DIALOGUE OF THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARIES OF THE REGIONAL COMMISSIONS WITH THE UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY SECOND COMMITTEE

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Executive Secretary, UNECE
19 Octobre 2020
Regional cooperation: a building block for multilateralism

- Reconnecting economies
- Reversing the disruption of trade and transport
- Addressing transboundary risks
- Building trust

Multilateralism is a necessity
Regional cooperation offers clear benefits
Regional frameworks for collaboration

- Covid-19: a crisis that had increased uncertainty

- Reducing uncertainty is key in the response to the crisis and supporting the recovery

- Regional frameworks for collaboration can make a critical contribution to diminish uncertainty
**UNECE’s response: policy tools**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Facilitate connectivity</th>
<th>Address transboundary and other risks</th>
<th>Support a green and resilient recovery</th>
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<tr>
<td>• Enhance cooperation and implementation of a harmonized regulatory framework for border crossing</td>
<td>• Promote the use of existing multilateral environmental agreements to deal with various risks.</td>
<td>• Enhance resilience and efficiency through improved resource use, including through circular economy approaches</td>
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<td>• Promote digital implementation of existing legal transport instruments</td>
<td>• Foster transparency, traceability and risk management through the use of standards</td>
<td>• Address the implication of the crisis in urban centers and engage cities as drivers of the recovery</td>
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<td>• Facilitate trade through the exchange of electronic information</td>
<td>• Promote and enhance statistical frameworks to improve the basis for decision-making, including in relation to disasters</td>
<td>• Promote sustainable infrastructure, including through private sector participation</td>
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Some examples of UNECE work:

- Observatory on Border Crossings Status
- Normative instruments to facilitate transport –eg. eTIR
- Standards and recommendations for trade facilitation
- Support to trade dematerialization
Some examples of UNECE work include multilateral environmental agreements:

- **Air**: increasing life expectancy by one year is a tangible achievement.

- **Protocol on Strategic Environmental Assessment**: open for accession to all UN member States.
Some examples of UNECE work:

- **Increasing resilience and efficiency**: building standards and platforms for the *circular economy* - the theme of the 69th session of the ECE (April 2021)

- **Engaging new actors**: First UNECE Forum of Mayors, 6th October 2020
Thank you!

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