

## ECE instruments to respond to the COVID-19 crisis

The spread of the COVID-19 pandemic represents an unprecedented challenge that is leaving no country untouched. It is putting enormous pressure on health systems and deeply disrupting economic activity. Closure of borders and mobility restrictions are severely impacting transport and trade, compounding the economic malaise and affecting delivery of critical supplies. Above all, the pandemic is creating untold human suffering, as illness and income loss affects the life of many, tearing apart the fabric of our societies.

We need an emergency response to deal with the immediate consequences but, as the recently released Secretary General Report on Socio-economic impact of COVID-19 states, “while we deal with the crisis, we must use the opportunity to recover better and build sustainable societies”.

ECE’s contribution to address this crisis and its consequences includes some instruments that are relevant in this emergency situation and many others that can be used to reduce risk and “recover better”.

Our Action Framework for Responses to the COVID-19 crisis include three main pillars, as detailed below:

- Facilitate connectivity
- Address transboundary and other risks
- Support a green and resilient recovery

### ECE Action Framework for Responses to the COVID-19 crisis

Facilitate connectivity	Address transboundary and other risks	Support a green and resilient recovery
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Enhance cooperation and implementation of a harmonized regulatory framework for border crossing</li><li>• Promote digital implementation of existing legal transport instruments</li><li>• Facilitate trade through the exchange of electronic information</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Promote the use of existing multilateral environmental agreements to deal with various risks.</li><li>• Foster transparency, traceability and risk management through the use of standards</li><li>• Promote and enhance statistical frameworks to improve the basis for decision-making, including in relation to disasters</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Enhance resilience and efficiency through improved resource use, including through circular economy approaches</li><li>• Address the implication of the crisis in urban centers and engage cities as drivers of the recovery</li><li>• Promote sustainable infrastructure, including through private sector participation</li></ul>

Some instruments ECE can offer are highlighted in the rest of this document. A full listing can be seen in the accompanying searchable spreadsheet.

## FACILITATE CONNECTIVITY

### Emergency instruments

#### Observatory on Border Crossings Status due to COVID-19

- UNECE launched and facilitates an “Observatory on Border Crossings Status due to COVID-19” which gathers all updated information regarding border crossing limitations worldwide. The Observatory is being supported by all UN Regional Commissions (ESCAP, ECLAC, ESCWA and ECA), the International Transport Forum (ITF), the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO Secretariat) and the International Road Transport Union (IRU).

The main objective of the Observatory is to be a knowledge sharing platform in order to keep the borders open for inland transport and facilitate the movement of goods. The transport sector is being informed about measures imposed by different governments adapting their itineraries / transport solutions accordingly. The Governments are being informed about good practices implemented by other Governments, ensuring that borders are open facilitating the flows of goods while not permitting the spread of the virus.

Information is publicly available.

#### e-TIR

- Use of key features of eTIR to minimize the spread of COVID-19 and facilitate the transboundary movements of goods.

While the legal provisions for eTIR (Annex 11 of the TIR Convention), which have been approved by the TIR Administrative Committee in February 2020, will only enter into force in June 2021, eTIR pilot projects have already been launched and demonstrated in practice that a global electronic transit system can function seamlessly to the satisfaction of both customs administrations and transport companies alike.

In the short term, the use of key features of eTIR will greatly help mitigate the propagation and the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. eTIR can not only minimise the physical contact between customs officers and truck drivers resulting from the handling of paper documents but could also allow the establishment of green lanes to speed up the transport of vital goods, such as food and pharmaceuticals.

In the longer term, a global modern instrument such as the TIR Convention, in particular after the entry into force of its Annex 11, could play an essential role in accelerating the recovery of economies hard hit by the severe recession likely to follow the COVID-19 pandemic. More than ever, efficient and secure trade and transport will play an essential role to rebuild the economic sectors hit hardest by the recession. The TIR Convention and the eTIR procedure will certainly help avoiding unnecessary delays and costs of border crossings.

## Medium and long-term measures

### Trade dematerialization

- **UN/CEFACT tools**

These tools include Single Window, Single Submission Portals, eBusiness standards, Data Pipeline, Internet of Things / Smart Containers, instruments for e-business (electronic documents such as eCMR, e-Invoice, reference data models, etc.). If done in a way that does not require person-to-person contact, trade facilitation implementation can contribute to reducing the spread of the virus (e.g. dematerialization of exchanges that can reduce physical contact). For example, data Pipeline allows to collaborate at a distance, Internet of Things / Smart Containers can capture information from objects without any human intervention.

### Barriers to trade

- **ECE studies on regulatory barriers to trade**

ECE studies on regulatory and procedural barriers to trade assist countries to harness trade (and integration into regional and global value chains) as a tool to achieve the SDGs. Trade will take a centre stage in the economic re-building after the crisis.

## ADDRESS TRANSBOUNDARY AND OTHER RISKS

### Emergency instruments

#### UN/EDIFACT Health-Insurance Standards

- UN/EDIFACT Health Insurance Standards facilitate the exchanges between medical providers. These include messages for medical prescriptions, medical service requests, medical service reports, health care claims.

#### Water Convention and Protocol on Water and Health

- Support to countries in water-related elements of the COVID-response and recovery, by making available guidance material on hygiene, preventing water pollution, disaster risk prevention preparedness and response etc. This will include a webpage on the ECE website with existing guidance material, sending out a communication, article(s), organizing sessions at upcoming events, possibly webinars (exact activities to be discussed with partners, including WHO-Europe).

### Statistics

- Compilation of consumer price statistics in extraordinary circumstances

ECE offers a [wiki page](#) with guidance on continuing compilation of consumer statistics. Measuring the evolution of prices provides a key economic indicator for all countries. Whilst there have been limited moves to automate price collection through methods such as web

scraping, or analysing point of sales data, most price data are still collected by staff of national statistical offices going into shops and markets to record prices for various goods. This is not feasible during lock-down situations, when many shops and markets are closed, and movements are restricted. This wiki page gives guidance and promotes sharing of ideas on how to continue producing this key economic indicator during the crisis.

- Recommendations on the Role of Official Statistics in Measuring Hazardous Events and Disasters (<http://www.unece.org/index.php?id=53838>)

The Recommendations clarify the role of national statistical offices and other members of the national statistical system in providing information related to hazardous events and disasters (including virus pandemics). It identifies practical steps that these organisations can take, in coordination with national agencies responsible for disaster risk management, to better support disaster risk management efforts. Official statistics in every country holds a wealth of information that may be applied in all phases of disaster risk management. E.g. information on population (age structure, location, disabilities, other vulnerabilities etc.) can help to better prepare and target the medical response to the pandemic. Economic and social statistics will be needed in the aftermath to evaluate the impact of the crisis. However, national statistical systems are often not involved in supporting disaster risk management to the extent they could be and these Recommendations aim to change that.

## Medium and long-term measures

### Food loss and waste

- ECE work on food loss/waste with its three-pronged approach: the App, the Code, the website (in preparation).

ECE work on food-loss offers a systematic approach and targeted solutions for reducing food-loss along the supply chains (e.g. improving the measurement of the food loss and waste, and ensuring better handling of the products at each stage of the supply chain). In times of crisis, it is even more important to ensure food supply and avoid panic.

