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Statement

by

Ms. Olga Algayerova

United Nations Under-Secretary-General
Executive Secretary
of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe

at

the 2023 edition of the Future Networked Car symposium
co-organized by UNECE and ITU
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Session 1
Online

Excellencies,
Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I would like to extend my warm greetings to the Secretary-General of ITU, H.E. Ms. Doreen Bogdan-Martin and to all of you, connected online.

I am honored to address this esteemed gathering on this 2023 edition of the annual symposium on the future networked cars. This symposium is the result of the UNECE and ITU collaboration for more than 10 years already. This event, which is organized by ITU and the UNECE World Forum for Harmonization of Vehicle Regulations (WP.29), is a unique platform at international level to gather industry experts from the automotive and telecommunication sectors as well as their regulators.

The world is at a crucial juncture in the fight against climate change, and the Paris Agreement has set ambitious targets for reducing greenhouse gas emissions. The recent session of the Inland Transport Committee, which provides the governance for inland transport both at regional and global level, focused on this aspect and led to the signature of a ministerial declaration titled "Harnessing the full potential of inland transport solutions in the global fight against

climate change"). This declaration is a commitment of the transport community in that field.

The measures and efforts related to reducing the share of transport in greenhouse gas emission could have an impact on the possibility to travel for citizens that cannot be understated, and innovation in transport is more important now than ever before.

This year marks the 70th anniversary of WP.29 and the 65th anniversary of the 1958 and 1998 Agreements on vehicle regulations. The celebrations that took place last week highlighted the importance of the activities performed by this body, its impact on road and vehicle safety, on vehicle emissions, and on innovations in general which are crafted by a very innovative industry.

While being innovative, this industry is facing challenges related to the impact on the environment and on road safety, which probably justify more than ever rule making by regulators. The transformation of the automotive sector is happening at an unprecedented pace. The shift towards electrification of vehicles, the need to adapt to cybersecurity risks, and the push to generalize driving assistance and develop automated driving systems are some of the major challenges

they are facing today. And all these happen in a general context with supply chain challenges and inflation.

Connectivity and telecommunications developments changed the way we work and communicate. This was demonstrated during the COVID-19 pandemic. At the same time, the deployment of 5G shows now that the technology has not delivered on the promises and marketing announcements. This has a concrete impact on transport and innovations. Not so long ago, the policy talks focused on autonomous vehicles that could be powered by 5G. The reality is different. Automated driving systems are being developed at a slower pace than expected and don't benefit from connectivity to support the dynamic driving task of automated vehicles. However, recent proposals from China to the Working Party on Automated/Autonomous and Connected Vehicles to harmonize requirements for vehicle communications are encouraging signs of progress.

Collaboration across the sectors is crucial to tackle these challenges. ITU has been an excellent partner. We offered them to join the WP.29 meetings without restrictions. They already contributed to the drafting of the cybersecurity UN Regulation No. 155. Such partnerships are

crucial to drive innovation and ensure that standards and regulations are in place to support this mobility transformation.

As we move forward, we must remember that the challenges ahead in terms of mobility, energy consumption, climate-related targets, shocking road safety figures, and cybersecurity risks continue to require close collaboration across sectors. The automotive and telecommunication sectors have a crucial role to play in this transformation, so let's work together towards a sustainable future.

I wish you all an excellent session.

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