Conclusions and Recommendations

1. The National capacity building workshop on “Enhancing energy efficiency of the freight transport sector in Asia and the Pacific” was held on 29 May 2024 in Almaty, Kazakhstan and virtually. The Workshop was attended by 27 participants and resource persons as well as the secretariat, and co-organized with the Association of Research and Design Organizations (ANIP) and hosted by the Research and Design Institute of Transport and Communications (NIITK).

2. The Workshop was informed in detail of the study finding on “Enhancing energy efficiency of the freight transport sector in Asia and the Pacific” study project, including the Regional Roadmap for Sustainable and Energy-Efficient Freight Transport. To this end, the Workshop welcomed the Regional Roadmap as valuable policy guidance and strongly encouraged stakeholders to undertake initiatives for its implementation.

3. The Workshop also informed in-depth on initiatives undertaken to enhance energy efficiency of the transport sector through new technologies in the rail sector and digital platforms. The Workshop was also informed of national experiences undertaken to reduce carbon footprint in freight transportation in the ESCAP region, i.e. Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Viet Nam as well as European countries, and welcomed the implementation of the Comprehensive Program for Decarbonization of the Transport Sector of Kazakhstan to 2030. Furthermore, new smart technologies such as block chain, big data, robotic automation, artificial intelligence and “smart last mile logistics” including the introduction of What3Words technology etc. were also evoked as the future for efficient logistics systems.

4. The Workshop highlighted the importance of continuous development and maintenance of transport infrastructure and acknowledged the challenges due to funds limitation. To mitigate such a situation, the Workshop was briefed on various innovative financing tools, including through the use of public private partnerships approach and discussed at length best practices and lessons learnt.

5. The Workshop also discussed passenger transport as it amounts to a considerable share of total transport movement and has direct impact on people’s day to day life and discussed various challenges pertaining to passengers’ transport by road in Kazakhstan, including unregistered and illegally operated vehicles, lack of reliable data, absence of relevant insurance, old and unsafe rolling stocks among other issues due to lack of regulatory enforcement and control from relevant authorities. To bridge such shortcomings, self-regulatory mechanisms through professional organization/association are needed to set operational standards for passenger transport. This will allow to eliminate gaps in government regulation and combat illegal transportations. These services need to be also put under strict control to eliminate illegal passenger transportation and increase the transparency and accountability of such operations. In this regard, the Workshop encouraged ESCAP secretariat to integrate road passenger transportation into its work and to undertake relevant studies or capacity building events, notably pertaining international best practices on self-regulatory mechanisms through professional organization/association to address the aforementioned issues, as well as assess the status of long distance road passenger transport.
6. The Workshop recognized the opportunities and challenges faced by the transport sector in Kazakhstan, a landlocked country (LLDC), and agreed that multimodality as the best way forward to strengthen end-to-end connectivity; and highlighted the strategic location of Aktau as an important inter-modal hub within Kazakhstan and along Eurasian Transport Corridors. The Workshop was also updated of operational challenges along the “Pakistan – China – Kyrgyzstan” corridors as well as a new corridor from Lanzhou, China to Afghanistan through Kyrgyzstan, launched in 2023.

7. In addition, the Workshop also recognized that green and energy efficient transport sector can be also achieved through seamless international transport and logistics network, including efficient cross-border operations. As such, the Workshop requested the secretariat to undertake new studies and to organize knowledge sharing events to assess the current operationalization status along major transport corridors, and way forward recommendations and best practices to further enhance the seamlessness.

8. The Workshop thanked the ESCAP secretariat, ANIP and NIITK for co-organizing the Workshop, the Ministry of Transport of Kazakhstan for the support rendered and the Government of the Russian Federation for the financial support to the study project.

9. These Conclusions and Recommendations were agreed on 29 July 2024 in Almaty, Kazakhstan.