

STRENGTHENING CAPACITY OF ESCAP MEMBER STATES TO IMPLEMENT LOW CARBON AND RESILIENT TRANSPORT ACTION PLANS IN ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

FIRST MEETING OF THE TECHNICAL ADVISORY GROUP

15 OCTOBER 2025, 12:00 – 13:30 (GMT+7)

MEETING SUMMARY

The first virtual meeting of Technical Advisory Group (TAG) on Low Carbon and Resilient Transport, organized by ESCAP in partnership with ECE, brought together national focal points from Fiji, Pakistan and Tajikistan, together with representatives from partner organizations including UNFCCC, GIZ, the NDC Partnership, the Asian Development Bank (ADB), and the Asian Transport Observatory (ATO). The national focal points of Indonesia and Pakistan were unable to attend but expressed interest in receiving meeting outcomes and continuing engagement.

Purpose, Scope of the Project and Role of TAG

The TAG was created as part of the project “Strengthening Capacity of ESCAP Member States to Implement Low Carbon and Resilient Transport Action Plans in Asia and the Pacific” (2025 – 2028) aiming to strengthen the capacity of ESCAP member States to implement low carbon and resilient transport action plans, including Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs). This project is implemented in four target countries (Fiji, Indonesia, Pakistan and Tajikistan). It was conceptualized as a result of a specific activity, i.e. the development of a Regional Cooperation Mechanism on Low Carbon Transport, which was included in the ESCAP Regional Action Programme for Sustainable Transport Development in Asia and the Pacific (2022 – 2026) adopted by the transport ministers in 2021.

The project supports the four target countries in the following areas.

- Developing and implementing relevant national transport strategies, policies or roadmaps aligned with NDCs 3.0
- Identifying and bridging the technical, institutional and financial gaps
- Enhancing regional cooperation and knowledge exchange

Hence, the TAG serves as a platform for dialogue, coordination, and knowledge sharing among countries and project partners, with a focus on aligning transport strategies and enhancing regional synergies. The meeting is planned bi-annually. Additional information on the purpose of the TAG can be found in Annex 3.

Country Updates

Fiji: The ESCAP project team held a national consultation meeting on 3 July 2025. A transport master plan and decarbonization strategy are currently being developed. However, the focus, whether mainly on maritime or on both maritime and land transport, is yet to be determined. Fiji has committed to increasing its emissions reduction target, 30-36 per cent by 2030 as indicated in its draft NDC 3.0.

Tajikistan: The national consultation meeting was held in Dushanbe on 1 May 2025. The progress in data collection and inter-departments coordination was highlighted. A new edition of the national transport development program is being developed with support from ADB and ESCAP. Battery recycling and e-waste were raised as critical challenges. ESCAP is currently supporting the development of the transport chapter of Tajikistan's NDC 3.0, including the creation of a transport carbon emissions model.

Pakistan: Data collection and coordination with various national agencies are continuing after the national consultation meeting on 4 September 2025. Pakistan has submitted its NDC 3.0, and efforts are underway to develop an implementation plan. ESCAP is also considering the development of a transport carbon emissions model depending on the availability of reliable data. Pakistan's transport and climate profile provided by ATO and other recent studies will be assessed. The country is preparing for a regional transport ministers' conference.

Partners' Updates and Offers of Support

GIZ provided insights on EV ecosystem development, sector coupling approach that would support electrification, and policy impact assessment. GIZ is supporting Thailand's transport decarbonization and offered to share key milestones, knowledge products, or guidelines.

UNFCCC stressed the release of the upcoming NDC synthesis report and regional stocktaking exercise. A dedicated transport segment is planned for the next stocktaking report. UNFCCC also offered targeted support for NDC implementation through its regional collaboration centers as well as consultation with its available adaptation specialists regarding transport resilience. UNFCCC will host a UN Climate Week in Asia & Pacific in the first half of 2026.

ATO offered access to transport and climate data, including urban and national profiles for all four countries. A Pacific sub-observatory is under development, in which Fiji is one of the target countries. ATO is in the process of prototyping a tool to assess transport infrastructure exposure to climate risks.

