



Actions of the inland transport sector to join the global fight against climate change

INLAND TRANSPORT COMMITTEE



# Development of the ITC Strategy on reducing greenhouse gas emissions in inland transport

6 September 2023

WP.5 Thematic discussion on the critical role of inland transport in climate change mitigation

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# Climate change impacts



## Increasingly extreme and frequent weather events causing natural disasters



Aftermath of floods in Crna na Koroskem, Slovenia, 7 Aug 2023

Source: D. Mendonca, CNN Aug 7, 2023



Dam burst in Norway after days of heavy rain and flooding, 10 Aug 2023

Source: ABC News, 10 Aug 2023



Aftermath of the wildfires in Maui, Hawaii, United States of America, 1 Sept 2023

Source: P. Afshar and M. Watson, CNN 1 Sept 2023



Wildfire in Italy, near Palermo airport, 26 July 2023

Source: L. Nadeau, S. Braithwaite and L. Paddison, CNN July 26, 2023

...from global warming to global boiling

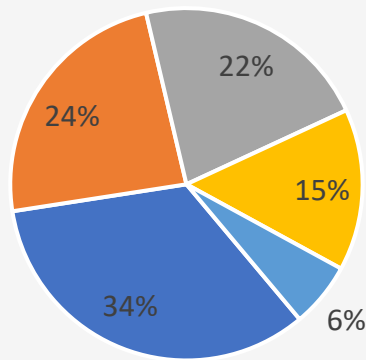
# Inland Transport and Climate change: GHG emissions



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- Limiting global warming to 1.5°C in line with the Paris Agreement requires a 43% GHG emissions reduction by 2030 relative to 2019

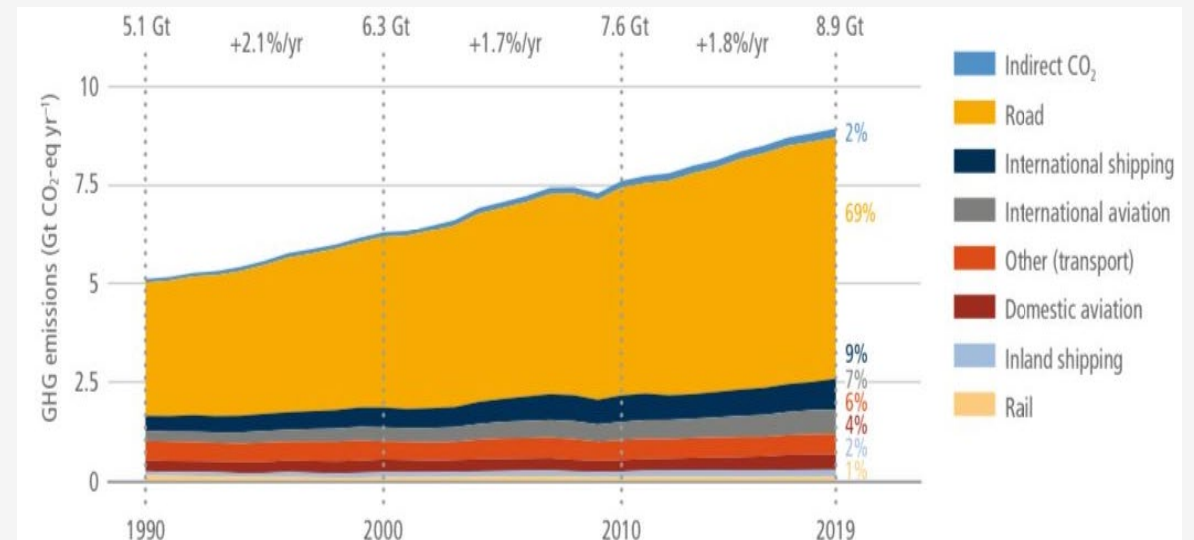
Overview of GHG emissions by sector in 2019



■ Energy sector ■ Industry ■ AFOLU ■ Transport ■ Buildings

Source: IPCC 2023: Sections. In: Climate Change 2023: Synthesis Report. Contribution of Working Groups I, II and III to the Sixth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change

Transport global GHG emission trends 1990-2019



Source: 6th IPCC report 2022, "Climate Change 2022 - Mitigation of Climate Change", Sixth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, Working Group III.

