

UNESCAP's Collaboration on the COVID-19 Response and Recovery Guidelines for Resilient and Sustainable International Freight Transport Connectivity in ASEAN



UNDA COVID-19 PROJECT CLOSING EVENT

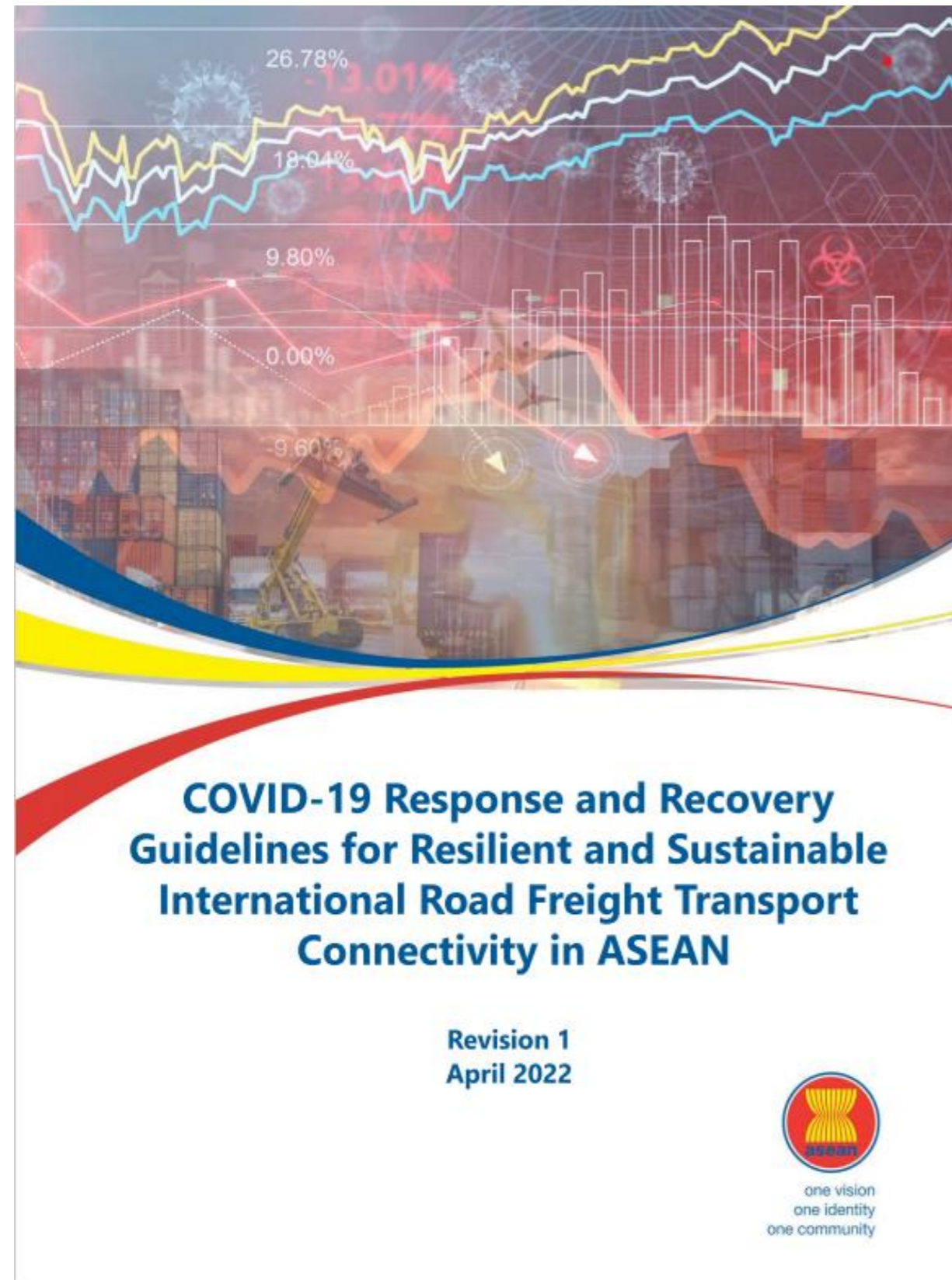
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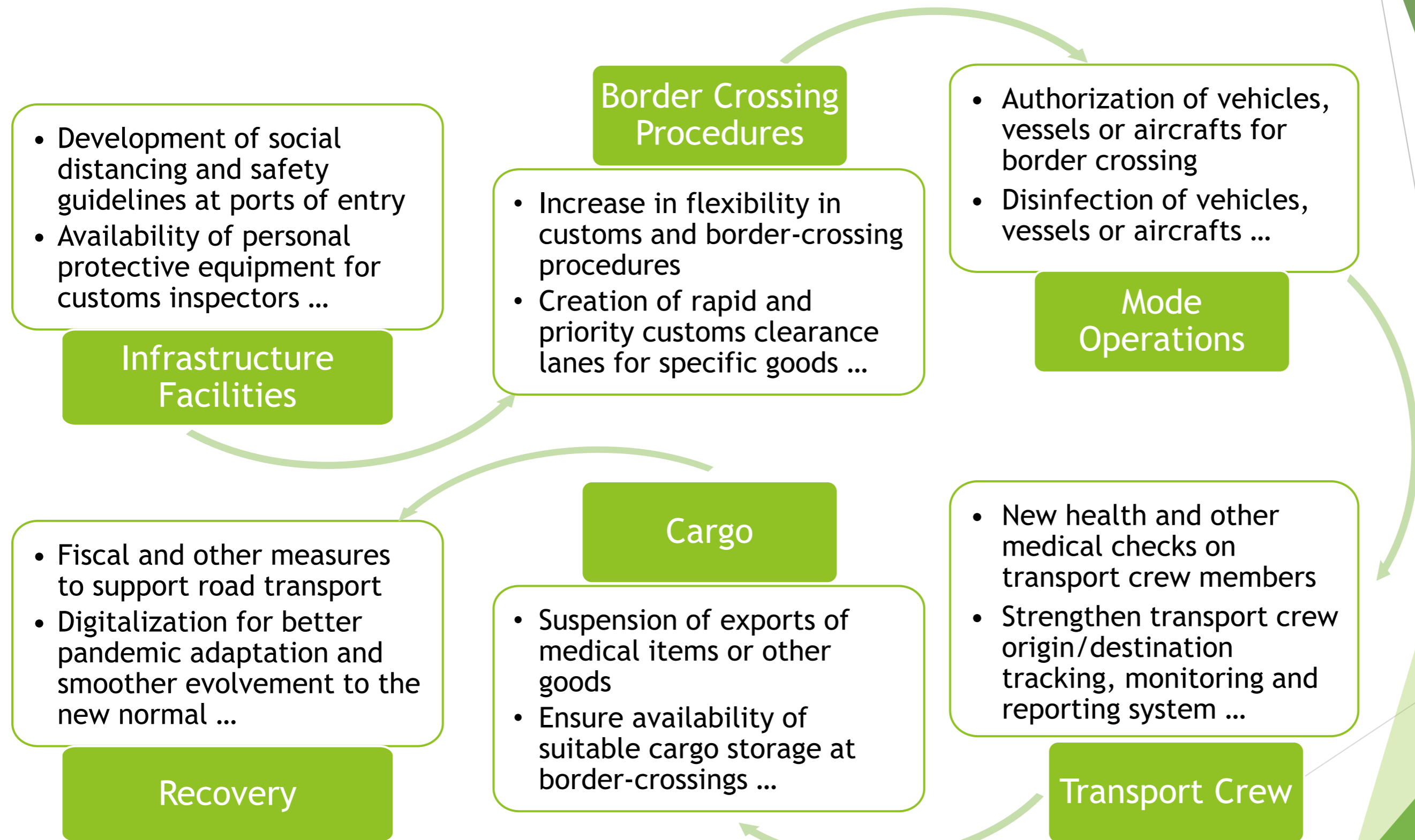
June 23 2022

