

**Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific**

Fourth Ministerial Conference on Transport

Bangkok and online, 14–17 December 2021

Item 9 of the provisional agenda*

Adoption of the ministerial declaration on sustainable transport development in Asia and the Pacific, including a regional action programme for sustainable transport development in Asia and the Pacific (2022–2026)**Draft regional action programme for sustainable transport development in Asia and the Pacific (2022–2026)***Summary*

The present document contains the draft regional action programme for sustainable transport development in Asia and the Pacific (2022–2026), finalized by the silence procedure conducted from 27 to 30 October 2021.

Regional Action Programme for Sustainable Transport Development in Asia and the Pacific (2022–2026)**I. Background, vision and objectives**

1. The Regional Action Programme for Sustainable Transport Development in Asia and the Pacific (2022–2026) draws concrete links to directly and indirectly relevant Sustainable Development Goals and targets and aims to emphasize the ways in which transport is not just an enabler of the Sustainable Development Goals but, in many ways, a prerequisite of success. Enshrined in the vision of competitive, environmentally sustainable and inclusive transport in Asia and the Pacific, the Regional Action Programme seeks cross-cutting impacts and mainstreams common elements across three overarching objectives, which are directly linked to the Sustainable Development Goals. Specifically, the Programme is geared towards advancing:

- (a) Efficient and resilient transport and logistics networks and mobility for economic growth;
- (b) Environmentally sustainable transport systems and services;
- (c) Safe and inclusive transport and mobility.

* ESCAP/MCT/2021/L.1.

2. The Programme clusters the following seven thematic areas of work under these three overarching objectives:

- (a) Regional land transport connectivity and logistics;
- (b) Maritime and interregional transport connectivity;
- (c) Digitalization of transport;
- (d) Low carbon mobility and logistics;
- (e) Urban transport;
- (f) Road safety;
- (g) Inclusive transport and mobility.

3. Some thematic areas from the Regional Action Programme for Sustainable Transport Connectivity in Asia and the Pacific, phase I (2017–2021),¹ such as regional infrastructure and operational connectivity, urban transport and road safety remain prominent, while other previously stand-alone thematic areas have been merged under broader headings. This approach aims to allow for a well-rounded approach to all dimensions of sustainable development during the implementation of the present Regional Action Programme and to address the demand to more comprehensively incorporate the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development² into the Programme. At the same time, the actions proposed in all thematic areas incorporate the concepts of post-pandemic recovery and building back better.

Matrix of the Regional Action Programme for Sustainable Transport Development in Asia and the Pacific (2022–2026)

	Overarching objectives		
	Towards efficient and resilient transport and logistics networks and mobility for economic growth	Towards environmentally sustainable transport systems and services	Towards safe and inclusive transport and mobility
	Relevant Sustainable Development Goals		
Thematic areas	Classification of contribution		
Regional land transport connectivity and logistics	Direct impact	Direct impact	Direct impact
Maritime and interregional transport connectivity	Direct impact	Direct impact	Direct impact
Digitalization of transport	Direct impact	Direct impact	Direct impact
Low carbon mobility and logistics	Direct impact	Direct impact	Indirect impact
Urban transport	Direct impact	Direct impact	Direct impact
Road safety	Indirect impact	Indirect impact	Direct impact
Inclusive transport and mobility	Indirect impact	Direct impact	Direct impact

¹ E/ESCAP/MCT(3)/11, annex I.

² General Assembly resolution 70/1.

II. Thematic areas, activities and indicators of achievement

A. Regional land transport connectivity and logistics

1. Summary description

This thematic area encompasses both infrastructure and operational transport connectivity along the regional land transport network as well as selected aspects of rural connectivity. Building on the Intergovernmental Agreement on the Asian Highway Network,³ the Intergovernmental Agreement on the Trans-Asian Railway Network⁴ and the Intergovernmental Agreement on Dry Ports⁵ as well as relevant regional frameworks on transport facilitation, the activities and intended outcomes under this area will utilize regional and multi-stakeholder cooperation, relevant data analysis and normative and technical assistance tools to (a) expand and further improve upon overall regional land transport connectivity and supply chain efficiency; (b) enhance the sustainability and resilience of land transport systems and supply chains to external shocks, crises and disruptions; and (c) improve connectivity and access to markets for countries with special needs for equitable development, thus leaving no one behind.

