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ESCAP Transport Facilitation Tools

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Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP)

- Vision: to be the most comprehensive multilateral platform for promoting cooperation among member States to achieve inclusive and sustainable economic and social development in Asia and the Pacific;
- Convening power is used to bring countries together to address issues through regional cooperation, including issues that:
 - all or a group of countries in the region face, for which it is necessary to learn from each other;
 - benefit from regional or multi-country involvement;
 - are transboundary in nature, or that would benefit from collaborative inter-country approaches;
 - are of a sensitive or emerging nature and require further advocacy and negotiation.

ESCAP Mandates

Global e.g. United Nations Charter, General Assembly Resolutions

- Vienna Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries for the Decade 2014-2024 established six priority areas that should be tackled in order to help LLDCs overcome their geographical condition. Three of them are the most relevant for transport (or transport is relevant for them
- Priority 1: Fundamental transit policy issues
- Priority 2: Infrastructure development and maintenance
- (a) Transport infrastructure
- □ [...]
- Priority 4: Regional integration and cooperation

Regional e.g. ESCAP Commission Resolutions, Ministerial Conference

Specific requests from countries (public or private sector)

ESCAP: what we do and who does these?

- Regional think-tank, analytical and policy work, norm setting, good practices for development, knowledge sharing and technical assistance to member States in the implementation of the recommendations;
- Office of the Executive Secretary, seven substantive divisions, two «supporting» divisions, regional institutions, subregional offices;
- Transport Division: Office of the Chief, three Sections (Policy & Development, Infrastructure, Facilitation & Logistics), 26 persons
- Transport Facilitation and Logistics Section, supports countries in achieving regional operational connectivity for enhanced regional economic cooperation and integration
 - through identification, assessment and elimination of non-physical barriers, to ensure seamless transport across the Region
 - materialized in Transport Facilitation Tools and Recommendations

ESCAP Transport Facilitation Tools

- Overarching goal: to support countries in achieving effective regional operational connectivity
 - by providing feasible harmonized, secure, efficient and reliable options for facilitated cross-border transport
- Applicability: specific or extended (national or international, corridors or entire networks), as needed

Existing Transport Facilitation Tools

ESCAP Transport Facilitation Tools(cont'd)

Two Regional Frameworks

- Regional Strategic Framework for the Facilitation of International Road Transport
- Regional Cooperation Framework for Facilitation of International Railway Transport

Four mutually complementary models

- Time/Cost-Distance Methodology: <u>identifying barriers</u> and <u>monitoring performance</u> from starting to ending points
- Secure Cross-border Transport Model: providing real-time monitoring <u>en-route</u>
- Model on Integrated Controls at Border Crossings: simplified and streamlined procedures <u>at border crossings</u>
- Efficient Cross-border Transport Model: more efficient transport arrangement <u>across borders</u>
- Forthcoming: Standard Model for Logistics Information System, Model Bilateral and Subregional Road Transport Agreements, Model multilateral permits for international road transport

Regional Strategic Framework for the Facilitation of International Road Transport

- Long-term common targets/strategies for member countries and their development partners
 - To increase effectiveness of facilitation policies, measures, projects
 - To increase coordination and consistency among different facilitation measures, projects, efforts, initiatives, agreements
 - Direction of future possible development



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