



Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
2 February 2024

Original: English

Economic Commission for Europe

Inland Transport Committee

Eighty-sixth session

Geneva, 20-23 February 2024

Item 2 of the provisional agenda

Theme: Taking ambitious climate action -

**Moving towards decarbonized inland transport
by 2050**

High-level Statement of Support to the adoption of the Inland Transport Committee Strategy on Reducing Greenhouse Gas Emissions from Inland Transport

Note by the secretariat*

Summary

The present document contains a High-level Statement of Support to the adoption of the Inland Transport Committee (ITC) Strategy on Reducing Greenhouse Gas Emissions from Inland Transport. The Strategy was elaborated further to a request from the Committee at its eighty-fifth session (ECE/TRANS/328, para. 60(a)) and will be issued as an official ITC document following consultation with ITC's membership (ECE/TRANS/2024/3). Ministers and other Heads of Delegation of United Nations Member States attending the eighty-sixth session of the ITC are invited to endorse this High-level Statement of Support and, by doing so, support the adoption of the ITC Strategy on Reducing Greenhouse Gas Emissions from Inland Transport.

1. Ministers and other Heads of Delegation of United Nations Member States applaud the work of the Inland Transport Committee in efficiently addressing the global and regional needs of inland transport especially in relation to transport connectivity, accessibility, safety and security and in doing so providing a platform of comprehensive regulatory framework for inland transport comparable to the role of the International Maritime Organization (IMO) and International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO).
2. Noting the call of the outcomes of the 28th United Nations Climate Change Conference on countries to contribute, in a nationally determined manner, to accelerating the reduction of emissions from road transport and to transitioning away from fossil fuels in energy systems, in a just, orderly and equitable manner, accelerating action in this critical

* The present report was submitted to the conference services for processing after the deadline as a result of consultations with the Member State.



decade, so as to achieve net zero by 2050 in keeping with the science, taking into account the Paris Agreement and their different national circumstances, pathways and approaches.¹

3. Acknowledging the unique role of the Inland Transport Committee in addressing the global and regional needs of inland transport, Ministers and other Heads of Delegation of United Nations Member States welcome the Inland Transport Committee efforts directed towards reducing the greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from inland transport taking into account the following facts, needs and calls for action:

- The inland transport sector accounted for 72 per cent of global transport GHG emissions in 2019, with 69 per cent originating from road transport, two per cent from inland shipping and one per cent from rail;
- passenger demand is projected to increase by 79 per cent and freight transport by 100 per cent by 2050;
- GHG emissions need to globally peak before 2025 and to be reduced by 43 per cent by 2030 to achieve the goals of the Paris Agreement to pursue efforts to limit the temperature increase to 1.5 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels.
- The outcomes of the 28th United Nations Climate Change Conference included a call for contribution to global efforts in a nationally determined manner, taking into account the Paris Agreement and the different national circumstances, pathways and approaches, such as to transition away from fossil fuels in energy systems, in a just, orderly and equitable manner, accelerating action in this critical decade so as to achieve net zero by 2050 in keeping with the science.²

4. In this context, Ministers and other Heads of Delegation of United Nations Member States express their strong support to the Inland Transport Committee to:

(a) Affirm as its vision for reducing GHG emissions from inland transport to take urgent action to assist its member States and Contracting Parties to United Nations legal instruments under its purview in achieving the aspirational goal of net zero GHG emissions from inland transport by 2050;

(b) Declare its mission to contribute to decarbonization of inland transport by its member States and Contracting Parties to United Nations legal instruments under ITC's purview through enhanced regulatory support, intergovernmental policy dialogue, and increased coordination and partnership among all relevant stakeholders;

(c) Commit to support decarbonization actions in any of or across areas such as avoid, shift, improve, while recognizing that there is no one-size-fits-all prescription on actions and areas to help achieve most progress as it depends on a number of variables including individual context, availability of strategies and action taken in the past on the basis of which the right mix of sectoral and cross-sectoral measures is selected for the future;

(d) Set itself the strategic objective of providing comprehensive support to its members and Contracting Parties to United Nations inland transport legal instruments, through its unique intergovernmental framework, for amplified action to reduce GHG emissions from inland transport, making use, as necessary and where possible, of the full range of available "avoid-shift-improve" options, resulting in: 1) increased inter- and intra-regional governance, 2) enhanced and more coordinated climate action by and among ITC subsidiary bodies, and 3) increased intergovernmental support for climate change mitigation and adaptation;

(e) Acknowledge the importance of supporting the achievement of the strategic objectives of the inland transport sector, which are related to 1) developing and enhancing policies, legislation, and measures and monitoring their impact; 2) fostering the efficient use

¹ Paragraph 28 preamble and (d) and (g), Outcome of the first global stocktake, FCCC/PA/CMA/2023/L.17, 13 December 2023.

² Paragraph 28 preamble and (d) and (g), Outcome of the first global stocktake, FCCC/PA/CMA/2023/L.17, 13 December 2023.

of energy; 3) promoting research and development in cooperation with academia and non-governmental bodies; and 4) supporting circular economy related practices;

(f) Pledge to implement decarbonization actions in close cooperation and collaboration with partners, building on and enhancing existing partnerships with key stakeholders from within the United Nations, international financial institutions, regional integration organizations, intergovernmental transport organizations/forums, non-governmental/civil society organizations, decarbonization initiatives, private sector and academia;

(g) Declare to provide a platform for successful collaboration between stakeholders within and outside the inland transport sector to leverage the knowledge acquired within the sector and in other sectors to identify effective, innovative and tailored solutions to mitigate climate change by the sector.

5. Consequently, Ministers and other Heads of Delegation of United Nations Member States support the Inland Transport Committee in adoption of its Strategy on Reducing Greenhouse Gas Emissions from Inland Transport as contained in ECE/TRANS/2024/3.

6. Ministers and other Heads of Delegation of United Nations Member States encourage timely implementation of the Strategy upon its adoption.
