

Thank you, Chair.

Excellencies, on behalf of the United Kingdom, I would like to thank UNECE and all those who daily demonstrate their dedication to advancing economic cooperation for peace, despite the challenges of recent years.

We have a unique window of opportunity before us. The Glasgow Climate Pact kept alive our shared goal of limiting global warming to 1.5 degrees – but only just. Halfway to the 2030 Agenda, our progress has been rocked by a global pandemic and Russia's illegal invasion of Ukraine. As I said at the Regional Forum, this is our opportunity to course-correct. We must not waste it.

We need to make deep emissions cuts to accelerate progress towards a net zero economy. The UK's new [Net Zero Growth Plan](#), published last month, underscores our commitment to this, through investment in a market-led, technology-driven transition.

In parallel, Our International Tech Strategy sets out our vision for technology as an engine of prosperity and sustainability. Partnerships are key. Through the UK's development finance institution, British International Investment, we are facilitating sustainable and high-quality investments in technology infrastructure in developing countries.

We now have information at our fingertips to help us manage our environmental impacts. Our report on [Greening Government ICT](#) demonstrates how increasing digital services across the UK government has reduced carbon emissions and increased data on the green energy mix, enabling us to make smarter decisions.

The UK is committed to collaborating with UNECE members to accelerate these twin transitions. UNECE is an important facilitator of cooperation and enabler of standards for global green and digital innovation.

The UK Research and Innovation agency has invested over 27 million pounds into circular economy research centres, partnering with 34 UK academic institutions and over 120 industry stakeholders to create the National Interdisciplinary Circular Economy Research programme – or NICER. We are also working with UNECE, and our NICER partner organisations, to deliver international circular and equitable approaches to resource management in critical sectors.

The next decade will witness the transformation of road transport as electrification gains momentum and vehicles become increasingly connected. Internationally harmonised approaches can help us realise the potential benefits of this shift. That is why the UK has co-chaired the UNECE's Intelligent Transport Systems group since its inception, finding solutions for the green, connected transport systems we need.

As we accelerate progress towards a green and digital future, it is our responsibility to ensure no one is left behind. We must all stand with Ukraine as it recovers from the widespread destruction of infrastructure and environmental degradation caused by Russia's illegal and unprovoked attack.

Chair, we commend UNECE's work to support emerging economies in the region to access the benefits of these transformations. The UK looks forward to continuing to work closely with UNECE and its members towards a greener, fairer, more resilient, and above all, peaceful future.

Thank you.