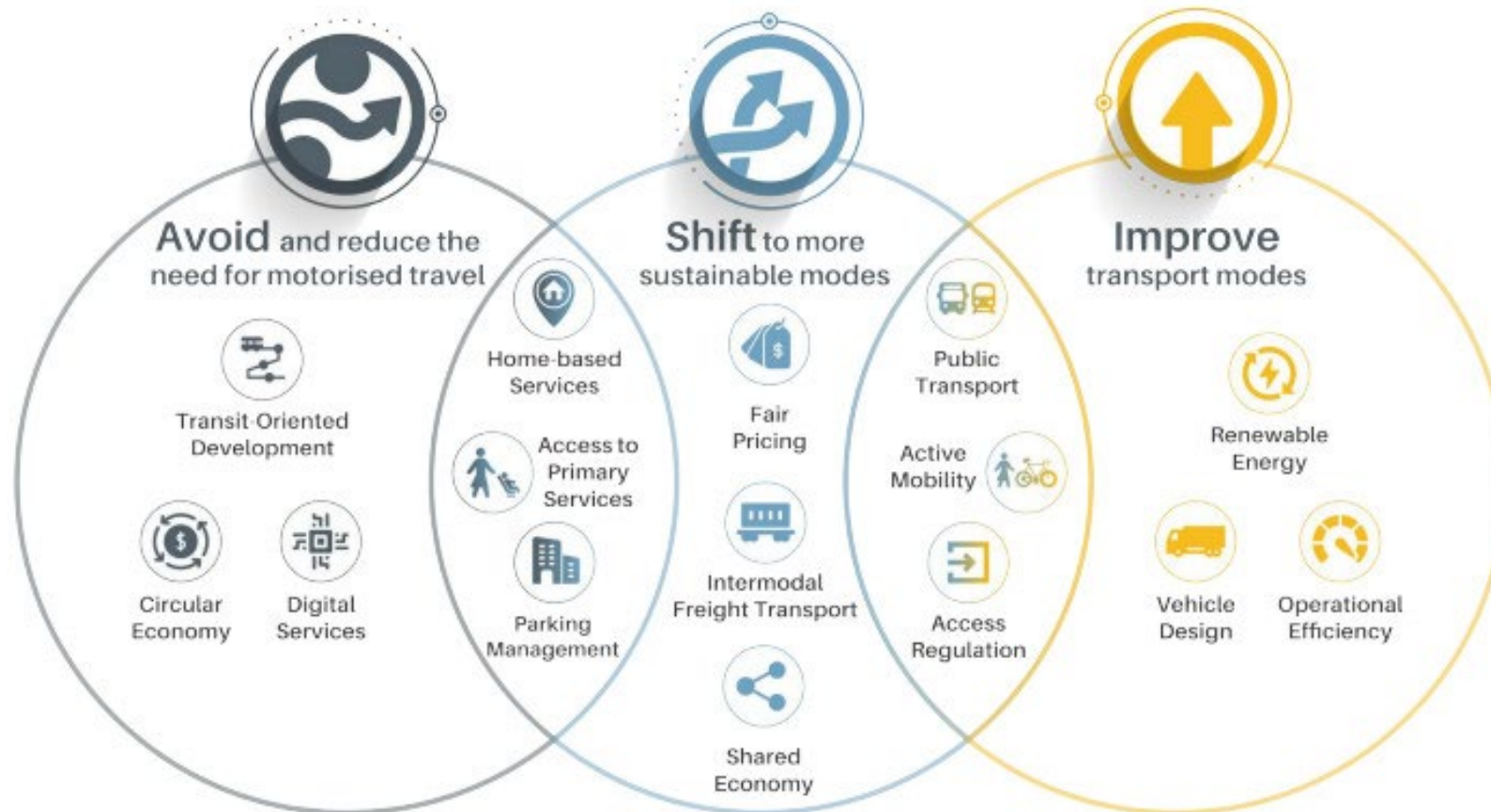
- A pathway for transport to contribute to maintaining global temperature rise below 1.5 °C is possible – requiring a radical transformation of transport and mobility systems

# Inland Transport and Climate change: Policy



- Countries have developed ambitious policies and targets and submitted **UNFCCC Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs)** and **Long-term low emission development strategies**
  - Second generation NDCs feature twice as many transport mitigation actions
  - 42% of 2nd generation NDCs submitted in 2022 contain transport targets
    - 23 of 2nd generation NDCs have a transport GHG mitigation target
    - 109 non-GHG transport targets: Zero emission vehicles (39%), vehicle efficiency (27%), mode share (10%), biofuels (10%), infrastructure (9%), avoid (4%), renewables in transport (3%)
  - 28 long-term strategies, in addition to 19 by EU MS
    - All mention transport
    - 22% (13) have transport target – mostly for 2050
- However, current transport policies and measures are insufficient to put transport on a decarbonization pathway in line with the 1.5 °C target of the Paris Agreement**

# Inland Transport Climate change mitigation: Utilizing available “Avoid – Shift – Improve” options



\* The A-S-I diagramme presents a non-exhaustive list of measures for illustrative purposes only.

