



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

**INLAND TRANSPORT COMMITTEE**



**UNECE**

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

Informal online meeting

ITC Chair & Chairs/Vice-Chairs of Working  
Parties/Administrative Committees & secretariat

11 September 2023

14:00 – 16:00

Franziska Hirsch

UNECE, Sustainable Transport Division

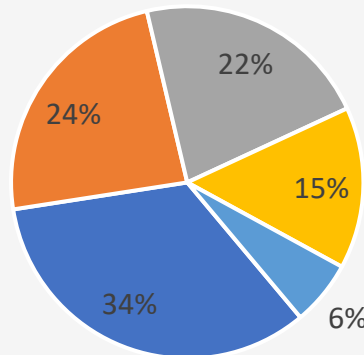
# Climate Change & Inland Transport



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- Limiting global warming to 1.5°C in line with the Paris Agreement requires a 43% GHG emissions reduction by 2030 relative to 2019

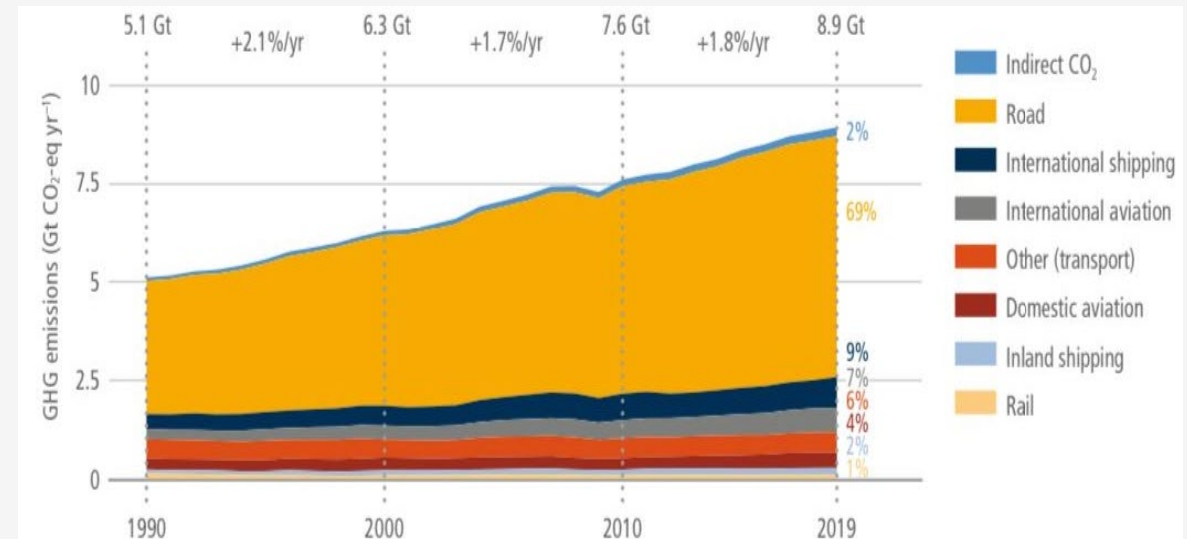
Overview of GHG emissions by sector in 2019



■ Energy sector ■ Industry ■ AFOLU ■ Transport ■ Buildings

Source: IPCC 2023: Sections. In: Climate Change 2023: Synthesis Report. Contribution of Working Groups I, II and III to the Sixth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change

Transport global GHG emission trends 1990-2019



Source: 6th IPCC report 2022, "Climate Change 2022 - Mitigation of Climate Change", Sixth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, Working Group III.

- A pathway for transport to contribute to maintaining global temperature rise below 1.5 °C is possible – requiring a radical transformation of transport and mobility systems

# Climate change & inland transport @ ITC's 85<sup>th</sup> session



## High-level policy segment at the 85th ITC session (21 February 2023): “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”**
- 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**
- The Committee further **requested the secretariat to align its work programme to the Ministerial Declaration and accord priority to its implementation**

ECE/TRANS/328

### Annex I

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

##### Ministerial declaration

*We, the ministers and other heads of delegation of the contracting parties to the United Nations conventions under the purview of the Inland Transport Committee, attending its eighty-fifth session,*

*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 resolutions 74/219 of 19 December 2019, 75/217 of 21 December 2020 and 76/205 of 17 December 2021 on the protection of global climate for present and future generations of humankind,*

*Recalling also our commitment to implementing the ministerial resolution adopted on the occasion of the commemoration of the seventy-fifth anniversary of the Inland Transport Committee, entitled “Ushering in a decade of delivery for sustainable inland transport and sustainable development”, in particular the decision contained in subparagraph (l) thereof,*

*Alarmed by the mounting social and economic costs of devastating climate-related calamities and their disruptive impact on social and economic life for present and future generations worldwide,*

*Alarmed also by the increasing impact of climate change on the smooth operation of inland transport modes, which compromises the resilience of supply chains, and expressing appreciation in this regard for the work of the Committee’s subsidiary bodies on climate change adaptation,*

*Fully supporting pursuing efforts to limit the temperature increase to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels,*

