Emerging opportunities for enhancing rail connectivity among SPECA countries

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Transport

Outline

- Background

- Accelerating rail digital transformation in SPECA countries

- Strengthening rail connectivity between SEA and NCA countries

1. Intergovernmental Agreement on Trans-Asian Railway Network

Trans-Asian Railway Network was developed by ESCAP members as a coordinated plan to develop a regional railway network to meet the growing needs of intra and interregional trade and transport

Formalized through intergovernmental agreement entered into force in 2009. Has now 21 contracting parties

The Working Group under the agreement provides a regional platform for the member countries to discuss persistent and emerging issues in international railway transport along the network. Seven meetings- focus on operational issues

ESCAP resolution 71/7 that adopted regional cooperation framework for facilitation of international railway transport in 2015

TRANS-ASIAN RAILWAY NETWORK

Track Gauges

- —— 1676
- —— 1520
- —— 1435/1520
- —— 1435
- —— 1067
- —— 1000/1676
- —— 1000/1435
- —— 1000
- - - - Planned / Under Construction
- ● Break of Gauge

ESCAP work on transport is mandated through a Regional Action Programme

ESCAP members adopted a new Regional Action Programme for Sustainable Transport Development in Asia and Pacific (2022-2026) with seven thematic areas and one of them is
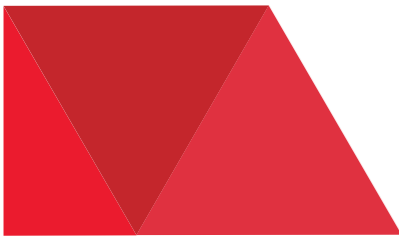
Digitalization of transport

that calls for, among others, *its promotion for shift towards smart transport networks* and increase awareness of ESCAP members while highlighting role of policy making and planning practices for adopting appropriate technological solution

Strategy 20303 on Accelerating Rail Digital Transformation in Asia-Pacific

Vision

Enhance sustainability of transport to support realization of Agenda 2030 on Sustainable Development

Outcome

Increase in freight and passenger transport by rail

Reduce green house gas emission from transport

SDG supported directly

Target 9.1; 9a quality, reliable, sustainable, and resilient infrastructure

Target 3.6 Road traffic accident

Target 7.3 Energy efficiency

Objectives - six

- ✓ Provide coherence and momentum to rail digitalization initiatives
- ✓ Foster an ecosystem to harnesses full potential of rail digitalization
- ✓ Augment the operational performance, capacity, reliability, safety, and security of rail assets
- ✓ Enhance customer experience including ease of doing business
- ✓ Create synergies through partnerships to digitalize rail
- ✓ Ensure high level political support on rail digitalization

Priority Areas- eight

1. Digital customer services
2. Digital communication technologies for rail-
3. Digital platforms for rail operations
4. Digital rail asset management including maintenance
5. Digital traffic management including signaling
6. Digitally integrated rail services
7. Digital rail business process

Priority Areas-eight

8. Digital rail border crossing-

Finalize suitable modality to harmonize digital exchange information practices in the region- *a new annex to intergovernmental agreement on TAR*

Simultaneously undertake pilot application of digital exchange of information such as electronic consignment note

Consider developing a digitally enabled regional transit regime for rail transport

Cross cutting issues-five

1. Enhance digital skills of rail officials: set up a regional capacity building programme on rail digital transformation supported by pool of experts

2. Increase investment in rail digitalization: establish a rail digital and innovation fund

3. Strengthen rail cyber security including data protection: develop a regional framework for rail cybersecurity

4. Use data analytics to support optimal decision making for planning and operating the rail network: prepare inventory of data analytics solutions at regional level

5. Heighten engagement with private sector: develop supportive legal and regulatory framework

Implementing and monitoring

Creating implementation mechanism/arrangements-formulate national and *sub-regional strategies on rail digitalization*

