNFCCC on potential complementarities between &quot;inland transport decarbonization action plans&quot; and UNFCCC's &quot;NDCs&quot;</td>
<td>2028</td>
<td>A.(b)</td>
<td>Avoid/Shift/Improve</td>
<td>ITC</td>
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<td>22</td>
<td>Assess the feasibility and potential benefits of defining intermediate targets (2030/2040) for achieving net zero GHG emission by 2050 by inland transport GHG emission reduction target</td>
<td>2026</td>
<td>A.(c)</td>
<td>Avoid/Shift/Improve</td>
<td>ITC</td>
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<td>23</td>
<td>If relevant, explore and propose goals and pathways for GHG reduction in inland transport for the short-(2030), medium (2040)-, and moving towards net zero by 2050 and, if and where appropriate, include these, along with national policies, in inland transport decarbonization action plans to be shared at the ITC</td>
<td>From 2026</td>
<td>A.(c)</td>
<td>Avoid/Shift/Improve</td>
<td>ITC</td>
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International cooperation on transport modelling and data repositories

- Numerous existing transport and energy modelling frameworks
- Collaboration key to better understand modelling approaches and interpret results
- Role of data as inputs/outputs not to be underestimated
- Good data as important as good modelling frameworks

UNECE engaged in:
- Transport Data Commons
- International Transport and Energy Modelling (iTEM) partnership
Towards TransportDataCommons

- UNECE is hosting a prototype website for “Transport Data Commons”
  - Initial scope on transport and climate data, GHG corporate reporting potentially in the scope
    - Wide array of involved partners
    - More info https://transportdatacommons.unece.org/
Making high quality transport data accessible

- Transport Data Commons aims to improve access, sharing and analysis of transportation data for a more sustainable future.

**How do TDC datasets work?**

**Public Data**
- Data from open public repositories collected and aggregated by TDC for ease of access.
  - Publicly available data
  - All in one place for ease of access

**Community Data**
- Data sets submitted by individuals and organisation partners.
  - Moderated by TDC
  - Low submission threshold
  - Help with transition to TDC standard

**TDC Formatted**
- Datasets that are already SDMX formatted or added via API and programmed SDMX converter.
  - No change of data, labels, categories, etc
  - No modification of data
  - No data quality check

**TDC Harmonised**
- Data sets that have been formatted, validated, and derived from multiple sources by TDC.
  - Comprehensive source of data
  - Validated and harmonised by TDC
  - Based on transparent standards
International Transport and Energy Modelling (iTEM) partnership

- International Transport Energy Modeling, or iTEM, is an open group of people and organizations interested in the role of energy in the world's transport system.
- Our shared goal is to better understand the methods and data that are employed to study this system, especially model with international or global scope.
- iTEM uniquely convenes groups which approach transport and energy from broadly different directions, and with different immediate objectives.
  - Academic groups at universities and independent research organizations,
  - Departments within national governments,
  - International government organizations (IGOs),
  - Non-governmental organizations (NGOs),
  - Energy firms, and
  - Consultancies.
UNECE to host next TransportDataCommons and iTEM meetings

- Next sessions of TransportDataCommons and iTEM meetings to be held in conjunction at UNECE, 17-20 September 2024, hybrid
- Open to interested stakeholders
- Registration possible here:
  - iTEM: [https://unece.org/transport/events/international-transport-and-energy-modelling-partnership-item7](https://unece.org/transport/events/international-transport-and-energy-modelling-partnership-item7)
  - TransportDataCommons: [https://unece.org/info/events/event/390567](https://unece.org/info/events/event/390567)
- Agenda and further information available soon
Conclusions and Next Steps

- UNECE and ITC now on the path to net zero for global inland transport
- ITC decarbonization strategy was missing piece for overall action to decarbonize inland transport and cover the whole transport sector in the UN system
- Action plan of the ITC decarbonization strategy includes key elements on decarbonization targets and timelines
  - Potential alignment with UNFCCC NDC process
- UNECE also involved in key multi-stakeholders modelling and data initiative
  - Foster collaboration and improve access to free and robust information
- From 2025, ESCAP and ECE to work together on transport decarbonization plans in 4 ESCAP/ECE countries
Actions of the inland transport sector to join the global fight against climate change

Thank you!
Actions of the inland transport sector to join the global fight against climate change

INLAND TRANSPORT COMMITTEE

UNECE
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<tr>
<th>Country</th>
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<td>France</td>
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