

Regional connectivity in advancing SDGs in Asia and the Pacific

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Three pillars of ESCAP transport work



Platform for intergovernmental cooperation and policy dialogue

Committee on Transport
Ministerial Conference

Working Groups on AH, TAR and
DP



Comprehensive capacity building programme

Operational connectivity
Transport Facilitation Models
Private Public Dialogue



Analytical work and data collection

Specialized monographs, bulletins
and periodic assessments of
transport connectivity in the
region

Infrastructure Connectivity

- Missing links along the transport networks,
- Sub-standard quality of the networks
- Uneven capacity along the same corridors

Operational connectivity

- Weak regulatory frameworks
- Lack of harmonization of standards
- Lack of coordination (domestic and regional level)

Euro-Asian Connectivity

- Obstacles to inter-regional trade
- Lack of coordination and synergies

Countries with Special Needs

- Least Developed Countries
- Landlocked Developing Countries
- Small Island Developing Countries

Sustainable Urban Transport

- Congestion, pollution and Emissions
- Affordability and accessibility

Rural transport connectivity

- Limited connection of rural roads to wider networks
- Quality of rural infrastructure

Road safety

- 60 % of global road safety fatalities happen in Asia and the Pacific
- 2020 Road Safety targets yet to be achieved

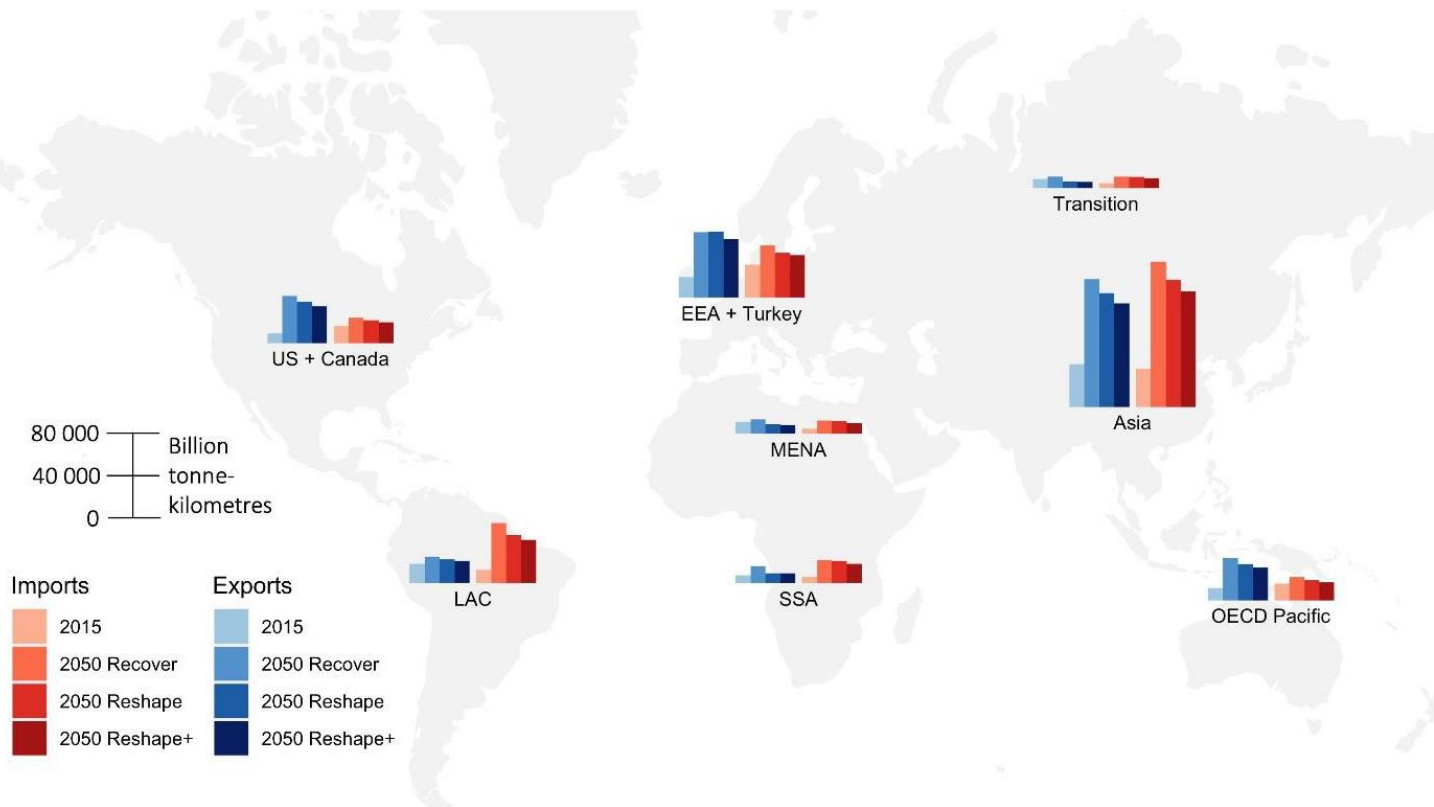
Regional Action Programme on Sustainable Transport Connectivity in Asia and the Pacific Phase I, 2017- 2021



