



Opening statement

by

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United Nations Under-Secretary-General

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at the

Panel discussion on circular economy from

the multimodal transport of dangerous goods' point of view

during the

112th session of the Working Party on the Transport of Dangerous Goods (WP.15)

held in Geneva

in Room XXIV (starting at 10 a.m. – Geneva time/11 a.m. Cairo time)

on Thursday, 10 November 2022

Excellencies,
Distinguished colleagues,
Ladies and gentlemen,

It is my pleasure to open this Panel discussion on circular economy. I thank the Working Party on the Transport of Dangerous Goods (WP.15) for the dedicated efforts to organize the event as a follow-up of the last year's call of the Commission on circular economy and the sustainable use of natural resources.

The UN Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) is one of the five Regional Commissions of the United Nations. In the field of transport, UNECE provides regional and global standards, harmonization, technological solutions, policy advice and technical assistance for sustainable inland transport and mobility, including all aspects of the multimodal transport of dangerous goods.

For 75 years, UNECE has provided an intergovernmental platform where countries around the world come together to forge tools for economic cooperation, and negotiate and adopt UN conventions and recommendations on inland transport. The 59 UN conventions are considered indispensable for developing safe, efficient and sustainable inland transport systems. Among them, seven conventions

provide legal frameworks that build safer roads and safer vehicle, safe handling of dangerous goods and ensure that we have safer drivers and safe road users. The ADR agreement administered by WP.15 is one of these 7 UN conventions to improve road safety.

I would like to emphasize the importance of circular economy and the sustainable use of natural resources in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the 2030 Agenda.

Today a number of presentations are expected to address the following questions:

- How to promote circular economy approaches and the sustainable use of natural resources by mainstreaming circularity and the sustainable use of natural resources in the work programme of WP.15 and the Joint Meeting;
- How to enhance the impact of RID/ADR/ADN, to foster circular and more resource-efficient approaches.

I wish you a fruitful deliberation during the panel discussion.

Thank you.
