

Agenda Item 3: Major issues in transport

Efficient and resilient transport and logistics networks and mobility for economic growth

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23 November 2022**

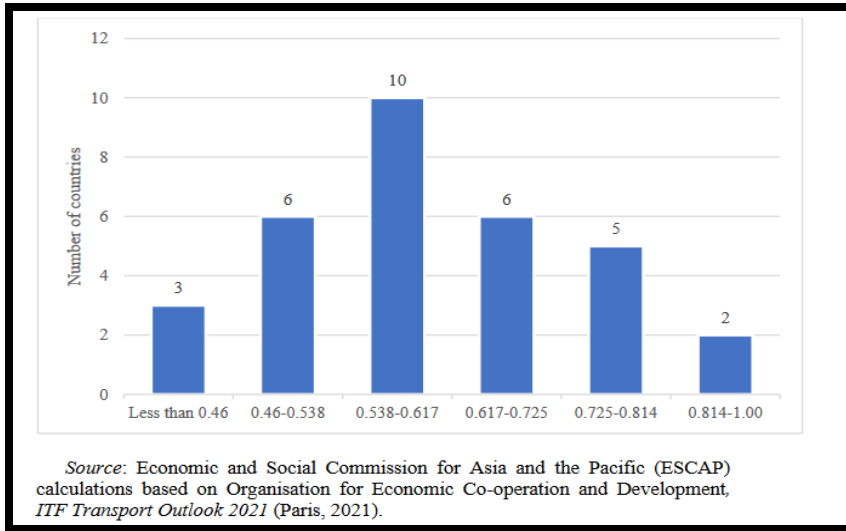


Documents for consideration

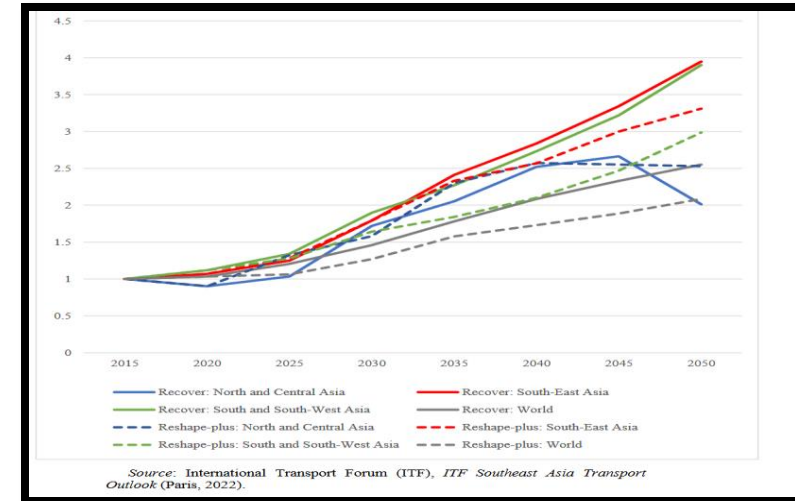
- ❑ Efficient and resilient transport and logistics networks and mobility for economic growth (ESCAP/CTR/2022/2)
 - ❑ A note by the secretariat covering
 - ❑ Recent developments in Asia and the Pacific that influence the resilience and efficiency of international freight operations
 - ❑ Implementation of the Intergovernmental Agreements on the Asian Highway Network, the Trans-Asian Railway Network and Dry Ports
 - ❑ Issues related to sustainable and resilient maritime connectivity and land transport connectivity between Europe and Asia
- ❑ Encouraging a regional approach to sustainable multimodal freight transport in Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP/CTR/2022/3)
 - ❑ Prepared in accordance with the Ministerial Declaration which called for supporting a harmonized regional approach in this area
 - ❑ Describing the state of sustainable freight transport in Asia and the Pacific
 - ❑ Proposing Ten Guiding principles on enhancing sustainable freight transport in Asia and the Pacific

I. Efficient and resilient transport and logistics networks and mobility for economic growth : CONTEXT

Connectivity level index of selected Asia-Pacific countries, 2021



Relative growth in freight activity in Asia and the world



- ❑ Connectivity levels remain heterogenous across the region and countries in special situations are particularly impacted by the recent and ongoing shocks to connectivity
- ❑ The pandemic is not expected to reverse or stop the projected freight growth in Asia
- ❑ Efficient and resilient multimodal transport is essential for meeting the current and future freight demand

I. Efficient and resilient transport and logistics networks and mobility for economic growth : LAND CONNECTIVITY

Special focus on:

- ❑ **Continued progress** in the coordinated infrastructure development along the AH and TAR networks and in the dry port development
- ❑ **Digitalization** leads to renewed efforts in facilitating transport and harmonizing operational standards, as appropriate, including cross-border and transit requirements. A rail digitalization strategy is a key recommendation. A new annex to the TAR Agreement is to be considered by Parties.
- ❑ ESCAP Model Subregional Agreement on Transport Facilitation now contains **crisis related provisions**
- ❑ Support to **multimodal transport corridors** and operations through the finalization the “**Guidelines for harmonization of national laws on multimodal transport in Asia and the Pacific**”.

