CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

1. The Expert Group Meeting on Promoting the Utilization of Transport Big Data from Smart Transport Systems in the Asia-Pacific Region for the Achievement of Sustainable Transport was organized by the Transport Division of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP) in Seoul, Republic of Korea, hybrid, on 12-13 July 2023.

2. The Expert Group Meeting was attended by the representatives of the following ESCAP member States: Azerbāijan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, China, Fiji, Georgia, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Kiribati, Kyrgyzstan, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Maldives, Marshall Islands, Micronesia (Federated States of), Mongolia, Nepal, Pakistan, Palau, Philippines, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, Samoa, Tajikistan, Thailand, Tonga, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu and Viet Nam. The Meeting was also attended by experts from local governments, universities, private entities, non-governmental organizations, research institutions, international organizations, international aid agencies and other transport-related agencies.

3. The Meeting discussed and exchanged information on policies, plans, best practices, lessons learned and challenges in utilizing transport Big Data and deploying smart transport systems in their respective countries. In this context, the Meeting recognized the important role of a regional road map for smart transport systems in improving the efficiency and equity of transport services including greater data sharing and in reducing environmental externalities, including greenhouse gas emissions from the transport sector in Asia and the Pacific. In this context, the Meeting acknowledged the need to take into account emerging trends, such as the use of Big Data, in their policy formulations to support efficient and environmentally sound smart transport system options.

4. The Meeting took note of the findings from the interim result of the draft study report, “Moving Towards Data-driven Transport Policies and Strategies”, which was presented and expressed the needs for such reference material to guide policy makers in the development of policies and plans to utilize transport Big Data. The Meeting participants expressed their appreciation to ESCAP Transport Division for preparing this study and supported the interim findings.
5. The Meeting noted the challenges and constraints faced by some Least Developed Countries (LDCs), Landlocked Developing Countries (LLDCs) and Small Island Developing States (SIDS) in formulating and implementing smart transport and transport Big Data policies and strategies, including the lack of fundamental transport facilities, budgetary and legislative supports, technical capacities, established standards, cooperation among stakeholders and system integration.

6. The Meeting shared national plans, strategies and projects related to smart transport systems and the utilization of transport Big Data and recognized the different level of development. The Meeting, thus, underscored the needs to reduce development gaps among countries in the region to ensure seamless unfragmented smart transport services across the countries. Furthermore, the Meeting acknowledged major challenges and issues such as isolated systems, the lack of architecture and standards, data incompatibility, and interoperability issues of multimodal transport services and transport corridors. In this context, the Meeting stressed the importance of regional cooperation and collaboration, including to share experiences, knowledge, and lessons learned.

7. The Meeting acknowledged the challenges and supporting policies of inclusive transport, the role and impact of transport Big Data to support vulnerable groups, and the challenges of using transport Big Data to improve equality outcomes.

8. The Meeting especially recognized the necessity of capacity building and technical assistance activities for smart transport systems and the utilization of Big Data at various levels, and requested ESCAP Transport Division to strengthen smart transport-related activities, including the context of smart cities. In this regard, the Meeting took note of the requests made by the delegations of Fiji and Vanuatu to ESCAP Transport Division for capacity building assistance in these areas.

9. A site visit to an Autonomous Vehicle Test Bed, National Police Agency Traffic Information Center and Korea Territorial Development Museum was organized to increase the Meeting participants’ knowledge for smart transport systems and transport Big Data utilization.

10. The Meeting participants expressed their appreciation to ESCAP Transport Division, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Republic of Korea, and Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport, Republic of Korea for organizing the Meeting, and the Korea Institute of Civil Engineering and Building Technology, ITS Korea and the Seoul Urban Solutions Agency as co-hosts for their hospitality, and the experts for their participation and sharing of experience in the Meeting.

11. These conclusions and recommendations were adopted by the participants at the Meeting in Seoul, Republic of Korea on 13 July.