

## **Statement of Republic of India**

### **Agenda 2 - Review of the implementation of the Regional Action Plan Programme for Sustainable Transport Development in Asia and the Pacific (2022 - 2026)**

Mr. Chair

Excellencies, and

Distinguished delegates

The role of transport connectivity in empowering people and ensuring inclusiveness and equality is significant in the Asia-Pacific region. As the world is recovering from the effects of Covid-19 pandemic, it is imperative to take action towards rejuvenation of the global economy by enhancing connectivity, which can play a pivotal role in reviving the economy to a great extent.

2. UNESCAP, as a regional UN Commission, has made significant contributions to the Asia-Pacific Region and India has actively engaged with UNESCAP on all its major regional initiatives, as the founding member. The Asia-Pacific region has benefitted from globalization and emerged as a significant pole of global economic activity. There remain, however, areas where the potential for trade and connectivity are yet to be fully realized.

3. India is fully committed to achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and is an active partner in discussions contributing to the Development Agenda and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in the ESCAP.

4. To improve efficiency and reduce costs in the logistics sector, Government of India has taken several initiatives to boost economic growth, improve exports, generate employment, and ensure environmental sustainability. An overarching framework is being developed for the logistics sector that will aim at creating a convergence of data, information, research, good practices, etc.

5. Government of India has introduced a National Master Plan for Multi-modal Connectivity called Prime Minister Gati Shakti, which is essentially a digital platform to bring 16 Ministries including Railways and Roadways together for integrated planning and coordinated implementation of infrastructure connectivity projects. The multi-modal

connectivity will provide integrated and seamless connectivity for movement of people, goods and services from one mode of transport to another. It will also facilitate the last mile connectivity of infrastructure and also reduce travel time for people.

7. Government of India is encouraging innovative ways of financing and faster implementation for building metro systems of appropriate type at scale in the country. Multimodal connectivity between mass urban transport and railway stations is being facilitated on priority. Design of metro systems, including civil structures, are being re-oriented and standardized for Indian conditions and needs.

8. Several initiatives have been taken by the Government of India to promote awareness about the various aspects of road safety as well as the social and economic implications of road accidents. This includes working towards creation of road safety information data base, ensure safer road infrastructure, safer vehicles, safer drivers, road traffic safety education and training, etc.

9. The Indian Railways has adopted digitalization in all aspects of its functions which include passenger data systems, passenger car factory mechanization, predictive maintenance, train signals, ground control systems, procurement, and unreserved ticketing methods. Real-Time Train Information System (RTIS) is being used by the Indian railways for computerised chart preparation and passenger train data.

10. India reiterates its strong support to regional cooperation for shared inclusive and sustainable transport development and connectivity in the Asia-Pacific region. I sincerely hope that discussions, in this forum, would lead to innovative ideas and practical solutions in prioritizing our future course of action.

Thank you Chair

\*\*\*\*