Asia-Pacific is at the core of the sustainable transport challenges

Import- and export-related freight transport by world region in 2050

(Under three scenarios, billion tonne-kilometres)



International Transport Forum, 2021

- ▶ Growth scenarios position Asia-Pacific at the core of transforming global transport performance and dealing with its externalities
- ▶ Global agenda has profound impacts on regional and national policies
- ▶ Innovation and new technologies, as well as new business models and trade patterns change transport landscape
- ▶ COVID-19 amplified the connectivity shortages and flagged the overall lack of sustainability. Building Back Better means accelerating transformation towards sustainable transport

Building Back Better: Reshaping transport connectivity in Asia-Pacific

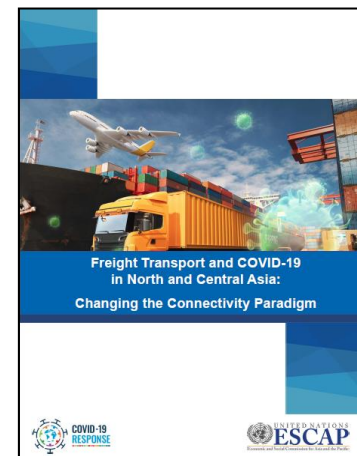
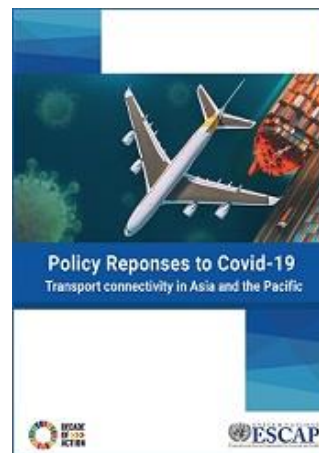
Pre COVID-19

- Infrastructure shortages
- Lack of digitalization
- Disbalanced freight modal split (road, rail, maritime)
- Inefficient or fragile transit arrangements
- Manual practices/checks at the border crossings
- Divergent standards on vehicles, drivers and international transit
- Connectivity gaps across the region



During COVID-19

- Restrictions
 - New controls
 - Market inefficiencies
- But also**
- Transit/green corridors
 - Electronic platforms for transport operations
 - No/reduced charges or penalties for storing cargo and other associated services
 - Emergency Response Centers for shippers and transport operators