2. Activities

- 2.1 Work towards the greater efficiency, sustainability and resilience of the regional land transport network, as formalized by the Intergovernmental Agreements on the Asian Highway Network, the Trans-Asian Railway Network and Dry Ports, by:
 - (a) Facilitating coordinated infrastructure development in line with the agreed regional infrastructure parameters;
 - (b) Harmonizing operational standards, as appropriate, including cross-border and transit requirements, and implementing transport facilitation tools and frameworks;
 - (c) Supporting a harmonized approach in response to disruptive events in cross-border transport to ensure the uninterrupted supply of essential goods as well as a fast and effective recovery from crises;
 - (d) Supporting evidence-based approaches to ensure better planning, development and upgrading of the regional transport system, including through the use of analytical and modelling tools in decision-making processes on regional transport infrastructure and operational connectivity initiatives;
 - (e) Increasing the capacity of countries in special situations to develop transport and logistics information systems to support better planning and analytical tools;
 - (f) Considering regional requirements and experience from past crises, if any, to improve the planning, development and upgrading of the regional transport system;

³ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2323, No. 41607.

⁴ *Ibid.*, vol. 2596, No. 46171.

⁵ *Ibid.*, No. 53630.

- (g) Developing a mechanism for cooperation and exchange of knowledge among transport research, education and training institutes in Asia and the Pacific.
- 2.2 Help to advance the efficiency, sustainability and resilience of land and multimodal transport corridors in the region, by:
 - (a) Improving the planning, development and upgrading of regional land and multimodal transport corridors;
 - (b) Adjusting legal frameworks to the changing operational environment and challenges for multimodal transport;
 - (c) Supporting transport corridor management mechanisms and the implementation of the relevant multilateral transport agreements.
 - 2.3 Contribute to enhancing the accessibility of the regional transport network with particular attention to the connectivity gaps adversely affecting landlocked developing countries and other countries with special needs.
 - 2.4 Assist in improving the quality and inclusiveness of logistics services and overall competitiveness of the region's logistic competencies through capacity-building activities for logistics services professionals, regular regional meetings of logistics service providers and their national associations and increase use of logistics information systems.

Table A: Regional land transport connectivity and logistics

Indicators of achievement under the overarching objectives of the Regional Action Programme for Sustainable Transport Development in Asia and the Pacific (2022–2026)

Towards efficient and resilient transport and logistics networks and mobility for economic growth	Towards environmentally sustainable transport systems and services	Towards safe and inclusive transport and mobility
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Upgrades and extensions to the Asian Highway network and Trans-Asian Railway network as well as dry ports of international importance ▪ Regular knowledge products, policy tools and expert group meetings on best practices and regional approaches to enhancing the operational connectivity, including during disruptive events, along the regional land transport network ▪ Increased capacity of relevant stakeholders to support the development of land and multimodal transport corridors and multimodal transport operations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Increased capacity of countries to implement national and regional measures to promote rail and waterborne transport as well as environmentally sustainable logistics in regional freight operations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Provision of regular advisory services and capacity-building programmes on facilitating access of landlocked developing countries to the regional supply chains ▪ Knowledge products and policy tools promoting greater consideration of the local development impact of regional transport networks and corridors ▪ Increased capacity and social inclusiveness of the logistics sector

B. Maritime and interregional transport connectivity

1. Summary description

This thematic area is focused on key mechanisms for connecting the region to global supply chains. The activities and intended outcomes in this area will utilize regional and multi-stakeholder cooperation, relevant data analysis and normative and technical assistance tools to address: (a) strengthening port-hinterland transport connections and strategically locating multimodal transport and logistics facilities to capitalize on the competitive strength of each mode in interregional transport, with special emphasis on strengthening the capacities of countries with special needs; (b) enhancing efficient multimodal operations; (c) supporting a shift to sustainable and resilient port development; (d) contributing to sustainable shipping and port operations practices, including reducing emissions and pollutants from shipping and port operations and developing green port infrastructure; and (e) connectivity challenges faced by small island developing States.

