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Opening Statement

by

H.E. Ms. Zhanar Aitzhanova

Ambassador of Kazakhstan and Chair of UNECE

On the occasion of the

Seventieth anniversary of the Inland Transport Committee

[Past and Future of the UNECE Inland Transport Committee](#)

21 February 2017

Salle XVII, 10.00 - 18.00

Excellences, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is my distinct honour to address this meeting under my capacity as Chair of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe and welcome you to the 70th anniversary of the Inland Transport Committee of UNECE.

This Ministerial Conference comes at a critical moment for the international community, two years after world leaders adopted the 2030 Agenda. Success in achieving many of the Sustainable Development Goals will require affordable, efficient and environmentally sound transport systems.

The Inland Transport Committee is a flagship activity of the Commission. Over the past seventy years it has grown into a centre of inland transport conventions with a relevance for both the region and also globally. No surprise therefore that today we can welcome ministers from all over the world. I am looking forward to the combined wisdom and insights that world transport leaders will share with us today on how best to lend the support of the transport community in the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals.

One of these ways, most certainly is the wider and more extensive use of the 58 UN Transport Conventions under the purview of the Inland Transport Committee. They are important in facilitating international movement of goods and people in an efficient, safe, secure and environmentally friendly way.

Finally, let me also use this opportunity to express the support of my Government for the Ministerial Resolution that will crown today gathering of Global Transport Leaders – I encourage all governments to express their support to this very important document during the ceremonial signing this afternoon.

Thank you very much for your attention.