Greetings from Rwanda.

1. It is a great honour and privilege for me to speak on behalf of His Excellency the President of the Republic of Rwanda, at this global forum to exchange on the role of transport towards sustainable development. It is well known that transport plays a crucial role as an enabler for achieving many of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), especially SDG 1 on ending poverty.

2. Africa’s structural transformation and inclusive green growth, which are pre-requisites for reaching most of the SDGs, are hampered by a range of natural and man-made constraints. This creates serious obstacles to deeper regional integration of African countries whereby poor infrastructure continues to hinder Africa’s competitiveness.

3. Despite the efforts made by African countries in infrastructure development including transport, there is a need for more investment where African Development Bank estimates 130 -170 Bn USD required investment per year.
4. Being aware of the above challenge, Africa as a continent has put in place a Programme for Infrastructure Development in Africa (PIDA). This program provides a common framework for African stakeholders to build the infrastructure necessary for more integrated transport, energy, ICT and transboundary water networks to boost trade and jobs creation.

5. The establishment of the African Continental Free Trade Area Agreement which entered into force on 30th May 2019, is another key achievement to create a single market for goods, services and facilitate movement of persons.

6. In addition to the above, the Single African Air Transport Market (SAATM) initiative that was launched by AU in January 2018, with the main objective of liberalizing air transport will also play a big role to break down barriers hindering trade and transport across Africa.

❖ Excellencies,
❖ Ladies and gentlemen,

7. Rwanda’s development pathway to becoming an upper-middle-income economy by 2035 and high-income country by 2050 hinges on economic growth linked to sustainable transport systems as a land-locked country.

8. To achieve these targets, Rwanda is making a lot of efforts to reduce freight and logistics costs while developing an integrated transport system that links with the region. This includes road networks that connect to all borders with the neighboring countries, inland water transport, state-of-the-art airport and initiated the regional railway network project.
❖ Excellencies,
❖ Ladies and gentlemen,

9. Being a Party to the Paris Agreement and other protocols on climate change protection, the Government of Rwanda developed a policy and strategy for promoting electric mobility in addition to enhancing non-motorized transport for green and inclusive development.

10. In conclusion, it is essential therefore that we commit to scale-up investment in efficient, seamless, green, inclusive and cost-effective transport system that will help in the achievement of sustainable development goals by 2030.

11. Rwanda is ready to work with stakeholders to realize this global objective.

Thank you for your kind attention.