Measuring progress in rail digitalization- develop a rail digitalization index and a maturity profile for railways of the region
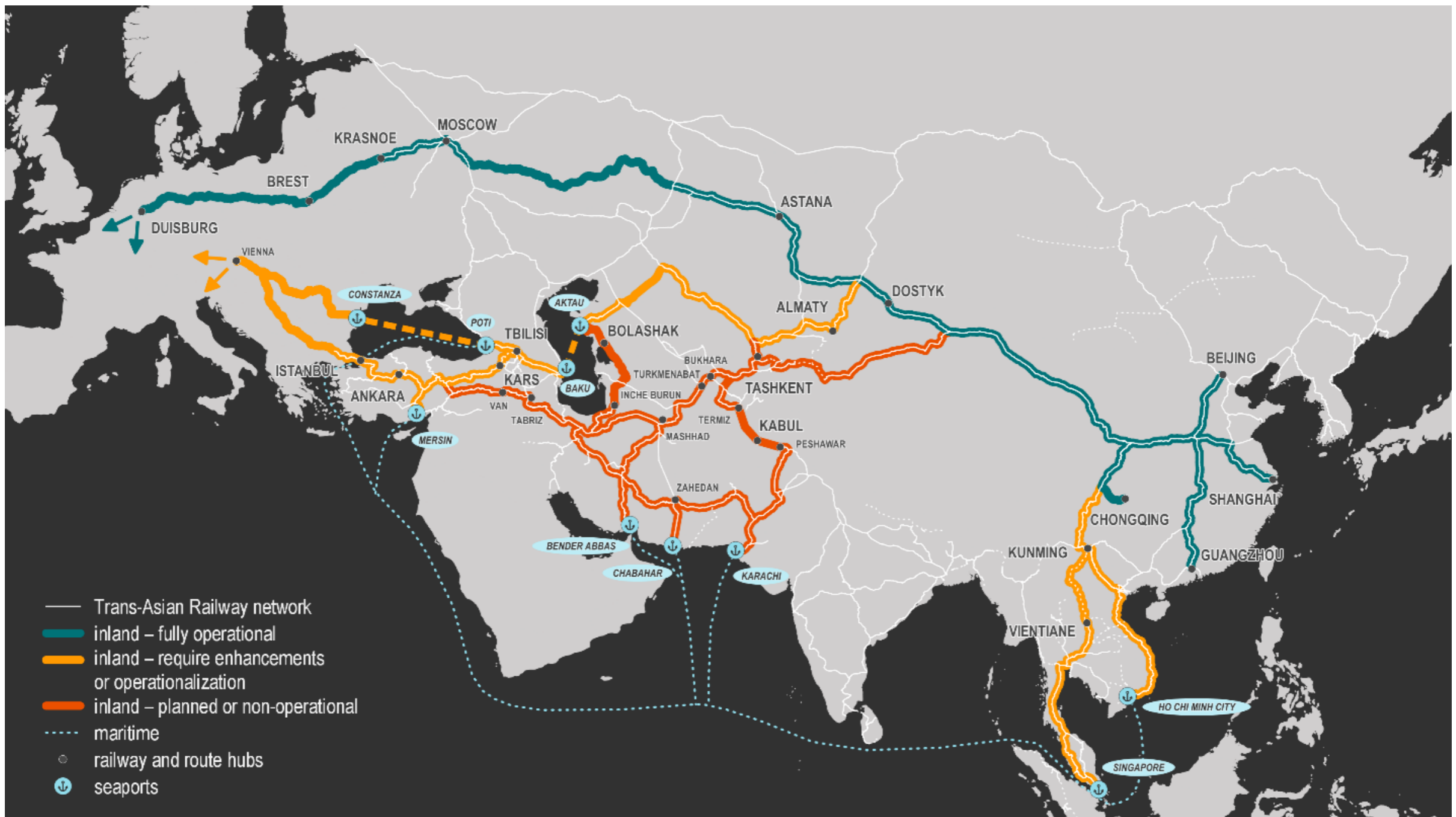
ESCAP-OSJD Joint document on potential of electronic information exchange