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Economic Commission for Europe**Inland Transport Committee****Seventy-sixth session**

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Strategic questions of a horizontal policy nature:**Climate change and transport – Mitigation of environmentally harmful effects of inland transport****For Future Inland Transport Systems Project (ForFITS)****Note by the secretariat***Summary*

This document provides information on the progress of the For Future Inland Transport Systems (ForFITS) global project, funded by the United Nations Development Account, and being implemented together with all other United Nations regional commissions. The objective of the project is to develop a monitoring and assessment tool for CO₂ emissions in inland transport including a transport policy converter to facilitate climate change mitigation, to run pilots on the use of the model and to establish the capacity at country level for its use.

In light of the results of this global project, its timeliness and relevance for sustainable development the Committee may wish to consider its presentation to the General Assembly.

1. First initiated in 2008, the ForFITS project is a three-year activity started in 2011 with the goal of enhancing international cooperation and planning towards sustainable transport policies, facilitating in particular climate change mitigation: it is funded by the United Nations Development Account (UNDA) and it involves all United Nations Regional Commissions.
2. In order to achieve its goal, the project included:
 - the development and implementation of a tool to monitor and assess CO₂ emissions from inland transport activities consisting of a model with transport policy converter;

- the preparation and implementation of awareness-raising events for stakeholders involved in activities concerning transport, energy and CO₂ emissions; and
 - the organization and roll out of training activities/ capacity-building workshops for policymakers and technical experts.
3. The ForFITS modelling tool is capable of assisting users in making informed decisions about measures for the reduction of CO₂ emission in the transport sector. The model is primarily focused on CO₂ emissions from inland transport, including road, rail and waterways, and predicts future emissions based on current patterns. CO₂ emissions from aviation and maritime transport are also covered by ForFITS, but in a simplified manner in comparison to the other transport modes.
4. The UNECE developed the model following the preparation, in 2012, of a global review on existing statistical data, policy measures and assessment tools concerning CO₂ emissions in transport and the discussion of a draft methodology in an International Expert Meeting (IEM), held in April 2012.
5. The model was implemented in the Vensim modelling environment. A first prototype was distributed in late 2012. Significant improvements were implemented in 2013.
6. The model is now freely available online (www.unece.org/trans/theme_forfits.html) along with a user manual (www.unece.org/trans/forfits_user_manual.html). The latter provide details on the methodology behind the modelling approach; the model structure in Vensim, giving information on each calculation step; the data required in its Microsoft Excel input interface, including explanations on how to use the file; and instructions on how to perform model runs with the Vensim software, also illustrating how to visualize the results and extract them from the software.
7. UNECE led activities in 2013 focused on implementing the ForFITS model improvements and drafting the user manual. Furthermore, during 2013 the development of pilots, the organization of the awareness-raising events and the capacity building/technical workshops took place in cooperation with the other Regional Commissions in each United Nation region.
8. The meetings took place as follows:

<i>Date</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Awareness-raising event</i>	<i>Capacity-building/technical workshop</i>	<i>Corresponding United Nations Regional Commission</i>
5–28 August 2013	Santiago	●	●	Latin America and the Caribbean
13 September 2013	Geneva	●		Europe
23–24 September 2013	Bangkok		●	East Asia and Pacific
26–27 September 2013	Bangkok	●		East Asia and Pacific
8–10 October 2013	Geneva		●	Europe
31 October 2013	Addis Ababa	●		Africa
1–2 November 2013	Addis Ababa		●	Africa
19–20 November 2013	Pogdorica		●	Europe
2–3 December 2013	Hammamet, Tunisia	●		West Asia
4–5 December 2013	Hammamet, Tunisia		●	West Asia

9. The following countries were selected for the development of pilot cases of the ForFITS model: Chile (ECLAC), Ethiopia (UNECA), Montenegro (UNECE), Thailand (UNESCAP), and Tunisia (UNESCWA). ForFITS is also being used as an instrument for the assessment, monitoring and planning of sustainable transport policies in the metropolitan area of Sao Paulo (Brazil) and in Hungary.

10. Future activities will need to focus on the following tasks:

- based on the use of the ForFITS model and training materials developed in the course of the project, incorporate the use of the ForFITS model in the Technical Assistance and Capacity Building activities by the Transport Division, e.g. upon the demand by governments and subject to available funding, carry out one country review per year;
- improve their diffusion and outreach capacity;
- strengthen the networks developed;
- provide assistance to the users of the ForFITS model
- ensure regular up-dates; and
- on demand and subject to availability of resources, particularly extra-budgetary funding, develop the model further, possibly including other elements relevant for the analysis of sustainable transport, such as a wider coverage of vehicle types, the potential inclusion of traffic safety etc.

11. In light of the results of this global project, its timeliness and relevance for sustainable development the Committee may wish to consider its presentation to the General Assembly.