### Disaster risk management

- ECE tools on disaster risk management techniques

UNECE risk management guidance and best practice support regulatory authorities to manage the risks that confront consumers, citizens and communities. The general recommendation on the use of risk management tools in regulatory systems is “Managing Risk in Regulatory Frameworks”. More specific recommendations are contained in “Crisis Management within a Regulatory Framework”

### Strategic Environmental Assessment

- Protocol on Strategic Environmental Assessment

It ensures that environmental and health considerations are taken into account in the planning of economic and regional development activities, including through obligatory consultation of environmental and health authorities, and the public. It provides decision-makers early warning

of unsustainable options and contributes to the reduction and management of health risks, considering effects that are direct and indirect, secondary, cumulative, synergistic, short-, medium- and long-term, permanent and temporary, positive and negative. It also allows for a cohesive, integrated (national scale) approach that goes beyond the limits of the individual economic sectors. The Protocol contributes to building healthier, more sustainable and more resilient societies, including against future outbreaks of viruses. Moreover, in principle, the countries could choose to consider health risks and mitigation measures for pandemics as part of their planning processes.

### Aarhus Convention

Support to countries in: (a) providing effective public access to information related to COVID-19 matters, related impacts on biodiversity and ecosystems, on other objects of the environment and on human health; (b) ensuring effective procedures of public participation in decision-making on e.g. legislation, plans, policies and projects related to these matters, by making available guidance material developed under the Convention. This will include a webpage on the ECE website with existing guidance material, organizing thematic sessions at upcoming events (exact activities to be defined and discussed with relevant partners). The above is also relevant for measures supporting a green and resilient recovery.

## **SUPPORT A GREEN AND RESILIENT RECOVERY**

### **Medium and long-term measures**

#### Smart and sustainable cities

- UNECE/ITU Key Performance Indicators for Smart Sustainable Cities, smart sustainable cities profiles, smart sustainable city action plan.

Performance evaluation of cities allows to promote holistic management of cities, promoting innovation in cities, including for the better preparedness of cities to crises situations. For instance, as a result of the preparation of the smart sustainable city profile [Voznesensk](#), Ukraine, local policies for strengthening the health system were elaborated and implemented.

#### Public-private partnerships

- Guiding Principles on People-first PPPs for the SDGs

Adopted by the member States in 2019, the [guiding principles](#) consider resilience as a key aspect in the design of infrastructure and the delivery of public services, and an essential feature of People-first PPPs. Resilience should be prioritized in legislation (principle No. 4), in project selection criteria (principle No. 7), and improve environmental sustainability (principle No. 8). Resilient infrastructure and public services are key ingredients for sustainability in the face of epidemics (eg COVID 19) and other emergencies (eg droughts, floods, fires, water

shortages, soil erosion, industrial accidents, etc.). COVID 19 angle: resilience in health systems and in water supply (eg hand washing).

### Forest Landscape Restoration

- ECE activities, including support to [ECCA30](#)

Restoring degraded and deforested landscapes using the Forest Landscape Restoration approach is the cost-effective long-term sustainable nature-based solution. It has multiple social, economic and environmental benefits. It will facilitate creation of new green jobs, development of eco-touring and overall will support an integrated rural development by involving local communities on transboundary issues. In the post-COVID-19 period, forest restoration can highly contribute to preserve ecosystems needed to prevent pandemic disruptions.

### Ageing

- Guidelines on Mainstreaming Ageing

The guidelines provide practical tools and methods of integrating ageing-related issues, including the needs of older persons, into all policy measures, including emergency planning and response. The aim is to ensure that the specific needs of older persons are taken into account in emergency plans, response and recovery.

### Resource use

- United Nations Framework Classification for Resources (UNFC) and United Nations Resource Management System (UNRMS)

Several critical materials are required in the production of medical equipment and supplies. Testing, diagnostics and treatment are being severely hampered due to supply-chain disruptions. Mass-scale vaccine development will also require several critical raw materials. UNFC and UNRMS can be used to build knowledge-based systems for assuring diverse supply-chains (local, regional, global) for critical raw materials that are needed for the health emergency and for sustained vigilance. The same systems could be continued for medium and long-term rebuilding of the economy and ensuring resilience.

### Innovation

- Innovation for Sustainable Development Reviews

Innovation (public and private, including cross-industry) can contribute to the immediate and short-term pandemic response and to long term resilience. While the focus may now be on high-end/top-notch research to combat the virus, the better countries' specific innovation systems, the better they will embody, apply, adapt high-end solutions (e.g. help leverage latest advances in scientific research). Following the crisis, innovation can offer solutions to rebuild the economy in a more sustainable and resilient way.

Action pillar	Area	Type of measures	Name of instrument	Country/sub-region	Responsible Ministry	Justification
Address transboundary and other risks	Water	Emergency	Safe handwashing practices in institutional settings (hospitals, schools, workplaces) promoted by the Protocol on Water and Health	UNECE region and at national level	Ministry of Environment and Ministry of Health	The provision of safe water, sanitation and adequate hygiene is essential to protecting human health during all infectious disease outbreaks. Safe hygiene standards require a continuous and adequate supply of safe water, and sanitation systems that are operational even under stress or challenging conditions, such as under a changing climate. UNECE-WHO Regional Office for Europe Protocol on Water and Health is a legally-binding agreement for countries of the pan-European region that provides guidance and facilitates sharing of best practices supporting countries in setting national objectives in the areas of institutional WASH, safe management of sanitation, including in small scale supplies, and increasing resilience of water and sanitation infrastructure to climate change. The Protocol has also developed concrete tools to promote government uptake in policy and practice of best handwashing practices in institutional settings (schools, hospitals and workplaces) in order to slow down the transmission of the current pandemic of COVID-19 and prevent possible future spread of this and other infectious diseases, ensuring that no one is left behind
Address transboundary and other risks	Water	Medium/Long-term	Protocol on Water and Health- Support countries in setting national objectives in the areas of institutional WASH, safe management of sanitation, including in small scale supplies, and increasing resilience of water and sanitation infrastructure to climate change	UNECE region and at national level	Ministry of Environment and Ministry of Health	The provision of safe water, sanitation and adequate hygiene is essential to protecting human health during all infectious disease outbreaks. Safe hygiene standards require a continuous and adequate supply of safe water, and sanitation systems that are operational even under stress or challenging conditions, such as under a changing climate. UNECE-WHO Regional Office for Europe Protocol on Water and Health is a legally-binding agreement for countries of the pan-European region that provides guidance and facilitates sharing of best practices supporting countries in setting national objectives in the areas of institutional WASH, safe management of sanitation, including in small scale supplies, and increasing resilience of water and sanitation infrastructure to climate change. The Protocol has also developed concrete tools to promote government uptake in policy and practice of best handwashing practices in institutional settings (schools, hospitals and workplaces) in order to slow down the transmission of the current pandemic of COVID-19 and prevent possible future spread of this and other infectious diseases, ensuring that no one is left behind
Address transboundary and other risks	Water	Emergency	Water Convention and Protocol on Water and Health-Support countries in water-related elements of the COVID-response and recovery, by making available guidance material on hygiene, preventing water pollution, disaster risk prevention preparedness and response etc. This will include a website on our page with existing guidance material, sending out a communication, article(s), organizing sessions at upcoming events, possibly webinars (exact activities to be discussed with partners, including WHO-Europe)	UNECE region and worldwide	Ministry of Water, environment and health	The provision of safe water, sanitation and adequate hygiene is essential to protecting human health during all infectious disease outbreaks. Safe hygiene standards require a continuous and adequate supply of safe water, and sanitation systems that are operational even under stress or challenging conditions, such as under a changing climate. Also transboundary water cooperation and good water management, preventing pollution is crucial at the national level.
Address transboundary and other risks	Water	Medium/Long-term	Development of a checklist for developing transboundary agreements in 2020-2021, including health aspects: Agreements and joint bodies created under the UNECE Water Convention are key instruments to address pressing issues of transboundary water management. The Convention supports countries to develop and revise such agreements and establish joint institutions.	worldwide	Ministry in charge of water and environment	Measures that countries need to take in order to tackle COVID-19 crisis (e.g. increased water intake for disinfection during the crisis or increased intake after the crisis in support of economic development) may increase the pressures on transboundary water resources, especially in the long run if available quantity or quality of water is jeopardised. On the other hand, health and water quality aspects could be discussed in basin agreements