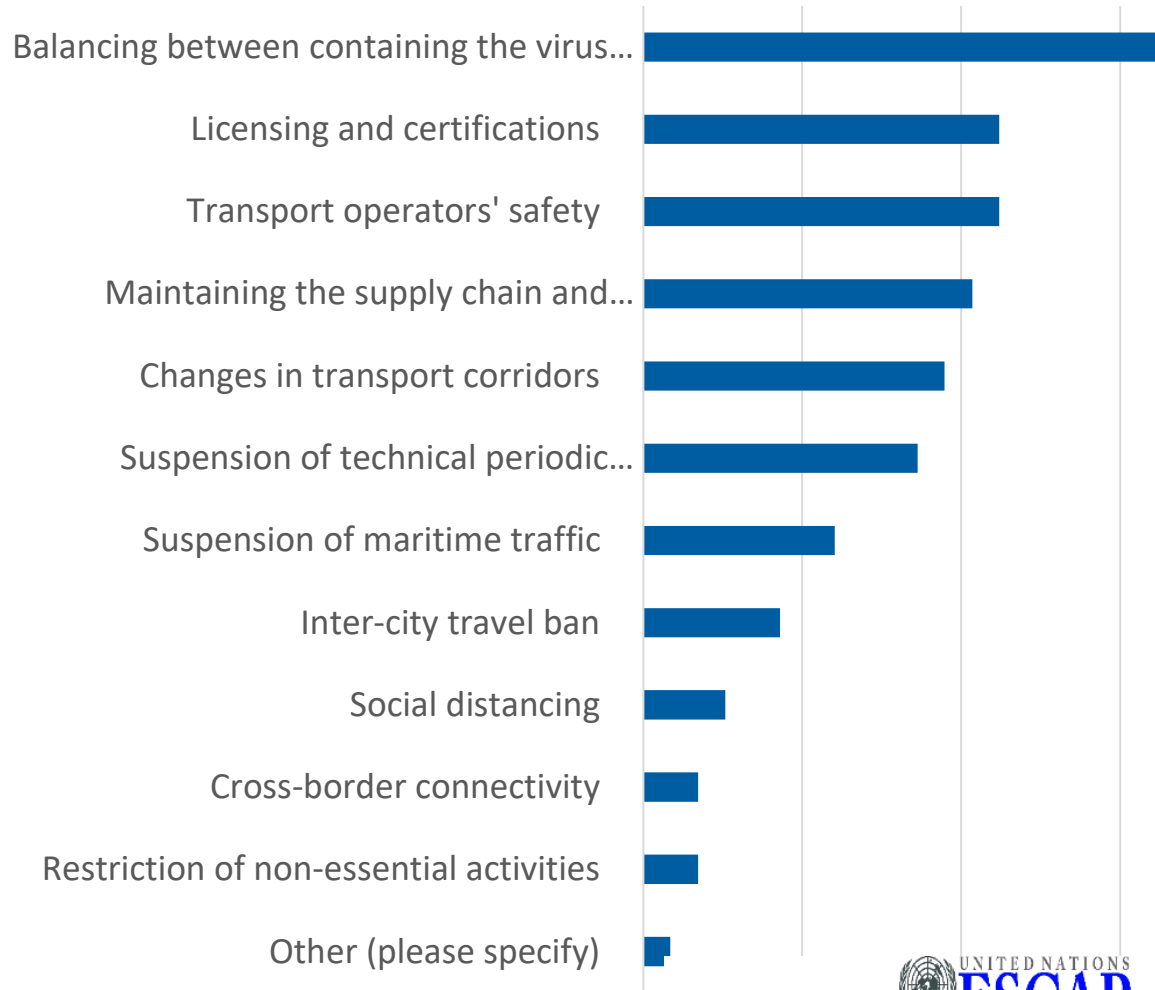


Aftermath

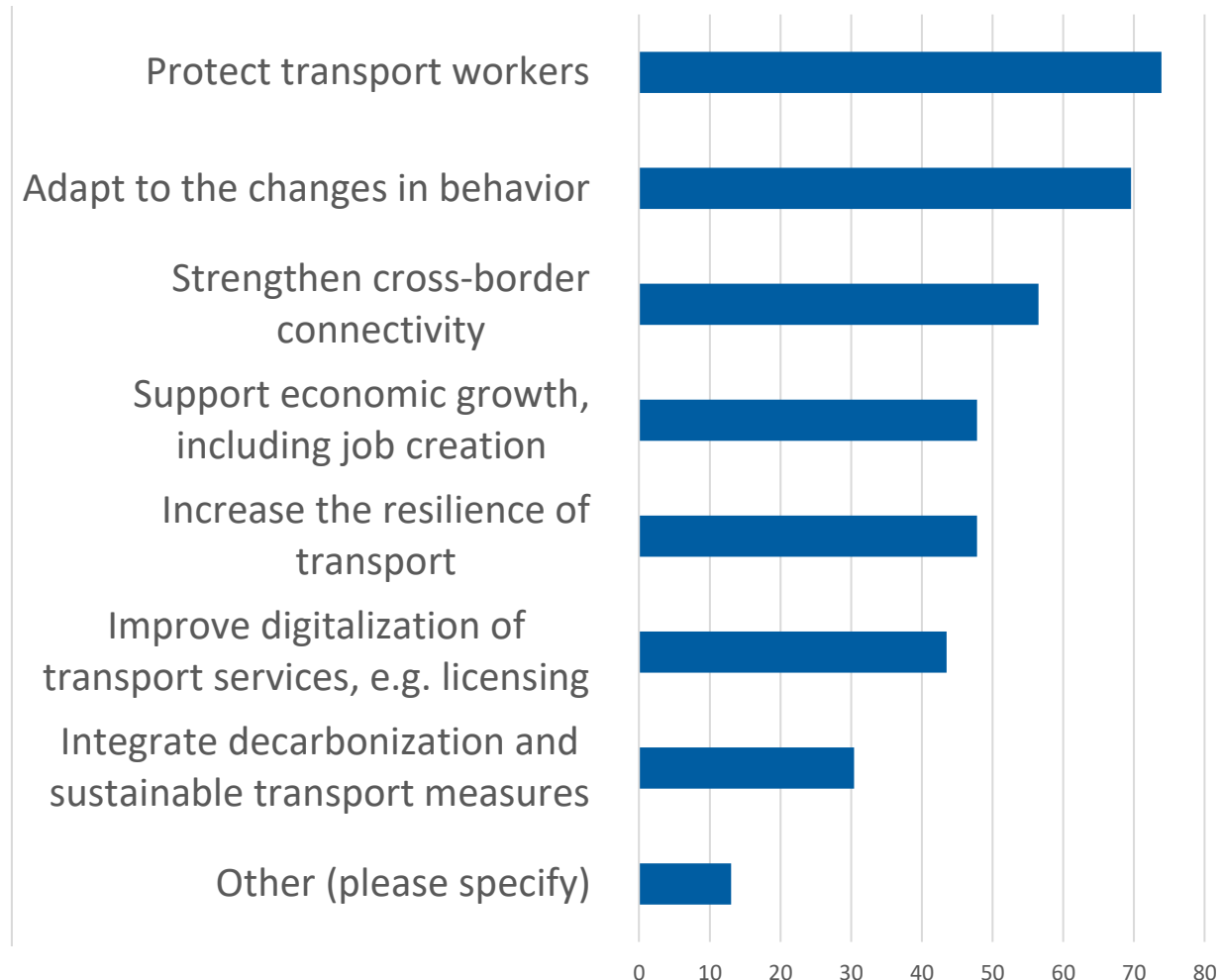
- Impact on infrastructure connectivity (investments)**
- Impact on operational connectivity (facilitation)**
- SDGs and sustainability targets**

Major preoccupations of the freight transport authorities in Asia and the Pacific