to streamline customs formalities in international railway transport
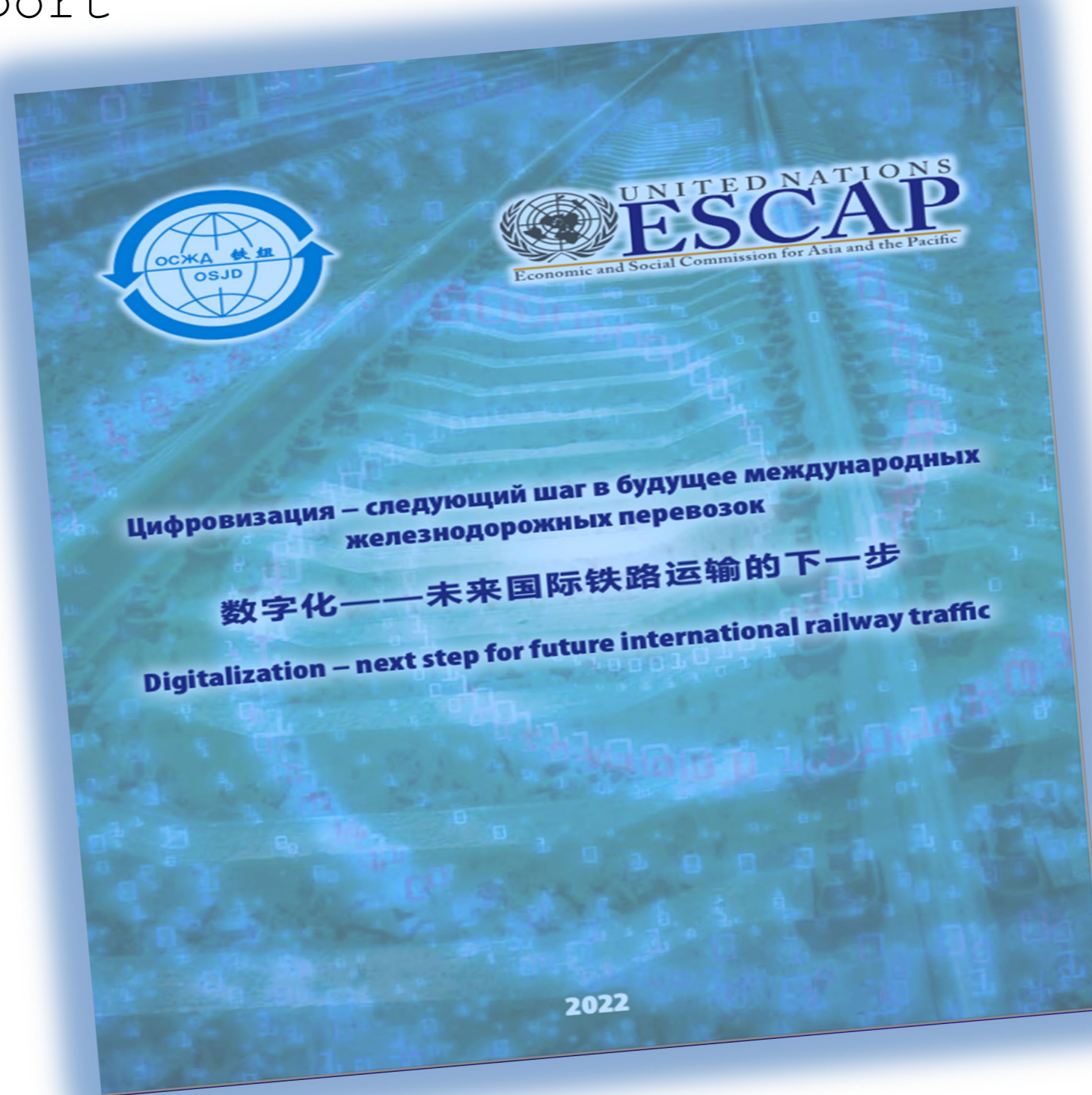
Leveraging the Trans-Asian Railway Network for a more efficient and resilient transport connectivity and logistics in ASEAN and beyond

