

Note by the GRPE Secretary



Informal document **GRVA-20-55**  
20th GRVA, 23-27 September 2024  
Agenda item 13(a)

# Implementation of the ITC Strategy on Reducing Greenhouse Gas Emissions from Inland Transport

## (“ITC Decarbonization Strategy”)

GRVA, 20th session  
Geneva, 23-27 September 2024

# ITC Decarbonization Strategy

## Decarbonization Framework: Avoid-Shift-Improve



The Strategy's broad decarbonization framework draws on avoid-shift-improve measures:

- **Avoid** unnecessary vehicle kilometres through compact development, increasing accessibility to services, and reducing the need to travel as much as we do today.
- **Shift** to low and zero carbon, sustainable transport modes and/or operations
- **Improve** vehicles, infrastructure and operations.

# ITC Decarbonization Strategy

## Initial ITC Climate Action Plan - Development



UNECE

- Contains 33 initial actions\* to drive the change towards achieving the vision, mission and strategic objectives
  - Arrowed action = subsequent action
  - Indicative implementation targets years except for a few actions defined as continuous (mainly ITC dedicated actions)
  - Responsible bodies (joint actions by specific WPs/WP(s)-ITC, dedicated actions to a WP/ITC)
  - ASI pillar
- ITC manages its Climate Action Plan (in the biennial review)
  - Can adjust but also terminate any action
  - Add new actions

↑ Proposal from WPs will support this task

\* Initial actions - worked out during the Strategy elaboration process, based on proposals from WPs

Discussion items => questions / ways, mechanism to make proposals to ITC

# ITC Decarbonization Strategy

## Initial ITC Climate Action Plan - Implementation



- Dedicated WP/WPs expected to take necessary steps leading to a timely implementation of an action  
=> report on progress (reporting format) / report if progress is not possible (termination?)

Discussion items – assurance of effective collaboration on joint actions

### WPs only

=> implementation from the angle of a WP focus area

=> exchange of information between the relevant WPs can be helpful – need for a mechanism to do so?

### ITC only (actions on assessing the feasibility)

=> will ITC involve its WPs – need for a mechanism to do so?

### ITC and WPs – e.g. action 26

=> lead by ITC expected? or

=> contribution from WPs based on their focus area?

# ITC Decarbonization Strategy

## Initial ITC Climate Action Plan - Content



The Initial Climate Action Plan contains 33 actions:

- **Short-term - until 2026: 10 short-term actions in total** (including continuous)
- **Medium-term (2030 horizon): 17 medium-term actions** between 2027 and 2030
- **Long-term: 6 long-term actions** between 2030 and 2050

### V. Initial ITC Climate Action Plan with milestones– ITC to help deliver on climate goals and priorities

31. The below action plan contains initial actions for ITC and its subsidiary bodies to drive the change towards achieving the vision, mission and strategic objectives for curbing GHG emissions from inland transport. It comprises actions for specific ITC bodies, including joint and coordinated action among them. The actions are organized according to and following the order of the strategic and horizontal objectives (arrows indicate subsequent actions, depending on the results of the previous action). Indicative target years for implementation of each action are provided, which ITC can adjust depending on progress achieved.

32. The action plan should serve as a living document. ITC will adjust and/or include therein additional actions during the plan’s biennial review based on proposals made by its subsidiary bodies while completed actions will no longer be reflected in it. Actions targeting feasibility assessments will be considered by ITC or its subsidiary bodies based on the results stemming from these assessments so that follow-up actions are either implemented or terminated. In this way, ITC will manage this action plan.

Action number	Specific action	Target year	Related Objective(s)	ASI pillar addressed	Responsible bodies
1	Assess regularly actions taken in support of implementation of this Strategy, and address climate change whenever feasible, through annual sessions or dedicated seminars or workshops and report it	From 2024, annually	A. / C.	Avoid/Shift/Improve	ITC and all its subsidiary bodies
2	Assess the feasibility and potential benefits of traffic reduction measures towards provision of options for Member States to draw from in developing their own national strategies	2027	A.(a) / C.	Avoid	ITC / WP.5
3	Assess the feasibility and potential benefits of modal shift goals, if appropriate for individual Member States when developing their own national strategies, in cooperation with all relevant stakeholders (i.e. shippers and logistical companies)	2027	A.(a) / C.	Shift	WP.5 / WP.24 / SC.1 / SC.2/ SC.3
4	Take stock of existing policies or current efforts to reduce GHG emissions of vehicles. Explore the potential to harmonize regulatory tools among relevant markets, or to set tailpipe reduction targets for countries, if appropriate for them	2026	A.(a) / C.	Improve	WP.29
5	↳ If relevant, set tailpipe GHG emission reduction target	2028	A.(a) / C.	Improve	WP.29
6	Enable hybrid attendance and participation, including for decision making purposes	2027	A.(a)	Avoid	All subsidiary bodies
7	Provide analytical input to enhance infrastructure standards to make road, rail and waterways network resilient to climate change	2030	A.(a) / A.(c) / C.	Adapt	WP.5/GE.3

