

*Written statement – Deputy Minister Jan Sechter*

*Distinguished Heads of delegations!*

*Ladies and Gentlemen!*

*Allow me to thank you for the opportunity to be part of this conference and for giving me the space to say a few words about sustainable transport.*

*In general, sustainable transportation means supporting the mobility needs of society in a manner that's the least damageable to the environment and which doesn't impair the mobility needs of future generations.*

*But how to do both? How to grow sustainably as a society? These are questions we ought to ask and United Nations provide a platform where we can find possible solutions and ways how to build a greener and more inclusive transportation.*

*I always try to think about an issue in a holistic way. Thinking about green and sustainable transportation in isolation could be misguided. A better approach, in my opinion, is to figure out how to configure entire communities in such a way that greener modes come as most obvious and easiest choices. Smart growth, which emphasizes putting homes near shops, jobs and public transportation, does just that by making zoning choices that promote density.*

*In Europe and Czech Republic particularly it's evidently easier done than in places that were originally designed to cater to the automobile. But even in some parts of United States there are communities which converted their big stores and parking lots into new community assets such as churches, schools, housing with interconnected street grids and pedestrian access.*

*The pandemic situation we're slowly recovering from is also showing inclination to have job, shops and cultural venues in a much closer radius than what people were used to. All these facts contribute to the way how we think about sustainability and how we create and shape the future.*

*Thank you for your attention.*

