

Ministerial Transport Conference of Landlocked Developing Countries in Turkmenbashi
15-16 August 2022

Theme: Ashgabat Process: Financing for Better Connectivity

Opening Session: Enhancing transport connectivity for sustainable recovery of LLDCs from COVID-19 pandemic

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1. Introduction and greetings

Your Excellencies, distinguished participants, ladies and gentlemen.

Allow me to begin by thanking the Government of Turkmenistan and the Office of the High Representative for Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States for hosting this event on enhanced transport connectivity, post-pandemic recovery and sustainable development.

I am honoured to speak to you today on a very important question – how to lessen the impact of the pandemic and build back better.

IRU is the world road transport organisation. With members and activities in more than 80 countries, we represent 3.5 million transport operators that move people and goods across cities, countries and continents.

As a trusted partner of the United Nations and its regional bodies ever since our creation in 1948, IRU supports and advises

Most regional transport corridors are multimodal and require multiple transshipments of containers. Improving transport connectivity and interoperability, therefore, are crucial for efficient operations, sustainable growth and strengthening cooperation between the countries.

We cannot achieve sustainable development without robust, multimodal transport corridors and reliable infrastructure.

We appreciate every millimeter of new road infrastructure, but fantastic roads do not make road transport and trade more efficient if they lead to congested border crossings.

Therefore,

As the foundation for all intermodal supply chains and mobility networks, road transport services underpin all economic activity