Target groups: Ministry of Transport/ Railway authorities, other officials from border agencies including customs, railway operators, other stakeholders involved in international rail transport and transit among countries in Southeast Asia, China, and the North and Central Asia.

Duration: August 2023 – July 2026

Strategic partner:

Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Secretariat

Other partners:

Organization for Cooperation Between Railways (OSJD)

China Academy of Railway Sciences (CARS)

International Union of Railways (UIC)

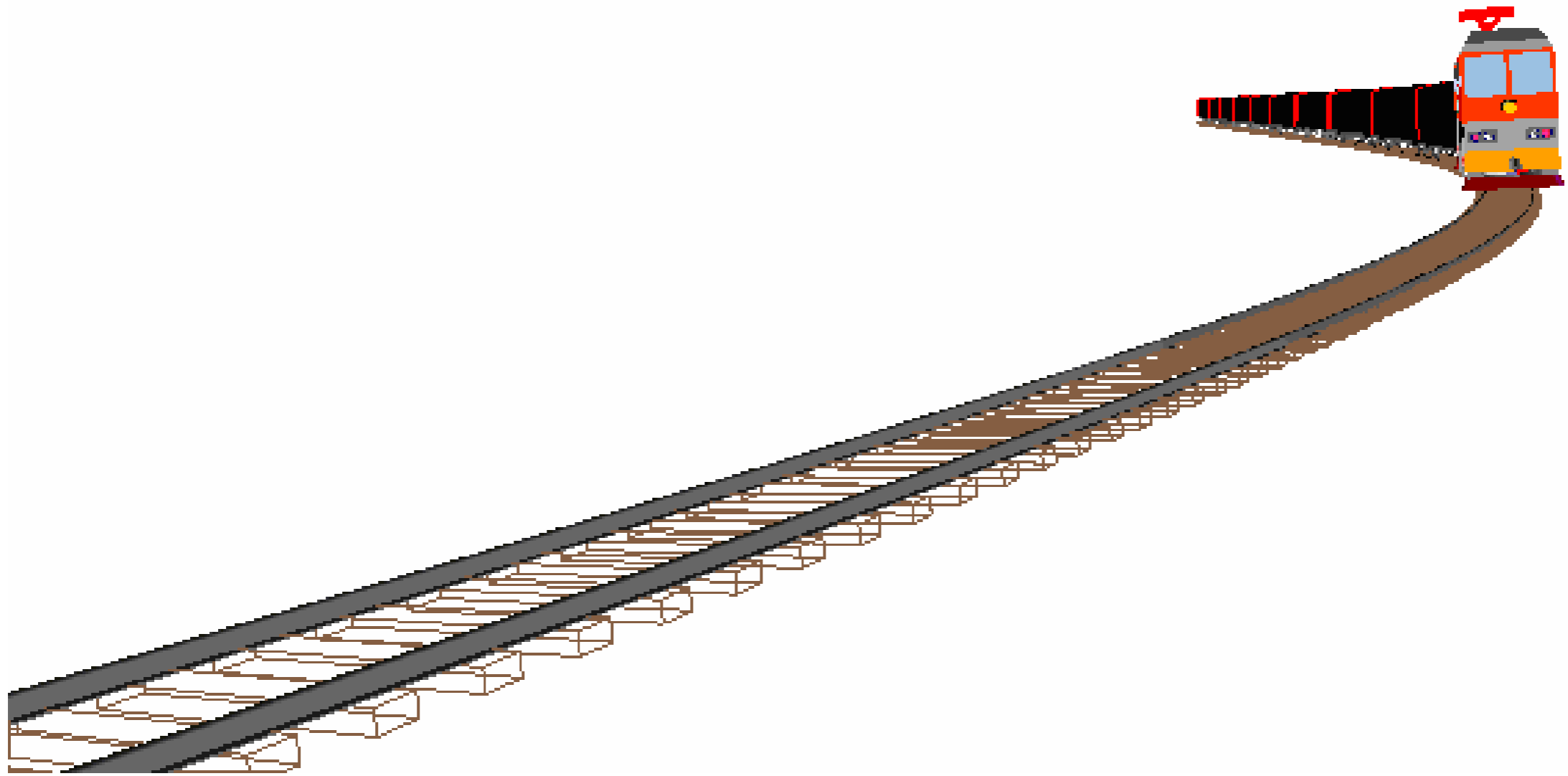*European Union Agency for Railways (ERA)*

Leveraging the Trans-Asian Railway Network for a more efficient and resilient transport connectivity and logistics
in ASEAN and beyond

Outcome B:

B. Transport policy makers in the target countries introduce specific measure(s) to operationalize transport linkages between Southeast Asia and North and Central Asia

Outputs

1. Transport policy makers in the target countries have access to a study defining priority transport linkages between Southeast Asia and North and Central Asia and options for operationalizing them.

2. Strengthened capacity of transport policy makers of target countries to develop initiatives to operationalize transport linkages between AMS and NCA, including those that benefit women and girls.

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http://www.unescap.org/our-work/transport