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Address transboundary and other risks	Water	Medium/Long-term	Ensure availability of water (needed e.g. for hygiene) across borders between sectors and countries through the Water Convention	global	Ministry of Water, Ministry of Environment, Foreign Affairs, river basin organizations	The Water Convention helps to provide sufficient water for hygiene in the more than 60% of freshwater worldwide, which crosses national borders, since it obliges countries to prevent, control and reduce transboundary impacts and to use waters in a reasonable and equitable way. The Convention also includes provisions for early warning across borders, joint monitoring and assessment, mutual assistance etc.
Address transboundary and other risks	Water	Medium/Long-term	Global workshop on climate change water, health, disasters and climate change under (September 2020) with UNDRR, WMO, WHO and others in the framework of the Protocol on Water and Health and the Water Convention	Worldwide	Ministries in charge of water, environment, health, economy, energy, agriculture	The workshop aims to raise the capacity of water professionals to prevent, prepare for and react to water-related and health-related disasters and climate change and to promote transboundary cooperation in this regard. It will bring together the water, health, climate change and disaster communities and discuss approaches such as water safety planning etc.
Address transboundary and other risks	Water	Medium/Long-term	The activities on data and information exchange under the Water Convention and several guidance documents on monitoring and assessment help to improve monitoring of waters (measuring, sampling, etc.) to ensure adequate and consistent information to inform decision-making in transboundary basins.	UNECE region and worldwide	Ministry in charge of water	New challenges for information exchange and monitoring of transboundary rivers may arise due COVID-19. Timely availability of water of adequate quantity and quality under all circumstances is even more important to ensure, requiring up-to-the-standards monitoring. Performant monitoring and effective information exchange helps to address emerging health concerns linked to water quality.
Address transboundary and other risks	Water	Medium/Long-term	NPDs on IWRM and WSS provide platforms for regular dialogue on water management, water and sanitation issues, hygiene and water-related diseases.	Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia	Ministries in charge of water, environment, health, economy, energy, agriculture	The NPD steering committees in the countries may be used to discuss measures needed in the water sector and beyond to tackle the COVID-19 crisis, discuss recovery and prevent future similar outbreaks. Ministries of Health and sanitary and epidemiological services are active participants of the NPD SC meetings.
Address transboundary and other risks	Water	Medium/Long-term	Activities on the safety of hydrotechnical facilities (dam safety) under the Water Convention provide countries with the dialogue platform for regular cooperation.	Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia	Ministries in charge of water, energy, agriculture, land reclamation, economy	There are risks that COVID-19 crisis may impact on the state of water management infrastructure (dams, water intake facilities, wastewater treatment plants) which may receive less maintenance these days due to quarantine.
Address transboundary and other risks	Water	Medium/Long-term	Activities on climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction in transboundary basins under the Water Convention. These activities can help to tackle the COVID-19 crises as they aim to address the projected variety in water resources quantity and quality; and to increase linkages between transboundary water cooperation and disasters. Many instruments developed in this regard by the Convention can be applied to COVID-19 response. Several guidance documents exist to help countries develop and implement adaptation strategies and cope with varying water availability, including most recent the Words into Action Guide on addressing water-related disasters and transboundary cooperation. The latter needs to be promoted and translated. The experience of the global network of basins working on climate change as well as from the projects on the ground can provide a lot of insights. ☒	Worldwide	Ministries in charge of water, environment, climate change	Climate change may aggravate the consequences of the COVID-19 crises and make adaptation in transboundary basins even more vital. Under the current conditions access, availability and quality of water remains vital to preventing and overcoming diseases incl. Covid-19. The Water Convention has been working for 15 years in transboundary basins to adapt to climate change. Capacity building activities on the global level and support provided to the Chu-Talas, the Dniester, the Danube, the Mekong, the Neman and the Niger in development and implementation of transboundary adaptation strategies and plans will ensure better resilience of the countries, basins and people (more than 300 mln) with regards to access, availability and quality of water in transboundary perspective under changing climate.



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Address transboundary and other risks	Water	Medium/Long-term	Activities to facilitate the financing of transboundary water cooperation and basin development undertaken under the Water Convention (such as the global workshop on financing planned on 16-18 Dec 2020) provide countries with a dialogue platform to identify and further understand available financial mechanisms to support and sustain transboundary water management and potentially water supply and sanitation more broadly	Worldwide	Ministry in charge of water Ministry in charge of finance	There are risk that COVID-19 crisis will impact on the availability of financing provided to support transboundary water cooperation processes and activities. On the other hand, financing water and particularly access to water management and sanitation are increasingly important in the current situation as they help to prevent and respond to the COVID crisis
Facilitate connectivity	Trade	Medium/Long-term	Studies on regulatory barriers to trade (undertaken upon request)	ECE subregions with economies in transition. Countries that have shown interest in the study: Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan. Immediate roll out of quick impact assessment for: Armenia, Georgia and Serbia using UNDA 10 funds. Revisiting/Updating prior studies for: Albania, Armenia, Belarus, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Serbia, Tajikistan.	Trade,	UNECE studies on regulatory and procedural barriers to trade assist countries to harness trade (and integration into regional and global value chains) as a tool to achieve the SDGs. COVID angles: 1. Trade will take a centre stage in the economic re-build after the crisis. 2. COVID-response requires resisting the temptation to resort to protectionism measures.
Facilitate connectivity	Sustainable transport	Emergency	In light of the current situation related to the coronavirus (COVID-19), some ADR contracting parties coordinated their efforts to prepare a multilateral agreement to compensate for the cancellation of refresher training sessions for ADR drivers and Dangerous Goods Safety Advisers in their countries. Another multilateral agreement was also prepared to allow delays for the periodic or intermediate inspections of tanks and extend the validity of vehicle certificates of approval. Luxembourg initiated corresponding multilateral agreements M324 on 18 March 2020 and M325 on 19 March 2020. Along the same lines, on 27 March 2020, Germany initiated multilateral agreement M327 to allow delays for periodic or intermediate inspections of portable tanks and UN multiple-element gas containers (MEGCs) and France initiated multilateral agreement M326 for periodic inspection and test of pressure receptacles for the carriage of gases of Class 2.	ADR contracting parties	ADR competent authorities. Mainly Transport ministries	Guarantee the delivery of core medical supplies, including oxygen, which are classified as dangerous goods. Learn more with UNECE PR <a href="http://www.unece.org/info/media/presscurrent-press-h/transport/2020/in-response-to-covid-19-countries-coordinate-efforts-to-guarantee-the-delivery-of-medical-supplies-including-oxygen/doc.html">http://www.unece.org/info/media/presscurrent-press-h/transport/2020/in-response-to-covid-19-countries-coordinate-efforts-to-guarantee-the-delivery-of-medical-supplies-including-oxygen/doc.html</a>
	Sustainable transport	Medium/Long-term	On-going discussion in the Joint Meeting RID/ADR/ADN and in WP.15 on online refresher training for drivers of dangerous goods will continue in the light of the problems encountered during the COVID-19 episode when the refresher training sessions could not be organised. [Consideration of emergency response and digitalization.]	ADR contracting parties	ADR competent authorities. Mainly Transport ministries	Guarantee the delivery of core medical supplies, including oxygen, which are classified as dangerous goods. Learn more with UNECE PR <a href="http://www.unece.org/info/media/presscurrent-press-h/transport/2020/in-response-to-covid-19-countries-coordinate-efforts-to-guarantee-the-delivery-of-medical-supplies-including-oxygen/doc.html">http://www.unece.org/info/media/presscurrent-press-h/transport/2020/in-response-to-covid-19-countries-coordinate-efforts-to-guarantee-the-delivery-of-medical-supplies-including-oxygen/doc.html</a>

