

**International Transport Forum Secretary-General Young Tae Kim Statement**

Environmentally sustainable transport system and services

ESCAP7 7th Transport Committee

Thursday 24 November, 10:30-12:00 Bangkok

Dear ESCAP Transport Committee members,

The International Transport Forum is a transport policy think tank and intergovernmental organization with 64 Member countries, represented by their Ministers of Transport. One of the ITF's focus areas since the signing of the Paris agreement has been the topic of decarbonizing transport. Since then, my team has been relentlessly supporting our members across the globe to define transport decarbonisation pathways and measures that will make a difference in their countries.

However, these efforts have not been enough. You are all aware of the climate emergency that the world is facing. Transport is significantly off track in meeting the Paris agreement goals and is one of the few sectors that shows continued CO2 emission increases.

Populations grow and economies grow - this will lead to further increases in transport demand till 2050. Globally, this demand will double or even triple – depending on the specific transport sector.

Our latest scenario assessments show that related emissions will increase by around 15% to 2050. While this shows that a decoupling of economic growth and transport emissions has been achieved,

significantly higher ambitions are needed to actually decrease transport emissions. If COP26 agendas with regard to the uptake of zero emission vehicles and fuels were fully delivered and on time, the sector could just about meet the Paris agreement targets. However, current national policy plans still do not reflect COP26 goals.

Last week, COP27 in Sharm El Sheik drew to a close. My team was present and did their best to highlight the role and responsibility of transport in decarbonizing our economies, and pointed to the need to increase ambition and implementation action in transport.

And indeed, COP27 proved to be an important moment for transport. The Egyptian COP Presidency launched its Low Carbon Transport for Urban Sustainability (L<sup>c</sup>O<sub>2</sub>TUS) initiative that aims at decarbonising urban transport systems worldwide and especially in the Global South. It is the first such initiative that fully acknowledges the importance of all AVOID, SHIFT and IMPROVE measures by a COP Presidency. As such, it directly links to the Sustainable Development goals and establishes a link between the two global agendas.

The LOTUS initiative also puts the financing of transport measures high on the agenda, which has been a roadblock to many countries of the Global South.

However, unfortunately, there remain a lot of uncertainties as to how the initiative will be implemented.

What has also been acknowledged throughout COP27 was the utmost importance of collaboration within and across country borders. Many best practice examples exist, be it with regard to how to regulate new transport services, how to finance the uptake of zero emission vehicles in emerging economies or other.

I therefore applaud the Committee to consider the establishment of a regional cooperation mechanism on low-carbon transport to reduce GHG from transport and to support the Asia-Pacific initiative on electric mobility. Any such mechanisms that foster learning from each other will accelerate the uptake of the right CO2 reduction measures in transport and avoid mistakes being made – mistakes for which no time is left.

The ITF stands ready to support such initiatives to our best ability.

Thank you.