



Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

Committee on Transport

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Item 2 of the provisional agenda *

**Review of the implementation of the Regional Action
Programme for Sustainable Transport Development in
Asia and the Pacific (2022–2026)****Activities implemented under the Regional Action
Programme for Sustainable Transport Development in Asia
and the Pacific (2022–2026)****

The secretariat is pleased to submit a summary of the activities implemented under the Regional Action Programme for Sustainable Transport Development in Asia and the Pacific (2022–2026), since the adoption of the Ministerial Declaration on Sustainable Transport Development in Asia and the Pacific in December 2021. It is intended to provide participants with additional information relating to item 2 of the provisional agenda on review of the implementation of the Regional Action Programme for Sustainable Transport Development in Asia and the Pacific (2022–2026) and its associated document (ESCAP/CTR/2022/1).

* ESCAP/CTR/2022/L.1.

** The present document is being issued without formal editing.

Summary of activities implemented by the secretariat under the Regional Action Programme for Sustainable Transport Development in Asia and the Pacific (2022–2026)

January to October 2022

Thematic area	No.	Activities	Summary of Progress
1. Regional land transport connectivity and logistics	1.1	Work towards the greater efficiency, sustainability, and resilience of the regional land transport network, as formalized by the Intergovernmental Agreements on the Asian Highway Network, the Trans-Asian Railway Network and Dry Ports	<p>Entry into force of the amendments to Annex I to the Intergovernmental Agreement on the Trans-Asian Railway Network and Annex I to the Intergovernmental Agreement on Asian Highway Network (29 April 2022)</p> <p>Consolidated versions of the three Intergovernmental Agreements incorporating amendments adopted by respective working groups in 2021 available at:</p> <p>Asian Highway Network; Trans-Asian Railway Network; and Dry Ports</p>
			<p>Report on “Strengthening capacity for operationalizing sustainable transport connectivity along the China-Central Asia-West Asia economic corridor to achieve the 2030 agenda” (completed, 2022)</p> <p>Technical guide on “Agreements on international road and railway transport along the corridor” (completed, 2022)</p> <p>Revision of “ESCAP model subregional agreement on transport facilitation” (completed, 2022)</p> <p>Analytical report on “Key legal implications of the COVID-19 crisis for commercial contracts in the ESCAP region and beyond” (completed, 2022)</p> <p>Policy segment on “Transforming Asia-Pacific trade and transport agreements and other initiatives to future proof supply chain connectivity in Asia and the Pacific” (as a side event during the 78th session of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, 24 May 2022)</p> <p>High-level policy discussion and side event on “Seamless and sustainable connectivity” (during the Third Ministerial Meeting on Regional Economic Integration and Cooperation, 28-30 September 2022)</p> <p>Setting up an “Interactive platform on the Asia-Pacific Transport Network” (on-going)</p>

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	1.2	Help to advance the efficiency, sustainability and resilience of land and multimodal transport corridors in the region	<p>“Guidelines for harmonization of national laws on multimodal transport in Asia and the Pacific” (completed, 2022)</p> <p>Two Expert Group Meetings on “Legal frameworks for multimodal transport in Asia and the Pacific” (March and June 2022)</p> <p>Training seminar on “Dry ports for Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) member States” (March 2022)</p> <p>ASEAN – ESCAP – ARISE plus joint webinar on “Streamlining customs formalities for international railway transport among the ASEAN member States” (February 2022)</p> <p>Working paper on “Mainstreaming inland waterways into national logistics network: national experience of Bangladesh” (completed, 2022)</p> <p>Three capacity building workshops on rail digitalization (planned, October to December 2022)</p>
	1.3	Contribute to enhancing the accessibility of the regional transport network with particular attention to the connectivity gaps adversely affecting landlocked developing countries and other countries with special needs	<p>Study on “Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan: transport connectivity, impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and Euro-Asian linkages” (completed, 2022)</p> <p>Report on “Transport outlook for North and Central Asia” (completed, 2022)</p> <p>Working Group on “Sustainable Transport, Transit and Connectivity under the United Nations Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia” (Tashkent, 26 and 27 October 2022)</p>
	1.4	Assist in improving the quality and inclusiveness of logistics services and overall competitiveness of the region’s logistic competencies through capacity-building activities for logistics services professionals, regular regional meetings of logistics service providers and their national associations and increase use of logistics information systems.	<p>“Technical modelling tool” (on-going)</p>