# ITC Decarbonization Strategy

## Initial ITC Climate Action Plan – Actions for Working Parties



Action number	Specific action	Target year	Related Objective(s)	ASI pillar addressed	Responsible bodies
3	Assess the feasibility and potential benefits of modal shift goals, if appropriate for individual Member States when developing their own national strategies, in cooperation with all relevant stakeholders (i.e. shippers and logistical companies)	2027	A.(a) / C.	Shift	WP.5 / WP.24 / SC.1 / SC.2/ SC.3
4	Take stock of existing policies or current efforts to reduce GHG emissions of vehicles. Explore the potential to harmonize regulatory tools among relevant markets, or to set tailpipe reduction targets for countries, if appropriate for them	2026	A.(a) / C.	Improve	WP.29
5	↳ If relevant, set tailpipe GHG emission reduction target	2028	A.(a) / C.	Improve	WP.29
6	Enable hybrid attendance and participation, including for decision making purposes	2027	A.(a)	Avoid	All subsidiary bodies
7	Provide analytical input to enhance infrastructure standards to make road, rail and waterways network resilient to climate change	2030	A.(a) / A.(c) / C.	Adapt	WP.5/GE.3
8	Consider additional parameters in the AGTC assisting electrification or use of alternative fuels or energy solutions at the network and amend the instrument if appropriate	2035	A.(a)	Improve	WP.24
9	Accelerate accession and implementation of the AGC/AGTC AGTC-Protocol so that intermodal transport infrastructure is developed enabling a shift to rail or inland waterways and monitor progress in infrastructure improvements	2040	A.(a)	Shift/ Improve	WP.24/SC.2/SC.3

# ITC Decarbonization Strategy

## Initial ITC Climate Action Plan – Actions for Working Parties



Action number	Specific action	Target year	Related Objective(s)	ASI pillar addressed	Responsible bodies
10	Enable instruments similar to AGTC for use by United Nation Member States from outside of ECE region	2040	A.(a)	Shift/ Improve	WP.24/SC.2/ SC.3/WP.5
11	In terms of cycling infrastructure, consider, if appropriate, a new Convention on cycling route networks, taking into account the work of WP.5 and THE PEP	2027	A.(a) / C.	Avoid/Shift/ Improve	WP.5
18	Elaborate and support implementation of policy recommendations surrounding low- and zero-carbon technologies, such as electric vehicles and their charging infrastructure for passenger, freight and intermodal movements	2028	A.(c)	Avoid/Shift/ Improve	WP.5/WP.24/ WP.29/SC.1
19	Elaborate policy solutions for Mobility as a Service (MaaS) for passenger movement	2030	A.(c)	Avoid/Shift/ Improve	WP.5
20	Elaborate policy solutions for minimizing 'empty runs' and to create incentives for transport users to make informed choices and for operators to optimize their services	2035	A.(c)	Avoid/ Improve	SC.1/SC.2/WP.24/WP.5
21	Elaborate policy solutions for intermodal city logistics, urban physical internet	2035	A.(c) / C.	Improve	WP.5/WP.24
24	Manage inland transport GHG emissions data (considering different modes and energy types)	2028	A.(c)	Avoid/Shift/ Improve	WP.6
25	Work towards efficient and seamless multimodal transport data and information digitalization and monitor progress	2040	A.(c)	Shift/ Improve	WP.24

# ITC Decarbonization Strategy

## Initial ITC Climate Action Plan – Actions for Working Parties



Action number	Specific action	Target year	Related Objective(s)	ASI pillar addressed	Responsible bodies
27	Develop and support uptake of guidance for vulnerability assessment/stress tests of transport asset to climate change hazard and for effective adaptation programmes e.g. adaptation pathways	2027	A.(c)	Adapt	WP.5/GE.3
28	Develop and support uptake of guidance on asset/network criticality assessment for adaptation	2027	A. (c)	Adapt	WP.5/GE.3
29	Optimize infrastructure networks by better utilization of ITS or traffic management system for road, rail, intermodal transport	2030	A.(c)	Avoid/ Improve	SC.1/SC.2/WP.24
30	Work towards reducing pathing conflicts by elaborating solutions for equal and fair use of the railway network by freight and passenger transport	2030	A.(c)	Improve	SC.2/WP.24
31	Ensure the safe and secure deployment of low- and zero-carbon modes, technologies for vehicles and their charging infrastructure	Continuous	A.(c) / C.	Shift / Improve	WP.15/WP.29, with contributions from WP.1, WP.5 and other WPs
32	Develop globally harmonized methodology to determine the carbon footprint of vehicles from cradle-to-grave	2025	A.(c) / C.	Improve	WP.29/GRPE, with support from other WPs
33	Elaborate possible solutions to improve material and resource efficiencies in the mobility value chains such as sustainable batteries, in the design, production, use and the end-of-life stages.	2027	A (c)	Improve	WP.5 / WP.29/GRPE



