Statement by the ITF Secretary-General, Young Tae Kim

81st Session of the Commission (ESCAP), Item 3
Regional cooperation for resilient and sustainable urban development in Asia and the Pacific (3 min)

22 April 2025

Excellencies, distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen,

It is an honour to represent the International Transport Forum (ITF) to discuss the critical role of regional cooperation in fostering resilient and sustainable urban development across Asia and the Pacific.

Transport plays a central role in this endeavour. Well-designed, inclusive transport systems are essential for cities to remain liveable, connected, and climate-resilient. Achieving this vision necessitates collaboration, innovation, and evidence-based policy.

The ITF collaborates with regional organisations such as UNESCAP and ASEAN to develop initiatives like the "*COVID-19 Recovery Guidelines for Resilient and Sustainable International Road Freight Transport Connectivity in ASEAN*" and the "*Implementation of the ASEAN Fuel Economy Roadmap.*" These projects work with governments to promote inclusive and resilient transport policies.

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The transport component of the *Sustainable Infrastructure Programme in Asia (SIPA),* led by the ITF, aligns transport investments with the Paris Agreement and SDGs. SIPA's urban mobility projects in Uzbekistan and Mongolia developed tailored, resilient, low-carbon transport pathways and policy modelling tools for Tashkent and Ulaanbaatar. SIPA fosters knowledge sharing and capacity-building to help cities across Central Asia advance sustainable urban transport solutions.

ITF also convenes regional high-level dialogues to strengthen cooperation and collaboration. For instance, the 3rd Regional High-Level Dialogue, themed "*Holistic Strategies for Sustainable, Inclusive, and Efficient Transport Systems*," was co-hosted by China's Ministry of Transport, promoting collaborative approaches to sustainable mobility.

Resilience and innovation are essential. The *ITF's Mobility Innovation Hub* assists governments in crafting forward-thinking transport policies by analysing emerging trends and promoting best practices. Additionally, the *Transport Network Resilience to Critical Events Working Group* explores strategies for maintaining transport services during crises, focusing on challenges like climate change and pandemics.

Innovation, evidence, and partnership will continue to guide our work. The ITF remains a committed partner, sharing insights, enabling dialogue, and supporting practical solutions that leave no one behind.

Thank you.