



ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMISSION FOR ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

Office of the Executive Secretary

OES/D/1

8 May 2020

Dear Mr. de Pretto,

I would like to thank you for your letter dated 4 May 2020 and for sharing the *International Road Transport Industry Call For Action*.

I am grateful for the IRU's efforts in proactively raising the voice of road transport sector, reflecting difficulties being faced by road transport sector and proposing measures to be taken by Governments during the COVID-19 pandemic and its aftermath.

In this connection, I am pleased to confirm that transport connectivity is one of the key areas of ESCAP's work in helping our member States design and implement effective COVID-19 responses and strategies, while maintaining their achievements in terms of regional cooperation. With that in mind, ESCAP has scaled-up its data collection and policy analysis on transport responses to COVID-19, offering monitoring tools and initial policy recommendations, which are available at <https://www.unescap.org/our-work/transport/transport-facilitation-and-connecting-subregional-transport-networks/monitoring-transport-policy-response-covid-19>.

I am pleased to see that the measures, put forward in the IRU's Call for Action, and, particularly those aiming at "prosperity" and "environment" for "mid-term schemes", are fully in line with these ESCAP's efforts and our work to facilitate cross-border and transit transport operations in this new environment, while promoting a more sustainable approach to regional transport connectivity. I hope that we can build upon our established cooperation with IRU to help our member States implement these policy recommendations.

I look forward to our continued fruitful collaboration that will yield important results in support of sustainable development in Asia and the Pacific.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'A. Salsiah'.

Armida Salsiah Alisjahbana
Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations
and Executive Secretary of ESCAP

Mr. Umberto de Pretto
Secretary General
International Road Transport Union
Geneva