



**UNITED NATIONS
ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMISSION FOR ASIA AND THE PACIFIC**

**Capacity building workshop on strengthening connectivity along the China-Mongolia-
Russian Federation Economic Corridor
October 21, 2021**

Opening remarks

by Mr. Weimin Ren, Director, Transport Division

Dear Mr. Tapan Mishra, the UN Resident Coordinator in Mongolia,

Dear Mr. Ganbold Baasanjav, Head of ESCAP Subregional Office for East and North-East Asia

Dear Mr. Sandagdorj Erdenebileg, Chief of Policy Development, Coordination, and Reporting Service, UN OHRLLS,

Dear participants and colleagues,

It is my pleasure to welcome you all to the Capacity building workshop on strengthening connectivity along the China-Mongolia-Russian Federation Economic Corridor organized jointly with the United Nations Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States.

Transport corridors and, looking broader, economic corridors play an important role in strengthening transport connectivity in the vast region of Asia and the Pacific

This year, the Fourth Ministerial Conference on Transport will be held in December.

The Conference will decide on priority areas of work and actions in terms of transport connectivity for the ESCAP secretariat during next five years by adoption of the Regional Action Programme for Sustainable Transport Development in Asia and the Pacific 2022-2026.

This week the experts representing our members States finalized the draft of this documents

with. The discussion on the draft regional action programme and also draft ministerial declaration revealed great interest of our member States to the matters of development of transport corridors.

In this light, in the next five years the ESCAP secretariat, following the demand of our member States, will be putting a lot of emphasis on the matters of development, increasing efficiency of operations of transport corridors as well as building up their resilience to external shocks, such as the current Covid-19 pandemic, bearing in mind the overall context of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

Dear participants and colleagues,

The economic corridor connecting China, Mongolia and the Russian Federation is a remarkable example of economic cooperation among our member States at subregional level, and, in addition to that, a significant practical development in the context of the implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action for landlocked developing countries, as it provides additional opportunities for landlocked Mongolia to get access to seaports in two other countries involved China and the Russian Federation.

I am thus very happy that the ESCAP and the UNOHRLLS secretariats cooperate successfully on delivering of joint activities, such as this capacity-building workshop that can discuss practical matters, facilitate exchange of opinions and assist in elaboration of solutions for strengthening transport connectivity along the China-Mongolia-Russian Federation Economic Corridor.

As you know, the ESCAP secretariat is mandated by our Commission's resolution 73/4 adopted in 2017 to provide technical assistance to the implementation of the Intergovernmental Agreement on International Road Transport along the Asian Highway Network, concluded during the previous Ministerial Conference on Transport in Moscow in December 2016 by China, Mongolia and the Russian Federation. This Agreement, we believe, is an important component of the China-Mongolia-Russian Federation Economic Corridor.

In this context, I would like to inform you that yesterday we had an expert meeting on the implementation of that Agreement, and the main message that we carried from that meeting is that, despite current difficulties in transport operations caused by Covid-19 related temporary restrictions,

the Parties to the Agreement are keen to go ahead with its implementation as soon as circumstances so allow, and even to consider expansion of its scope to additional types of transport operation.

This very recent experience makes us feel very optimistic in terms of further development of trilateral cooperation between China, Mongolia and the Russian Federation on transport connectivity and beyond.

Dear participants and colleagues

I would like to thank all participants from member States and various organizations and entities for the interest to attend this workshop, as well as our colleagues from UNOHRLLS for co-organizing this event. I look forward to the discussions today and wish every success to the workshop today.

Thank you.