

**Second United Nations Global Sustainable Transport Conference
“Sustainable Transport, Sustainable Development”**

**Virtual Forum on the Role of Business in Advancing Sustainable Transport
Saturday, 16 October 2021, 4:00-5:00 p.m. (GMT+8)**

Draft Concept Note

Co-organizers: UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA) and the Ministry of Transport of China, in cooperation with the International Chamber of Commerce (ICC), UN Global Compact, World Business Council on Sustainable Development (WBCSD), the SLOCAT Partnership on Sustainable, Low Carbon Transport, and the Transport Decarbonization Alliance (TDA).

Objective

The Forum will bring together key players from the private sector, policymakers and other stakeholders to discuss the role of business in promoting sustainable transport for the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including its impact on climate change and its contribution to the recovery from COVID-19. The event will showcase creative and innovative approaches by business actors to addressing sustainable transport-related challenges, promoting corporate social responsibility, taking ambitious action and making new commitments to achieve greener, safer and more efficient, affordable and inclusive transport.

Substantive Focus

Transport systems connect people with goods, services, social and economic opportunities. Despite their many benefits, transportation systems can cause various environmental, social and health challenges and risks. How the international community handles the transport needs of the world’s growing population and their evolving mobility aspirations has a lasting impact on our collective social, environmental and economic outlook for the future.

The COVID-19 pandemic has thrust to the fore the central role of sustainable transport in modern economies and societies. Sustainable transport has, for example, been critical for the delivery of essential goods (e.g., food and medical supplies) and services during the pandemic and will be essential throughout the recovery period. The pandemic has also significantly impacted work and travel patterns and global supply chains and may be prompting longer-term changes in both demand and supply for transport services. Recovering from the pandemic will also be a chance for all actors including the private sector to rethink passenger and freight transport and come up with solutions which can not only withstand possible future crises, but also support the achievement of the 2030 Agenda and the Paris Agreement.

Prominent speakers will highlight what the business sector can do, including through entrepreneurship and innovation, to make the post-COVID mobility of people and goods safer, greener, more efficient, and more equitable. Speakers will showcase solutions and partnerships

that have accelerated more sustainable practices and transformed transport systems for a sustainable future while ensuring that no one is left behind. Public-private partnerships present the opportunity to leverage expertise, innovation, financial resources and policy mechanisms. The Forum will focus on highlighting new and existing high-impact initiatives that serve to mobilize and coalesce the private sector to advance the sustainable transport agenda and going above and beyond ‘business as usual’, in partnerships with others.

Guiding questions

1. What roles can business play to make the mobility of people and goods more sustainable?
2. What impacts has the COVID-19 pandemic had on businesses in the transport sector around the world and how do we ensure an inclusive, resilient, just recovery while pursuing long term goals?
3. What policy measures can governments around the world adopt to unleash the power of business in advancing a transition towards more sustainable transport?
4. How can multi-stakeholder partnerships including with business, civil society and academia help make an impact on sustainable transport?

Format

The Forum will feature a moderated panel discussion addressing key business initiatives for sustainable transport, followed by interventions from stakeholder representatives. There will be an option to submit pre-recorded or longer statements/presentations/documents electronically.

Presentations and discussions will focus on SDGs - and climate-related challenges and solutions that could be brought to scale, including through innovative multi-stakeholder partnerships. The enabling environment for facilitating the development and deployment of such solutions at all levels would also be featured. There will be an attempt to maintain gender/regional/country balance in the panel. Use of PowerPoint is discouraged due to technical limitations.

Participants

Participation will be open to all pre-registered Conference participants online. The event will also be available on webcast through webtv.un.org.

Outputs

The primary output of the Forum will be a summary report on its deliberations. The Forum also welcomes announcements of impact-oriented sustainable transport initiatives and voluntary commitments by participants. To compile information of both new and existing initiatives made by all Governments, UN system entities, and all other relevant stakeholders, the Secretariat of the Conference has created an online platform available at:
<https://www.un.org/en/conferences/transport2021/commitments>.

Draft agenda (Beijing Local Time)

4:00 – 4:10 p.m.	<p>Opening remarks by Co-Chairs</p> <p>H.E. Mr. Dai Dongchang, Vice Minister of Transport, PRC Ms. Sanda Ojiambo, CEO and Executive Director, UN Global Compact</p>
4:10 - 4:40 p.m.	<p>Panel discussion on “Business action for sustainable transport and social responsibility - making the post-COVID mobility of people and goods safer, greener, more efficient, and more equitable”</p> <p>Moderator: Ms. Meng Liu, Head of UN Global Compact China Office</p> <p>Panelists:</p> <p>Mr. Florent Menegaux, Chief Executive Officer, Michelin Group Mr. Rolf Thore Roppestad, Chief Executive Officer, Gard AS Ms. Claire O’Neill, Managing Director, World Business Council for Sustainable Development (WBCSD) Mr. Haldane Dodd, Acting Executive Director, Air Transport Action Group (ATAG) Mr. Hu Jianhua, President, China Merchants Group</p>
4:40 - 4:52 p.m.	<p>Interventions</p> <p>Ms. Maruxa Cardama, Secretary General, SLOCAT Partnership on Sustainable, Low Carbon Transport Mr. Ludovic Renou, Chief Executive Officer, CMA CGM China Ms. Kristin Dziczek, Senior Vice President of Research, CAR Group Mr. Zhuang Shangbiao, President, China Railway Construction Co., Ltd.</p>
4:52 – 4:55 p.m.	<p>Closing remarks by moderator</p>