

Information session Inland Navigation in Asia and the Pacific

Technical meeting on decent and sustainable work
in the inland waterways sector
20 - 24 November 2023, Geneva, Switzerland

Ms. Ariadne Abel

*Economic Affairs Officer
Transport Division
ESCAP*

WORLD SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORT DAY

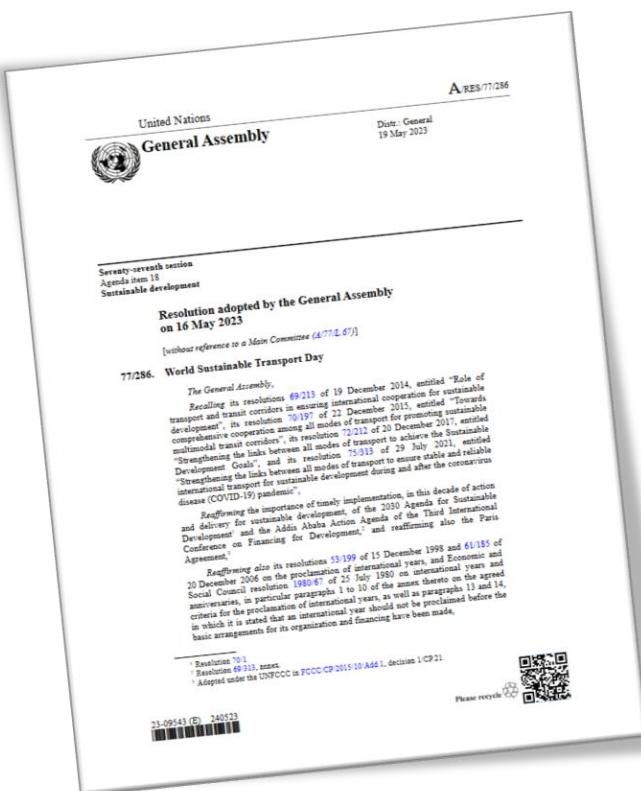
26th November 2023 | bit.ly/SustTransportDay24

World Sustainable Transport Day 2023

UNGA Resolution A/RES/77/286 adopted in May 2023 and declared 26 November as World Sustainable Transport Day

Recognizes the important role of safe, affordable, accessible and sustainable transport systems for all in supporting sustainable economic growth, improving the social welfare of people and enhancing international cooperation and trade among countries

The resolution invites all to mark World Sustainable Transport Day by means of education and the holding of events aimed at enhancing the knowledge of the public on sustainable transport issues – all Regional Commissions of the UN have responded to this call for action



Overview

United Nations Regional Commissions

- Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP)
- Europe (ECE)
- Arab Region (ESCWA)
- Africa (ECA)
- Latin America and Caribbean (ECLAC)

BROCHURE

MESSAGES FROM THE UNITED
NATIONS REGIONAL
COMMISSIONS ON
SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORT

 Perspectives from
the Five Regions

WORLD
SUSTAINABLE
TRANSPORT DAY

#SustainableTransportDay



TRANSPORT



United Nations
Regional Commissions
ECA ECLAC ESCAP ESCWA UNECE

Functions of ESCAP

➤ Intergovernmental consensus building and norm-setting

- Ministerial Conference on Transport every 5 years, Committee on Transport every 2 years, Treaty bodies to 3 Intergovernmental Agreements every 2 years, Maritime Forum every year

➤ Research and analysis

- Knowledge products: Flagship reports, sectoral technical reports policy briefs, working papers, technical/training materials

➤ Capacity building and Advisory services

- Capacity building activities
- Technical assistance projects

ESCAP "Regional Action Programme for Sustainable Transport Development in Asia and the Pacific (2022-2026)"

