The seventy-eighth session of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

SIDE EVENT

Transforming Asia-Pacific trade and transport agreements and other initiatives to future proof supply chain connectivity in Asia and the Pacific

24 May 2022 | 12:45-13:45 (UTC+7) | Hybrid

Background
The fragmented policy responses at the outset of the COVID-19 pandemic showcased that existing trade and transport agreements and other cooperative mechanisms lacked the necessary provisions on crisis response and assistance during extraordinary situations which disrupt the usual operations of international supply and logistics chains. Taking stock of the current situation in Asia and the Pacific region, this side event will discuss the ways in which the existing and future trade and transport agreements can help to ensure greater resilience of supply chain connectivity during major disruptions by including and/or harmonizing model provisions on trade and transport operations during future crises. The event will also present some of the ongoing initiatives on enhancing the resilience of sustainable transport connectivity in North and Central Asia, including the proposal to establish of a Regional Centre for the Development of Transport Connectivity under the auspices of the United Nations. Co-organized with the Permanent Representation of the Republic of Uzbekistan to ESCAP.

Organizers
The side event is organized by the Government of Uzbekistan in cooperation with the ESCAP Transport Division and Trade, Investment and Innovation Division and with the support of the United Nations Development Account Project “Transport and trade connectivity in the age of pandemics: Contactless, seamless and collaborative UN solutions”.

Target Participants
- Delegates from Member States and international organizations
- Transport policy makers and researchers
Working modality and registration

The meeting will be organized in a hybrid mode with the simultaneous interpretation into English and Russian. Participants are kindly invited to register online at their earliest convenience. Register HERE

Tentative Agenda

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<th>Time</th>
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<td>11:45-12:45 (UTC+7)</td>
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WELCOME AND OPENING REMARKS

12:45-13:00  
Moderator: Ms. Azhar Jaimurzina Ducrest, Transport Division, ESCAP
- Mr. Fakhriddin Sultanov, Consul-General and Permanent Representative to ESCAP
- Mr. Weimin Ren, Director, Transport Division, ESCAP

PANEL DISCUSSION

13:00-13:40  
Moderator: Mr. Fedor Kormilitsyn, Transport Division, ESCAP.

- **Mr. Abdulla Khashimov**, Head of Transport Corridors Development and Logistics Department, Ministry of Investments and Foreign Trade of Uzbekistan

  Mr. Abdulla Khashimov has an extensive working experience with the Ministries of Transport, Foreign Affairs, Investment and Foreign Trade of Uzbekistan, focusing on the problems of the development of the national and international transport system. He also chaired the National Committee of Uzbekistan for the development of the Trans-Caucasian Transport Corridors and the Transport sector of the SCO Secretariat (Beijing, China).

- **Mr. Beny Irzanto**, ASEAN Secretariat

  Mr. Beny Irzanto works as Senior Officer of Transport Division, Sectoral Development Directorate, ASEAN Economic Community Department. He will share information on COVID-19 Response and Recovery Guidelines for Resilient and Sustainable International Road Freight Transport Connectivity in ASEAN, designed to support ASEAN Member States in establishing their regional and national transport connectivity recovery plans with a focus on resilience and sustainability.

- **Mr. Ali Abdollahi**, Head of International Organizations Group, International Affairs Dept, Iranian Railways, Islamic Republic of Iran

  Iranian Railways will share their experience in leveraging international transport agreements, including the Intergovernmental Agreement on the
Trans-Asian Railways, and other multilateral initiatives to gain greater resilience in land transport connectivity.

- **Ms. Elizabeth Chelliah**, Deputy Director, Principal Trade Specialist, Ministry of Trade and Industry, Singapore.

  Ms. Chelliah has been a negotiator for Singapore since 2002, and was involved negotiations for Singapore FTAs with EFTA, China, Korea, EU, Chinese Taipei, Peru, Japan as well as ASEAN-China FTA and the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) and the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP).

- **Ms. Tracey Epps**, Member of the Core Expert Group of the Initiative on Model Provisions for Trade in Times of Crisis and Pandemic.

  Ms. Epps has more than 18 years’ experience as an academic, legal advisor and negotiator; including seven years as a senior advisor in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFAT) Trade Law Unit. During this time, she acted as the lead legal counsel for New Zealand’s negotiating team in the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) negotiations.