*Gravely concerned by the continued rise of greenhouse gas emissions in the transport sector,*

ECE/TRANS328 Annex I Harnessing the full potential of inland transport solutions in the global fight against climate change



5th ITC - High-level policy segment on “Actions of the inland transport sector to join the global fight against climate change”

# ITC climate change mitigation strategy - Mandate



At its 85th session (Geneva, 21-24 February 2023), the Inland Transport Committee:

- *Requested* the secretariat, in close cooperation with the 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 ITC and all its relevant subsidiary bodies, supported by a **strong action plan with milestones**, for consideration and adoption by the Committee at its 86<sup>th</sup> plenary session (20-23 February 2024)
- *Requested* the secretariat to report biennially through **in-depth reports on climate change and inland transport**, starting at the Committee's 86th session in 2024

(see *Report ECE/TRANS/328, para. 60*)



The 85th ITC session  
Source: UNECE

# ITC Climate change related requests to subsidiary & treaty bodies



On the basis of the background document “*Climate change mitigation in inland transport at an inflection point: the way forward*” (ECE/TRANS/2023/21), the Committee decided on the following ways to strengthen its role and contribution on climate change mitigation that is addressed horizontally by several of the Committee’s subsidiaries, as well as the Committee itself:

- 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 ITS 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.**

(see Report ECE/TRANS/328, para. 60)

# ITC's role in climate change mitigation



## ITC and its subsidiary bodies are uniquely positioned to assist Member States in reducing GHG emissions from inland transport:

- A United Nations centre providing a comprehensive platform for consideration of all aspects of inland transport development and cooperation, with special attention to **interregional and intraregional regulatory governance** through the United Nations transport conventions (E/RES/2022/2); comparable to ICAO and IMO
- Strong regulatory role: **60 UN inland transport legal instruments**
- **152 UN Member States** are contracting party to at least one of the legal instruments
- 29 subsidiary bodies, with some operating at global level
- **ITC Strategy until 2030:** Promotion of sustainable regional and interregional inland transport connectivity and mobility; climate change a cross-cutting issue



## Greenhouse Gas Strategy

- In 2018, IMO adopted an initial strategy on the reduction of GHG emissions from ships, setting out a vision, supplemented by programme with follow-up actions
- In July 2023, IMO Strategy on Reduction of GHG Emissions from Ships adopted:
  - Net-zero GHG emissions from international shipping close to 2050
  - Ensure an uptake of alternative zero and near-zero GHG fuels by 2030
  - Indicative checkpoints (compared to 2008):
    - for 2030: Emission reduction by at least 20%, striving for 30%
    - For 2040: Emission reductions by at least 70%, striving for 80%
  - Basket of candidate mid-term GHG reduction measures to be developed and finalized



Depositphotos 2012

## International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships (MARPOL)

- Amendments to Annex VI with mandatory measures to reduce carbon intensity of international shipping adopted in 2011 and 2021

# ICAO's climate change mitigation actions

## Two global aspirational goals, initially adopted by ICAO Assembly in 2010, reaffirmed in 2013 and 2016:

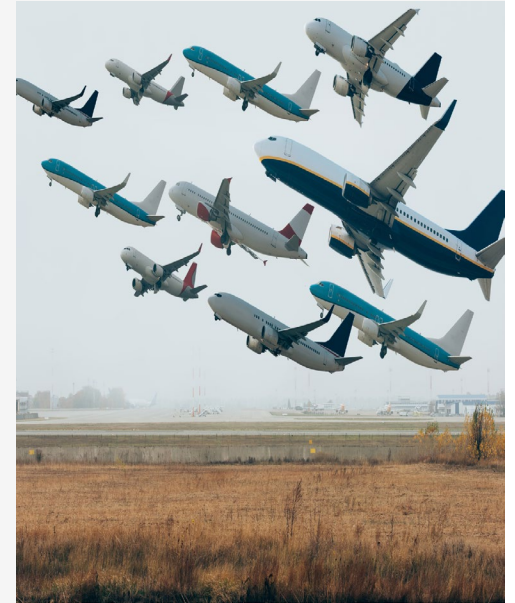
- 2% annual fuel efficiency improvement through 2050
- Carbon neutral growth from 2020 onwards
- Supplemented by basket of measures:
  - Aircraft technology improvements, operational improvements
  - Sustainable aviation fuels
  - Market-based measures - Carbon Offsetting and Reduction Scheme for International Aviation (CORSIA)

## Long-term global aspirational goal (LTAG) adopted by ICAO Assembly in 2022:

- Net zero carbon emissions from aviation by 2050
- Encourages States to develop State Action Plans for its achievement

## Other measures and initiatives

- CORSIA, Standards and Recommended Practices (SARPS), CO<sub>2</sub> emissions reduction initiatives tracker tool



Depositphotos 2019



# ITC climate change mitigation activities – Examples from subsidiary bodies (I)



## Contributions to mitigation measures by ITC, its subsidiary bodies and the secretariat

(see *ECE/TRANS/2023/21*, para. 12)