- ❑ **Support to countries in special situation**
- ❑ **Inclusiveness and quality of the logistics sector**
- ❑ **Evidence-based approaches in the development of the regional transport system**



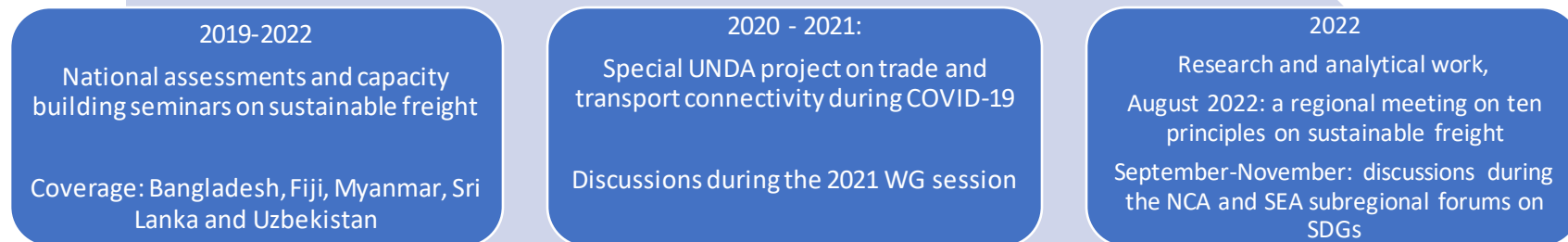
I. Efficient and resilient transport and logistics networks and mobility for economic growth : MARITIME and INTER-REGIONAL CONNECTIVITY

	Challenges	Opportunities	Recommendations
Interregional transport connectivity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mismatched and ill-equipped inter-country connections, Physical obstacles and non-physical barriers at border crossing points, The COVID-19 pandemic Geopolitical developments 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Digital solutions for seamless operation of land and multimodal transport routes Simplification and harmonization of rules regulations for transport routes/corridors Promotion on planning of possibilities of using, where possible, multiple routes for goods transportation and advanced multimodal transport solutions. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continued provision of support to inter-regional dialogue Continued technical assistance on transport corridors Strengthened cooperation with implementation partners Further development of the overall concept and policy frameworks for more environmentally sustainable (or green) transport corridors.
Sustainable maritime connectivity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bridging connectivity gaps Ensuring resilience and environmental sustainability of the maritime and port transport Shortage of skilled workers in specialized and high-tech fields Insufficient data and analysis 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Comprehensive, long-term and tailored maritime transport development strategies Concrete environmentally sustainable (or green) shipping initiatives, such as green shipping corridors 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regular regional forum on sustainable maritime connectivity to disseminate best practices and identify opportunities for strengthened regional cooperation Regional approach to green shipping corridors Additional research on maritime connectivity, especially between ASEAN and the Pacific region

Source: Asia-Pacific Regional Forum on Connecting to Global Supply Chains through Interregional Land Corridors and Maritime Routes (22 and 23 June 2022)