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Facilitate connectivity	Sustainable transport	Emergency	Some ADN Contracting Parties coordinated their efforts to prepare a multilateral agreement to compensate for the cancellation of refresher training sessions for ADN experts and Dangerous Goods Safety Advisers in their countries. Another multilateral agreement is being prepared to allow for delays on the periodic inspections of installations, equipments and autonomous protection systems, among others and to extend the validity of vessel certificates of approval. The Netherlands initiated corresponding multilateral agreement M025 on 19 March 2020.	ADN contracting parties	ADN competent authorities. Mainly Transport ministries	Dangerous goods make up around 10 % of all the goods transported worldwide. They play an important role on keeping industrial and agricultural activities going, being key components in everyday products ranging from fertilizers, clothing, fuel, batteries, medical products, just to name a few. Thus being essential for economic recovery and growth.
Facilitate connectivity	Sustainable transport	Medium/Long-term	Future discussions in the Joint Meeting RID/ADR/ADN, WP.15 and WP.15/AC.2 on lessons learned from the crisis and how to establish procedures to maintain the safe and efficient transport of dangerous good during and after a crisis.	ADN contracting parties	ADN competent authorities. Mainly Transport ministries	Dangerous goods make up around 10 % of all the goods transported worldwide. They play an important role on keeping industrial and agricultural activities going, being key components in everyday products ranging from fertilizers, clothing, fuel, batteries, medical products, just to name a few. Thus being essential for economic recovery and growth.
Facilitate connectivity	Sustainable transport	Emergency	Observatory on Border Crossing Status of	UNECE launched and facilitates an "Observatory on Border Crossings Status due to COVID-19" which gathers all updated information regarding border crossing limitations worldwide. The Observatory is being supported by all UN regional Commissions (ESCAP, ECLAC, ESCWA and ECA), the International Transport Forum (ITF), the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO Secretariat) and the International Road Transport Union (IRU). The Observatory has already collected a lot of information for many countries of this World and through a mechanism established we will manage to keep this information updated and enhanced for every new country taking measures.	Transport, health, Customs, trade	The main objective of the Observatory is to be a knowledge sharing platform in order to keep the borders open for inland transport and facilitate the movement of goods: The transport sector is being informed about measures imposed by different governments adapting their itineraries / transport solutions accordingly; The Governments are being informed about good practices implemented by other Governments ensuring that borders are open facilitating the flows of goods while not permitting the spread of the virus. Information is available to everybody .
Facilitate connectivity	Sustainable transport	Medium/Long-term	The Observatory on Border Crossing Status will be used to monitor post-COVID 19 measures and for research later. It will be also used to provide information for consideration of international cooperation framework in case of pandemic.	UNECE launched and facilitates an "Observatory on Border Crossings Status due to COVID-19" which gathers all updated information regarding border crossing limitations worldwide. The Observatory is being supported by all UN regional Commissions (ESCAP, ECLAC, ESCWA and ECA), the International Transport Forum (ITF), the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO Secretariat) and the International Road Transport Union (IRU). The Observatory has already collected a lot of information for many countries of this World and through a mechanism established we will manage to keep this information updated and enhanced for every new country taking measures.	Transport, health, Customs, trade	The main objective of the Observatory is to be a knowledge sharing platform in order to keep the borders open for inland transport and facilitate the movement of goods: The transport sector is being informed about measures imposed by different governments adapting their itineraries / transport solutions accordingly; The Governments are being informed about good practices implemented by other Governments ensuring that borders are open facilitating the flows of goods while not permitting the spread of the virus. Information is available to everybody .

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Facilitate connectivity	Sustainable transport	Emergency	Use of key features of eTIR to minimize the spread of COVID-19 and facilitated the transboundary movements of goods.	Global	Finance/Customs, transport	<p>While the legal provisions for eTIR (Annex 11 of the TIR Convention), which have been approved by the TIR Administrative Committee in February 2020, will only enter into force in June 2021, eTIR pilot projects have already been launched and demonstrated in practice that a global electronic transit system can function seamlessly to the satisfaction of both customs administrations and transport companies alike.</p> <p>In the short term, the use of key features of eTIR will greatly help mitigate the propagation and the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. eTIR can not only minimise the physical contact between customs officers and truck drivers resulting from the handling of paper documents but could also allow the establishment of green lanes to speed up the transport of vital goods, such as food and pharmaceuticals.</p> <p>In the longer term, a global modern instrument such as the TIR Convention, in particular after the entry into force of its Annex 11, could play an essential role in accelerating the recovery of economies hard hit by the severe recession which could follow the COVID-19 pandemic. More than ever, efficient and secure trade and transport will play an essential role to rebuild the economic sectors hit hardest by the recession. The TIR convention and the eTIR procedure will certainly help avoiding unnecessary delay and costs and border crossings.</p>
Facilitate connectivity	Sustainable transport	Medium/Long-term	Expansion of the geographical coverage of the TIR convention to provide the world with a modern and secure transit procedure which will facilitate international trade and transport to speed up the recovery from the recession which will result from the COVID-19 pandemic. Considering the time required for acceding to a convention countries not yet signatories of the TIR Convention should start the ratification process already as soon as possible. Deployment of eTIR will be accelerated.	Global	Finance/Customs, transport	<p>While the legal provisions for eTIR (Annex 11 of the TIR Convention), which have been approved by the TIR Administrative Committee in February 2020, will only enter into force in June 2021, eTIR pilot projects have already been launched and demonstrated in practice that a global electronic transit system can function seamlessly to the satisfaction of both customs administrations and transport companies alike.</p> <p>In the short term, the use of key features of eTIR will greatly help mitigate the propagation and the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. eTIR can not only minimise the physical contact between customs officers and truck drivers resulting from the handling of paper documents but could also allow the establishment of green lanes to speed up the transport of vital goods, such as food and pharmaceuticals.</p> <p>In the longer term, a global modern instrument such as the TIR Convention, in particular after the entry into force of its Annex 11, could play an essential role in accelerating the recovery of economies hard hit by the severe recession which could follow the COVID-19 pandemic. More than ever, efficient and secure trade and transport will play an essential role to rebuild the economic sectors hit hardest by the recession. The TIR convention and the eTIR procedure will certainly help avoiding unnecessary delay and costs and border crossings.</p>
Facilitate connectivity	Sustainable transport	Medium/Long-term	Awareness raising (at the annual sessions of the Inland Transport Committee and Working Party on Road Transport) and capacity building (through a proposed project with the Islamic Development Bank and the Economic Cooperation Organization in the post-Covid 19 era) is expected to increase the number of contracting parties that are geographically situated next to each other in order to form transport corridors with the eventual vision of the whole ECE region using electronic consignment notes.	ECE region and beyond	Commonly, it is the Ministry of Transport or Infrastructure. But sometimes, it may be another ministry eg Ministry of Finance (responsible for Customs).	Through awareness raising and capacity building, countries will learn about the benefits of acceding to eCMR, and be encouraged to accede, as well as to gain knowledge on how to introduce systems of electronic consignment notes based on UN/CEFACT standards for eCMR as well as any technical specifications that may arise from the proposed project with the Islamic Development Bank and the Economic Cooperation Organization.