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			<p>Training manual on “Operational aspects of multimodal transport” (completed, 2022)</p> <p>Working paper on “Mind the gender gap in workforce, including transport and logistics: the perspective from Sri Lanka and beyond” (completed, 2022)</p> <p>“UNESCAP-PMTLAI Training-of-Trainers (TOT)” capacity building workshop (Manila, 7 July 2022)</p> <p>Regional conference for logistics services providers under the title of “Regional policy dialogue on transforming the logistics sector” (New Delhi, 15 July 2022)</p>
2. Maritime and interregional transport connectivity	2.1	Support a systematic regional dialogue on sustainable and resilient maritime connectivity, including the promotion of the development of low- and zero-emissions green shipping for Asia and the Pacific in close partnership with global and regional actors and the shipping industry.	<p>Thematic solution forum on “South-South and triangular cooperation for sustainable maritime transport and a green recovery” (during the Global South-South Development Expo, 12-14 September 2022)</p> <p>Status report on “sustainable and resilient ports and maritime connectivity in the Pacific region” (completed, 2022)</p> <p>Report on “Facilitating sustainable and resilient port development in the Pacific” (completed, 2022)</p> <p>Report on “Supporting a shift to greater sustainability in selected ports of Asia” (completed, 2022)</p> <p>Development of “Recommendations on the storage of dangerous goods in port areas” (on-going)</p>
	2.2	Assist small island developing States in meeting transport challenges and strengthening resilience to future shocks.	<p>Several new projects, advisory services, and capacity building programmes on facilitating access of small island developing States to global and regional supply chains (on-going)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sustainable maritime and port connectivity for resilient and efficient supply chains in the aftermath of COVID-19; • Facilitating sustainable and resilient port development to support sustainable maritime connectivity in Asia and the Pacific; • Improving the safety of navigation and the sustainability of shipping through the introduction of innovative autonomous shipping technologies in the Asia-Pacific region

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	2.3	Support an interregional multi-stakeholder forum for sustainable and resilient transport connectivity between Europe and Asia to bring together, on a regular basis, all concerned stakeholders, including governments, relevant organizations and institutions and the private sector.	Policy discussions on “Interregional land transport and on maritime connectivity” (22-23 June 2022 as part of a Regional Forum on Connecting to Global Supply Chains through Inter-Regional Land Corridors and Maritime Routes)
3. Digitalization of transport	3.1	Develop a regional road map for smart transport systems in Asia and the Pacific to support wider deployment of sustainable and resilient smart transport systems to improve efficiency.	Expert Group Meeting on “Developing a regional road map to support regional cooperation for the wider deployment of sustainable smart transport systems (Bangkok, 1 December 2022) Report on “Policy considerations towards a cooperative regional roadmap for sustainable smart transport systems in Asia and the Pacific” (completed, 2022)
	3.2	Use an evidence-based approach to promote and develop knowledge products on smart transport and related digital technology, such as intelligent transportation systems, to increase efficiency	Policy guidelines on smart mobility with case studies and policy recommendations (on-going)
	3.3	Increase awareness among members and associate members of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific about emerging technologies, including smart mobility, and highlight the important role that effective policymaking and planning practices have in the adoption of appropriate technological solutions.	Promotional activities for raising awareness <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • International Symposium on ITS (Kuala Lumpur, virtual, 18-20 July 2022)
	3.4	Scale up capacity-building programmes and assist members and associate members in formulating and implementing innovative urban and rural transport policies, comprehensive planning practices and strategies to promote the application of new technologies, including smart transport technologies	Study report including best practices on the use of highly or fully automated vehicles titled “Facilitating the deployment of highly and fully automated vehicles in road traffic along the Asian Highway Network” (completed, 2022) Inventory of policies, gaps and good practices on the digitalization of railway and multimodal transport in North and Central Asia (on-going)

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	3.5	Increase awareness among members and associate members about innovative policies and technologies to promote the use of big data to improve traffic and other urban transport issues	
	3.6	Promote new technologies, digitalization, smart transport solutions and electronic information exchange that respect data privacy and data protection to promote a shift towards smart transport networks	
	3.7	Enhance the application of new technologies and digitalization to streamline port activities	
	3.8	Increase the resilience, sustainability, and interconnection of maritime transport systems	Two national workshops on “Sustainable Maritime and Port Connectivity for Resilient and Efficient Supply Chains” (Phnom Penh, 6 September 2022; Hanoi, 8 September 2022)
	3.9	Increase awareness among members and associate members about autonomous navigation implementation through capacity building workshops	
4. Low carbon mobility and logistics	4.1	Establish a regional cooperation mechanism to promote low carbon transport, including a shift to electric mobility and clean energy technologies to contribute to transport emissions reductions.	Concepts of “Regional cooperation mechanism on low carbon transport and Asia-Pacific Initiative on Electric Mobility” developed and supported at a regional meeting (August 2022)
	4.2	Develop and implement low carbon transport projects, such as green infrastructure projects, to contribute to emissions reductions in combination with climate change action.	Countries updated their policy priorities on “Low carbon transport and electric mobility” at the regional meeting and national workshops
	4.3	Use an evidence-based approach to promote and develop knowledge products on low carbon transport, including electric mobility and other clean energy technologies	Working paper on “Low-hanging-fruits options for energy efficiency in freight transport sector” (completed, 2022)