During the crisis



Anticipating recovery

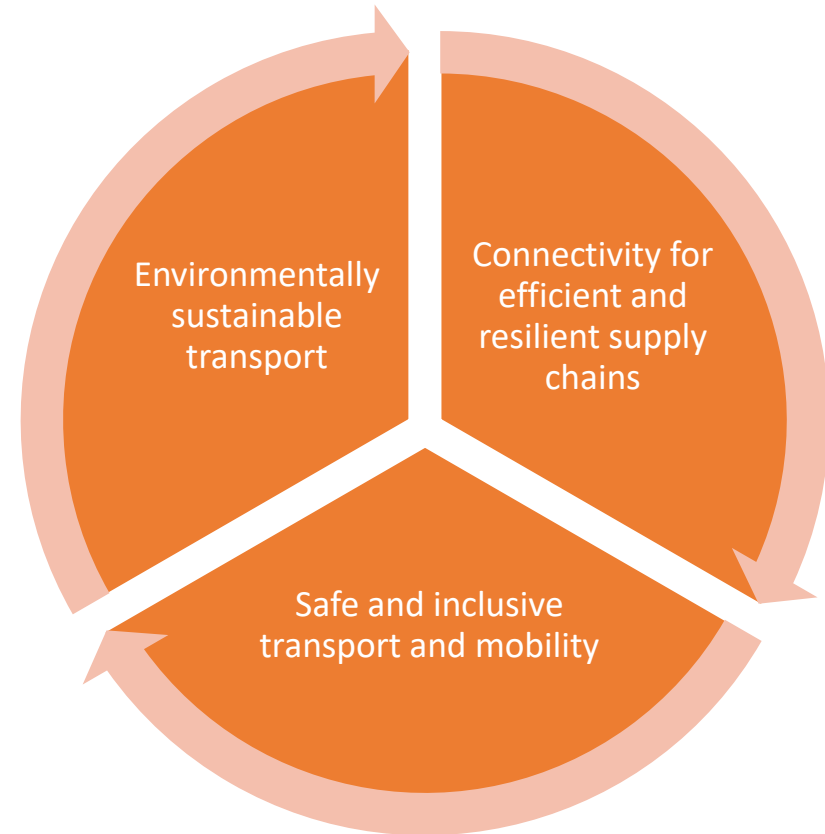


Evolving regional agenda for transport cooperation

Regional Action Programme on Sustainable Transport Connectivity (2017-2021)