Background of *the Guidelines*

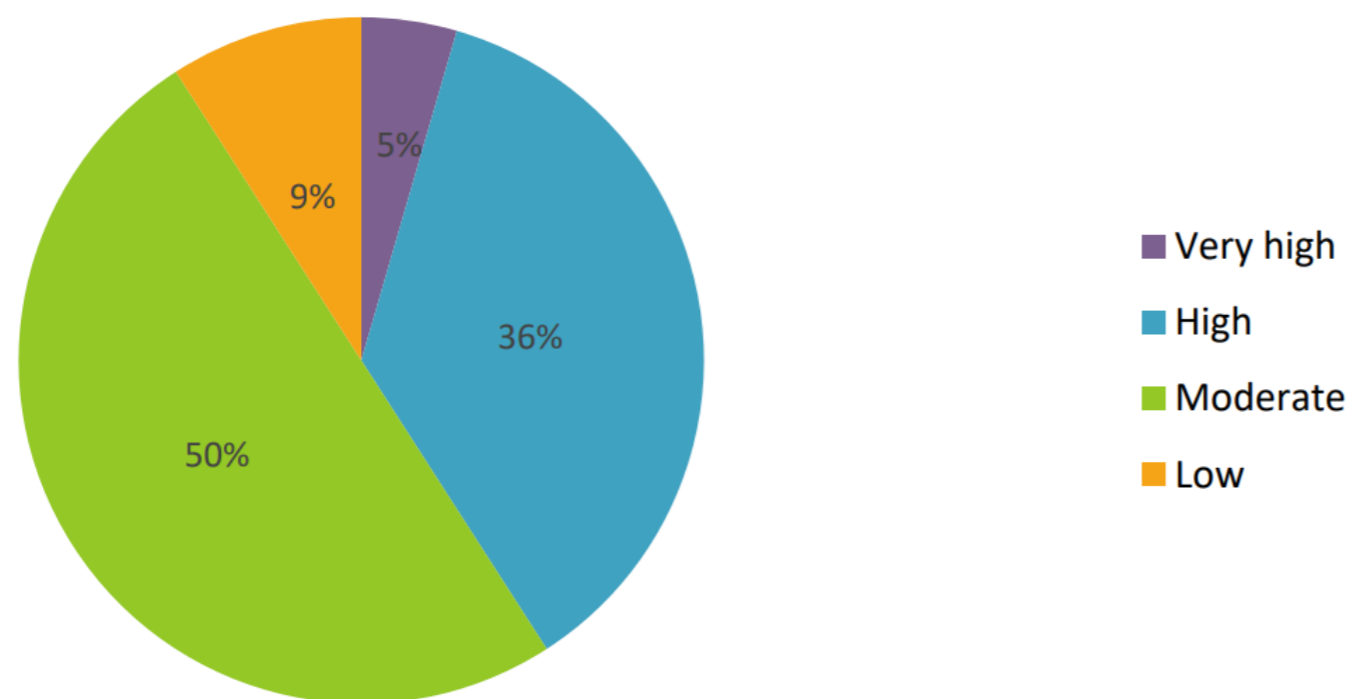


- ▶ Following the joint webinar on *Preserving Transport Connectivity and Building Freight Transport Resilience in ASEAN* in July 2020, *the Guidelines* were developed with the collaboration among ASEAN, UNESCAP, and ITF.
- ▶ *The Guidelines* were designed to support ASEAN Member States in establishing **transport connectivity recovery plans** focusing on resilience and sustainability.
- ▶ *The Guidelines* also contributed to the implementation of the initiatives under **the ASEAN Comprehensive Recovery Framework**.