Source: SLoCaT  
Report “Transforming Transport and Mobility to Achieve the Targets of the Paris Agreement and the Sustainable Development Goals”

# ITC climate change mitigation strategy



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At its 85th session (Geneva, 21-24 February 2023), the Inland Transport Committee:

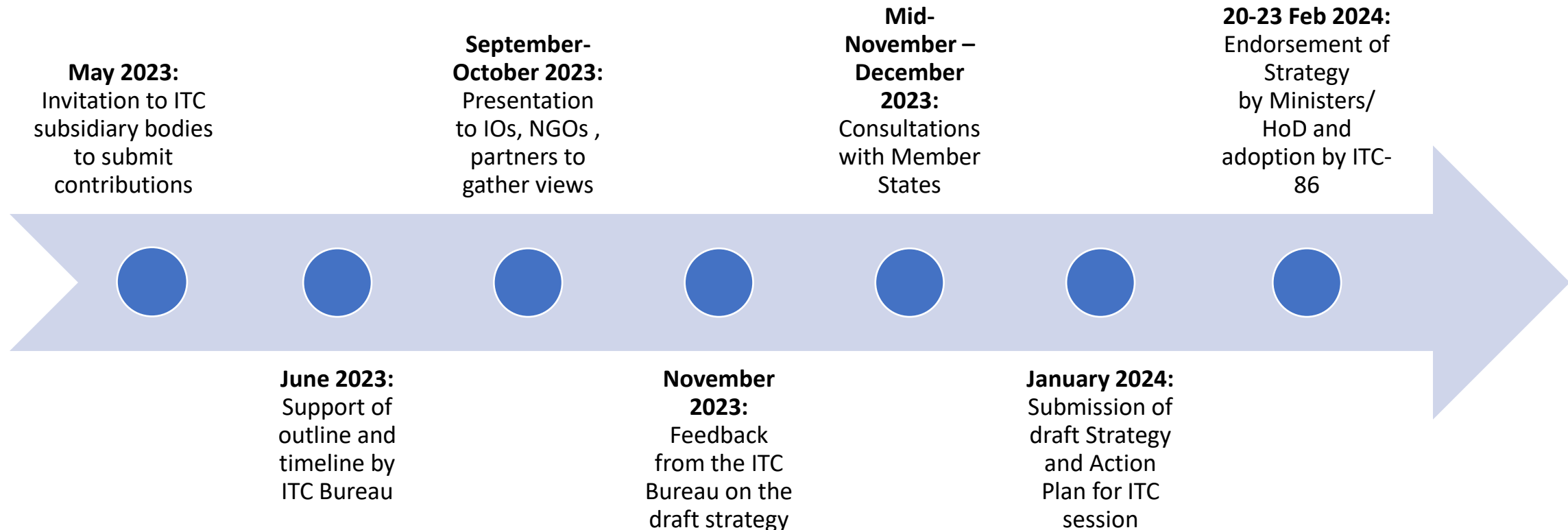
- *“Requested the secretariat, in close cooperation with the Bureau and relevant subsidiary bodies, to develop an **ambitious strategy document for reducing Green House Gas (GHG) emissions in inland transport** based on international United Nations legal instruments under the Committee’s purview with priority actions for the ITC and all its relevant subsidiary bodies, supported by a **strong action plan with milestones**, for consideration and adoption by the Committee at its 86<sup>th</sup> plenary session”* (20-23 February 2024)
- Noted the **Ministerial Declaration “Harnessing the full potential of inland transport solutions in the global fight against climate change”**, endorsed by 29 Ministers/Heads of Delegations



The 85th ITC session

Source: UNECE

# Timeline



# ITC's role in climate change mitigation



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## ITC is uniquely positioned to assist Member States in reducing GHG emissions from inland transport:

