Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates,

It is my great honour to deliver this statement on behalf of the UN Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE). I thank UNESCAP for kind invitation to UNECE for participation in this important conference. I also thank Chair for giving me this speaking opportunity.

All the 5 UN regional commissions are facing common challenges, such as difficulties in cross-border and transit transport caused by COVID-19, high road traffic fatalities and urgency in combating climate change. The five regional commissions have enhanced close cooperation to jointly address the challenges.

At the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic early 2020, all the regional commissions, together with IRU, ITF, FIA and ECO, cooperated in operating the Observatory on Border-Crossing Status due to COVID-19. All the regional commissions in cooperation with IMO, ICAO and UNCTAD issued a joint statement on maintaining global supply chains during the pandemic. The 5 regional commissions and UNCTAD also created a joint DA Project to support countries to cope with the pandemic and build back better.

In 2018-19, the 5 regional commissions and other partners established the UN Road Safety Fund and made it operational. In 2020-21, all the regional commissions and WHO prepared the new Global Plan of Action for Road Safety (2021-2030), which was successfully launched in October 2021.

UNECE is keen to continue good cooperation with UNESCAP and other regional commissions in the field of transport.

Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates,

UNECE services 59 UN inland transport conventions and agreements. Several of the Conventions and agreements are global either by design or because their success has caused them to grow beyond the UNECE region. Its normative activities are enhanced with developing methodologies, guidelines, and definitions on subjects such as transport policy, planning, data collection and the collection of transport statistics.

UNECE functions with the support of the work of the Inland Transport Committee (ITC) and its 20 Working Parties which are in turn supported by more than 40 formal and informal expert groups and in cooperation with 11 treaty bodies (Administrative Committees).

Annual sessions of ITC are the key moments of this comprehensive intergovernmental work, when its results from all subsidiary bodies and the UNECE Sustainable Transport Division are presented to ITC members and contracting parties. The next session of ITC will be held in Geneva on 22-25 February 2022, which will mark its 75th anniversary. A ministerial meeting will be held on 22
February 2022 to debate critical issues in road safety, climate change, transport facilitation and emergency response. You are all welcome to join the 75th birthday session of ITC.

Thank you for your attention.