NDC Partnership supports member countries in preparing and delivering ambitious NDCs. Fiji is on the final stages of the consultation process, while technical assistance is about to be initiated to build capacities for subnational governments. NDC will host a pavilion at COP30 in Belem and invites partners to apply for side event slots.

ADB noted upcoming events including the ADB Transport Forum in May 2026 and the E-mobility Week, co-organized with ESCAP, in December 2025 in Bangkok.

Next Steps:

Data gap: Pakistan and Tajikistan highlighted challenges in accessing transport data. ATO offered to assist with data requests and will be able to share internal datasets that can be tailored to countries' specific needs. Country profiles can be found at <https://asiantransportobservatory.org/analytical-outputs/countryprofiles/>

Battery Recycling: Tajikistan raised concerns about EV battery disposal. It was shared that UNEP is currently doing some ongoing work that may offer additional insights.

Transport Resilience: ATO is developing a tool to assess infrastructure exposure to climate hazards.

COP30 Engagement: ESCAP confirmed a side event at COP30 on Saturday, 15 November, 15:00 – 16:30 (Room 3), “*Decarbonizing Transport Systems: From Lifecycle Emissions to National Implementation Action Plans*” and will reach out to target countries and project partners to seek their participation.

Future Meeting: The next TAG meeting is tentatively scheduled on 25 March 2026, prior to the national policy dialogues and technical workshops that will be organized in each target country.

ANNEX 1

STRENGTHENING CAPACITY OF ESCAP MEMBER STATES TO IMPLEMENT LOW CARBON AND RESILIENT TRANSPORT ACTION PLANS IN ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

FIRST MEETING OF THE TECHNICAL ADVISORY GROUP

15 OCTOBER 2025

12:00 – 13:30 (GMT+7)

MEETING AGENDA

Secretariat Facilitation: Wei-Shiuen Ng, ESCAP and Holger Dalkmann, ESCAP International Consultant

Purpose

Introduce the project and current country activities, provide opportunity for clarifying questions, and enable target countries and project partners to share main NDC-related activities and country engagements.

Invited Participants

- National focal points in target countries: Fiji, Indonesia, Pakistan, and Tajikistan
- ESCAP and UNECE representatives
- Partner organisations: UNFCCC, NDC Partnership, ADB, GIZ, and the Asian Transport Observatory
- ESCAP Resource persons and consultants

Agenda (90 minutes)

1. Opening and welcome by Secretariat (5 minutes)
 - Agenda, timekeeping, chat use, recording and follow-up
2. Participants introduction (5 minutes)
3. Project overview by ESCAP (10 minutes)
 - Presentation of project objective, scope, target countries, main outputs and timeline
4. Current country activities summary by national focal points (10 minutes)

- 2-minute highlights per country: Fiji, Indonesia, Pakistan, and Tajikistan
- 5. Questions and brief discussion (15 minutes)
 - Questions about project scope, deliverables, timelines and national roles
- 6. Partner roundtable on NDC-related activities in the region and country engagement (35 minutes)
 - Six partners × 2-3 minutes each to present main activities, funding or technical support opportunities, and entry points for country collaboration
 - Share any regional or global relevant activities (including COP30)
- 7. Synthesis of partner inputs and identification of collaboration opportunities (5 minutes)
 - ESCAP leads quick synthesis, highlights overlapping activities, potential joint support, and gaps
- 8. Closing remarks and meeting close (10 minutes)
 - Confirm short-term actions
 - Confirm date for next TAG meeting window and identify any interim activities

ANNEX 2

FIRST MEETING OF THE TECHNICAL ADVISORY GROUP

15 OCTOBER 2025

12:00 – 13:30 (GMT+7)

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

FIJI

Ms. Aseri Naula Driu, Director, Department of Transport Planning, Ministry of Public Works, Meteorological Services and Transport

Ms. Chanel Mavoia, Senior Transport Planner, Department of Transport Planning, Ministry of Public Works, Meteorological Services and Transport