Three overarching objectives

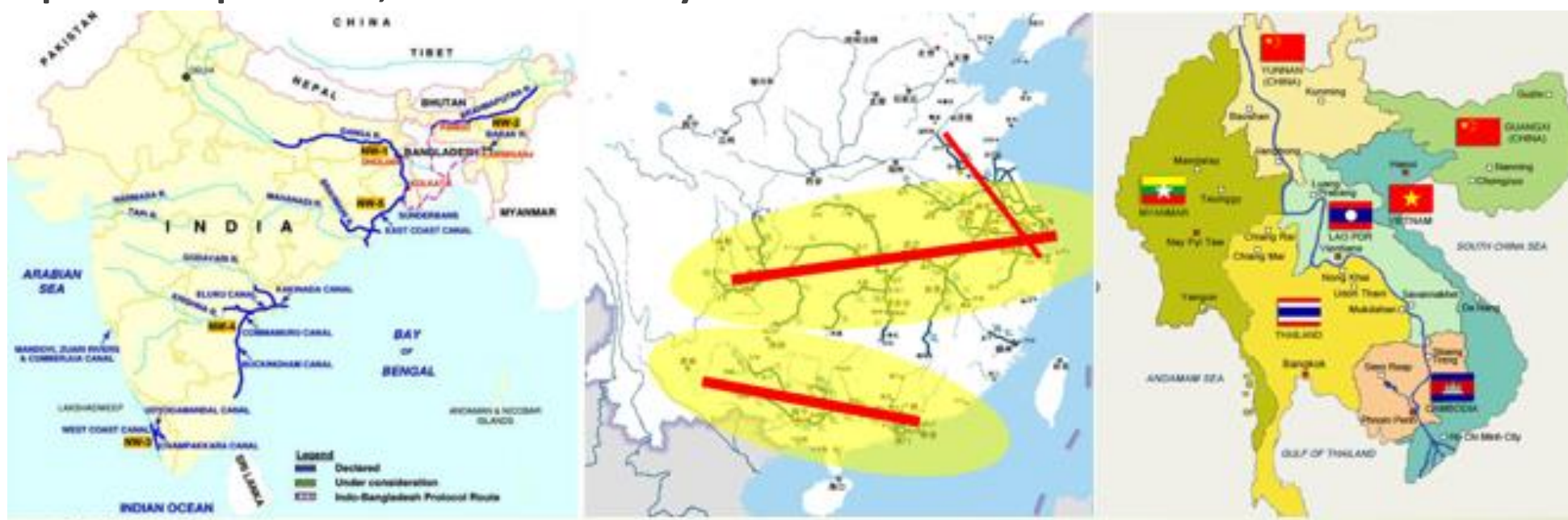
- ▶ Improve efficiency and resilience of transport network
- ▶ Advance environmentally sustainable transport systems and services
- ▶ Promote safe and inclusive transport and mobility

Seven thematic areas

- ▶ Regional land transport connectivity and logistics
- ▶ Maritime and interregional transport connectivity
- ▶ Digitalization of transport
- ▶ Low carbon mobility and logistics
- ▶ Urban transport
- ▶ Road safety
- ▶ Inclusive transport and mobility

Inland navigation in the ESCAP region (1)

- Inland navigation is recognized as a clean, safe and energy efficient mode of transport
- Most countries have inland waterways, but only a few capable of contributing to logistics and transport
 - The Lancang-Mekong River, which runs through China and five Southeast Asian countries, is important from the perspective of cooperation and partnership.
- Despite their potential, inland waterways are still underutilized



Inland navigation in the ESCAP region (2)

Challenges

- Differing interests in water resources
- Complicated governance
- Insufficient navigation aids and safety facilities/frequent accidents
- Lack of investment in infrastructure and fleet
- Digitalization gap
- Insufficient intermodal connection system from river port to hinterland
- Lack of skilled/trained experts & workers
- Difficulties in securing stable water depth: Water level differences occur due to seasonal factors (rainy season, dry season, etc.)



ESCAP work on Inland Navigation

- Addressed as one an important component at National Workshops and Forums
 - National Workshop on Sustainable Maritime and Port Connectivity for Resilient and Efficient Supply Chains Cambodia (September 2022), Thailand(October 2022), Viet Nam(September 2022)
 - National Consultation Workshop on Sustainable Freight Transport, Bangladesh (May 2022)
 - 2023 Asia-Pacific Regional Forum on Sustainable Maritime Connectivity (May 2023)
- Mainstreaming inland waterways into national logistics network: national experience of Bangladesh, Working Paper, December 2021

**Mainstreaming
inland waterways into
national logistics
network:
national experience of
Bangladesh**

Working Paper, December
2021

Future directions of ESCAP work

- To develop and implement **customized strategies** considering the regional/national characteristics and the needs of individual countries.
- Focus on developing **specific and practical** inland waterway projects considering logistics efficiency and safety
- Facilitate **regional dialogue** to systematically and continuously deal with challenges issues and sustainable inland waterway in the **Great Mekong Subregion**
- Strengthen existing collaborative programs with the **Mekong River Commission**
- Build legal, financial and technical facilitation measures to promote inland water transport

Collaborative mechanisms

- Transport Research and education network
- Regional Cooperation Mechanism on Low Carbon Transport



G. Inclusive transport and mobility

1. Summary description

This thematic area is focused on developing the knowledge basis for designing transport policies that can measurably contribute to reducing poverty and inequality. The activities and intended outcomes in this area will utilize technology, innovation, automation, digitalization, regional and multi stakeholder cooperation, relevant data analysis and technical assistance tools to assess and address: (a) transport challenges faced by vulnerable people, including in response to climate change impacts and related adaptive capacities, in particular in, but not limited to, rural areas; (b) gender-sensitive transport policies; and (c) changes to the sector's workforce and to the supply of and demand for transport skills and expertise, among others.

2.5 Help to incorporate social impact assessments into the development of regional transport policies.

2.7 Support the training and development of a robust human resource base in the transport sector by engaging academic and practitioner resources.

- Development and adoption of a regional guideline on social development parameters in transport policy planning

- Development of accessible and user friendly methodologies for gender disaggregated and regionally harmonized transport data as well as data collection and analysis

- Development of a handbook of best practices on transport, social inclusion and related Sustainable Development Goals

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