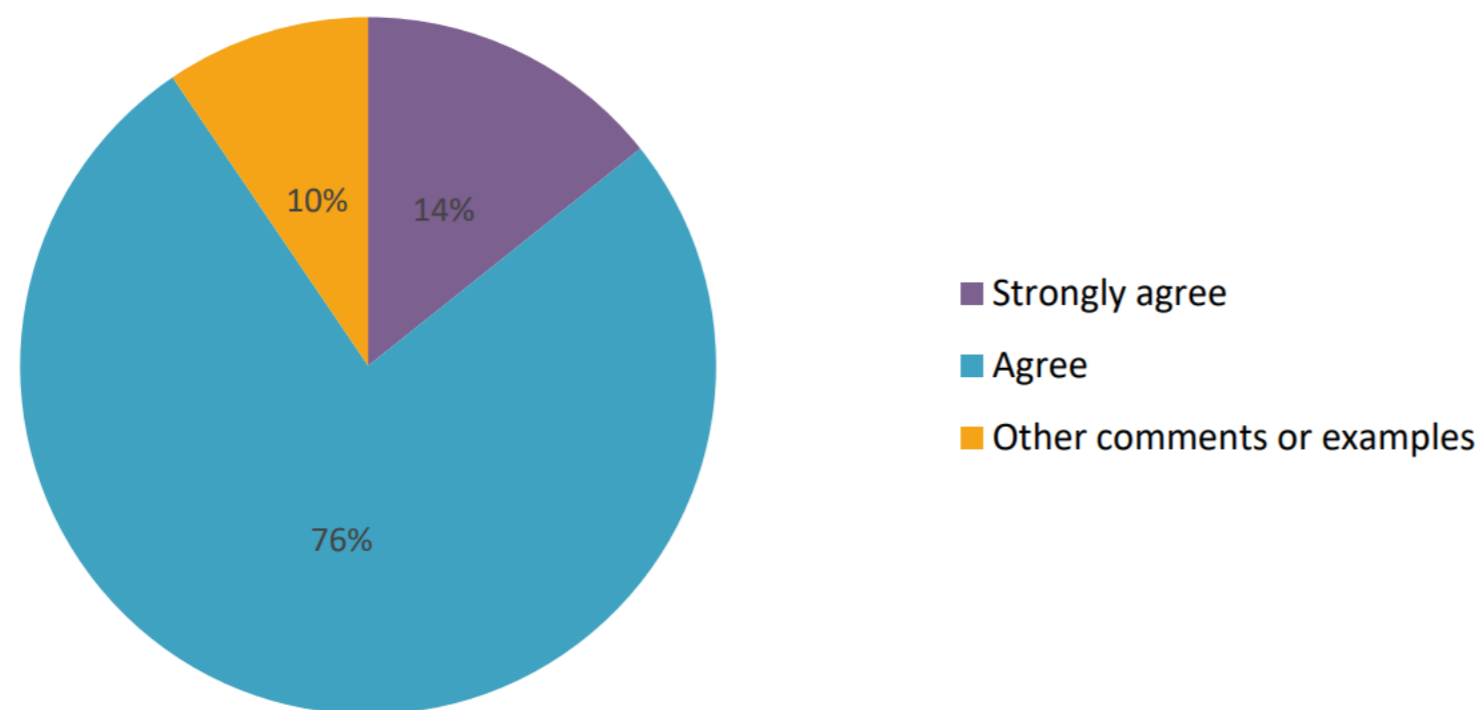
Methodology - UNESCAP's Survey on Freight Transport Policy (1/3)



Methodology - UNESCAP's Survey on Freight Transport Policy (2/3)














- ▶ Estimated level of disruption on freight transport services caused by COVID-19 in ASEAN Member States.



- ▶ ASEAN Member States' agreement on whether cross-border freight operations have become more costly and/or time consuming due to COVID-19.

Methodology - UNESCAP's Survey on Freight Transport Policy (3/3)

Value		Percent	Count
Balancing between containing the virus and maintaining transport services		63.6%	14
Transport operators' safety		36.4%	8
Licensing and certifications		4.5%	1
Maintaining the supply chain and logistics activities		45.5%	10
Changes in transport corridors		9.1%	2
Suspension of maritime traffic		4.5%	1
Inter-city travel ban		18.2%	4
Social distancing		40.9%	9
Restriction of non-essential activities		40.9%	9
Cross-border connectivity		50.0%	11
Other (please specify)		4.5%	1