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Facilitate connectivity	Sustainable transport	Emergency	This is an initiative that will have application in the post-Covid 19 era. When Contracting Parties to the Additional Protocol to the Contract for the International Carriage of Goods by Road concerning the Electronic Consignment Note (eCMR) replace paper consignment notes with electronic ones, reduced waiting times and in turn reduced bureaucracy are anticipated to bring about significant productivity savings. To date, the number of contracting parties to eCMR is still modest (25), though the number of accessions has more than doubled in recent years (from 11 in 2016)	ATP contracting parties	ATP competent authorities / M	The importance of transporting perishable foodstuffs in a safe and efficient manner will continue to grow as businesses and consumers continue to sell and buy online and international distribution grows, mostly in times of crisis and recovery. Promoting the use of alternative sources of energy and refrigerants with lower global warming potential during the transport of perishable foodstuffs will also contribute to the protection of the environment and sustainability of cities.
Facilitate connectivity	Sustainable transport	Medium/Long-term	Future discussions in WP.11 on lessons learned from the crisis and how to establish procedures to maintain the safe and efficient transport of perishable foodstuffs during and after a crisis.	ATP contracting parties	ATP competent authorities / Mainly Transport and food and agriculture ministries	The importance of transporting perishable foodstuffs in a safe and efficient manner will continue to grow as businesses and consumers continue to sell and buy online and international distribution grows, mostly in times of crisis and recovery. Promoting the use of alternative sources of energy and refrigerants with lower global warming potential during the transport of perishable foodstuffs will also contribute to the protection of the environment and sustainability of cities.
Facilitate connectivity	Sustainable transport	Medium/Long-term	Future discussions in WP.29 on lessons learned from the crisis and how to establish procedures to maintain the supply chain in the automotive sector during and after a crisis.	Contracting parties to the vehicle agreements (global)	Ministries for Transport, Industry and Ecology	The automotive industry with its more than 8 million employees world wide is among the most important economic sectors. Disruption of production during the crisis led to high numbers of job losses both at vehicle manufacturers and part suppliers. Reactivating a full functioning supply chain and a reassessment of storage capacity at production may help to reduce / shift transportation to more ecological modes (greening of transport)
Facilitate connectivity	Sustainable transport	Medium/Long-term	performance parameters for border-crossing by trains	UNECE region	Ministry of Transport	The European Agreement on Important International Combined Transport Lines and Related Installations (AGTC) sets performance parameters and standards for the development of combined transport services and the infrastructure, among them performance parameters for facilitation of border-crossing by cargo trains. These performance parameters could be further adjusted to offer solutions for emergency situations due to pandemics. The Working Party on Intermodal Transport and Logistics is in charge.
Facilitate connectivity	Sustainable transport	Medium/Long-term	CTU Code - pest control and prevention	Global	Ministry of Transport	IMO/ILO/UNECE Code of Practice for Packing of Cargo Transport Units (CTU Code) provides guidelines for action to prevent pest contamination. The guidelines provisions could be further adjusted to ensure prevention of infestation spread. A Group of Experts to review CTU Code is being established
Facilitate connectivity	Sustainable transport	Medium/Long-term	International Transport Infrastructure Ob	Observatory is hosted on a sophisticated Geographical Information System (GIS) platform and will provide to Governments and IFIs: Data about all transport networks and nodes (road, rail, inland waterways, ports, airports, intermodal terminals, logistics centres and border crossing points); Data on transport corridors (length, services, missing links, time schedules, tariffs); Data about new transport infrastructure projects; Data about traffic and cargo / goods flows; Data about international conventions / agreements ratification and implementation. Current focus on Euro-Asian region but being extended with Middle East and North Africa regions. Potential scope global.	Transport, economy, planning	

Action pillar	Area	Type of measures	Name of instrument	Country/sub-region	Responsible Ministry	Justification
Facilitate connectivity	Sustainable transport	Medium/Long-term	performance parameters for border-crossing by trains	UNECE region	Ministry of Transport	<p>The European Agreement on Important International Combined Transport Lines and Related Installations (AGTC) sets performance parameters and standards for the development of combined transport services and the infrastructure, among them performance parameters for facilitation of border-crossing by cargo trains. These performance parameters could be further adjusted to offer solutions for emergency situations due to pandemics. The Working Party on Intermodal Transport and Logistics is in charge.</p> <p>The European Agreement on Main International Railway Lines sets the performance parameters for the rail network at border crossings. These parameters could be further developed for the pandemic purpose.</p>
Facilitate connectivity	Sustainable transport	Medium/Long-term	CTU Code - pest control and prevention	Global	Ministry of Transport	IMO/ILO/UNECE Code of Practice for Packing of Cargo Transport Units (CTU Code) provides guidelines for action to prevent pest contamination. The guidelines provisions could be further adjusted to ensure prevention of infestation spread. A Group of Experts to review CTU Code is being established
Facilitate connectivity	Sustainable transport	Medium/Long-term	Rail Security Observatory	Global	Ministry of Transport and Inter	The rail security observatory could be updated to reflect the rail security requirements that are necessary in case of an emergency situation such as the one we are currently experiencing
Facilitate connectivity	Sustainable transport	Medium/Long-term	AGN - critical waterway network in case of interruption of navigation and closing E ports	UNECE region	Ministry of Transport	The European Agreement on Main Inland Waterways of International Importance (AGN) sets performance parameters and standards for the development of E waterway network and E ports. The Agreement could be further adjusted to offer solutions for emergency situations due to pandemics to ensure the continuity of services. The Working Party on Inland water Transport is in charge.
Facilitate connectivity	Sustainable transport	Medium/Long-term	Inventory of Main Standards and Parameters of the E Waterway Network (Blue Book) and resolution No. 49 critical waterway network in case of interruption of navigation and closing E ports	UNECE region	Ministry of Transport	The Blue Book contains data on the E waterway network and E ports. Both the Blue Book and resolution No. 49 also contain the inventory of most important bottlenecks and missing links in the E Waterway Network. They could be adjusted to offer solutions for emergency situations due to pandemics to ensure the continuity of services, safety of vessels, crews and passengers and identify bottlenecks in case of pandemics, emergency anchorages etc. The Working Party on Inland water Transport is in charge.
Facilitate connectivity	Sustainable transport	Medium/Long-term	Resolution No. 31 Recommendations on Minimum Requirements for the Issuance of Boatmaster's certificates in Inland Navigation with a view to their Reciprocal Recognition for International Traffic - measures in case of suspension of recognition of the certificates	UNECE region	Ministry of Transport	Resolution No. 31 contains provisions for reciprocal recognition of boatmasters' certificates. Additional provisions may be needed in case of pandemics, including medical attestation and additional documents from the authorities. The Working Party on Inland Water Transport is in charge.
Facilitate connectivity	Sustainable transport	Medium/Long-term	Resolution No. 21 Prevention of Pollution of inland Waterways by vessels - restriction to the operation of the collection and reception facilities and ship-generated wastes	UNECE region	Ministry of Transport	Resolution No. 21 may include general principles of emergency measures for the collection and reception services for waste generated by vessels, which are likely to change. The Working Party on Inland water Transport is in charge.
Facilitate connectivity	Sustainable transport	Medium/Long-term	Resolution No. 40, International Certificate for Operators of Pleasure Craft - in case of suspension of recognition of ICC	Global	Ministry of transport, Authorized bodies for ICC	Resolution No. 40 contains provisions for reciprocal recognition of boatmasters' certificates. Additional provisions may be needed in case of pandemics, including medical attestation and additional documents from the authorities. The Working Party on Inland Water Transport is in charge.
Support a green and resilient recovery	Sustainable forest management	Medium/long-term	Forest Landscape Restoration, in particular	Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia	Ministries of Environment, Ecology	Restoring degraded and deforested landscapes using the FLR approach is the cost-effective long-term sustainable nature-based solution. It has multiple social, economic and environmental benefits. It will facilitate creation of new green jobs, development of eco-tourism and overall will support an integrated rural development by involving local communities on transboundary issues. In the post-COVID-19 period, forest restoration can highly contribute to preserve ecosystems needed to prevent pandemic disruptions.

