

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

**Ministers’ Forum (hybrid format)
“Sustainable transport, poverty eradication and economic recovery –
exchange of views and sharing of national experiences”**

Friday, 15 October 2021, 8:00 – 9:30 p.m. (BJT)

Draft Concept Note

Co-organizers: UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs and the Ministry of Transport of China.

Objective

The Forum will bring together ministers of transport from different countries around the world to discuss the role of sustainable transport in poverty eradication and economic recovery from COVID-19. The global discussion will share experiences, provide policy options and inform future actions in the transport sector to reduce poverty and stimulate economic recovery.

Substantive Focus

Transport plays a crucial role as an enabler for achieving many of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), in particular SDG 1 on ending poverty. Transport connectivity can generate significant social and economic benefits. The Forum will discuss the transport measures adopted for poverty eradication in different countries, including infrastructure development and maintenance in remote rural areas, and how these measures may help improve residents’ income, create new employment opportunities and provide access to better education and healthcare. Besides, this Forum will also discuss how the transport-related policies will be consciously designed to make sure that the poor also take advantage of the opportunities provided by transport connectivity and services.

The COVID-19 crisis has also illustrated the pivotal role that transport plays in the global supply chains. The participating Ministers will be expected to share experiences, best practices and solutions on how to boost the economic recovery and build a human community with a shared future through transport, including measures to support pandemic prevention and control and to facilitate cross-border movement of people and goods, to keep international industrial and supply chains safe and to promote resumption of work and production.

Format

Following the opening remarks by the Minister of Transport of China, the Forum will hear statements by twenty (20) Ministers from various countries around the world, invited by the host country of the Conference.

Presentations will be expected to focus on the national experiences in the development and implementation of strategies, working plans, policies, legislation, financing and other practices to facilitate and enhance the contribution of sustainable transport to poverty eradication and economic recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic in such countries or regions, and to elaborate on areas where significant additional efforts or international collaborations are needed.

Participants

Ministers from UN Member States who are invited to make presentations will participate in the Forum virtually, while all other interested Conference participants will be able to view the proceedings on UN WebTV. All registered in-person Conference participants based in China are welcomed to attend the Forum in the conference hall at CNCC in Beijing.

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 participating Ministers. To compile information of both new and existing initiatives made by all Governments, the 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>.

Speaker selection criteria

- Relevance and impact: concrete and perceptive country experiences in the area of sustainable transport.
- Balance in terms of gender, geography and level of development.
-

Draft Agenda

BJT	Co-chairs: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • H.E. Mr. Li Xiaopeng, Minister of Transport, People's Republic of China • Mr. Liu Zhenmin, Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs, United Nations
8:00 – 8:06 p.m.	Opening statement: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • H.E. Mr. Li Xiaopeng, Minister of Transport, People's Republic of China (6 mins)
8:06 – 9:27 p.m.	Statements by Ministers Twenty (20) presentations by invited ministers (3-4 mins each; maximum 80 mins total)
9:27 – 9:30 p.m.	Closing remarks: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Liu Zhenmin, Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs, United Nations (3-4 mins)