

Summary

of the side event on the margins of the Second UN Conference on Sustainable Transport in Beijing (China) on October 15, 2021

TOWARDS STRONGER COOPERATION BETWEEN DIFFERENT MODES OF TRANSPORT IN POST COVID ERA THROUGH PRACTICAL IMPLEMENTATION OF THE UN DECISIONS AND COORDINATION OF ACTIVITIES OF PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

On October 15, 2021, on the margins of the Second UN Conference on Sustainable Transport in Beijing (China) the Permanent Mission of Turkmenistan to the UN, International Centre for Transport Diplomacy (ICTD) and International Council of Road Administrations (ICRA) organized the side event entitled “Strengthening the links between all modes of transport for Sustainable development

The meeting focused on the need for better and more effective cooperation between modes of transport during and in the post COVID era.

In her opening remarks H.E. Mrs. Aksoltan Ataeva, the Permanent Representative of Permanent Representation of Turkmenistan to the United Nations in New York provided an extensive overview of the UN activities and decisions adopted since the first UN conference on Sustainable Transport in Ashgabat (Turkmenistan) in 2016. Now, according to Mrs. A. Ataeva, the time has come to implement these decisions through establishing efficient cooperation between different modes of transport in the global supply chains, including digitalization of the management procedures and cross border operations.

In this context Ambassador A. Ataeva announced the most recent initiative by the mission of Turkmenistan to establish the “ Group of Friends of Sustainable Transport “ in New York as a platform for discussion of the most pressing problems in the global transport related areas.

Secretary General of TRACECA Mr. Aset Assavbayev (Kazakhstan) presented a comprehensive report on the activities of this influential Eurasian regional organization aimed at revitalization of the Ancient Silk Road on the new technological basis. A number of concrete projects and initiatives were mentioned in this respect undertaken recently along TRACECA corridors.

Ms. G. Mirzayants (Russian Federation) Deputy Chairman of International Council of Road Administrations, provided an overview of almost thirty years of activities of this unique intergovernmental Council to maintain and develop the road network in all former soviet states and beyond, numerous projects, including international road caravans.

Ms. Juliette Passer (USA), Director and Founding Director of ICTD, informed participants of the meeting about main areas of activities of this international Part 2 partnership focusing on implementation of transport related

issues in the UN 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda, including digitalization of the multimodal transport corridors, Human Resources development, promotion of “Greenovative solutions” into infrastructure development. Participants noted with great interest the most recent ICTD initiative-development of the Global Transit Document and creation of Digital Customs Transit Network. Being a joint initiative of “IBM” and “Maersk”, this blockchain based platform, operated by “TradeLens” provides unique opportunities for simultaneous – seldom achieved-facilitating trade and fighting fraud and corruption via introduction of the Global Transit Document into its operational and administrative system.

Mr. A.Stepanov (Ukraine) informed participants about an innovative approach undertaken recently by the authorities and businesses of this country in modernizing the section of the Black Sea Ring Highway, including creation of a regional development fund and Greenovative financing mechanism.

In his opening and closing remarks Dr. Igor Runov, (ICTD) underlined the importance of decisions taken in recent years by the UN in transport related areas and praised the government of Turkmenistan for leadership in this direction.

He applauded, in particular, the latest voluntary commitment to establish the “Group of Friends of Sustainable Transport” in New York and promised full support of ICTD at the expert level.

Speaking about the need for closer cooperation between the modes of transport, Dr. I.Runov emphasized the role of digitalization and warned about undesirable “fragmentation of efforts” and waste of time and resources in this area, as indicated two days before by a senior UNECE representative at ICTD first side event.