



Actions of the inland transport sector to join the global fight against climate change

INLAND TRANSPORT COMMITTEE



## Development of the ITC Strategy on reducing greenhouse gas emissions in inland transport

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# Mandate



**Decisions of ITC at its 85<sup>th</sup> annual session** (Geneva, 21-24 February 2023,  
*see report ECE/TRANS/328, para. 60*):

On the basis of ECE/TRANS/2023/21, the Committee

- requested the secretariat, in close cooperation with the Committee's Bureau and relevant subsidiary bodies, **to develop an ambitious strategy document** for reducing Green House Gas (GHG) emissions in inland transport based on international United Nations legal instruments under the Committee's purview with priority actions for the Inland Transport Committee (ITC) and all its relevant subsidiary bodies, supported by a strong action plan with milestones, for consideration and possible adoption by the Committee at its 86<sup>th</sup> plenary session (2024)
- requested the secretariat to **report biennially through in-depth reports to the Committee on climate change and inland transport**, starting at the Committee's 86<sup>th</sup> session in 2024.



The 85th ITC session  
Source: UNECE



**(Continued) Decisions of ITC at its 85th annual session** (see Report ECE/TRANS/328, para. 60):

On the basis of ECE/TRANS/2023/21, the Committee also

- requested the relevant subsidiary bodies and treaty bodies to **accord priority to timely amendments to the UN inland transport legal instruments** under the Committee's purview to support safe and efficient achievement of the targets, commitments and solutions on climate change;
- requested its relevant subsidiary bodies to **continue efforts towards harmonization of performance requirements and intelligent transport systems related legal instruments directly contributing to reduction of GHG emissions** through improvement of fuel/energy use efficiency; efficient use of transport networks; shift from private cars to public transport when available; flexible load and storage resources for the power grid (electric cars) and automation;
- *Requested* its subsidiary bodies and treaty bodies to **intensify efforts towards digitalization of main United Nations inland transport conventions**
- *Invited* its relevant subsidiary bodies to **reflect on environmental and energy efficiency considerations.**

### Harnessing the full potential of inland transport solutions in the global fight against climate change

#### Ministerial declaration

Re: the ministerial declaration adopted at the 85th session of the Inland Transport Committee, attending to its 10th anniversary.

Recalling the United Nations Charter, in particular one of its main purposes "to maintain international peace and security, and to that end to take effective collective measures for the prevention and removal of threats to the peace, and for the suppression of acts of aggression or other breaches of the peace, and to bring about by peaceful means, and in conformity with the principles of justice and international law, adjustment or settlement of international disputes or situations which might lead to a breach of the peace";

Recalling General Assembly resolution 7421 (X) of 19 December 2013, 7521 (X) of 20 December 2013 and 7620 (X) of 12 December 2014 on the promotion of global climate for people and future generations of humankind;

Recalling previous commitments to implementing the ministerial declaration adopted on the occasion of the commemoration of the twenty-fifth anniversary of the Inland Transport Committee, entitled "Moving to a world of better, for accessible, inland transport and sustainable development", in particular the decision contained in paragraph 10 (b)(iii), aimed at the increasing social and economic costs of increasing climate-related activities and their negative impact on social and economic life for present and future generations of humankind;

Noting also that the increasing impact of climate change on the growth potential of inland transport modes, which comprises the reduction of freight flows and increasing operations in the region for the benefit of the community's mobility, has led to climate change adaptation;

Fully recognizing the importance of inland transport in the context of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

Noting that the



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# Additional background

## High-level policy segment at the 85th ITC session: Actions of the inland transport sector to join the global fight against climate change

- **Ministerial Declaration** *“Harnessing the full potential of inland transport solutions in the global fight against climate change”*, para. 17 requests the secretariat, in close cooperation with the Bureau of the Committee and relevant subsidiary bodies, **to develop a strategy document on reducing greenhouse gas emissions in inland transport**, on the basis of international United Nations legal instruments under the Committee’s purview, containing priority actions for Committee and all its relevant subsidiary bodies, for consideration by the Committee at its 86<sup>th</sup> plenary session (2024)
- Endorsement of Ministerial Declaration by ECE and non-ECE member States
- The Committee noted the Ministerial Declaration and expressed its support for the Declaration’s call for leveraging the Committee’s unique assets for the achievement of the climate targets of the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals (*ECE/TRANS/328, para. 12*).
- The Committee further requested the secretariat to align its work programme to the Ministerial Declaration and accord priority to its implementation (*ECE/TRANS/328, para. 60(h)*).

# Draft strategy outline



- I. Inland transport and climate
- II. ITC vision and mission on climate action
- III. Strategic objectives
- IV. ITC-administered instruments to assist in mitigating climate change
- V. ITC Climate Action Plan with milestones – ITC to help deliver on climate goals
- VI. List of priorities
- VII. Resource mobilization for the delivery of the strategy
- VIII. Strategic partnerships for the delivery of this Strategy

# Timeline



**May 2023: Letter from ITC Chair & Director to Chairs of subsidiary bodies inviting inputs & feedback on Strategy outline and biennial report**

**September 2023:** Presentation to Chairs, IOs, NGOs, partners to gather views

**November 2023:** Feedback from the ITC Bureau on the draft strategy

**Early-January 2024:** Submission of draft Strategy and Action Plan for ITC session



**June 2023:** Support of outline and timeline by ITC Bureau

**By 29 September 2023:** Inputs from Chairs of subsidiary bodies to CC strategy and biennial report on CC and inland transport.

**Mid-November –December 2023:** Consultations with Member States

**20-23 Feb 2024:** Endorsement of Strategy by Ministers/HoD and adoption by ITC-86

# Feedback from the Bureau



- The Bureau considered the draft outline of the ITC Climate Change mitigation Strategy and provided the following comments for its further development:
  - to translate the ambitions and urgency conveyed by the Ministerial Declaration adopted at the 85th session of the ITC in the strategy
  - to consider how to link the work under the ITC on climate change adaptation to strategy
  - to prepare a draft strategy as concise as possible, in particular for the strategy or preamble to be submitted to signature by Ministers, which can be supplemented by the in-depth report on climate change and inland transport and possibly, annexes, for additional information.
- The Bureau provided the following comments to the secretariat for the development of the strong action plan with milestones: ***to consider how to enhance the ongoing and planned activities of the subsidiary bodies, to ensure their effective contributions to the overall aspirational target of net zero emissions from the inland transport sector by 2050.***

# Your contribution



- Thank you in advance for providing your inputs, as requested:
  - for the development of the **climate change mitigation strategy** for consideration and possible adoption by ITC at its 86th plenary session  
**by 29 September 2023**  
(if requested to meet the Working Party cycle, *by 5 January 2024*).
  - for the **biennial report on climate change and inland transport** to the Committee at its 86<sup>th</sup> session (update of information provided to ECE/TRANS/2023/21)  
**by 29 September 2023.**





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**Thank you!**