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 Yerevan, Armenia and virtually. The Workshop was attended by 47 participants and resource persons as well as the secretariat.

2. The Workshop recognized the importance of green connectivity as the means to achieve the Regional Roadmap for Implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific. As such, the Workshop welcomed all relevant initiatives undertaken at the national level to support the transformation to an energy efficient and sustainable transport sector.

3. The Workshop was provided an overview of the transport sector of Armenia, Mongolia and Kyrgyzstan, and discussed at length challenges faced by landlocked countries. The Workshop also highlighted that these challenges can be mitigated by improving transport infrastructure quality, enhancing the seamless transport operations, including streamlining border crossing requirements, to create efficient and effective international transport corridors, transforming from landlocked to land-linked hubs. As such, the Workshop requested ESCAP secretariat to undertake relevant initiatives, including conducting study research and organizing national and regional capacity building events to strengthen Armenia’s international transport connectivity.

4. The Workshop highlighted that the energy efficient freight transport sector can be attained through harnessing smart and new technologies and improved infrastructure. Within this context, the Workshop was apprised of the latest technological development and national initiatives undertaken in various countries in the ESCAP region, such as Armenia, China, Islamic Republic of Iran, Kyrgyzstan and Kazakhstan. New technology, in combination with appropriate policy measures, can create the right environment for continuous technological development and implementation, achieving energy efficient low carbon transport systems.

5. The Workshop was informed of different initiatives undertaken to reduce carbon footprint in freight transportation in the ESCAP region. As such, the Workshop welcomed the electrification of the transport system as well as the use of alternative energy sources, including hydrogen fuel cells, and encouraged relevant authorities to put in place policies to support such endeavors.

6. The Workshop welcomed the study findings of the study project titled Enhancing energy efficiency of the freight transport sector in Asia and the Pacific, including adoption of the Regional Roadmap towards Sustainable and Energy Efficient Freight Transport, and encouraged for its implementation by all stakeholders to achieve energy efficient, low carbon, green and sustainable freight transport sector.

7. The Workshop welcomed such capacity building activities and requested ESCAP secretariat to continue cooperating with all entities based in Armenia, including the
National Polytechnic University of Armenia, in organizing more capacity building events to promote knowledge sharing in the transport and logistics sector in Armenia.

8. Within this context, the Workshop requested ESCAP secretariat, in the near future, to conduct a capacity building workshop/Forum on “assessing infrastructure status and strengthening the operationalization of international transport corridors” targeting at landlocked developing countries (LLDCs) in the ESCAP region. Such an event will allow for sharing national experiences and finding factual solutions to mitigate the accessibility challenges faced by LLDCs. To this end, Armenia expressed its strong interest in the topic, and will host the workshop/Forum.

9. The Workshop also highlighted that passenger transport amounted to a considerable share of total transport movement and encouraged ESCAP secretariat to integrate passenger transportation into its work.

10. The Workshop thanked the ESCAP secretariat and the National Polytechnic University of Armenia for co-organizing the Workshop, the Ministry of Territorial Administration and Infrastructure of Armenia for the support rendered and the Russian Federation for the financial support to the study project.

11. These Conclusions and Recommendations were agreed on 29 May 2024 in Yerevan, Armenia.