Seoul Declaration on a Regional Road Map to Support Regional Cooperation for the Wider Deployment of Sustainable Smart Transport Systems

Seoul, Republic of Korea, 11 and 13 July 2023

We, the participants of the Regional Meeting for Developing a Regional Road Map to Support Regional Cooperation for the Wider Deployment of Sustainable Smart Transport Systems, held in Seoul and online on 11 and 13 July 2023,

Reaffirming the importance of sustainable transport in the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Paris Agreement,

Affirming the critical contribution of smart transport systems to improve the efficiency, resilience, and social and environmental sustainability of transport, thereby, fostering the achievement of transport-related sustainable development goals and net-zero targets from the Paris Agreement,

Recognizing the “digitalization of transport” as one of seven priority areas from the Regional Action Programme for Sustainable Transport Development in Asia and the Pacific (2022-2026), with the wider deployment of smart transport systems to improve the sustainability of transport as one of the key outcomes, and the development of regional road map for smart transport systems in Asia and the Pacific to support the wider deployment of sustainable smart transport systems as one of the main indicators of achievement,

Noting the concept of smart transport systems as an advanced form of transport that is an agglomeration of diverse technologies to enhance the sustainability of transport in a city and society. In other words, smart transport systems are an umbrella term that embraces a wide range of technologies that aim to organically integrate drivers, vehicles and transport infrastructure to improve overall transport efficiency,

Taking note of the enabling and facilitating environment and contexts for the more successful deployment of smart transport systems in Asia and the Pacific, which includes a rapid widespread expansion of mobile services and internet connectivity, increasing capacities with the presence of a technologically and digitally literate younger generation, the existence
of world leaders in the development of smart transport systems, and continuous efforts to improve transport connectivity,

*Attaching great emphasis* on the use of emerging technologies under smart transport systems such as smart mobility, cooperative-intelligent transport systems, connected and autonomous vehicles and Mobility-as-a-Service (MaaS) in bringing innovative approaches to revolutionize the transport environment, and on increasing the capacity of national and local stakeholders including manufacturers of related technological equipment,

*Stressing* new trends in the field of transport with smart transport systems, which include i) a paradigm shift to “mobility” concept in response to socially, economically and environmentally changed needs, ii) acceleration of technological advancement and data processing with Big Data from various sources on all aspects of transport, iii) widespread mobile communications and wireless connectivity (e.g., 5G), and iv) increased integration of technologies for smart transport systems to provide more efficient, economical and user-centred services which need to be considered for the policy formulations of smart transport systems,

*Acknowledging* the close collaboration of ESCAP Transport Division and key stakeholders including ITS associations, research institutions, non-governmental organizations, multilateral development banks and private entities in conducting various consultative, awareness-raising and capacity building activities to promote smart transport systems,

*Appreciating* a series of processes, conducted by ESCAP Transport Division, to identify the trend of technologies, the issues and needs of Member States, and necessary strategies and policy actions for sustainable smart transport systems in Asia and the Pacific,

*Supporting* the five strategies and 12 priority policy plans identified in the Regional Road Map to Support Regional Cooperation for the Wider Deployment of Sustainable Smart Transport Systems in Asia and the Pacific to promote the wider uptake of smart transport systems and associated transformation towards more sustainable transport systems. The strategies include “connectivity”, “integration”, “inclusiveness”, “affordability”, and “resiliency”, and the policy plans include:

1. Connectivity 1: Establish the dedicated cooperation mechanism for smart transport systems
2. Connectivity 2: Foster a dialogue with all stakeholders to forge international cooperation
3. Integration 1: Facilitate the integration for technical compatibility and interoperability with special attention to emerging technologies
4. Integration 2: Integrate road, air, maritime and rail transport
5. Inclusiveness 1: Strengthen capacity building, training, technology transfer and awareness raising
6. Inclusiveness 2: Deepen institutional and regulatory foundations
7. Inclusiveness 3: Increase tailored policy supports for vulnerable groups and areas
8. Affordability 1: Facilitate a creative funding initiative through public-private partnerships
9. Affordability 2: Upscale analytical work with particular development of assessment tools
10. Resiliency 1: Make more environmentally friendly and safer mobility services
11. Resiliency 2: Ensure data security and the use of Big Data in transport
12. Resiliency 3: Be ready for unexpected disruption

*Drawing attention* on key issues that are summarized and explained in more detail within the Regional Road Map to Support Regional Cooperation for the Wider Deployment of Sustainable Smart Transport Systems in Asia and the Pacific as major roadblocks in deploying smart transport systems in Asia and the Pacific,

*Emphasizing* opportunity areas for regional cooperation. These opportunity areas are considered as key points to support strategies and policy plans to address roadblocks identified for the practical implementation of smart transport systems and their positive transboundary impacts to realize sustainable development,

*Also, emphasizing* the required efforts to implement the strategies and policy plans and the need for substantive support from ESCAP Transport Division to

1. **Assist** Member States to pursue regional cooperation for the implementation of the proposed policy plans as a regional guide for the wider deployment and development of smart transport systems in Asia and the Pacific,
2. **Facilitate** the establishment of a cooperative mechanism for smart transport systems, tentatively named “CMAPS (Cooperative Mechanism for Asia-Pacific Smart transport systems)”, to enhance the dialogue among all stakeholders for further cooperation and partnerships through a dedicated platform for smart transport systems and, accordingly,
3. **Prepare** a master plan, which includes vision, objectives, operational structure, means of implementation and milestones that are also aligned with sustainable development goals, for the new cooperative mechanism dedicated for smart transport systems in Asia and the Pacific,
4. **Provide** capacity building, knowledge and best practice sharing, training, analysis and research activities to enhance capacities and strengthen institutional and regulatory foundations for technical integration of various modes and systems, including emerging technologies,
5. **Assess** the level of development and preparedness for smart transport systems from the mobility perspective in Member States on a regular basis,
6. **Assist** in the development of policy guidelines for vulnerable groups, areas and Member States with special needs for the inclusive adoption of smart transport systems to address social, economic and environmental issues,
7. **Request the special attention** of Member States to the opportunities of harnessing smart transport systems, and to the design of more resilient and sustainable transport systems by using smart transport systems that were stressed during the pandemic, so as to relieve the effects of future disruptions.