Action pillar	Area	Type of measures	Name of instrument	Country/sub-region	Responsible Ministry	Justification
Support a green and resilient recovery	Sustainable forest management	Medium/long-term	UNECE/FAO/Forest Europe Interactive database on forests and sustainable forest management, <a href="https://https://w3.unece.org/PXWeb/en">https://https://w3.unece.org/PXWeb/en</a>	Pan-European region	Ministries of forestry, environment, agriculture and rural development. Related businesses, NGO and academia.	Comprehensive database covered all aspects of forest conditions and forest management, that allows for comparative analysis in countries of the region to allow various scenarios for the recovery of the forest sector from the current crisis.
Support a green and resilient recovery	Sustainable forest management	Medium/long-term	Guidelines for the Development of a Criteria and Indicator Set for Sustainable Forest Management. <a href="https://www.unece.org/index.php?id=51695">https://www.unece.org/index.php?id=51695</a>	UNECE region	Ministries of forestry, environment, agriculture and rural development. Related businesses, NGO and academia.	Contemporary tool for the participatory policy development and implementation. Applicable for both, development criteria and indicators set design and monitor new measures for the recovery from the current situation as well as for developing participatory methods for communication among decisions makers, stakeholders and the society at large.
Support a green and resilient recovery	Sustainable energy	Medium/Long-term	United Nations Framework Classification for Resources (UNFC) and United Nations Resource Management System (UNRMS)	ECE region to foster multilateral collaboration to assure uninterrupted supply of critical raw materials for medical emergency requirements	Ministry of Natural Resources/Energy/Mining	Several critical materials are required in the production of medical equipment and supplies. Testing, diagnostics and treatment are being severely hampered due to supply-chain disruptions. Mass-scale vaccine development will also require several critical raw materials. UNFC and UNRMS can be used to build knowledge based systems for assuring diverse supply-chains (local, regional, global) for critical raw materials that are needed for the health emergency and for sustained vigilance. The same systems could be continued for medium and long-term rebuilding of the economy and ensuring resilience.
Address transboundary and other risks	Strategic Environmental Assessment	Medium/Long-term	Protocol on Strategic Environmental Assessment	All UNECE and UN Member States	all sectoral, environmental and health ministries	The Protocol on SEA ensures that environmental and health considerations are taken into account in the planning of economic and regional development activities, including through obligatory consultation of environmental and health authorities, and the public. It provides decision-makers early warning of unsustainable options and contributes to the reduction and management of health risks, considering effects that are direct and indirect, secondary, cumulative, synergistic, short-, medium- and long-term, permanent and temporary, positive and negative. It also allows for a cohesive, integrated (national scale) approach that goes beyond the limits of the individual economic sectors. Health authorities provide data on the population that may include geographic inequalities and inequalities between the general population and more vulnerable population groups (for example, due to age, poor health or socioeconomic status). Based on that information, the planning authorities may then consider which e.g. regional development or town plan alternative best: narrows health inequalities; promotes healthy lifestyles; enhances socioeconomic conditions to enable people to thrive; or improves access to good quality health and social care. Consequently, the Protocol contributes to building healthier, more sustainable and more resilient societies, including against future outbreaks of viruses. Moreover, in principle, the countries could choose to consider health risks and mitigation measures for pandemics as part of their planning processes (which have important cumulative and synergistic effects with the exposure to other health hazards e.g. from the air pollution, in particular vav the more vulnerable population groups).
Address transboundary and other risks	Statistics	Emergency	"Making Data Meaningful" and other material and initiatives on data dissemination and communication <a href="https://statswiki.unece.org/display/DIS/Dissemination+and+Communication">https://statswiki.unece.org/display/DIS/Dissemination+and+Communication</a>	All ECE (and beyond)	National Statistical Office, Ministry of Communication	There is a lot of information about the spread of the coronavirus. Some is deliberate "fake news", and some is unintentionally misleading. Unfortunately, unreliable comparisons are being made, such as the number of cases per country, which is more a reflection of the testing policy than of the spread of the disease. In these times, it is vital that there are authoritative, reliable data, which are clear and well communicated. The UNECE "Making Data Meaningful" series is designed specifically to support this, with guides on presenting data, communicating with the media, writing stories about numbers, and improving statistical literacy. The guides are published in English, with translations into various languages, e.g. Russian and Spanish. Training materials also exist, but would need to be updated and tailored to the current situation.
Address transboundary and other risks	Statistics	Emergency	Wiki page with guidance on continuing compilation of consumer price indices ( <a href="https://statswiki.unece.org/x/rokSE">https://statswiki.unece.org/x/rokSE</a> )	All ECE (and beyond)	National Statistical Office, Ministry of Economy	Measuring the evolution of prices provides a key economic indicator for all countries. Whilst there have been limited moves to automate price collection through methods such as web scraping, or analysing point of sales data, most price data are still collected by staff of national statistical offices going into shops and markets to record prices for various goods. This is not feasible during lock-down situations, when many shops and markets are closed, and movements are restricted. This wiki page gives guidance and promotes sharing of ideas on how to continue producing this key economic indicator during the crisis.

