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, the Intergovernmental Agreement on the Trans-Asian Railway Network, the Intergovernmental Agreement on Dry Ports, the Regional Strategic Framework for the Facilitation of International Road Transport and the Regional Cooperation Framework for the Facilitation of International Railway Transport 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

2 Ibid., vol. 2596, No. 46171.
3 Commission resolution 69/7.
4 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 2014-2024,⁵ 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,

⁵ 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 and the Intergovernmental Agreement on the Asian Highway Network as well as the Intergovernmental Agreement on Dry Ports;

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