



STATEMENT

BY

PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF ZIMBABWE

HIS EXCELLENCY DR. E. D. MNANGAGWA

AT THE

SECOND UNITED NATIONS GLOBAL

SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORT CONFERENCE:

BEIJING CHINA

14-16 OCTOBER 2021

Your Excellency, Xi Jinping, President of the People's Republic of China,

Your Excellency, Mr. António Guterres, Secretary General of the United Nations,

Excellencies Heads of State and Government,

Distinguished Representatives,

Ladies and Gentlemen;

Allow me to commend the convening of this Second Global Conference on Sustainable Transport. I also wish to congratulate our gracious host, President Xi Jinping and the Government of the People's Republic of China, for hosting this important conference.

Excellencies,

Transport provides access to markets and supply chains of intermediate outputs and services essential for promoting sustainable development. In the context of the COVID-19 pandemic, the efficacy and safety of vaccines is critically tied to its storage, handling and transportation.

The sector is thus a necessary enabler for achieving sustainable development.

Efficient and clean technology and innovation of the transport sector is now urgent and imperative. Investment into new sustainable transport infrastructure and networks must take into account resilience to climate change impacts, other present challenges as well as natural and economic shocks in line with the Paris Agreement.

There is need for major investments in renewable electricity, alternative fuels, as well as transport infrastructure. As Governments, we must continue the drive towards a zero-carbon transport sector, anchored by publicly owned transport infrastructure. The private sector has a key role to play to accelerate the achievement of sustainable transport and the achievement of SDGs. Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs), eco-friendly investments and corporate social responsibility must equally be encouraged and strengthened.

Excellencies,

Sustainable transport solutions are indeed key to leaving no one and no place behind; securing economic prosperity, enabling access to services and protecting the environment. I wish to express my profound appreciation to our host, President Xi Jinping and the Government of the People's Republic of China, for embarking on the transformative Belt and Road Initiative. This visionary initiative is pushing forward Africa's ambition to achieve connectivity and integration through infrastructure expansion.

Leveraging on its geo- strategic location, Zimbabwe provides a road and rail North-South corridor into the SADC region. As such, my Government is undertaking various projects towards transport and transit infrastructure development, regional connectivity and trade facilitation. We invite investors and business entities to take up the abundant opportunities in the transport sector and in other sectors of our economy.

I wish to conclude by calling on the international community to support developing countries to enable sustainable transport systems and infrastructure. These incorporate needs related to border crossing infrastructure as well as efficient transport and transit operations and procedures.

It is our sincere hope that with the requisite international support and strong partnerships, efficient and sustainable transit transport systems can be achieved.

I thank you for your attention.