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**Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific**

**Seventy-second session**

Agenda item 3 (c)

**Resolution adopted by the Economic and Social Commission  
for Asia and the Pacific**

**72/5. Strengthening regional cooperation on transport connectivity  
for sustainable development in Asia and the Pacific**

*The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific,*

*Stressing* the importance of the diversification of transport and logistics supply chains within Asia and the Pacific and between Asia and Europe to enhance transport connectivity and economic growth,

*Encouraged* by the successful regional cooperation that led to the definition and formalization of the Asian Highway network, the Trans-Asian Railway network and the network of dry ports of international importance, under the auspices of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific,

*Recognizing* that the Intergovernmental Agreement on the Asian Highway Network,<sup>1</sup> the Intergovernmental Agreement on the Trans-Asian Railway Network,<sup>2</sup> the Intergovernmental Agreement on Dry Ports,<sup>3</sup> the Regional Strategic Framework for the Facilitation of International Road Transport and the Regional Cooperation Framework for the Facilitation of International Railway Transport<sup>4</sup> provide an institutional framework for the development of integrated transport systems and efficient regional transport connectivity in Asia and the Pacific, and noting the need for further harmonization of the regional railway institutional arrangement,

*Recalling* General Assembly resolution 70/197 of 22 December 2015 on comprehensive cooperation among all modes of transport for promoting sustainable intermodal transit corridors, in which the Assembly invited the Secretary-General to continue to promote and facilitate effective international cooperation on sustainable transport issues,

*Recognizing* the importance of international intermodal transport corridors for safe, efficient, reliable and affordable movement of goods and

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<sup>1</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2323, No. 41607.

<sup>2</sup> *Ibid.*, vol. 2596, No. 46171.

<sup>3</sup> Commission resolution 69/7.

<sup>4</sup> Commission resolution 71/7, annex.

people for supporting sustainable economic growth, improving the social welfare and enhancing international cooperation and trade among member States,

*Recognizing also* the need to connect the economies of small island developing States to the network of regional and global supply chains by integrating them into existing and emerging intermodal transport and transit corridors,

*Noting* the new approach by member States to include an international dimension in the planning of their transport infrastructure and implementation of unified, prompt and transparent transit policy for the development of efficient transport connectivity in Asia and the Pacific,

*Recognizing* that in the context of developments in the global economy, simplifying the procedures for international cargo transportation through the elimination of non-physical barriers would promote the growth of volumes of intraregional and interregional intermodal cargo flows,

*Recalling* Commission resolution 66/4 of 19 May 2010 on the implementation of the Bangkok Declaration on Transport Development in Asia, resolution 68/4 of 23 May 2012 on the implementation of the Ministerial Declaration on Transport Development in Asia and the Pacific, including the Regional Action Programme for Transport Development in Asia and the Pacific, phase II (2012-2016) and resolution 71/8 of 29 May 2015 on strengthening intraregional and interregional connectivity in Asia and the Pacific and the regional strategic framework for the facilitation of international road transport procedures,

*Acknowledging* Commission resolution 71/6 on maritime transport connectivity for sustainable development, that maritime transport connectivity is vital to the achievement of sustainable development in the Asia-Pacific region, and that maritime transport is an essential factor in supporting the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,

*Recalling* the Vienna Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries for the Decade 2014-2024,<sup>5</sup> which reaffirmed the importance of the development of transit transport infrastructure networks and the improvement of intermodal connectivity in terms of their integration into the regional and global markets,

*Emphasizing* the significance of East-West and North-South international transport corridors for intermodal transport connectivity to enhance international trade and transportation,

*Noting* the role of East-West and North-South international transport corridors, together with other national, subregional and regional initiatives, in promoting the development of international transport corridors to offer fast and safe transit opportunities for intercontinental trade between Asia and Europe and to contribute to regional economic development,

*Stressing* the importance of aligning future transport development with the objectives of the Sustainable Development Goals, in particular, as a high priority, the Goals related to road safety,

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<sup>5</sup> General Assembly resolution 69/137.

*Reaffirming its commitment* to the Busan Declaration on Transport Development in Asia and the Pacific and the Bangkok Declaration on Transport Development in Asia,

*Recognizing* that new technologies such as intelligent transport systems or global navigation satellite systems have the potential to substantially improve the management of traffic flows along international transport corridors, thereby contributing to reduced transport costs and a more environmentally friendly transport sector in support of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and recognizing the importance of building and strengthening the capacity of member States to harness and deploy these technologies,

*Emphasizing* the importance of the competitiveness, efficiency, safety and security of transport systems as well as the implementation of environmentally sound innovative technologies and capacity-building, including personnel training for improving the quality of transport for sustainable development,

1. *Calls upon* countries in the Asia-Pacific region to further strengthen and develop cooperation among existing subregional initiatives within the framework of the Trans-Asian Railway network and Asian Highway programmes of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific;

2. *Calls upon* countries in the Asia and Pacific region and relevant international organizations to develop and strengthen the intermodal connectivity in support of achieving sustainable development;

3. *Encourages* all relevant international and regional financial institutions to actively cooperate with the Governments of the Asia-Pacific region and to assist them in financing the development of transport corridors;

4. *Invites* member States that have not yet done so to consider the possibility of becoming parties to the Intergovernmental Agreement on the Trans-Asian Railway Network<sup>2</sup> and the Intergovernmental Agreement on the Asian Highway Network<sup>1</sup> as well as the Intergovernmental Agreement on Dry Ports;<sup>3</sup>

5. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to:

(a) Support the efforts of members and associate members of the Commission on the development of international transport connectivity;

(b) Promote effective coordination with the relevant United Nations agencies and other international and regional organizations to exchange best practices and knowledge related to transport and transport infrastructure development;

(c) Collaborate with relevant regional initiatives and programmes aimed at developing transport connectivity, in particular through the development of East-West and North-South international transport corridors;

(d) Cooperate with all relevant international and regional financial institutions, as well as international organizations, in order to further mobilize financial and technical support for the wider development and promotion of transport connectivity in Asia and the Pacific;

(e) Make all efforts to encourage all relevant international and regional financial institutions to actively cooperate with member States of the Asia-Pacific region and to assist in financing the development of transport

corridors, including the completion of missing links in the routes of East-West and North-South international transport corridors;

(f) Report to the Commission at its seventy-fourth session on the implementation of the present resolution.

*6th plenary meeting  
19 May 2016*