

**STATEMENT BY H.E. Mr. A.TUMUR, AMBASSADOR AND
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF MONGOLIA TO THE UNESCAP
AT THE 6TH MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORT**

Honourable Chair,
Distinguished delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

I wish to highlight the vitally important role being played by the UNESCAP in catalyzing mutual understanding and collaboration among member states towards strengthening regional economic cooperation and ensuring sustainable development of the transport sector in Asia and the Pacific.

For a land-locked nation like mine, the accession to the Intergovernmental Agreement on the Asian Highway Network, Trans-Asian Railway Network Agreement as well as Trilateral Intergovernmental Agreement on Road Transportation along the Asia Highway Network serve as a significant pre-condition for coordinating its planning efforts of its road and railway infrastructure as well as the implementation thereof in coordination with the regional transport cooperation initiatives.

Indeed, while these legal instruments together with the Asian Highway and Trans-Asian Railway networks and dry ports of international significance are well placed to facilitate the development of an international, integrated, intermodal transport and logistics system in Asia, Pacific, further efforts are needed to maximize the connectivity benefits and improve the performance of regional and global supply chains, especially in this challenging times of global pandemic.

However, despite these initiatives and projects as well as increasing national investments in transport infrastructure, we are still witnessing development gaps across member nations, with many countries in need to make additional efforts to fill the existing gap. One of the challenges that the developing countries face is the issue of investments. Large scale infrastructure projects with investment driven by transport policy goals that are integrated with sectoral development objectives, should be based on socio-economic cost-benefit assessment.

We are all aware that landlocked countries goal is to increase cooperation in areas such as infrastructure, transport, trade, port cities and free-trade zones as well as strengthening regional economic integration. As a landlocked country, which finds itself in further enhanced connectivity to the regional transport networks, Mongolia is striving to contribute to the Regional economic integration and realization of the ESCAP initiatives by putting forward a proposal of the construction of the new Highway corridor directly connecting our two neighbors. Thus, we are working with our partners on the feasibility study of the project and are grateful

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for the Secretariat for the consideration of our initiative to help in the process, which we believe, will be essential in drawing the attention of the investors.

As trade volume continue at balanced levels despite the pandemic, the enhanced transport networks in our region, we believe, would contribute to the increased freight and passenger turnover, offering shorter connection from Asia to Europe, as well as reduced costs and improved safety. In order to further enhance regional cooperation, reduce transit barriers, facilitate trade as well as ensure safe transport, further steps should be, including

- Enhanced cooperation in facilitating trade, transportation, customs, taxation and insurance in Asia and Europe,
- Further simplification, harmonization, standardization and modernization of trade procedures, including customs, border authorities and business organizations,
- Facilitating in attracting investments in transport infrastructure projects especially in developing countries, by supporting in the design of the Socio-economic cost-benefit assessment of such projects tailored to the national and regional context for economic development, as well as linked to national and regional policy goals.

Thank you for your attention.