

Speech to be made at UNECE EATL Consultation Meeting, on 26 November 2020

Dear Colleagues,

Good evening to all the participants of the EATL consultation meeting,

First of all, despite the difficult situation we are facing during this global Covid-19 pandemic, we are organizing this consultation meeting to exchange our views on further measures to expand and actively use the Eurasian transport corridors and on behalf of the Ministry of Road and Transport Development of Mongolia I wish to thank the UNECE and OSCE for jointly organizing this important meeting.

Mongolia has been giving a high priority on expanding its land transport infrastructure network to integrate into regional transport network by joining the Asian Highway Network AH-3, AH-4, and AH32 routes, Central Asian Economic Cooperation CAREC Corridors 4a, 4b, 4c and also the Railway Corridors under the Mongolia-Russia-China Economic Corridor Program adopted in 2016.

The following measures are being implemented to expand the transport infrastructure network within the tripartite Economic Corridor Initiative.

We are taking certain measures to expand the road network in order to ensure the efficiency, effectiveness, reliability and safety of international transit transportation through the AH-3 corridor of the Asian highway network. For example, we are working to expand and rehabilitate the Ulaanbaatar-Darkhan road, which is one of the busiest sections of the AH-3 corridor, into a four-lane road and fully complete the project in 2022. The 20.9 km road from Gachuurt to Choir, which is the southern part of the AH3 route, has been upgraded to four lane road and is currently open to traffic.

As for the AH-4 route, a total of 746 km of road passes through the territory of Mongolia. The Government of Mongolia is paying great attention to the development of this route and commissioned 720.2 km or 96.5 percent of the total road length, and the remaining 25.8 km of road will be built and commissioned in 2021.

Mongolia currently has a total length of 1,110 km of main railway corridor connecting Russia and China, with a freight turnover capacity of about 23 million tons per year. In the coming years, freight needs for the main railway line will reach 29 million tons, indicating that its capacity will not be sufficient to meet the growing demand.

Under the tripartite Economic Corridor Program, the Trans-Mongolian Central Railway Corridor will be improved, the Eastern Railway Corridor will be newly built to compete with Zabaikalsk-Manchuria Corridor which is the busiest corridor connecting Asia and Europe and to attract certain percentage of freight traffic. Furthermore, this eastern corridor will become the shortest route connecting Asia with Russia and Europe by about 750km shorter route and will offer the short access to the seaports in Northeastern China.

It is also expected that the planned Northern Railway Corridor and its connection to the existing central Trans-Mongolian Line will enable not only the Ovoot coal mine in Mongolia but also a large amount of coal from Russia's Tuva region to be exported to China to increase transit freight traffic through Mongolia.

In addition to expanding the transport infrastructure network, Mongolia will improve the road safety legal environment, improve the quality of road infrastructure, road facilities, introduce a traffic safety audit system, ensure vehicle safety, improve profitability, and use advanced techniques and technologies.

In this context, special attention was paid to the development of its international transport legal environment and concluded bilateral road transport intergovernmental agreements with 11 countries so far and has Air Services Agreements with 39 countries. In order to further expand international relations and increase foreign trade, we are working actively to conclude more road transport agreements with our partner countries mainly in Europe and also to accede to necessary international treaties and conventions regulating transport safety.

In 2014, Mongolia signed the Agreement between the Government of Mongolia and the Government of the People's Republic of China on Railway Transit Cooperation, and in 2018 signed the Agreement between the Government of Mongolia and the Government of the Russian Federation on the Conditions of Railway Transit. This agreement with Russia provides discounted tariff conditions for Mongolian transit cargo for the duration of 25 years, thus creating favorable conditions for increasing the competitiveness of prices for the export of mining commodities and products to regional and world markets.

We will continue to expand our cooperation with countries in Europe and focus on addressing many pressing issues, such as reducing barriers to international, regional and transit transport, facilitating trade, and ensuring the safety and security of transportation.

Thank you for your attention.