Statement by UNCRD-DSDG/UN DESA

Your Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen,

First of all, UNCRD-DSDG/UN DESA, would like to express its deep appreciation to UN ESCAP for inviting to the 4th Session of the Ministerial Conference on Transport. UNCRD would also like to express its gratitude to all the member countries.

Transport is the circulation system for the world’s communities and its people and modes are its lifeblood. The global pandemic has reminded us that communities are dependent on transport networks, and that in order for the world's people to continue to thrive they need to be connected to facilitate trade, cultural, and knowledge exchanges.

At the same time, success of various global agreements such as the SDGs and the Paris Agreement on Climate Change depends largely on the performance in Asia, in particular the transformational changes in its transport sector. Asia’s transport sector is substantial to deliver on such international agreements and will always be essential to society and as such it will need to keep pace with the demands of growing communities while decarbonizing at the same time.

To this regard, the High-level 14th Regional Environmentally Sustainable Transport (EST) Forum in Asia, which was co-organized by UNCRD-DSDG/UNDESA, the Ministry of the Environment of the Government of Japan, UN ESCAP, and the Asian Development Bank (ADB), from 18 to 20 October 2021 in the Aichi Prefecture of Japan, discussed and adopted the Aichi 2030 Declaration on Environmentally Sustainable Transport - Making Transport in Asia Sustainable (2021-2030) with an aim to catalyze transformational changes in the transportation sector (both passenger and freight) of Asia.

The Forum was attended by 634 participants comprising of national and local government representatives, the UN and international organizations, NGOs, individual experts and resource persons, scientific and research organizations, and the private sector from 47 countries.

Aligned with the objectives of achieving the SDGs and the Paris Agreement on Climate Change, among others, the Aichi 2030 Declaration, with its six dedicated goals, aims to place Asia in the forefront of new collaboration approaches to bring transformational changes in the transport sector of Asia. This will include enabling changes to policy, institutional frameworks, financing models, data management approaches, application of technology, and people and environmentally friendly transport infrastructure development in the transport sector of Asia. The Aichi 2030 Declaration also aims to serve as good catalyst towards improved global reporting on transport, climate and sustainable development.

The emerging partnership with the Asian Development Bank (ADB) through the Asian Transport Outlook (ATO), will lay the foundation for future country reporting on the Aichi 2030 Declaration. The new indicator framework for the Aichi 2030 Declaration would allow member countries as well as other regional stakeholders to monitor and track progress against the agreed six goals, while countries will continue to be able to share good policy practice during the EST Forums.

Finally, as rightly pointed out by Mr. Weimin Ren, Director of the Transport Division of ESCAP, at the 14th EST Forum, UN ESCAP’s Regional Action Programme on Sustainable Transport Development and Aichi 2030 Declaration are complementary to each other in addressing the needs of the member countries.
We sincerely look forward to having strong cooperation of the member countries as well as development partners in implementing both (RAP & Aichi 2030 Declaration) with meaningful synergies.

Thank you.