TAJIKISTAN

Mr. Nurullo Ruzi, Head of International Cooperation Department, Ministry of Transport

ORGANIZATIONS

United Nations Economic Commission for Europe

Mr. Francois Cuenot, Economic Affairs Officer

United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change

Ms. Juhi Bansal, Regional Expert for NDCs and LT-LEDS

Asian Development Bank

Mr. Bert Fabian, Senior Transport Specialist

GIZ

Ms. Dominika Kalinowska, Director, Transport Projects Thailand / ASEAN

NDC Partnership

Mr. Deo Gabinete, Regional Manager

OTHER ENTITY

Asian Transport Observatory

Mr. Alvin Mejia, Co-team Leader

RESOURCE PERSONS

Mr. Asad Mahmood, National Consultant for Pakistan, ESCAP

Mr. Holger Dalkmann, International Consultant, ESCAP

Mr. Olim Yatimzoda, National Consultant for Tajikistan, ESCAP

Mr. Pierpaolo Cazzola, Regional Consultant, ESCAP

SECRETARIAT

Ms. Wei-Shiuen Ng

Economic Affairs Officer
Transport Research and Policy
Section Transport Division

Ms. Tham Lu

Research Assistant
Transport Research and Policy
Section Transport Division

ANNEX 3

TERMS OF REFERENCE

STRENGTHENING CAPACITY OF ESCAP MEMBER STATES TO IMPLEMENT LOW CARBON AND RESILIENT TRANSPORT ACTION PLANS IN ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

TECHNICAL ADVISORY GROUP

I. BACKGROUND

In April 2025, the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) launched a new project on “Strengthening Capacity of ESCAP Member States to Implement Low Carbon and Resilient Transport Action Plans in Asia and the Pacific” that is jointly implemented with the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) and supported by the NDC Partnership, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and GIZ.

This project was developed based on discussions with ESCAP member States on their low carbon and resilient transport priorities and challenges through a series of subregional and regional discussions over the past two years. The project’s objective is to strengthen the capacity of countries in Asia and the Pacific to implement low carbon and resilient transport action plans to accelerate climate action through transport. This project responds to the requests of ESCAP member States by focusing on the closing of technical, institutional and financial gaps in the transition to low carbon and resilient transport.

Four target countries were selected for the project (Fiji, Indonesia, Pakistan, and Tajikistan), which will support the implementation of low carbon and resilient transport strategies, policies or roadmaps, while determining transport targets and implementation timelines for or aligned with Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs). Key outputs include the development of national action plans on low carbon and resilient transport for the target countries and one regional action plan for Asia and the Pacific. This project also includes the creation of a Technical Advisory Group (TAG) that consists of the national focal points of the project, representatives from ESCAP and UNECE, partner organizations and resource persons (consultants engaged in the project). For a complete list of members, please refer to the Annex.

II. OBJECTIVES

The Technical Advisory Group is created to enable multistakeholder engagement to guide new data and policy analysis, enhance the exchange and information of knowledge, and identify financial resources for the implementation of concrete low carbon transport action and policy strategies for climate resilient transport infrastructure and system across all four

target countries. TAG members are also encouraged to actively support the dissemination of results and tools across the region, including through their own events and networks.

III. ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Members of the Technical Advisory Group are expected to participate actively in meetings and contribute their technical expertise on a national, regional or global level, guide the direction of the development of national and regional action plans on low carbon and resilient transport, and propose solutions to close technical, institutional and financial gaps. ESCAP will share selected strategic documents for voluntary review throughout the project and encourages members of the TAG to explore and create additional opportunities for dissemination.

IV. MEETING ARRANGEMENTS

The Technical Advisory Group will meet every six months for a maximum of two hours with additional meetings as required. In the event that a TAG member is unavailable, it is encouraged that an alternative representative from the same organization be nominated to ensure continuity and consistency in the exchange of information.

V. DURATION

The Technical Advisory Group will meet from October 2025 until the completion of all substantive project activities, no later than June 2027.