- Regulatory framework to **measure the life-cycle carbon emissions of vehicles** (under development) (World Forum on the Harmonization of Vehicle Regulations / Working Party on Pollution and Energy (**WP.29/GRPE**))
- Regulatory framework for **deployment of safe electric and hydrogen vehicles** (Working Party on the Transport of Dangerous Goods (**WP.15**) and Working Party on Passive Safety (**WP.29/GRSP**))



Source: Depositphotos 2016



Source: Depositphotos 2023

# ITC climate change mitigation activities – Examples from subsidiary bodies (II)



## Contributions to mitigation measures by ITC, its subsidiary bodies and the secretariat (see *ECE/TRANS/2023/21, para. 12*)

- Regulatory framework for **greening inland water transport fleet, infrastructure and operations** (Working Party Inland Water Transport (**SC.3**)/Working Party on the Standardization of Technical and Safety Requirements in Inland Navigation (**SC.3/WP.3**))
- **Intermodal system and modal shift from road to more environmentally friendly modes** (Working Party on Rail Transport (**SC.2**) and Working Party on Intermodal Transport and Logistics (**WP.24**))
- **Promotion and facilitation of green transport and mobility** (Working Party on Transport Trends and Economics (**WP.5**))
- **The Transport, Health and Environment Pan-European Programme (The PEP)**, Pan-European Master Plan for Cycling Promotion



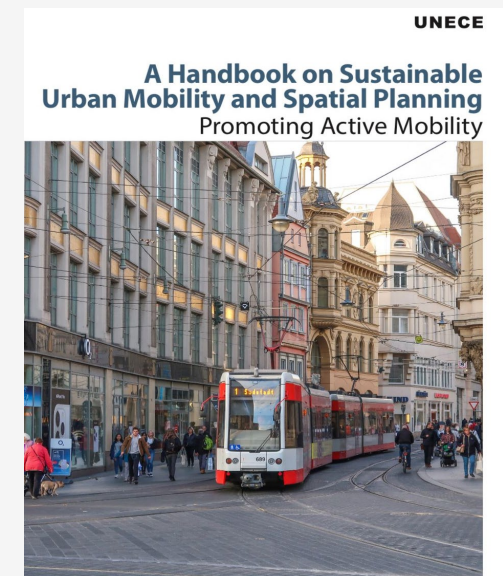
Source: Depositphotos 2018



Source: Depositphotos 2020



Source: Depositphotos 2019



# Legal instruments under ITC's purview



- European Agreement on Main International Railway Lines (**AGC**)
- European Agreement on Important International Combined Transport Lines and Related Installations (**AGTC**) and its Protocol on Combined Transport on Inland Waterways
- European Agreement on Main Inland Waterways of International Importance (**AGN**)
- European Agreement on Main International Traffic Arteries (**AGR**)
- Agreement concerning the Establishing of Global Technical Regulations for Wheeled Vehicles, Equipment and Parts which can be fitted and/or be used on Wheeled Vehicles (**1998 Agreement**)
- Customs Convention on the International Transport of Goods under Cover of TIR Carnets (**TIR Convention**) and **eTIR international system**
- Additional Protocol to the Convention on the Contract for the International Carriage of Goods by Road (CMR) concerning the electronic consignment note (**eCMR**)

# Climate change mitigation strategy - Timeline



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**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 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

# Draft ITC climate change mitigation strategy outline



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- I. Inland transport and climate
- II. ITC vision and mission on climate action – ***Overall aspirational goal of net zero emissions from the inland transport sector by 2050***
- 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
- VIII. Strategic partnerships

# Feedback from the Bureau



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- **Comments for the Strategy's development:**

- To **translate the ambitions and urgency conveyed by the Ministerial Declaration “Harnessing the full potential of inland transport solutions in the global fight against climate change”** adopted at the 85th session of the ITC in the strategy
- To consider how to link the **ITC’s work on climate change adaptation** to strategy
- To prepare a draft strategy **as concise as possible**, to be supplemented by the in-depth report on climate change and inland transport and possibly, annexes, for additional information.

- **Comments 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.**

# Contributions from ITC's subsidiary bodies



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- **Thank you in advance for providing your inputs, as requested, by 29 September 2023:**
  - to the **Climate Change Mitigation Strategy** and its ambitious **Action Plan** with milestones
  - for the “**Biennial report on climate change and inland transport: Activities of the ITC and its subsidiary bodies**” (*update of information provided to ECE/TRANS/2023/21*)
  - Should your WP/AC meet after September, your inputs asap after your meeting will be important, in view of the Bureau’s review of the strategy on 7-8 Nov and consultation with MSs from mid-Nov onwards
- **Thank you in advance for your contribution to today’s discussion:**
  - Opportunities for enhancing the ongoing and planned activities of your WP/AC, to ensure your effective contributions to the strategy with its overall aspirational target of net zero emissions by 2050
  - Sharing insights into your WP’s/AC’s current and future work on climate change
  - Envisaged substantive inputs to the strategy outline and its Action Plan with milestones
  - Recommendations for a (more) impactful Strategy
  - Approach to organizing your submission and contributions



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**Thank you!**

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