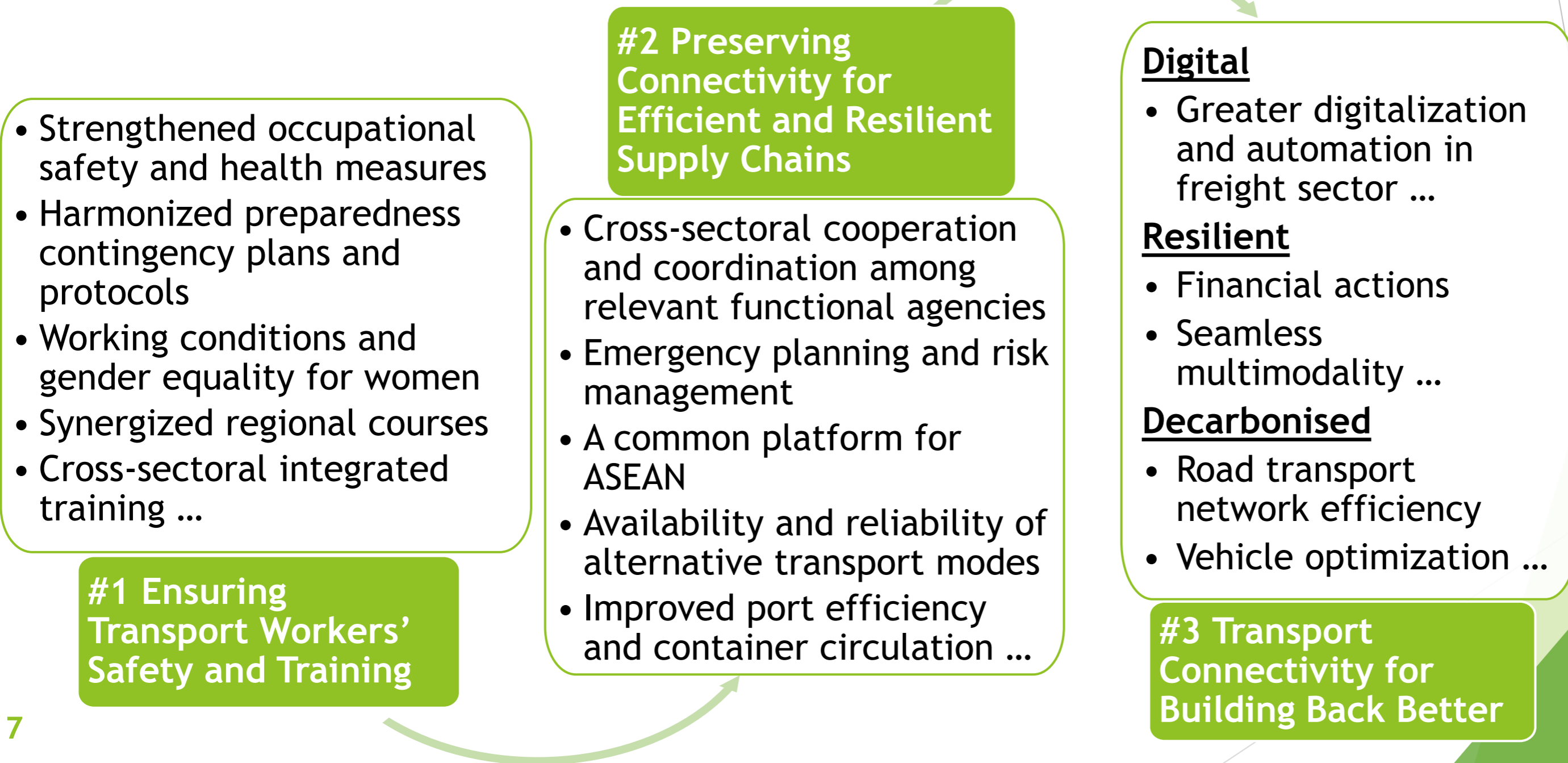
Policy emphasis for the recovery stage for ASEAN Member States

Methodology - Technical Interviews by UNESCAP and ITR

- ▶ One-on-one technical interviews were conducted with **ASEAN Member States** and **private sector representatives** (ASEAN Trucking Federation, ATF and the ASEAN Federation of Forwarders Associations, AFFA).
 - ▶ Scope of *the Guidelines*
 - ▶ Best practices or lessons learned from the region
 - ▶ Feedback on proposed recommendations based on global experience
 - ▶ Technical assistance and capacity building needs
- ▶ Common themes and linkages for government (e.g., exchange of information, accelerated implementation of ASEAN agreements)
- ▶ Common themes and linkages specific to the private sector (e.g., improvement of transport efficiency, regional standards, constant dialogue with governments, and capacity building and training)

Priorities of *the Guidelines*

- ▶ The main guiding principles and policy actions of *the Guidelines* are articulated around three priorities, with a recommended timeline of three phases.



