

UNITED NATIONS



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**MR. WU HONGBO**  
**UNDER-SECRETARY-GENERAL FOR ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS**

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**Remarks**  
**Treaty Event in the Global Sustainable Transport Conference**

**Ashgabat, Turkmenistan**

**27 November 2016, 12:30 pm, Room for Treaty Event**  
**Chamber of Commerce and Industry Building**  
**Complex of the International Forums and Congresses**

Your Excellency Minister Rashid Meredov,

Distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen,

It is my great pleasure to attend this important treaty event. I would like extend my warm congratulations to the Government of Turkmenistan on its accession to:

- The International Convention on the Harmonization of Frontier Control of Goods;
- The Intergovernmental Agreement on the Asian Highway Network;
- The Intergovernmental Agreement on the Trans-Asian Railway Network; and
- The Intergovernmental Agreement on Dry Ports.

These important transport treaties are instrumental to sustainable transport, in particular for the Landlocked Developing Countries and the transit countries.

The Vienna Programme of Action for LLDCs stresses the need to promote harmonization, simplification and standardization of rules and documentation, including the full and effective implementation of international conventions on transport and transit as well as bilateral, sub-regional and regional agreements.

There are great benefits of harmonized international regulatory frameworks for transit cooperation, including, amongst others, more efficient and effective border and customs controls, simplified and standardized procedures and enhanced cooperation, which will lead to faster, cheaper and more reliable cross-border trade and transport. They could also assist the implementation of the target on sustainable transport contained in the *2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*.

In light of above, I would like to encourage all States that have not yet done so to consider signing, ratifying or acceding to the United Nations conventions and agreements on transport and transit facilitation. In this regard, I thank Turkmenistan for leading by example. I hope that more States could benefit from the ratification and implementation of the legal instruments for promoting sustainable transport.

I thank you.

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