

Colombo Declaration

For the Promotion of Next Generation Low-Carbon Transport Solutions in Asia

(21 November 2014)

We, the participants, who are representatives of member countries of Regional Environmentally Sustainable Transport (EST) Forum in Asia (Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, India, Indonesia, Japan, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Maldives, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines, Russian Federation, Republic of Korea, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Thailand, and Viet Nam), international organizations, bilateral and multilateral agencies, nongovernmental organizations, research organizations, and sustainable transport experts, having met at the Eighth Regional EST Forum in Asia, held in Colombo, Sri Lanka, from 19 to 21 November 2014, unanimously adopt the Colombo Declaration, in order to demonstrate our continued intention in, and reinforce our resolve and commitment to the promotion of low carbon transport in Asia,

Reaffirming and building upon the *Seoul Statement ~ Towards the Promotion of Environmentally Sustainable Transport (EST) for a Low-Carbon Society and Green Growth in Asia*, agreed upon at the Fourth Regional EST Forum in Asia (2009),

Reaffirming and building upon the voluntary actions of participating member countries of the Regional EST Forum in Asia to achieve the twenty sustainable transport goals under the integrated Avoid-Shift-Improve strategy of the *Bangkok 2020 Declaration (2010-2020)* agreed upon at the Fifth Regional EST Forum in Asia (2010),

Recalling the Rio+20 Outcome Document - *The Future We Want*, which recognized that transport and mobility are centre to sustainable development, and which called for the efficient movement of people and goods, and access to environmentally sound, safe and affordable transportation as a means to improve social equity, health, resilience of cities, urban-rural connectivity and productivity of rural areas,

Reinforcing the objectives of the *Bali Declaration on Vision Three Zeros - Zero Congestion, Zero Pollution, and Zero Accidents towards Next Generation Transport Systems in Asia* adopted at the Seventh Regional EST Forum in Asia and Global Consultation on Sustainable Transport in the Post-2015 Development Agenda (2013),

Recognizing the mandate of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change as the lead process for developing intergovernmental agreements on climate change,

Noting the outcomes of the UN Climate Summit 2014 organized by the United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon with special emphasis on the Voluntary Commitments made on Transport: (a) The International Association of Public Transport (UITP): *Declaration on Climate Leadership*; (b) The International Union of Railways (UIC): *Low-Carbon Sustainable Rail Transport Challenge*; (c) The Urban Electric Mobility Vehicles Initiative (UEMI); (d) Global Fuel Economy Initiative - Public-Private Partnership to double vehicle efficiency, and (e) Reducing Short-Lived Climate Pollutants – A Global Green Freight Action Plan,

Noting the substantial potential for mitigation of emissions from all sorts of transport modes documented in the Fifth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change as well as the substantive economic savings of adopting and implementing low-carbon transport policies by the International Energy Agency,

Noting the role of sustainable transport in realizing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and in particular the transport related SDGs and associated targets, recommended by the Open Working Group (OWG) for adoption to the United Nations General Assembly,

Noting the priority given by UN Secretary-General to sustainable transport including the establishment of a Secretary-General High-level Advisory Group on Sustainable Transport,

Acknowledging the rapid growth of greenhouse gas emissions from transport sector in urbanizing Asia, and the importance of promoting sustainable development for movement of people and goods, safe, low carbon transport through policies, programmes and actions that will result in the availability of appropriate transport infrastructure and services for shifting to most efficient, multimodal, integrated modes of passenger and freight transport along with improvement in the environmental performance of fuel and engine technologies,

Underscoring the enabling role of environmentally sustainable transport for Asian countries to reduce poverty, improve regional and rural-urban connectivity, and achieve sustainable development,

- (1) Applaud the efforts of UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon to promote action on Climate Change in the context of Sustainable Development and to make transport one of the specific areas of action in the UN Climate Summit 2014;
- (2) Express our support for the transport-related commitments on mobility; transit-oriented development; non-motorized transport (NMT); maritime transport; public transport; fuel economy; and green freight presented at the UN Secretary-General's Climate Summit 2014, and confirm our intention to voluntarily develop, introduce and implement policies, programmes and projects in support of these transport commitments;
- (3) Call upon our development partners in the international development community (both multilateral and bilateral development partners); foundations and NGOs; and the business sector to align their transport-related assistance with these commitments presented at the UN Secretary-General's Climate Summit 2014 and national plans and programmes. This includes the provision of support for capacity building and setting countries EST Strategy, as well as financial support for implementing such commitments;
- (4) Express our intention to make use of mechanisms under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, including the Clean Development Mechanism, Clean Technology Center and Network, the Global Environment Facility, the Green Climate Fund and Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Actions (NAMAs), to support the promotion of low carbon transport in Asia. Likewise, this also applies to climate change related mechanisms that are not part of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, such as the Climate Investment Fund; and
- (5) Agree to share best practices of Asian countries and promote learning, cooperation and technology transfer on low carbon transport and solutions, transport safety, and acknowledge the positive role of the Regional EST Forum in Asia and its partners in facilitating and supporting the dialogue among Asian countries.