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	4.4	Scale up capacity-building programmes and assist members and associate members in formulating policies and strategies to accelerate transport-related actions to meet the regional and global environmental commitments, including the relevant targets of the Sustainable Development Goals and the Paris Agreement, such as accelerating the transition to low carbon transport and the transition to electric mobility	<p>Four national consultation workshops on “Transitioning to electric mobility in public transport”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Georgia, 15 March 2022; • Lao People’s Democratic Republic, 3 June 2022; • Nepal, 18-19 May 2022; and • Thailand, 11 August 2022 <p>Regional Meeting on “Just transition to low carbon mobility in Asia and the Pacific (Bangkok and online, 10-11 August 2022)</p> <p>Subregional Consultation Meeting on “Low carbon transport for SEA and SSWA” (tentatively planned for the first week of November 2022)</p>
	4.5	Increase awareness among members and associate members about advanced clean and energy-efficient technology, including the deployment of clean road-vehicle technologies	<p>Project on “Enhancing energy efficiency of the freight transport sector in Asia and the Pacific” (ongoing)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Study research focusing on 3 main pillars as indicated in the project document, assessing different elements on modal shift, relevant policy and new technologies to achieve energy efficiency in the freight transport sector (on-going) to be shared through an expert group meeting (2023Q1)
	4.6	Contribute to decarbonizing global and regional supply chains	Project on “Supporting the policies on green and resilient transport infrastructure along the Asian Highway Network” (ongoing)
	4.7	Scale up capacity-building programmes to facilitate the implementation of international best practices in support of sustainable maritime connectivity	“Transport Outlooks on demand and carbon emissions for South and Southwest, Southeast, and North and Central Asia” (completed, 2022)
	4.8	Promote more-efficient logistics hubs to provide carbon abatements that substantially outweigh the additional freight emissions	
5. Urban transport	5.1	Extend the application of the sustainable urban transport index tool and assist members and associate members in improving urban transport and in tracking and comparing the sustainability performance of their urban transport systems	<p>Application of SUTI in Central Asia, North-East Asia, South-Asia, South-East Asia and the Pacific (Malaysia, Uzbekistan, Mongolia, Nepal, Lao PDR, Bangladesh, Kazakhstan, Tajikistan and Azerbaijan) as part of two XB projects and section 23 activity (on-going)</p> <p>“City mobility assessment” report including collection and analysis of existing policies and practices on gender and inclusive transport, and innovative solutions on integrated public and smart transport system (on-going)</p> <p>“Methodological guideline on planning integrated public transport systems and use of digital technologies” (on-going)</p>

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	5.2	Promote integrated urban and transport planning for efficient, sustainable, and resilient urban transport systems	Capacity building support provided to improve the resilience and inclusiveness of public transport systems in Ulaanbaatar (Mongolia), Kathmandu (Nepal) and Shah Alam (Malaysia) (on-going) Support for planning inclusive and innovative public transport to Vientiane, Baku, Pokhara (Nepal), and Darkhan (Mongolia) (planned)
	5.3	Use evidence-based approaches to promote and develop knowledge products	Policy guideline on “Transition on electric mobility in public transport” (ongoing) Support extended for national policies and initiatives on “electric mobility” introduced or planned (Nepal, Lao PDR, Thailand, Georgia, Cambodia, and Fiji) Study reports on “Shah Alam, Kathmandu and Ulaanbaatar urban transport” (on-going) Publication on “Tracking Sustainable Mobility in Asia-Pacific Cities” (on-going)
	5.4	Scale up capacity-building programmes and assist members and associate members in formulating and implementing innovative urban transport policies and strategies to promote active mobility, non-motorized transport, and the transition to low carbon transport	Capacity building support on urban public transport being extended to countries upon request - Nepal, Mongolia, and Malaysia Other countries also being supported for planning integrated, innovative, and inclusive public transport (on-going)
	5.5	Increase awareness among members and associate members about innovative policies and technologies to promote first- and last-mile accessibility for public transport users (e.g. micro mobility and ride-sharing solutions, such as bike-sharing and e-scooter-sharing).	
6. Road safety	6.1	Develop a regional plan of action for the Second Decade of Action for Road Safety 2021–2030 in line with the related Global Plan	“Regional Plan of Action for Asia and the Pacific for the Second Decade of Action for Road Safety 2021-2030” (ongoing) reviewed during the Regional Meeting on “The Regional Plan for the Decade of Action for Road Safety” (Bangkok and online, 9 and 10 August 2022)