- A United Nations centre providing a comprehensive platform for consideration of all aspects of inland transport development and cooperation, with special attention to **interregional and intraregional regulatory governance** through the United Nations transport conventions (E/RES/2022/2); comparable to ICAO and IMO
- Strong regulatory role: **60 UN inland transport legal instruments**
- **152 UN Member States** are contracting party to at least one of the legal instruments
- 29 subsidiary bodies, with some operating at global level
- **ITC Strategy until 2030:** Promotion of sustainable regional and interregional inland transport connectivity and mobility; climate change a cross-cutting issue



# ITC climate change mitigation activities – Examples from subsidiary bodies(I)



## Contributions to mitigation measures by ITC, its subsidiary bodies and the secretariat (see

*ECE/TRANS/2023/21, para. 12)*

- Regulatory framework to **measure the life-cycle carbon emissions of vehicles** (under development) (World Forum on the Harmonization of Vehicle Regulations / Working Party on Pollution and Energy (WP.29/GRPE))
- Regulatory framework for **deployment of safe electric and hydrogen vehicles** (Working Party on the Transport of Dangerous Goods (WP.15) and Working Party on Passive Safety (WP.29/GRSP))



Source: Depositphotos 2016



Source: Depositphotos 2023

# ITC climate change mitigation activities - (II)

## Examples from subsidiary bodies



### Contributions to mitigation measures by ITC, its subsidiary bodies and the secretariat (see ECE/TRANS/2023/21, para. 12)

- Regulatory framework for **greening inland water transport fleet, infrastructure and operations** (Working Party Inland Water Transport (SC.3)/Working Party on the Standardization of Technical and Safety Requirements in Inland Navigation (SC.3/WP.3))
- **Intermodal system and modal shift from road to more environmentally friendly modes** (Working Party on Rail Transport (SC.2) and Working Party on Intermodal Transport and Logistics (WP.24))
- **Promotion and facilitation of green transport and mobility** (Working Party on Transport Trends and Economics (WP.5))
- **The Transport, Health and Environment Pan-European Programme (The PEP)**, Pan-European Master Plan for Cycling Promotion



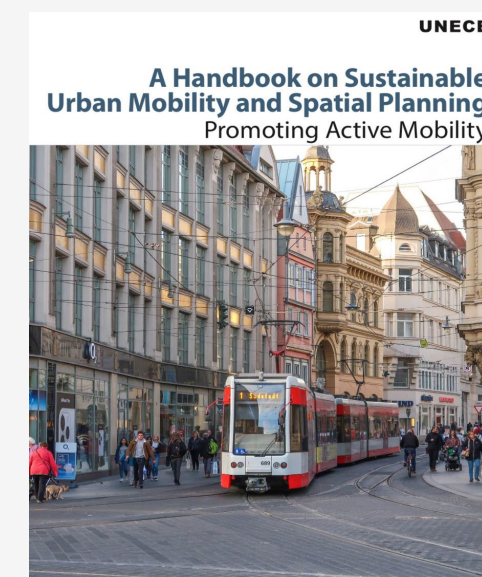
Source: Depositphotos 2018



Source: Depositphotos 2020



Source: Depositphotos 2019



# Legal instruments under ITC's purview



- European Agreement on Main International Railway Lines (**AGC**)
- European Agreement on Important International Combined Transport Lines and Related Installations (**AGTC**) and its Protocol on Combined Transport on Inland Waterways
- European Agreement on Main Inland Waterways of International Importance (**AGN**)
- European Agreement on Main International Traffic Arteries (**AGR**)
- Agreement concerning the Establishing of Global Technical Regulations for Wheeled Vehicles, Equipment and Parts which can be fitted and/or be used on Wheeled Vehicles (**1998 Agreement**)
- Customs Convention on the International Transport of Goods under Cover of TIR Carnets (**TIR Convention**) and **eTIR international system**

# Draft ITC climate change mitigation strategy outline



- I. Inland transport and climate
- II. ITC vision and mission on climate action – ***Overall aspirational goal of net zero emissions from the inland transport sector by 2050***
- III. Strategic objectives
- IV. ITC-administered instruments to assist in mitigating climate change
- V. ITC Climate Action Plan with milestones – *ITC to help deliver on climate goals*
- VI. List of priorities
- VII. Resource mobilization
- VIII. Strategic partnerships

# Partnerships



- Partnerships are important for the implementation of the strategy – *MSs, international organizations, NGOs and the private sector taking ambitious climate actions*
- ITC and its member States will seek to maintain and enhance global and regional partnerships with other UN and international organizations, NGOs and the private sector
- ITC will aim to provide a platform for collaboration and intersectoral exchange with stakeholders



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**Thank you!**

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