2. Activities

- 2.1 Support a systematic regional dialogue on sustainable and resilient maritime connectivity, including the promotion of the development of low- and zero-emissions green shipping for Asia and the Pacific in close partnership with global and regional actors and the shipping industry.
- 2.2 Assist small island developing States in meeting transport challenges and strengthening resilience to future shocks.
- 2.3 Support an interregional multi-stakeholder forum for sustainable and resilient transport connectivity between Europe and Asia to bring together, on a regular basis, all concerned stakeholders, including governments, relevant organizations and institutions and the private sector.

Table B: Maritime and interregional transport connectivity

Indicators of achievement under the overarching objectives

Towards efficient and resilient transport and logistics networks and mobility for economic growth	Towards environmentally sustainable transport systems and services	Towards safe and inclusive transport and mobility
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Systematic and regular exchange of best practices and experiences on the issues and priorities for sustainable maritime connectivity in Asia and the Pacific ▪ Regular interregional multi-stakeholder forum for sustainable transport connectivity between Europe and Asia 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Knowledge products and policy tools offering best practices on sustainable, resilient and green port operational practices and maritime transport in Asia and the Pacific ▪ Elaboration of updated policy guidelines for integrated port-hinterland transport connectivity 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Advisory services and capacity-building programmes on facilitating access of small island developing States to global and regional supply chains ▪ Knowledge products and policy recommendations on enhancing the safety of port and maritime operations ▪ Development of recommendations on the storage of dangerous goods in port areas

C. Digitalization of transport

1. Summary description

This thematic area is focused on the digital transformation of transport in Asia and the Pacific. The activities and intended outcomes in this area will utilize technology, innovation, automation, digitalization, regional and multi-stakeholder cooperation, relevant data analysis and technical assistance tools to address: (a) wider deployment of smart transport systems to improve the efficiency, resilience and social and environmental sustainability of transport; (b) increased awareness of innovative technologies and the use of big data to improve traffic and other urban transport issues; (c) interconnection of maritime and port systems; and (d) a shift towards regional transport networks with smart transport systems, among others.

2. Activities

- 2.1 Develop a regional road map for smart transport systems in Asia and the Pacific to support wider deployment of sustainable and resilient smart transport systems to improve efficiency.
- 2.2 Use an evidence-based approach to promote and develop knowledge products on smart transport and related digital technology, such as intelligent transportation systems, to increase efficiency.
- 2.3 Increase awareness among members and associate members of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific about emerging technologies, including smart mobility, and highlight the important role that effective policymaking and planning practices have in the adoption of appropriate technological solutions.
- 2.4 Scale up capacity-building programmes and assist members and associate members in formulating and implementing innovative urban and rural transport policies, comprehensive planning practices and strategies to promote the application of new technologies, including smart transport technologies.
- 2.5 Increase awareness among members and associate members about innovative policies and technologies to promote the use of big data to improve traffic and other urban transport issues.
- 2.6 Promote new technologies, digitalization, smart transport solutions and electronic information exchange that respect data privacy and data protection to promote a shift towards smart transport networks.
- 2.7 Enhance the application of new technologies and digitalization to streamline port activities.
- 2.8 Increase the resilience, sustainability and interconnection of maritime transport systems.
- 2.9 Increase awareness among members and associate members about autonomous navigation implementation through capacity-building workshops.