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	6.2	Scale up capacity-building programmes and assist members and associate members in improving road safety	<p>UN Road Safety Fund</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project in the Lao People’s Democratic Republic towards improving the Driver Licensing System in the country (on-going) • Project in the Islamic Republic of Iran to strengthen the capacity of the Iranian National Road Safety Commission (NRSC) (on-going) • Under the 2022 Call for Proposals of the UN Road Safety Fund secretariat, three Concept Notes submitted by the ESCAP secretariat and two more Concept Notes where ESCAP would be partners of other UN Agencies have got selected by the Steering Committee of the UN Road Safety Fund.
	6.3	Periodically assess and monitor progress on the improvement of road safety in the Asia-Pacific region through analytical studies	Infographic on “The status of road safety in the Asia-Pacific region” (on-going)
	6.4	Use an evidence-based approach to promote and develop knowledge products	<p>Studies on “Road safety risk factors including speeding, motorcycle helmets, car seatbelts, and distraction caused by mobile phone use while driving” (reviewed during the Expert Group Meeting on “Improving Road Safety” (9-10 August 2022) (completed, 2022)</p> <p>Technical material on “Distraction caused by mobile phone use while driving” (on-going)</p>
	6.5	Increase awareness among members and associate members about utilizing smart transport systems and emergency response communication systems based on global navigation satellite systems to improve road safety	<p>Establishment of the “Asia-Pacific Road Safety Observatory (APRSO)” as a regional forum on road safety data, policies, and practices across the region (completed)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2nd Meeting of the APRSO member countries (Manila, 23-25 October 2022), under the leadership of ADB with joint initiative of ESCAP and other development partner
	6.6	Provide road safety by expanding public transport, with special attention to the needs of those in vulnerable situations, including women, children, persons with disabilities and older persons	
7. Inclusive transport and mobility	7.1	Identify transport policy measures that can support the reduction of poverty and inequality, including through improved access to and affordability of transport	Project on “Enhancing social inclusion and innovations in urban transport systems in Asia-Pacific cities” being implemented and compilation of best practices to address social inclusion in transport (on-going)
	7.2	Develop regional transport accessibility guidelines incorporating best practices that can support the reduction of poverty and inequality	

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	7.3	Promote policies/frameworks to improve rural, rural-urban, and peri-urban accessibility	
	7.4	Assist members and associate members in developing actionable policies and strategies to improve rural transport.	
	7.5	Help to incorporate social impact assessments into the development of regional transport policies	Expert Group Meeting on “Inclusive and innovative public transport” and related national capacity building workshops in pilot cities (planned)
	7.6	Promote regional measures to assess and address transport challenges faced by vulnerable people, including in response to climate change impacts and related adaptive capacities and improvement of methods for addressing related challenges	Development of a “Regional guideline to enhance social inclusion in public transport” (on-going)
	7.7	Support the training and development of a robust human resource base in the transport sector by engaging academic and practitioner resources	Establishment of the “Transport Research and Education Network” (completed); and work on developing and planning of the TREN activities to extend support to and enhance collaboration with and between countries (on-going)
	7.8	Strengthen the implementation of gender-sensitive initiatives for effective climate action in transport	Collection of gender and inclusive data related to urban mobility in pilot cities and countries (on-going)
	7.9	Strengthen rural-urban linkages and guarantee transport services and access for all social groups, taking into account transport challenges facing vulnerable groups	Project on “Enhancing social inclusion and innovations in urban transport systems in Asia-Pacific cities” with the target countries including Azerbaijan, Lao PDR, Mongolia, and Nepal, to enhance accessibility, inclusiveness and innovation while planning urban public transport systems (on-going)
	7.10	Protect the poor and vulnerable groups against adverse changes in transport policies	Compilation of best practices, practical guidelines and policy briefs on inclusive transport and innovation (on-going)