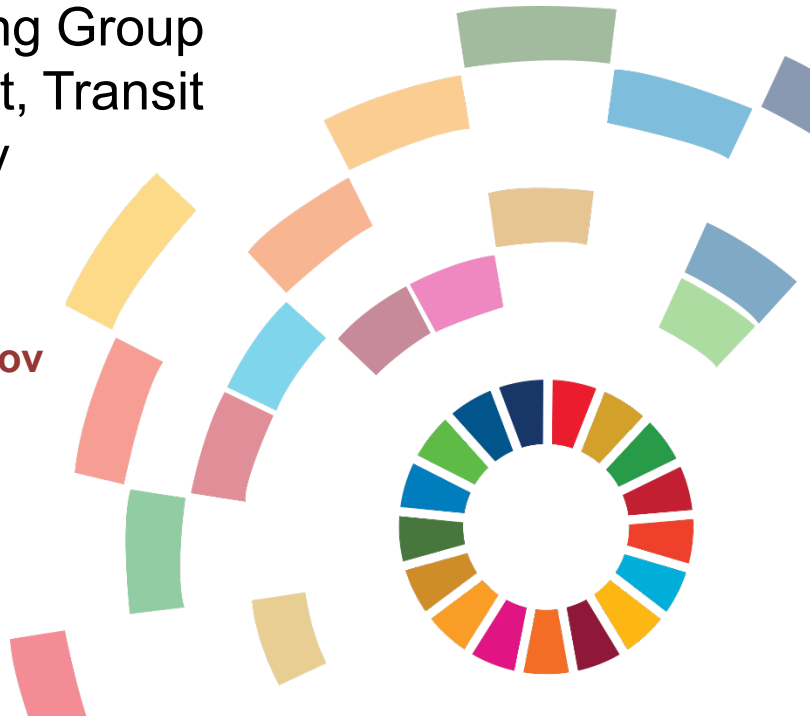


# Transport infrastructure projects, activities and initiatives in SPECA countries

SPECA Thematic Working Group  
on Sustainable Transport, Transit  
and Connectivity

25<sup>th</sup> Session  
22-23 October 2020

**Mr. Bekhzod Rakhmatov**  
Transport Division  
ESCAP



# ESCAP regional transport activities

New approach to include an international dimension in the planning of transport infrastructure.

Asian Highway and Trans-Asian Railway networks, as well as a set of dry ports of international importance

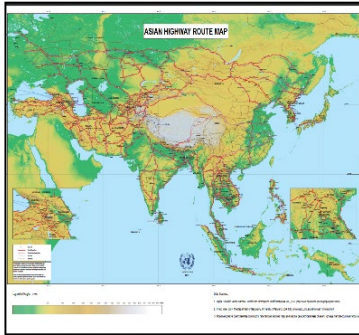
Aggregating disparate infrastructure systems into a common regional network

General Assembly resolution 70/197 of 22 December 2015 and the Commission resolution 72/5

Support to General Assembly resolution 70/1 of September 2015 entitled “Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”

# Infrastructure Connectivity

## Asian Highway Network



- Intergovernmental Agreement on the Asian Highway network
- Entered into force in July 2005
- 30 Contracting Parties
- 145,000 kms in 32 countries
- Working Group on the Asian Highway Network

## Trans-Asian Railway Network



- Intergovernmental Agreement on the Trans-Asian Railway network
- Entered into force in June 2009
- 21 Contracting Parties
- 117,500 kms in 28 countries
- Working Group on the Trans-Asian Railway Network

## Dry Ports



- Intergovernmental Agreement on Dry Ports
- Entered into force in April 2016
- 16 Contracting Parties [+ 1]
- Working Party on Dry Ports

SPECA countries take an active part in the Working Groups, submitting amendments to the respective agreements and pursuing activities in support of the infrastructure development of along the Asian Highways, Trans-Asian Railway and Dry Ports Networks.

# Infrastructure Connectivity (cont'd)

	Intergovernmental Agreement on Asian Highway Network	Intergovernmental Agreement on Trans-Asian Railway Network	Intergovernmental Agreement on Dry Ports
<b>Afghanistan</b>	party		party
<b>Azerbaijan</b>	party	signatory	party
<b>Kazakhstan</b>	party	signatory	party
<b>Kyrgyzstan</b>	party		
<b>Tajikistan</b>	party	party	party
<b>Turkmenistan</b>	party	party	party
<b>Uzbekistan</b>	party	party	

# Sustainable road transport

Eighth meeting of the Working Group on the Asian Highway (18-19 September 2019)

- Mitigation of road transport's negative externalities
- Improvement of infrastructure:
  - More than 50% of Class III and below in some SPECA countries
- Upgrade and maintain all Asian Highway routes to at least Class II
- Promote the use of technology and intelligent transport systems
- ICT for efficient cross-border and transit transport, electronic cargo tracking digital freight platforms

# Sustainable Railways

Rail has an important role to play in the national and international transport

Greater utilization of rail transport to increase sustainability of transport networks

Railways is the most resilient mode of transport during external shocks like pandemics.

The 2030 Development Agenda gives priority to more environmentally sustainable transport, including railways.

# Sustainable Railways (cont'd)

## Sixth Meeting of the Working Group on the Trans-Asian Railway (10-11 December 2019)

- Discussed implementation of the Agreement and approved amendments proposed
- Expressed its continued concern about the remaining missing links and urged to construct them
- Reiterated the importance of electronic information exchange among railways and between railways and control agencies
- Persisting challenge to different gauges between SPECA countries and its neighbours

# Dry ports

16 parties to the Intergovernmental Agreement on Dry Ports has. In SPECA region, the latest is Azerbaijan which acceded to the Agreement on 24 April 2020.

Challenges and issues in the development and operation of dry ports:

- infrastructural insufficiencies
- institutional matters
- lack of deployment of modern technological solutions for dry ports.

Dry ports can be more efficient if considered as an integral part of international intermodal transport corridors



# Dry ports (cont'd)

Working Group on Dry Ports held its third meeting from 13 to 14 November 2019

The Working Group emphasized the need to:

- include dry ports in the international intermodal transport and economic corridors,
- develop an up-to-date legal frameworks for international multimodal transport operations
- application of modern information and communications technologies, digital solutions and innovative business models and of
- developing a region-wide strategic vision of digital transport corridors.

# Dry ports (cont'd)

Regional Framework for the Development, Design, Planning and Operation of Dry Ports of International Importance - a regional guideline to assist in the development of the network of dry ports

From 18 to 19 November 2020, ESCAP is organizing the capacity development workshop on Application of Smart Digital Solutions for Dry Ports in Caucasus and Central Asia.

# THANK YOU

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