Table C: Digitalization of transport**Indicators of achievement under the overarching objectives**

Towards efficient and resilient transport and logistics networks and mobility for economic growth	Towards environmentally sustainable transport systems and services	Towards safe and inclusive transport and mobility
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Increased capacity of members and associate members to use new technologies and/or regional frameworks or other instruments on smart freight and digitalization ▪ Increased capacity of members and associate members to implement smart port reforms and support the digitalization of port and maritime transport ▪ Promotion of the application of new and emerging technologies, such as blockchain technology, in port and maritime transport ▪ Development of the regional road map for smart transport systems in Asia and the Pacific to support the wider deployment of sustainable smart transport systems through capacity-building projects ▪ Knowledge products and best practices on emerging technologies, smart transport and related digital technologies, such as intelligent transportation systems, to increase efficiency ▪ Awareness-raising activities on integrated urban and transport planning and the use of big data to improve traffic and other urban transport issues 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Awareness-raising activities and/or capacity-building workshop(s)/seminar(s) to promote low carbon mobility and related emerging technologies and the application of new technologies, including smart mobility and smart transport technologies 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Exchange of best practices in the form of seminars or workshops on new technologies and implementation of digital solutions to meet interests and support vulnerable groups

D. Low carbon mobility and logistics**1. Summary description**

This thematic area is focused on promoting low carbon mobility, clean energy technologies and logistics. The activities and intended outcomes in this area will utilize regional and multi-stakeholder cooperation, relevant data analysis and technical assistance tools to address: (a) low carbon transport, including the accelerating shift to electric mobility; (b) wider application of smart and green transport to contribute to emissions reductions; (c) environmental performance of freight transport to support rapid decarbonization, including through sustainable freight practices and optimized modal split; and (d) transport-related actions towards meeting the regional and global environmental commitments.

2. Activities

- 2.1 Establish a regional cooperation mechanism to promote low carbon transport, including a shift to electric mobility and clean energy technologies to contribute to transport emissions reductions.

- 2.2 Develop and implement low carbon transport projects, such as green infrastructure projects, to contribute to emissions reductions in combination with climate change action.
- 2.3 Use an evidence-based approach to promote and develop knowledge products on low carbon transport, including electric mobility and other clean energy technologies.
- 2.4 Scale up capacity-building programmes and assist members and associate members in formulating policies and strategies to accelerate transport-related actions to meet the regional and global environmental commitments, including the relevant targets of the Sustainable Development Goals and the Paris Agreement,⁶ such as accelerating the transition to low carbon transport and the transition to electric mobility.
- 2.5 Increase awareness among members and associate members about advanced clean and energy-efficient technology, including the deployment of clean road-vehicle technologies.
- 2.6 Contribute to decarbonizing global and regional supply chains, by:
 - (a) Building technical capacities on environmentally sustainable freight, including on green multimodal freight corridors;
 - (b) Carrying out national and regional assessments on current and optimal target modal splits for multimodal freight transport;
 - (c) Incentivizing decarbonization efforts as part of the national and regional sustainable freight programmes and initiatives;
 - (d) Developing metrics and methodologies to assess the efficacy of economic, land-use and other measures with regard to environmentally sustainable freight;
 - (e) Establishing a conducive policy environment for a transition to fuel efficient and green vehicle/locomotive/shipping technologies for freight transport;
 - (f) Sharing best practices for the greening and decarbonization of the shipping value chain, including deploying green port infrastructure.
- 2.7 Scale up capacity-building programmes to facilitate the implementation of international best practices in support of sustainable maritime connectivity.
- 2.8 Promote more-efficient logistics hubs to provide carbon abatements that substantially outweigh the additional freight emissions.

⁶ See FCCC/CP/2015/10/Add.1, decision 1/CP.21, annex.

Table D: Low carbon mobility and logistics

Indicators of achievement under the overarching objectives

Towards efficient and resilient transport and logistics networks and mobility for economic growth	Towards environmentally sustainable transport systems and services	Towards safe and inclusive transport and mobility
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Initiatives taken by national Governments on smart transport systems to enhance efficiency and reduce greenhouse gas emissions ▪ Knowledge products/guidelines to increase efficiency and contribute to emissions reductions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Establishment of a regional cooperation mechanism to promote low carbon transport, including a shift to electric mobility, to contribute to transport emissions reductions ▪ Policies and measures taken by national Governments to accelerate the transition to low carbon transport, including the transition to electric mobility and clean energy technologies ▪ Publication of knowledge products/guidelines on approaches to low carbon transport, including electric mobility and clean energy technologies ▪ Awareness-raising activities and/or capacity-building workshop(s)/seminar(s) to promote low carbon mobility ▪ Increased capacity of relevant stakeholders to design and implement national and regional measures to decarbonize transport operations along the Asian Highway network, the Trans-Asian Railway network and dry ports of international importance ▪ Regular knowledge products and policy tools on decarbonizing multimodal freight operations and promoting environmentally sustainable and resilient logistics services ▪ Increased capacity of relevant stakeholders to implement global regulations and instruments to enhance the environmental sustainability and resilience of maritime transport 	

