
Economic Commission for Europe

Inland Transport Committee

Working Party on Transport Trends and Economics

Thirty-seventh session

Geneva, 25–27 September 2024

Item 5 (b) of the provisional agenda

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

Workshop on integrating inland transport emissions into Nationally Determined Contributions reporting under the Paris Agreement

Note by the secretariat

I. Mandate

1. This workshop, titled 'Integrating Inland Transport Emissions into Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC) Reporting under the Paris Agreement,' will take place on Thursday, 26 September 2024, from 10:00 to 13:00 CET. It is part of the WP.5 cluster on 'Transport and Climate Change' and follows the adoption of the [Inland Transport Committee's \(ITC\) Strategy on Reducing Greenhouse Gas \(GHG\) Emissions from Inland Transport](#) at its 86th annual session in 2024. During the workshop, WP.5 will discuss its role in supporting the implementation of the Strategy, in alignment with the actions and milestones outlined in the Strategy's action plan (ECE/TRANS/2024/3). Additionally, at its July 2024 session, the ITC Bureau requested that WP.5 hold a dedicated discussion on incorporating transport into ongoing NDCs. This workshop is specifically designed to address that request.

II. Background

2. Inland transport, which includes road, rail, and inland waterways, is a significant contributor to greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and plays a major role in global warming. As countries work to meet their climate commitments under the Paris Agreement, it is essential to comprehensively address emissions from the transport sector. Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) provide a framework for countries to outline their climate action plans and set targets for reducing emissions. However, emissions from inland transport may not always be accurately reflected in these reports due to the complexity of calculating transport emissions (including many different modes of transport and varying geographic conditions which impact fuel consumption) As a result, this poses a challenge to achieving global climate goals.

3. This situation highlights the urgent need to better integrate inland transport sector emissions into both national and international climate strategies. The recently adopted ECE

“Inland Transport Committee (ITC) Strategy on Reducing Greenhouse Gas Emissions from Inland Transport” emphasizes the priority of significantly reducing the sector's climate impact and aligning these efforts with NDCs. In response, this workshop has been organized to explore and discuss strategies for accelerating decarbonization within the inland transport sector, based on an adequate understanding of emission levels and their sources, ensuring they are accurately reflected in future NDC reports from member States.

III. The role of the Inland Transport Committee decarbonization strategy and action plan

4. The ITC Climate Action Plan, an essential component of the Strategy, outlines several actions to enhance data collection, reporting and national policy development:

- **Action 4:** Take stock of existing policies and efforts to reduce GHG emissions from vehicles and explore the potential to harmonize regulatory tools among relevant markets or set tailpipe reduction targets for countries.
- **Action 15:** Assess the feasibility and benefits of preparing national, subregional, or regional inland transport decarbonization action plans.
- **Action 16:** Establish a partnership with the UNFCCC to explore complementarities between "inland transport decarbonization action plans" and UNFCCC's "NDCs."
- **Action 22:** Assess the feasibility and potential benefits of defining intermediate targets (2030/2040) for achieving net-zero GHG emissions by 2050. This involves setting inland transport GHG emission reduction targets and exploring goals and pathways for GHG reduction in the short (2030), medium (2040), and long term, aiming for net zero by 2050.
- **Action 24:** Position the ITC to manage inland transport GHG emissions data, considering different modes and energy types.

5. Hence, the Strategy and its Action Plan provide a framework to help countries accurately calculate their inland transport emissions and outline specific actions to effectively reduce them. It can serve as a source of inspiration for member States looking to develop targeted mitigation strategies, which can then be reflected in their NDCs. This approach can lead, among other things, to the adoption of cleaner technologies, the promotion of public transportation, the development of sustainable infrastructure, and the optimization of freight logistics, all aimed at reducing overall emission levels.

IV. Workshop objectives

6. The workshop is expected to provide a platform for participants to:

- Raise awareness about the significance of inland transport emissions in NDCs.
- Discuss challenges and opportunities in reporting and reducing transport emissions.
- Identify which actions of the ITC Climate Action Plan, a key component of the above referred to Strategy, should be intensified or accelerated at the international level to help countries cut emissions and reflect these actions in their NDCs.
- Exchange views, best practices, and strategies for integrating transport emissions into national climate policies.

7. Furthermore, participants will discuss the possibility of developing a template to help governments better report on their ongoing and planned measures aimed at reducing GHG emissions from inland transport, including freight transport.

V. Target audience

8. The workshop targets Ministry of Transport officials and representatives from other government agencies responsible for developing NDCs from across the ECE region and beyond. Representatives from relevant NGOs, the private sector, and academia are also welcome.

VI. Draft programme

Workshop on integrating inland transport emissions into Nationally Determined Contributions reporting under the Paris Agreement

10:00-10:30 – Welcoming and introductory remarks

Selected topics:

- Overview of workshop objectives and rationale
- Presentation of the Inland Transport Committee's (ITC) Strategy on Reducing Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Emissions from Inland Transport and its Action Plan

Speakers:

- WP.5 Chair/ Vice-Chair
- Representative(s) of UNECE Sustainable Transport Division
- Representative of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)

Discussion

10:30–11:30 – Session 1: Tracking transport related measures in NDCs – challenges and opportunities

Selected topics:

- Taking stock of various tools and platforms used to monitor, analyze, and evaluate the integration of transport-related measures into Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) under the Paris Agreement.
- Development of NDC templates and guidelines to assist governments in reporting measures aimed at reducing emissions from road, rail, and public transport under the Paris Agreement.

Speakers:

- Representative of the International Transport Forum (ITF)/ Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)
- Representative of the German Agency for International Cooperation (GIZ)/ Representative of the SLOCAT Partnership
- Representative of the International Union of Railways (UIC)

Discussion

11:30-11.45 – Break

11:45-12:45 – Session 2: Prioritization of ITC Strategy Actions and taking stock of national good practice examples aimed at integrating inland transport into NDCs

Selected topics:

- Taking stock of national good practice examples of integrating inland transport into NDCs and presentations by member States.
- Prioritization of ITC Strategy Actions, guidance by the Working Party.

Speakers:

- Representatives of ECE member States
- Representatives of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the UNECE Sustainable Transport Division

12:45-13:00 – Conclusions, wrap-up, and next steps by WP.5 Chair/ UNECE Secretariat

13:00 – End of workshop

9. The full programme of the workshop with names of all speakers confirmed will be published on the WP.5 webpage ahead of the start of the annual session: <https://unece.org/info/events/event/392542>.
