



UNECE



ESCAP
Economic and Social Commission
for Asia and the Pacific



DEPARTMENT OF
**ECONOMIC AND
SOCIAL AFFAIRS**

COP28 SDG Pavilion

Sustainable Transport Programme

Part I

**Combating Climate Change through Strong Transport sector
Mitigation and Adaptation Actions**

Dubai, 6 December 2023

09:35-10:50 AM

SDG Pavilion, Blue Zone (B7-88)

Background: The global transport sector has the highest reliance on fossil fuels of any sector and in 2021 accounted for almost one quarter of global greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. The road transport sector, including passenger cars, buses, heavy and light duty commercial vehicles, quite unlike other inland transport sub-sectors, such as rail and inland waterway transport, and much more than the aviation and maritime sectors combined, is a main polluter accounting for approximately 77 per cent of global transport related GHG emissions. Therefore, the road-based transport sector bears a unique responsibility in helping countries meet their climate change mitigation goals with solutions already available to drastically reduce its climate impact.

Objective: This high-level policy dialogue offers a unique platform for member States of United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) and United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) to take stock of ongoing and planned regulatory and practical efforts aimed at decarbonizing the transport sector, in particular inland transport, and at

strengthening transport system climate change preparedness through the adoption of appropriate adaptation and resilience measures.

Deliberations are expected to raise awareness of the importance of the transport sector in combating climate change, building resilience and promoting commitment to effective actions in this sector. The outcome will feed into the process for the finalization of the **UNECE Inland Transport Committee Strategy on Reducing Greenhouse Gas Emissions from Inland Transport** ahead of its envisaged endorsement in 2024, contribute to the development of the **ESCAP Regional Cooperation Mechanism on Low Carbon Transport**, as well as to inform and support other transport dialogues, such as the meetings of the ESCAP Committee on Transport, the annual ECE Inland Transport Committee sessions and other regional or global events.

Format: This high-level policy dialogue has been designed as a moderated discussion, with two rounds of questions for each speaker. Proposed questions are shown as follows.

- 1. Finalized in 2015, the Paris Agreement and the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development both represent universally approved policy visions and ambitious objectives. Connecting these two global processes will require coherent national development and implementation of policies that can achieve the sustainability and climate change targets. As transport plays a significant role in achieving both objectives, how can countries further advance sustainable transport development targets and the goals of the Paris Agreement at the same time?*
- 2. Regional and global cooperation and multistakeholder collaboration, including the strengthening of horizontal coordination across line ministries within national governments, remain key to the success of the implementation of low carbon and resilient transport policies. What are some examples where your country has engaged with different stakeholder groups or sectors to develop and implement low carbon and resilient transport policies?*
- 3. Changes in transport infrastructure and systems would be necessary for the transition to low or zero carbon transport. What are some policies that have been implemented to improve vehicles, infrastructure, and operations in your country, to ensure more sustainable, inclusive and resilient transport development?*
- 4. To ensure a just transition, what are the policies in place in your country to make sure low carbon mobility remains affordable and safe for all?*

PROGRAMME (75 min)

Opening session (15 min):

- **Ms. Tatiana Molcean**, Executive Secretary, United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE)
 - **Ms. Armida Salsiah Alisjahbana**, Executive Secretary, United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) (*video statement*)
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Panel discussion (50 min):

Moderator: Ms. Heather Thompson, CEO, Institute of Transportation and Development Policy (ITDP)

Speakers:

(Placed in alphabetical order of countries)

- **H.E. Mr. Keit Kasemets**, Secretary General, Ministry of Climate, Estonia
 - **H.E. Mr. Taitusi Vakadravuyaca**, Permanent Secretary for Public Works, Meteorological Services, and Transport, Fiji
 - **H.E. Ms. Afke van Rijn**, Vice Minister for the Environment, Kingdom of the Netherlands
 - **H.E. Mr. Mark Harper**, Secretary of State for Transport, United Kingdom
 - **H.E. Mr. Carlos Monje**, Under Secretary for Transportation Policy, United States of America
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Closing session (10 min)

- **Mr. Stelios Pesmajoglouof**, Manager, NCDs/LT LED, Impacts Assessment Support Subdivision, UNFCCC
 - Key discussion outputs and the way forward
 - Way forward in finalization of the Inland Transport Committee UNECE Inland Transport Committee Strategy on Reducing Greenhouse Gas Emissions from Inland Transport and its contribution to reaching the Paris Agreement targets, as well as the development of the ESCAP Regional Cooperation Mechanism on Low Carbon Transport
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Contacts

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About the Organizers**United Nations Economic Commission for Europe:**

UNECE includes 56 member States in Europe, North America and Asia. However, all interested United Nations member States may participate in the work of UNECE. Over 70 international professional organizations and other non-governmental organizations take part in its activities. The UNECE Inland Transport Committee (ITC), a global United Nations platform administering a broad range of legal instruments is considered by a growing group of member States as indispensable for the development of efficient, harmonized, and integrated, environmentally sound, safe, and sustainable inland transport systems. At its annual session in February 2023, ITC mandated the development of an ambitious strategy and action plan for mitigating greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from the sector for adoption at its session next year.

United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific:

ESCAP is the most inclusive intergovernmental platform in the Asia-Pacific region and promotes cooperation among its 53 member States and 9 associate members in pursuit of solutions to sustainable development challenges. The ESCAP secretariat supports inclusive, resilient and sustainable development in the region by generating action-oriented knowledge, and by providing technical assistance and capacity-building services in support of national development objectives, regional agreements and the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The Committee on Transport welcomed the establishment of the Regional Cooperation Mechanism on Low Carbon Transport to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from the transport sector, building upon the Regional Action Programme for Sustainable Transport Development in Asia and the Pacific (2022–2026) on its seventh session in November 2022.