Implementation Recommendations

- ▶ Carry out stakeholder assessment and mapping
 - ▶ (identifying key stakeholders, identifying stakeholders' roles, creating stakeholder map, and organizing engagement with stakeholder groups)
- ▶ Define governance structure for implementation
 - ▶ (identifying relevant existing regional or bilateral agreements, identifying existing platforms and mechanisms, defining governance structure, and developing timeline of implementation)
- ▶ Maintain the multiple stakeholder groups engaged throughout the implementation process
- ▶ Secure a sufficient capacity building support
 - ▶ (identifying appropriate and relevant capacity building and training needs, approaching national and international partners, and ensuring a comprehensive coverage)

Needs and Processes of the Revision

- ▶ In two ESCAP-ASEAN-ITF regional capacity building webinars, five specific issues during the pandemic were highlighted.
 - ▶ Worldwide container shortage
 - ▶ Measures to mitigate increase in transport costs and fees
 - ▶ Vaccination programmes for frontline transport workers
 - ▶ Railway transport under multimodal connectivity
 - ▶ Collaboration and coordination among relevant agencies
- ▶ The revision of the *Guidelines* was initiated in the 41st ASEAN TFWG Meeting held on 11-12 October 2021.
 - ▶ A additional survey was conducted in November and December 2021 with ASEAN Member States and private sector representatives.
 - ▶ The COVID-19 policy responses from ASEAN Member States in 8 ASEAN meetings* from June 2020 to October 2021 were compiled and analyzed.

(i) 41st ASEAN Transport Facilitation Working Group Meeting, October 2021, (ii) 11th ASEAN-ROK Transport Cooperation Forum, September 2021, (iii) 17th ASEAN-Japan Expert Group Meeting on Logistics December 2020, (iv) 26th ASEAN Transport Ministers Meeting, November 2020, (v) 12th ASEAN Transit Transport Coordinating Board Meeting, October 2020, (vi) 18th ASEAN-Japan Senior Transport Officials Leaders Conference, September 2020, (vii) ATM+China Special Meeting on COVID-19, July 2020, and (viii) 49th ASEAN Senior Transport Officials Meeting June 2020.

Major Findings and Changes in the Revision

- ▶ In the new survey to re-examine the original contents and collect further policy measures, almost all respondents affirmed that the current three priority areas remained appropriate.
- ▶ Among the guiding principles and policy actions, those related to the following topics were particularly emphasized by respondents.
 - ▶ Digitalisation
 - ▶ Regional cooperation and integration
 - ▶ Cross-sector and inter-agency coordination
 - ▶ Working conditions and gender equality
- ▶ Increase in transport costs and container shortage were still challenging issues in many member states.

Proposed Digital Catalogue

Country	Category	Target	Link to digitalization	Time of introduction	Duration
Brunei Darussalam	Infrastructure	Freight	Yes	2020 Q1	Short-term
Cambodia	Vehicles	Passenger	No	2020 Q2	Medium-term
Indonesia	Crew	Both	n/a	2020 Q3	Long-term
Lao PDR	Cargo			2020 Q4	
Malaysia	Financial support			2021 Q1	
Myanmar	Mixed			2021 Q2	
Philippines	Travelers (persons)			2021 Q3	
Singapore	Information			2021 Q4	
Thailand				2022 Q1	
Viet Nam				2022 Q2	
				2022 Q3	
				2022 Q4	
Priority Area	Mode	Scope	Link to decarbonization efforts		
#1	Air	International	Yes	2023 Q1	
#2	Rail	Domestic	No	2023 Q2	
#3	Road	Both	n/a	2023 Q3	
	Waterborne			2023 Q4	
	Mixed				