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Address transboundary and other risks	Statistics	Emergency	Material and initiatives on risk management, organisational resilience, modernising statistical production and other challenges ( <a href="https://statswiki.unece.org/x/UgAMDQ">https://statswiki.unece.org/x/UgAMDQ</a> , <a href="https://statswiki.unece.org/x/xlR8Aw">https://statswiki.unece.org/x/xlR8Aw</a> )	All ECE (and beyond)	National Statistical Office	We are continuously developing tools - including wikis, reports, platforms, discussion forums - to help National Statistical Offices address the challenges they all face, e.g. using Big Data, data integration, machine learning, strategic communication, crisis and risk management. More importantly, we create networks in the statistical community. For example, we are facilitating an active exchange between countries, following a request from the Swiss government for experiences of using mobile phone location data to track the contacts of those infected by the coronavirus, and to assess compliance with lock-down measures.
Address transboundary and other risks	Statistics	Emergency	Recommendations on the Role of Official Statistics in Measuring Hazardous Events and Disasters ( <a href="http://www.unece.org/index.php?id=53838">http://www.unece.org/index.php?id=53838</a> )	All ECE (and beyond)	National Statistical Office, National Agency for Disaster Risk Management	The Recommendations clarify the role of national statistical offices and other members of the national statistical system in providing information related to hazardous events and disasters (including virus pandemics). It identifies practical steps that these organisations can take, in coordination with national agencies responsible for disaster risk management, to better support disaster risk management efforts. Official statistics in every country holds a wealth of information that may be applied in all phases of disaster risk management. E.g. information on population (age structure, location, disabilities, other vulnerabilities etc.) can help to better prepare and target the medical response to the pandemic. Economic and social statistics will be needed in the aftermath to evaluate the impact of the crisis. However, national statistical systems are often not involved in supporting disaster risk management to the extent they could be and these Recommendations aim to change that.
Support a green and resilient recovery	Statistics	Medium/Long-term	Guidelines on producing leading, composite and sentiment indicators ( <a href="http://www.unece.org/index.php?id=52833">http://www.unece.org/index.php?id=52833</a> )	All ECE (and beyond)	National Statistical Office, Ministry of Planning	The restrictions to movement and 'shut-down' of whole branches of economy will have a huge effect on the economy. In an attempt to foresee how big is this impact, different kinds of leading indicators are being used. The publication provides guidance on how to construct such indicators, how to ensure their quality and impartiality and what should be the role of official statistics in that.
Address transboundary and other risks	Standards	Emergency	UN/EDIFACT Health-Insurance Standards	All MS, and beyond	Ministry of Health	UN/EDIFACT Health Insurance Standards facilitate the exchanges between medical providers. These include messages for medical prescriptions, medical service requests, medical service reports, health care claims
Address transboundary and other risks	Standards	Medium/Long-term	UN/CEFACT dematerialization approach and related tools, e.g. Single Window, Single Submission Portals, eBusiness standards, Data Pipeline, Internet of Things / Smart Containers, instruments for e-business (electronic documents such as eCMR, e-Invoice, reference data models, etc.)	All MS, and beyond	Economy, Trade, Transport, Communications, Customs/Finance, Agriculture, CCI, etc.	If done in a way that does not require person-to-person contact trade facilitation implementation can contribute to reducing the spread of the virus (e.g. dematerialization of exchanges that can reduce physical contact). For example, data Pipeline allows to collaborate at a distance, Internet of Things / Smart Containers can capture information from objects without any human intervention. COVID 19 angle: Suppress transmission to stop transmission and save lives
Address transboundary and other risks	Standards	Medium/Long-term	UNECE work on food loss/waste with its three pronged approach: the App, the Code, the website (in preparation)	All MS, and beyond	Agriculture, Economy, etc	UNECE work on food-loss offers a systematic approach and targeted solutions for reducing food-loss along the supply chains (e.g. improving the measurement of the food loss and waste, and ensuring better handling of the products at each stage of the supply chain).. COVID-angle: In times of crisis, it is even more important to ensure food supply and avoid panic
Address transboundary and other risks	Risk management	Medium/Long-term	UNECE WP 6 tools on disaster risk management techniques. E.g. "Managing Risk in Regulatory Frameworks" and "Crisis Management within a Regulatory Framework" Management in Regulatory Frameworks"	All MS, and beyond	Planning, Standardization, Disaster management	UNECE risk management guidance and best practice support regulatory authorities to manage the risks that confront consumers, citizens and communities. The general recommendation on the use of risk management tools in regulatory systems - "Managing Risk in Regulatory Frameworks"; The more specific recommendation, which describes one of the functions of the risk management process, "Crisis Management within a Regulatory Framework" . COVID 19 angle: COVID is an example of risk, UNECE tools can help improve preparedness and response
Address transboundary and other risks	Population	Emergency	collection of good practices and lessons learned in response to the protection/treatment of older persons in the COVID-19 pandemic - to be included in Policy Brief No. 25	all UNECE member States	Ministry in charge of emergency planning and response, other relevant line ministries	to ensure that the specific needs of older persons are taken into account in emergency plans, response and recovery. This contributes to implementing SDGs 1, 2, 3, 5, 10, 16, as well as the principle of "leaving no one behind".

Action pillar	Area	Type of measures	Name of instrument	Country/sub-region	Responsible Ministry	Justification
Support a green and resilient recovery	Population	Medium/Long-term	The guidelines will be published.	all UNECE member States	Ministry in charge of emergency planning and response, other relevant line ministries	to ensure that the specific needs of older persons are taken into account in emergency plans, response and recovery. This contributes to implementing SGDs 1, 2, 3, 5, 10, 16, as well as the principle of "leaving no one behind".
Support a green and resilient recovery	Innovation	Medium/Long-term	Innovation for SD (I4SD) reviews (undertaken upon request)	ECE subregions with economies in transition	Economy as main beneficiary; health and infrastructure	Innovation (public and private, including cross-industry) can contribute to the immediate and short-term pandemic response and to long term resilience. While COVID focus may now be on high-end/top-notch research to combat the virus, the better countries' specific innovation systems, the better they will embody, apply, adapt high-end solutions (e.g. help leverage latest advances in scientific research). COVID 19 angle: Following the crisis, innovation can offer solutions to rebuild economy in a more sustainable and resilient way.
Address transboundary and other risks	Industrial Accidents	Medium/Long-term	Industrial Accidents Convention	41 Parties (covering most Western Europe, all SEE, Eastern Europe apart from Ukraine, Caucasus, apart from Georgia and Kazakhstan in CA.) In addition, beneficiaries of the Convention's Assistance and Cooperation Programme in EECCA and SEE have committed to its implementation.	Ministries with responsibilities for emergency situations, internal affairs, civil protection, environment/water, State inspectorates or authorities for geology and mining (mostly a range of different institutions in charge of accident prevention, preparedness and response)	Convention as a model can help develop approaches (Guidelines, Protocols, legislation, strategies/policies and measures) to future preparedness, response and mutual cross-border assistance in case of emergencies (while focused itself on chemical accidents). It has a strong focus on transboundary cooperation which could inspire the application of existing instruments, relevant guidelines, or the development of new ones. The Convention is a legal instrument for disaster risk management and reduction under the Sendai Framework.
Address transboundary and other risks	Industrial Accidents	Medium/Long-term	Industrial Accidents Convention	41 Parties (covering most Western Europe, all SEE, Eastern Europe apart from Ukraine, Caucasus, apart from Georgia and Kazakhstan in CA.) In addition, beneficiaries of the Convention's Assistance and Cooperation Programme in EECCA and SEE have committed to its implementation.	Ministries with responsibilities for emergency situations, internal affairs, civil protection, environment/water, State inspectorates or authorities for geology and mining (mostly a range of different institutions in charge of accident prevention, preparedness and response)	Convention as a model can help develop approaches (Guidelines, Protocols, legislation, strategies/policies and measures) to future preparedness, response and mutual cross-border assistance in case of emergencies (while focused itself on chemical accidents). It has a strong focus on transboundary cooperation which could inspire the application of existing instruments, relevant guidelines, or the development of new ones. The Convention is a legal instrument for disaster risk management and reduction under the Sendai Framework.
Support a green and resilient recovery	Housing and land management	Medium/Long-term	Geneva UN Charter Centres on smart sus	UNECE region	centres of excellence	Centres will support the UNECE activities on ground for countries and cities to be prepared for crises and rebound from economic and social crisis. Please see activities on addressing homelessness under SARS
Support a green and resilient recovery	Housing and land management	Medium/Long-term	Support to vulnerable groups living in a	Eastern Europe, Central Asia, Southern Europe	Ministries of economy, regional	Vulnerable groups are especially affected. Those living in informal settlements in Southern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia, especially in Kyrgyzstan
Support a green and resilient recovery	Housing and land management	Medium/Long-term	UNECE/ITU Key Performance Indicators fo	UNECE region	Ministries of economy, regional	Performance evaluation of cities allows to promote holistic management of cities, promoting innovation in cities, including for the better preparedness of the cities to crises situations. For instance, as a result of the preparation of the smart sustainable city profile Voznesensk, Ukraine, <a href="https://www.unece.org/index.php?id=53230">https://www.unece.org/index.php?id=53230</a> , local policies for strengthening the health system were elaborated and implemented.
Support a green and resilient recovery	Housing and land management	Medium/Long-term	Support long term affordable and adequa	UNECE region	Ministries of economy, regional	With the economic and social crisis as people are losing jobs, they are also not able to pay for mortgages and rent of the housing. Homeless people and those living in inadequate housing suffer from the lockdown. Need to have a regional "Marshall plan" to invest in affordable and adequate housing and fight homelessness to support better quality of life
Support a green and resilient recovery	Housing and land management	Medium/Long-term	Policy Framework for Sustainable Real Estate Markets, <a href="https://www.unece.org/index.php?id=52550">https://www.unece.org/index.php?id=52550</a>	UNECE region	Ministries of economy, regional	With the economic and social crisis as people are losing jobs, they are also not able to pay for mortgages and rent of the housing. Homeless people and those living in inadequate housing suffer from the lockdown. Need to have a regional "Marshall plan" to invest in affordable and adequate housing and fight homelessness to support better quality of life
Support a green and resilient recovery	Housing and land management	Medium/Long-term	Country Profiles on Urban Development,	UNECE region	Ministries of economy, regional	Country profiles allow to conduct a comprehensive analysis of the institutional and legal framework and the situation with urban development and housing, the CP recommendations allow countries to elaborate measures to support the rebound of the economies in cities .