E. Urban transport

1. Summary description

This thematic area is focused on urban transport planning and public transport that can provide for accessibility, reliability of service and safety and promote the use of clean and energy-efficient vehicles. The activities and intended outcomes in this area will utilize regional and multi-stakeholder cooperation, relevant data analysis and technical assistance tools to address: (a) integrated urban and transport planning; (b) efficient, sustainable and resilient urban transport systems; (c) active mobility and non-motorized transport, in particular following the paradigm shift of the pandemic; (d) transition to low carbon public transport; and (e) first- and last-mile accessibility for public transport users.

2. Activities

- 2.1 Extend the application of the sustainable urban transport index tool and assist members and associate members in improving urban transport and in tracking and comparing the sustainability performance of their urban transport systems.
- 2.2 Promote integrated urban and transport planning for efficient, sustainable and resilient urban transport systems.
- 2.3 Use evidence-based approaches to promote and develop knowledge products on:
 - (a) Urban public transport policies on electric vehicles;
 - (b) Active mobility and non-motorized transport.
- 2.4 Scale up capacity-building programmes and assist members and associate members in formulating and implementing innovative urban transport policies and strategies to promote active mobility, non-motorized transport and the transition to low carbon transport.
- 2.5 Increase awareness among members and associate members about innovative policies and technologies to promote first- and last-mile accessibility for public transport users (e.g. micromobility and ride-sharing solutions, such as bike-sharing and e-scooter-sharing).

Table E: Urban transport

Indicators of achievement under the overarching objectives

Towards efficient and resilient transport and logistics networks and mobility for economic growth	Towards environmentally sustainable transport systems and services	Towards safe and inclusive transport and mobility
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Wider application of the sustainable urban transport index tool in countries/cities ▪ Measures taken by members and associate members to integrate urban and transport planning for efficient, sustainable and resilient urban transport systems 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Measures taken by members and associate members to promote low-carbon urban public transport systems, active mobility and non-motorized transport in urban areas ▪ Knowledge products/guidelines on urban public transport policies concerning electric vehicles, and development of active mobility and non-motorized transport ▪ Awareness-raising activities and capacity-building 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Initiatives taken by national Governments to promote first- and last-mile accessibility and safety for public transport users ▪ Awareness-raising activities to promote first- and last-mile accessibility for public transport users

F. Road safety

1. Summary description

This thematic area is focused on reducing the number of fatalities and injuries from road traffic crashes by 50 per cent by 2030. The activities and intended outcomes in this area will utilize technology, innovation, automation, digitalization, regional and multi-stakeholder cooperation, relevant data analysis and technical assistance tools to address: (a) the Global Plan of Action for the Second Decade of Action for Road Safety 2021–2030; (b) safe system interventions and key risk factors; (c) improved road crash data management systems; and (d) vulnerable road users, among others.

2. Activities

- 2.1 Develop a regional plan of action for the Second Decade of Action for Road Safety 2021–2030 in line with the related Global Plan.
- 2.2 Scale up capacity-building programmes and assist members and associate members in improving road safety by:
 - (a) Formulating and implementing national policies and strategies in line with the regional plan of action for the Second Decade of Action, including on tackling road safety risk factors;
 - (b) Implementing safe system interventions (e.g. interventions related to road infrastructure, vehicle safety, road user behaviour and post-crash response);
 - (c) Improving road crash data management systems through regional initiatives.
- 2.3 Periodically assess and monitor progress on the improvement of road safety in the Asia-Pacific region through analytical studies.

