Cross-cutting issues in transport

3(a): Transport connectivity for efficient and resilient supply chains

ESCAP/CTR/2020/2

ESCAP/CTR/2020/INF/3
The document:
Covers three substantive areas:

1. Enhancing connectivity along the regional land transport network in Asia and the Pacific
2. Linking Asia-Pacific to the global supply chains
3. Building back better: Investing in resilience and shift to sustainable freight

The Committee:
Will be invited to

- Discuss regional transport connectivity for supply chain efficiency and resilience against the backdrop of the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Provide the secretariat with guidance on the three thematic areas

The informal consultations (27 October 2020):
Provided some preliminary feedback
Transport and travel costs have the highest potential to affect international trade during the pandemic.

Impact on all segments of the freight transport sector

Deepening connectivity gaps

Call for a global and regional cooperation*

*United Nations system-wide project “Transport and trade connectivity in the age of pandemics: United Nations solutions for contactless, seamless and collaborative transport and trade”.
1. Enhancing Connectivity along the Regional Land Transport Network in Asia and the Pacific

- **Asian Highway**
  - **Status**: Network extension to 145,000 km
  - Enhancing operational connectivity
  - Transition towards a Smart Asian Highway network
  - Coordinating emergency response efforts

- **Trans-Asian Railway**
  - **Status**: 21 Parties to the Agreement
  - Electronic exchange of information
  - Digitization in railways
  - Smart solutions for railways

- **Dry Ports**
  - **Status**: 16 Parties to the Agreement
  - Holistic approach to dry ports development
  - Digital solutions
  - Legal frameworks for intermodal and multimodal operations
2. Linking Asia-Pacific to the global supply chains

**Maritime connectivity**

**Status:** maritime connectivity gaps and sustainability agenda
- Systematic regional dialogue
- Integrated approach to sustainable shipping
- Digitization and smart ports development

**Euro-Asian transport connectivity**

**Status:** progress on the mandate in RAP, Ph.I
- Study report on E-A connectivity
- EGM and ECE/ESCAP Forum in 2019
- Recommendations on the institutional aspects

**Countries with special needs**

**Status:** widening connectivity gaps
- Enhancing maritime connectivity
- Electronic transit transport systems
- Rail corridor coordination mechanisms
3. Building back better: Investing in resilience and shift to sustainable freight

Policy priorities for the recovery phase

- Protect Transport Workers (73.9%)
- Adapt to the Changes in Behavior (69.6%)
- Strengthen Cross-Border Connectivity (56.5%)
- Support Economic Growth, Including Job Creation (47.8%)
- Increase the Resilience of Transport (47.8%)
- Improve Digitalization of Transport Services, E.g. Licensing (43.5%)
- Integrate Decarbonization and Sustainable Transport Measures (30.4%)
- Other (Please Specify) (13%)

Source: Based on an ESCAP survey on freight transport policy responses to COVID-19, conducted in June and July 2020.

- ESCAP work on Enhancing Shift towards Sustainable Freight Transport in Asia-Pacific
- Supporting national policies on sustainable freight
- Deepening regional cooperation on key issues in sustainable freight transport within the framework of ESCAP’s intergovernmental agreements
Agenda item 3 (a)  Issues for consideration

The Committee may wish to:

• **Discuss** regional transport connectivity for supply chain efficiency and resilience against the backdrop of the COVID-19 pandemic.

• Provide the secretariat with **guidance** on:
  
  • Advancing regional land transport connectivity along the Asian Highways, Trans-Asian Railways and intermodal corridors involving dry ports
  
  • Enhancing the region’s position in the global supply chains, though enhanced Euro-Asian connectivity, sustainable maritime connectivity and due consideration of the situation of countries with special needs
  
  • Supporting concrete initiatives on resilient and sustainable freight transport connectivity.

• **Invite** the secretariat to reflect these issues in the next Regional Action Programme to be developed in 2021.