



with. The discussion on the draft regional action programme and also draft ministerial declaration revealed great interest of our member States to the matters of development of transport corridors.

In this light, in the next five years the ESCAP secretariat, following the demand of our member States, will be putting a lot of emphasis on the matters of development, increasing efficiency of operations of transport corridors as well as building up their resilience to external shocks, such as the current Covid-19 pandemic, bearing in mind the overall context of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

*Dear participants and colleagues,*

The economic corridor connecting China, Mongolia and the Russian Federation is a remarkable example of economic cooperation among our member States at subregional level, and, in addition to that, a significant practical development in the context of the implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action for landlocked developing countries, as it provides additional opportunities for landlocked Mongolia to get access to seaports in two other countries involved China and the Russian Federation.

I am thus very happy that the ESCAP and the UNOHRLLS secretariats cooperate successfully on delivering of joint activities, such as this capacity-building workshop that can discuss practical matters, facilitate exchange of opinions and assist in elaboration of solutions for strengthening transport connectivity along the China-Mongolia-Russian Federation Economic Corridor.

2017 to provide technical assistance to the implementation of the Intergovernmental Agreement on International Road Transport along the Asian Highway Network, concluded during the previous Ministerial Conference on Transport in Moscow in December 2016 by China, Mongolia and the Russian Federation. This Agreement, we believe, is an important component of the China-Mongolia-Russian Federation Economic Corridor.

In this context, I would like to inform you that yesterday we had an expert meeting on the implementation of that Agreement, and the main message that we carried from that meeting is that, despite current difficulties in transport operations caused by Covid-19 related temporary restrictions,

the Parties to the Agreement are keen to go ahead with its implementation as soon as circumstances so allow, and even to consider expansion of its scope to additional types of transport operation.

This very recent experience makes us feel very optimistic in terms of further development of trilateral cooperation between China, Mongolia and the Russian Federation on transport connectivity and beyond.

*Dear participants and colleagues*

I would like to thank all participants from member States and various organizations and entities for the interest to attend this workshop, as well as our colleagues from UNOHRLLS for co-organizing this event. I look forward to the discussions today and wish every success to the workshop today.

Thank you.