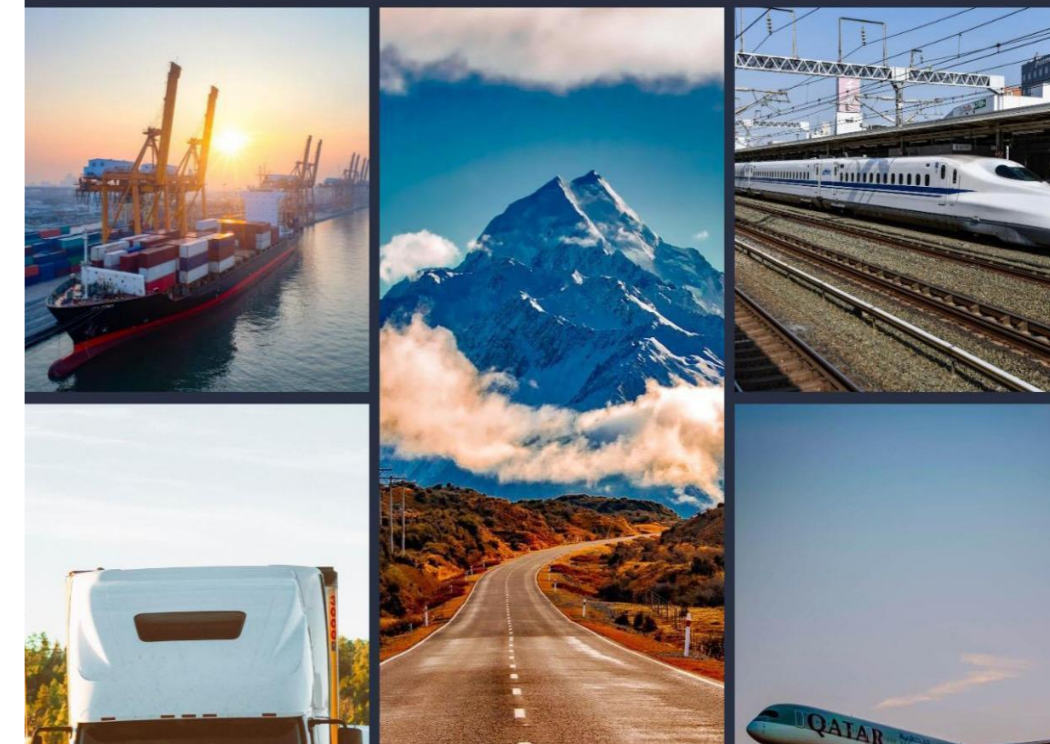
Preparation for the Post-Pandemic Adjustments

- ▶ A new implementation recommendation, *Prepare for the Post-Pandemic Adjustments in Transport Policy Responses*, was added to address the gradual removal of restrictions and the transition to an endemic stage.
 - ▶ Retain the policy measures with a positive impact on digitalization, facilitation of cross-border procedures and decarbonizations.
 - ▶ Regularly review the remaining restrictions.
 - ▶ Ensure the transparency and necessary flow of information.
 - ▶ Revise existing transport agreements to guarantee the resilience during the future crisis, and consider a minimum set of provisions to be included in a force majeure clause in new agreements.

Transport and trade connectivity in the age of pandemics:

contactless, seamless and collaborative UN solutions

Proposals for crisis-response provisions in regional and bilateral transport agreements of the ESCAP member States



Conclusions and Next Steps

- ▶ The initiative of developing *the Guidelines* is a good example of illustrating how collaborative solutions can be generated among multiple international organizations. The outputs are recognized and well-received by our regional partner, ASEAN.
- ▶ Next steps
 - ▶ Subsequent revision of *the Guidelines*, which should be a “live” document.
 - ▶ Completion and validation of the digital catalogue
 - ▶ Potential capacity building events/workshops (physical)
 - ▶ Future collaborations to enhance transport connectivity and resilience
 - ▶ A common platform for ASEAN Member States to manage future disruptions
 - ▶ Crisis-related provisions in multilateral and bilateral agreements