- 2.4 Use an evidence-based approach to promote and develop knowledge products on:
- (a) Road safety risk factors;
 - (b) Safety of vulnerable road users.
- 2.5 Increase awareness among members and associate members about utilizing smart transport systems and emergency response communication systems based on global navigation satellite systems to improve road safety.
- 2.6 Provide road safety by expanding public transport, with special attention to the needs of those in vulnerable situations, including women, children, persons with disabilities and older persons.

Table F: Road safety

Indicators of achievement under the overarching objectives

Towards efficient and resilient transport and logistics networks and mobility for economic growth	Towards environmentally sustainable transport systems and services	Towards safe and inclusive transport and mobility
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Endorsement of a regional plan of action for the Second Decade of Action for Road Safety 2021–2030 ▪ Formulation of national road safety targets and plans of action in line with the regional plan of action for the Second Decade of Action for Road Safety ▪ Measures taken by members and associate members to improve road safety data management systems and tackle road safety risk factors ▪ Periodic publication of analytical studies of progress in the improvement of road safety in the Asia-Pacific region ▪ Publication of knowledge products on addressing road safety risk factors and the safety of vulnerable road users ▪ Awareness-raising activities and capacity-building workshop(s)/seminar(s) on the implementation of the regional plan of action for the Second Decade of Action for Road Safety and on improving road crash data management systems

G. Inclusive transport and mobility

1. Summary description

This thematic area is focused on developing the knowledge basis for designing transport policies that can measurably contribute to reducing poverty and inequality. The activities and intended outcomes in this area will utilize technology, innovation, automation, digitalization, regional and multi-stakeholder cooperation, relevant data analysis and technical assistance tools to assess and address: (a) transport challenges faced by vulnerable people, including in response to climate change impacts and related adaptive capacities, in particular in, but not limited to, rural areas; (b) gender-sensitive transport policies; and (c) changes to the sector's workforce and to the supply of and demand for transport skills and expertise, among others.

2. Activities

- 2.1 Identify transport policy measures that can support the reduction of poverty and inequality, including through improved access to and affordability of transport.
- 2.2 Develop regional transport accessibility guidelines incorporating best practices that can support the reduction of poverty and inequality.
- 2.3 Promote policies/frameworks to improve rural, rural-urban, and peri-urban accessibility.
- 2.4 Assist members and associate members in developing actionable policies and strategies to improve rural transport.
- 2.5 Help to incorporate social impact assessments into the development of regional transport policies.
- 2.6 Promote regional measures to assess and address transport challenges faced by vulnerable people, including in response to climate change impacts and related adaptive capacities and improvement of methods for addressing related challenges.
- 2.7 Support the training and development of a robust human resource base in the transport sector by engaging academic and practitioner resources.
- 2.8 Strengthen the implementation of gender-sensitive initiatives for effective climate action in transport.
- 2.9 Strengthen rural-urban linkages and guarantee transport services and access for all social groups, taking into account transport challenges facing vulnerable groups.
- 2.10 Protect the poor and vulnerable groups against adverse changes in transport policies.

Table G: Inclusive transport and mobility

Indicators of achievement under the overarching objectives

Towards efficient and resilient transport and logistics networks and mobility for economic growth	Towards environmentally sustainable transport systems and services	Towards safe and inclusive transport and mobility
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Launch of knowledge bank on transport, climate change and gender to support the training and development of a robust human resource base in the transport sector, in particular in response to climate challenges 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Development and endorsement of regional transport accessibility guidelines ▪ Development and adoption of a regional guideline on social development parameters in transport policy planning ▪ Measures taken by members and associate members to improve rural transport ▪ Development of accessible and user-friendly methodologies for gender-disaggregated and regionally harmonized transport data as well as data collection and analysis ▪ Development of a handbook of best practices on transport, social inclusion and related Sustainable Development Goals ▪ Advisory services, capacity-building programmes and trainings for transport professionals on issues of accessibility and the broader social impacts of transport planning and related national projects ▪ Development of a publication or research studies on inclusive transport for vulnerable groups, including people with disabilities