# ITC Decarbonization Strategy

## Initial ITC Climate Action Plan – Actions for ITC



Action number	Specific action	Target year	Related Objective(s)	ASI pillar addressed	Responsible bodies
12	Assess the feasibility and potential benefits of developing a succinct GHG template to be attached to decisions taken by WPs to assess the effect of decisions by the ITC and subsidiary bodies on GHG emissions	2026	A.(b)	Avoid/Shift/Improve	ITC
13	↳ If implemented, provide an analysis of the expected contributions of decisions by the ITC and its subsidiary bodies on GHG emissions	2028	A.(b)	Avoid/Shift/Improve	ITC
14	Establish partnership with GEF / GCF, among other United Nations funds to become an implementing agency	2028	A.(b)	Avoid/Shift/Improve	ITC
15	Assess the feasibility of the preparation and benefits resulting from the availability of national, subregional/regional inland transport decarbonization action plans	2026	A.(b)	Avoid/Shift/Improve	ITC
16	↳ Establish, if appropriate, partnership with UNFCCC on potential complementarities between "inland transport decarbonization action plans" and UNFCCC's "NDCs"	2028	A.(b)	Avoid/Shift/Improve	ITC
17	Hosting the ITC events on climate change in the sidelines of the annual sessions, as appropriate and addressing climate change during high-level policy forums, as appropriate	From 2025 onwards	A.(c)	Avoid/Shift/Improve	ITC
22	Assess the feasibility and potential benefits of defining intermediate targets (2030/2040) for achieving net zero GHG emission by 2050 by inland transport GHG emission reduction target	2026	A.(c)	Avoid/Shift/Improve	ITC
23	↳ If relevant, explore and propose goals and pathways for GHG reduction in inland transport for the short-(2030), medium (2040)-, and moving towards net zero by 2050 and, if and where appropriate, include these, along with national policies, in inland transport decarbonization action plans to be shared at the ITC	From 2026	A.(c)	Avoid/Shift/Improve	ITC

# ITC Decarbonization Strategy

## Initial ITC Climate Action Plan – Joint Actions for ITC and WPs



Action number	Specific action	Target year	Related Objective(s)	ASI pillar addressed	Responsible bodies
1	Assess regularly actions taken in support of implementation of this Strategy, and address climate change whenever feasible, through annual sessions or dedicated seminars or workshops and report it	From 2024, annually	A. / C.	Avoid/Shift/Improve	ITC and all its subsidiary bodies
2	Assess the feasibility and potential benefits of traffic reduction measures towards provision of options for Member States to draw from in developing their own national strategies	2027	A.(a) / C.	Avoid	ITC / WP.5
26	Develop methodological and analytical tools to support national efforts further to and based on existing tools such as For Future Inland Transport Systems (ForFITS), Sustainable Inland Transport Connectivity Indicators (SITCIN), and the International Transport Infrastructure Observatory (ITIO-GIS)	From 2024 onwards	A.(c)	Avoid/Shift/Improve	ITC and all its WPs

# ITC Decarbonization Strategy

## Implementation and Monitoring



### Implementation

- By ITC and the Working Parties (individually and jointly)
- In close cooperation with partners

### Monitoring

- ITC and its Working Parties will regularly monitor implementation and consider opportunities for enhanced actions
- A standing agenda item on the implementation of the ITC Decarbonization Strategy during the ITC plenary sessions, **starting at the 87<sup>th</sup> ITC session in 2025**
- **Formal reporting** on progress achieved in the actions assigned **on a biennial basis, starting at the 88<sup>th</sup> ITC session in 2026**

# ITC Decarbonization Strategy

## Periodic Review



### Timeframe

- **Every 5 years**, starting with the first review at the 91<sup>st</sup> ITC session in 2029

### Purpose

- Taking stock of the progress made in implementing the strategic objectives and the initial Climate Action Plan
- Considering setting new objectives
- Determining new actions and targets
- Adapting the Strategy to the latest knowledge about decarbonization of inland transport

### Method

- ITC will centrally coordinate the review, incl. defining the scope and terms of reference

# ITC Decarbonization Strategy

## Progress



- Letter to Chairs (30 July)
- Memorandum to secretaries (30 July)
- Presentation blueprint shared with all secretaries
- ITC Secretariat presentations on the Strategy and its implementation in Working Parties (WP.29 and GRs; WP.15; WP.15/AC.2-ADN Safety Committee; RID/ADR/ADN Joint meeting)
- Several Working Parties have included a dedicated agenda item on the follow-up to ITC and implementation of the Strategy



**Taking Ambitious  
Climate Action  
Decarbonizing Inland  
Transport by 2050**

**INLAND TRANSPORT COMMITTEE**



**Thank you!**