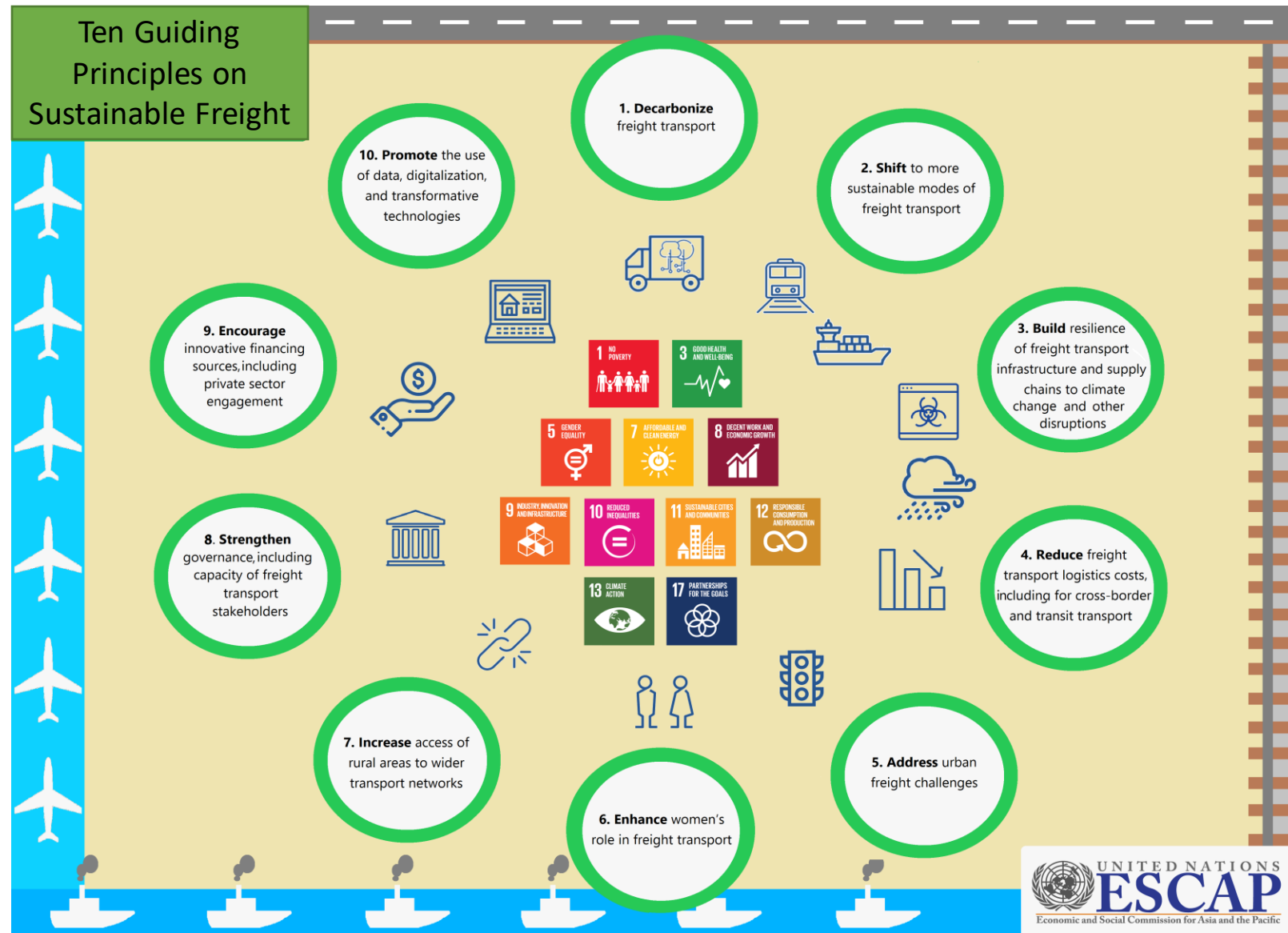
II. Enhancing sustainable freight transport in Asia and the Pacific

- ❑ Increased importance of sustainable freight during the decade of action for the Sustainable Development Goal
- ❑ 2020: COT, 6th session, recommended that concrete collaborative initiatives on sustainable freight be taken up within the ESCAP regional mechanisms
- ❑ 2021, May-June: The intergovernmental Working Groups on the Asian Highway, Trans-Asian Railways and Dry ports discuss and support a regional approach on sustainable freight
- ❑ 2021, December: the MCT4 Ministerial Declaration calls for supporting a harmonized regional approach in this area



II. Objectives and scope of the guiding principles

- Deepen the linkages of policies and strategies on freight transport with the realization of Agenda 2030 by consolidating priority actions on sustainable freight transport
- Ramp up funding, technical assistance, and capacity building on sustainable freight transport through partnerships and multistakeholder collaboration;
- Fortify the political affirmation for urgent measures to deepen freight sustainability in Asia and the Pacific in the decade of action for sustainable development goals



Issues for consideration

- ❑ Provide **feedback and guidance to the secretariat** on ongoing and planned activities on efficient and resilient transport and logistics networks, including the **proposal on a new TAR annex** on electronic information exchange
- ❑ Welcome the **Guidelines for harmonization of national laws on multimodal transport operations in Asia and the Pacific** and the revised **Model Subregional Agreement on Transport Facilitation**
- ❑ Call for renewed support to enhance the **transport connectivity of the countries in special situations**, including through initiatives such as the creation of a regional strategy to accelerate **rail digital transformation** in Asia and the Pacific;
- ❑ Welcome the initiative to establish the **interactive platform on the Asia-Pacific Transport Network**, and request members and associate members to work closely with the secretariat on finalizing the content
- ❑ Take note of the conclusions of the Regional Forum on Connecting to Global Supply Chains, requesting the secretariat to follow up on the proposal to create a **regional approach to green shipping corridors** and to continue **supporting the initiatives to develop land and multimodal transport corridors**
- ❑ Consider endorsing the 10 **Guiding Principles on sustainable freight transport** in Asia and the Pacific

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