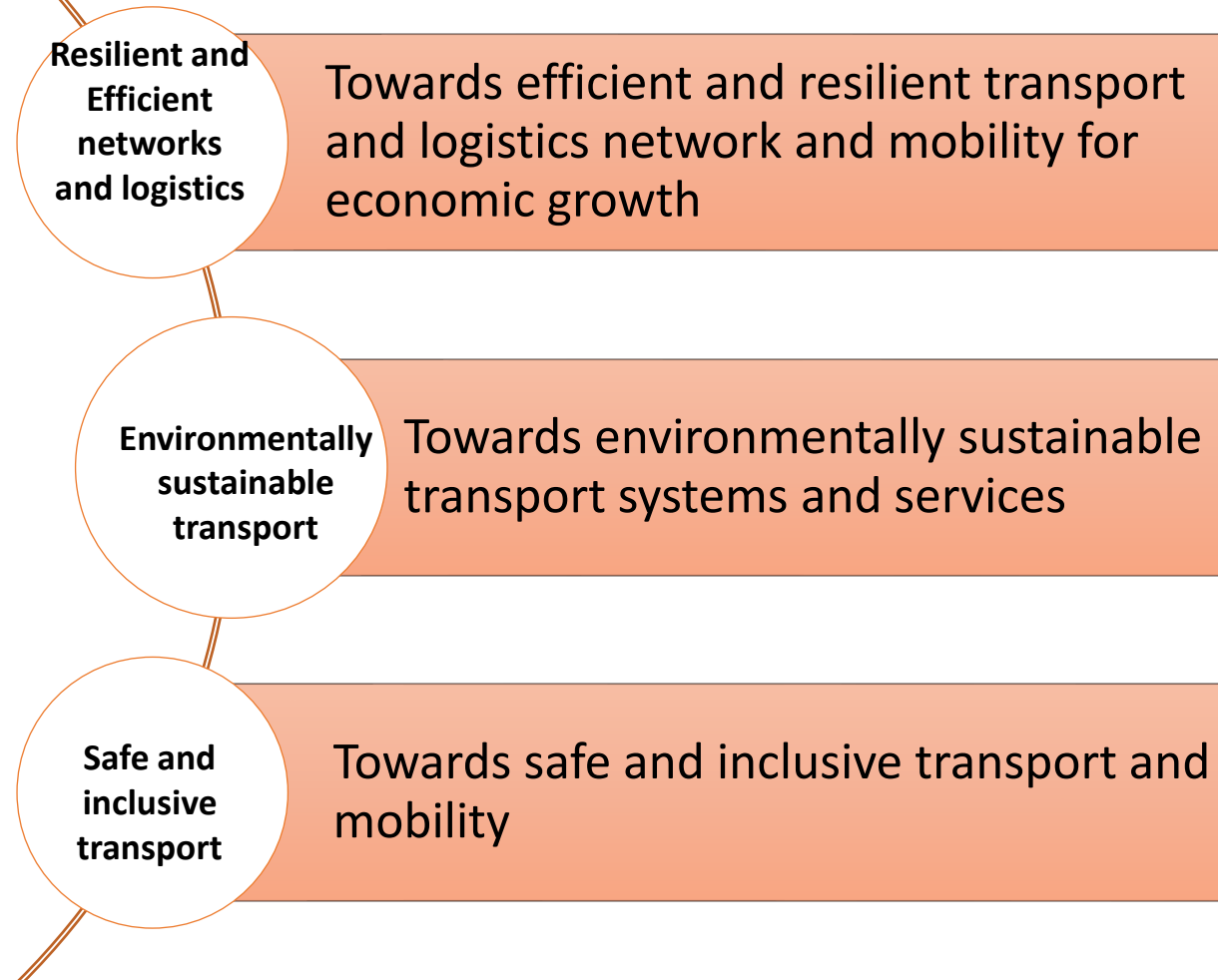


From 2022: Leveraging synergies and integrating thematic activities to support Building Back Better and the implementation of SDGs






















Strategic objectives under consideration for the next regional programme on sustainable transport

- **Pandemic recovery and resilience building**
- **Climate Change**
- **Pressures from changing social structures**
- **SDGs**
- **Technology and innovation**
- **Evidence based/data driven decision making**
- **Private sector and multi-stakeholder participation**



New draft Regional Action Programme: 2022-2026

	Overarching objectives		
	Towards efficient and resilient transport and logistics network and mobility for economic growth	Towards environmentally sustainable transport systems and services	Towards safe and inclusive transport and mobility
	Relevant Sustainable Development Goals		
	     	    	       
Thematic areas	Classification of contribution*		
Regional land transport connectivity and logistics	Direct impact	Direct impact	Direct impact
Maritime and interregional transport connectivity	Direct impact	Direct impact	Direct impact
Digitalization of transport	Direct impact	Direct impact	Direct impact
Low-carbon mobility and logistics	Direct impact	Direct impact	Indirect impact
Urban transport	Direct impact	Direct impact	Direct impact
Road traffic safety	Indirect impact	Indirect impact	Direct impact
Inclusive transport and mobility	Indirect impact	Direct impact	Direct impact

New draft Regional Action Programme: 2022-2026

	Overarching objectives		
	Towards efficient and resilient transport and logistics network and mobility for economic growth	Towards environmentally sustainable transport systems and services	Towards safe and inclusive transport and mobility
			
Regional land transport connectivity and logistics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Further development of the Asian Highways, Trans-Asian Railways and dry ports; Analytical and CB work on enhancing the operational connectivity, including during disruptive events, Support the development of land and intermodal transport corridors and multimodal transport operations 	<p>Increased capacity of countries to implement national and regional measures to promote rail and waterborne transport, as well as environmentally sustainable logistics, in the regional freight operations</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Facilitating access of LLDCs to the regional supply chains Greater consideration of local development impact of the regional transport networks and corridors
Maritime and interregional transport connectivity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Systematic and regular exchange of best practices and experiences on the issues and priorities for sustainable maritime connectivity for Asia and the Pacific; Regular inter-regional multi-stakeholder forum for sustainable transport connectivity between Europe and Asia 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Knowledge products and policy tools on sustainable and resilient port and maritime transport in the Asia-Pacific Policy guidelines for integrated transport connectivity between the port and the hinterland; 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Facilitating access of SIDs to global and regional supply chains Knowledge products and policy recommendations on enhancing safety of port and maritime operations

Highlights

- **SDGs are mainstreamed and articulated into the 7 thematic areas of the proposed regional action programme**
- **Social and environmental dimensions of regional connectivity are increasingly explored to identify synergies and deal with possible trade offs**
- **Regional connectivity mechanisms/agreements are leveraged to advance decarbonization and social inclusion**
- **South South Cooperation**
- **Evidence based policies to bridge the connectivity gaps**



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