Action pillar	Area	Type of measures	Name of instrument	Country/sub-region	Responsible Ministry	Justification
Support a green and resilient recovery	Finance	Medium/Long-term	Guiding Principles on People-first PPPs for the SDGs	All MS, and beyond	lead (Economy and Finance); line (transport, health, natural resources, education and other infrastructure-related)	Adopted by the member States in 2019, the guiding principles consider resilience as a key aspect in the design of infrastructure and the delivery of public services, and an essential feature of People-first PPPs. Resilience should be prioritized in legislation (principle No. 4), in project selection criteria (principle No. 7), and improve environmental sustainability (principle No. 8). Resilient infrastructure and public services are key ingredients for sustainability in the face of epidemics (eg COVID 19) and other emergencies (eg droughts, floods, fires, water shortages, soil erosion, industrial accidents, etc.). COVID 19 angle: resilience in health systems and in water supply (eg hand washing). <a href="https://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/ceci/documents/2019/CICPPP/Official_documents/ECE_CECI_2019_05-en.pdf">https://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/ceci/documents/2019/CICPPP/Official_documents/ECE_CECI_2019_05-en.pdf</a>
Support a green and resilient recovery	Finance	Medium/Long-term	People-first PPP evaluation methodology (in preparation)	All MS, and beyond	lead (Economy and Finance); line (transport, health, natural resources, education and other infrastructure-related)	Tool under development and with a strong emphasis on resilience as a key outcome of People-first PPPs for the SDGs. COVID 19 angle: drawing on experience with the COVID 19 pandemic and other emergencies, benchmarks on resilient infrastructure and public services are identified and integrated into a methodology used to score infrastructure projects against the SDGs. The ultimate goal of the methodology is to inspire more resilient People-first PPP flagship projects facilitated and supported by UNECE and a People-first PPP fund housed at EBRD. <a href="https://www.unece.org/info/media/news/economic-cooperation-and-integration/2020/building-back-stronger-unece-mobilizes-experts-to-better-evaluate-resilience-of-infrastructure-and-public-services/doc.html">https://www.unece.org/info/media/news/economic-cooperation-and-integration/2020/building-back-stronger-unece-mobilizes-experts-to-better-evaluate-resilience-of-infrastructure-and-public-services/doc.html</a>
Support a green and resilient recovery	Finance	Medium/Long-term	Guiding Principles to promote resilience in projects and communities through People-first PPPs (in preparation)	All MS, and beyond	lead (Economy and Finance); line (transport, health, natural resources, education and other infrastructure-related)	The guiding principles under development will among other things: 1. cover how to boost investment in resilience; 2 cover the whole cycle of resiliency: before a crisis; during; post crises and long term resiliency; and 3. encourage governments to focus projects in infrastructure to promote community resilience. COVID 19 angle: a strong emphasis on SMEs in the context of the COVID 19 pandemic, with best practices from among the countries most affected (Italy, Spain, US, China and India) on different approaches adopted in the aftermath of the COVID 19 crisis. <a href="https://www.unece.org/info/media/news/general-unece/2020/unece-people-first-approach-to-public-private-partnerships-shapes-efforts-to-build-resilience-against-climate-change-and-disasters/doc.html">https://www.unece.org/info/media/news/general-unece/2020/unece-people-first-approach-to-public-private-partnerships-shapes-efforts-to-build-resilience-against-climate-change-and-disasters/doc.html</a>
Address transboundary and other risks	Air	Medium/Long-term	Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution and its protocols	all UNECE members states, and in particular countries in EECCA	Ministries of Environment	Poor air quality is recognized as the single largest environmental health risk estimated to cause approximately 600,000 premature deaths in the region. A substantive drop in air pollution levels has been reported due to the current COVID-19 crisis. This sheds light on the massive environmental impact of our everyday habits and economic activities. Once the crisis is over, air pollution levels will start rising again unless the required long-term measures are taken, such as those contained in the Convention's Protocols. The amended Gothenburg Protocol, which is currently being reviewed by its Parties, contains specific targets for different pollutants harmful to human health and the environment, including nitrogen oxides and particulate matter. A number of guidance documents for reducing emissions from different sectors are also available or being developed under the Convention.
Address transboundary and other risks	Public participation in environmental decision-making	Medium/Long-term	Aarhus Convention	Parties, potentially all UN MS (long term)	Environment, Justice, MFA	Ensure effective public participation in decision-making regarding COVID-19: (a) in relation to specific activities listed in Annex I of the Aarhus Convention, as appropriate, and in relation to activities which may have a significant effect on the environment, including genetically modified organisms; (b) during the preparation of plans and programmes relating to the environment; (c) during the preparation by public authorities of executive regulations and other generally applicable legally binding rules that may have a significant effect on the environment. Further, persons shall be provided opportunity to exercise their rights without discrimination as to citizenship, nationality or domicile and, in the case of a legal person, without discrimination as to where it has its registered seat or an effective centre of its activities.

Action pillar	Area	Type of measures	Name of instrument	Country/sub-region	Responsible Ministry	Justification
Address transboundary and other risks	Public participation in environmental decision-making	Medium/Long-term	Aarhus Convention	Parties, potentially all UN MS (long term)	Environment, MFA	Ensure effective access to information regarding COVID-19 as long as the information relates to: (a) The state of elements of the environment, such as air and atmosphere, water, soil, land, landscape and natural sites, biological diversity and its components, including genetically modified organisms, and the interaction among these elements; (b) Factors, such as substances, energy, noise and radiation, and activities or measures, including administrative measures, environmental agreements, policies, legislation, plans and programmes, affecting or likely to affect the elements of the environment within the scope of subparagraph (a) above, and cost-benefit and other economic analyses and assumptions used in environmental decision-making; (c) The state of human health and safety, conditions of human life, cultural sites and built structures, inasmuch as they are or may be affected by the state of the elements of the environment or, through these elements, by the factors, activities or measures referred to in subparagraph (b) above; It should be ensured that persons exercising their rights shall not be penalized, persecuted or harassed in any way for their involvement. Further, persons shall be provided opportunity to exercise their rights without discrimination as to citizenship, nationality or domicile and, in the case of a legal person, without discrimination as to where it has its registered seat or an effective centre of its activities.
Address transboundary and other risks	Public participation in environmental decision-making	Medium/Long-term	Aarhus Convention -Protocol on Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers Protocol	Parties, potentially all UN MS (long term)	Environment, MFA	Enhance public access to information through a coherent, integrated, nationwide pollutant release and transfer registers (PRTRs), which could facilitate public participation in environmental decision-making as well as contribute to the prevention and reduction of pollution of the environment. Each Party shall take the necessary measures to require that employees of a facility and members of the public who report a violation by a facility of national laws implementing this Protocol to public authorities are not penalized, persecuted or harassed by that facility or public authorities for their actions in reporting the violation.
Address transboundary and other risks	Statistics	Medium/Long-term	Statistics on remittances	EECCA countries and other ECE MS	National statistical offices	Migrant remittances are rather large in a number of Eastern European, Caucasus and Central Asian countries. They constitute an important source of income for many households, including the most vulnerable, and contribute to narrow external financing gaps. Mobility restrictions and falling demand as a result of the COVID-19 crisis have greatly reduced these flows. ECE statistical work on measuring migration and remittances and the presentation of remittances data on the SDG Dashboard help to monitor and get a better understanding of these critical flows.