



**Statement of ECO Secretary General H.E. Mr. Khsurav Noziri  
at the 86<sup>th</sup> Session of the Inland Transport Committee of the UNECE**

**The High-Level Segment “Taking ambitious climate action  
- Moving towards decarbonized Inland transport by 2025”, Panel III  
20 February 2024, Geneva**

**Excellencies,  
Distinguished Participants,**

It is my distinct honour and pleasure to address this very important Panel and share my thoughts on our responsibility and contribution to advance the global agenda of decarbonization and climate action in the transportation sector.

As a diverse regional economic forum, ECO is constantly set to fostering a conducive environment and boasting a robust institutional framework dedicated to promoting constructive multilateral cooperation, particularly in transportation and communication. Our primary objective is to enhance transport connectivity among member nations. Through our efforts, we have effectively implemented numerous policies, programs, and projects to achieve this goal.

We also actively advocate for policies and regulatory frameworks that facilitate the harmonization of our region with international norms and procedures in inland transport. Positioned strategically, we aim to drive regional decision-making towards ambitious emissions reduction targets within the transport sector while promoting the adoption of clean and energy-efficient transportation modes.

Alongside the pursuance of capacity-building initiatives aligned with our shared objectives and global connectivity ambitions, we are keenly executing some collaborative projects with UNECE, including the GIS Project. The ECO-UNECE Coordination Committee on Trans-Caspian and Almaty-Tehran-Istanbul Corridor is also vigorously engaged to meet our joint transportation targets.

Nonetheless, tackling the pressing issue of climate change inevitably warrants a genuine global acknowledgment of the hurdles confronting developing nations as they balance climate action with their economic advancement. Embracing a sustainable trajectory necessitates tailored approaches mindful of these nations' particular circumstances and constraints.

Furthermore, it becomes also crucial to address the challenges they encounter in adopting modern technologies and infrastructure to decarbonize their

transportation sector. Many of them rely on antiquated and inefficient transportation modes, resulting in substantial carbon emissions. Therefore, as we deliberate on decarbonization initiatives, it is imperative to remain attentive of their financial limitations and strive to offer essential support and resources to facilitate their shift towards cleaner and more sustainable transportation systems.

Moreover, in many developing nations, there is a notable absence of the technical know-how and expertise needed to execute robust decarbonization plans within the transportation domain. Hence, it is imperative to ensure that these countries receive comprehensive support, encompassing technology transfer, investment, financial aid, capacity enhancement, and training initiatives. This holistic approach will empower them to make well-informed choices and enact substantial measures aimed at curbing emissions from the transport sector.

We must also contemplate the social and economic ramifications of decarbonizing transportation in developing nations. Given that many of them depend on this sector for employment and economic advancement, transitioning to cleaner systems necessitates careful consideration to prevent them from undue hardships. It is necessary to prioritize inclusive strategies emphasizing job creation, skill enhancement and social safety nets for affected countries.

In addition, it is essential to recognize the distinct geographical and infrastructural challenges hindering decarbonization efforts in developing countries' transportation sectors. With vast rural areas and inadequate transportation infrastructure, implementing sustainable mobility solutions is particularly challenging. Thus, policymakers must tailor decarbonization strategies in special consideration of the specific geographic and infrastructural limitations of developing countries. This approach will ensure that all communities are included in our efforts to advance a sustainable and inclusive transportation sector.

To effectively address the concerns of developing countries in decarbonizing transportation, a collaborative, inclusive and equitable approach is crucial. Developed nations should prioritize offering financial support, technological assistance and capacity-building initiatives to empower these countries in transitioning to cleaner and sustainable transportation systems. By considering their unique challenges and needs, we can foster a resilient and fair global transport sector that aids our collective fight against climate change.

To reach our 2050 targets, regional organizations can play a very vital role, facilitating collaboration among their member nations, international bodies, research institutions and industry stakeholders. This collaboration is essential for developing and implementing policies, plans and innovative technologies to reduce emissions and enhance energy efficiency in the transport sector, while considering the concerns of developing countries.

## **Distinguished Participants,**

By closely engaging with local communities, civil society and other stakeholders, ECO and its Specialized Agencies are making devoted efforts to ensure the translation of global policies into practical actions across our region and relevant groups, fostering sustainable and equitable outcomes in our shift to low-carbon transport systems.

We are eager to collaborate with the ITC to advance our mutual goal of decarbonizing the transport sector. Our commitment includes actively supporting and participating in the Committee's initiatives to advocate for and implement the relevant policies and plans regionally. Together, we aim to expedite the transition towards sustainable and resilient transport systems, crucial for meeting our global climate objectives.

Finally, I urge all regional organizations to prioritize their involvement in this critical agenda and collaborate towards a more sustainable and a better world, ensuring that no one is left behind.

I thank you all with my best wishes and sincere regards.

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