

Speech by Mr Timo HarakkaMinister of Transport and Communications, **Finland****14 October 2021****SECOND UNITED NATIONS GLOBAL SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORT CONFERENCE,
"SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORT, SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT", BEIJING**

Secretary-General António Guterres,
President Xi Jinping,
Minister Li Xiaopeng,
Ministers,
Your Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

I would like to thank the United Nations and the Government of the People's Republic of China for organising the Second United Nations Sustainable Transport Conference in Beijing and online.

All countries are currently dealing with important future options for travel and mobility. Our choices will affect how sustainable our future will be in Finland, in China and globally.

A sustainable future is built on our common efforts. Climate change is the greatest threat to the welfare of our societies, and none of us can tackle it on our own. A wide spectrum of different actions and leaders, such as the EU, is required. Nationally, Finland stands committed to halving the emissions from domestic transport by 2030.

The transport sector is undergoing a deep transformation due to decarbonisation and developments in digitalisation, automation and mobility as a service. These are high on the Finnish Government's agenda, and with good reason.

Finns are known for being passionate about technological development and innovation. We have always kept innovation policies high on our political agenda.

And it is with a similar spirit that Finnish companies, research institutes and universities are actively taking part in developing electric fuels, Power-to-X and hydrogen solutions. In the future, these innovations will secure the path to fossil fuel-free transport, especially in heavy road transport, aviation and maritime transport.

Finland is also proud of the swift uptake of new concepts and technologies by our citizens. And again, the transport sector is no different. Everyone needs to be able to enjoy their rights and freedoms.

The last point I would like to raise is about the path towards a data society. Data provides us a way to a fossil-fuel free future. It is impossible to imagine us achieving our climate objectives without digitalisation and utilisation of large amounts of data.

All key technological breakthroughs, such as high-performance computing, artificial intelligence and digital mobility services, depend on the availability and free movement of data between networks and value chains.

The opportunities offered by data and a robust digital economy are based on trust. Therefore, we consider it important for access to data and trust in services to be at the core of data economy policies. Trust and transparency would provide a favorable environment for new business models and foreign investments.

In order to make the transition fair and socially just, we will surely need to work together globally and make sure that no one is left behind.

With these comments in mind, I wish everyone a successful and very productive Conference.

Thank you very much. Xièxiè.