

# **SECOND UNITED NATIONS GLOBAL SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORT CONFERENCE**

October 14-16, 2021

Beijing

## **ONLINE SPEECH**

**Minister of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine  
Oleh Nemchinov**

October 15, 2021

15:00 - 16:30 (Kyiv time)

Dear Minister,

Dear United Nations Deputy Secretary General

Dear participants and guests of the conference!

Let me thank you for the opportunity to take part in this important event and comment on some aspects of the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals.

First of all, I would like to remind you how important the global transport factor is.

During the first year of the COVID-19 pandemic the need for emergency medical freight transportation around the world appeared to be crucial. Ukrainian cargo planes Antonov worked 24/7, rescuing people in many countries, delivering medical cargo to the places where the situation was the hardest. Later we noticed some significant problems in global supply chains, which resulted in global supplies delays and increasing of their cost. Now we see how the shift in liquefied gas supplies to Asian countries has already caused a steep gas price increase in Europe. And these are just a few examples that prove the importance of building a global sustainable transport system that has a direct impact on people's standard of living around the world.

The world is changing inevitably. The transition to the 6th technological paradigm is taking place. While at the 1st conference in Ashgabat we discussed the topics of aviation, maritime, ferry, railroads, highways transportation, mentioning also non-motorized modes of transport (bicycle, pedestrian traffic, etc.), we could not imagine that we would discuss space transport so soon,

considering rapid development of space transportation and plans of different countries to colonize the Moon and other planets.

All this speaks for the inevitability of those transformations planned in the relevant UN documents on the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030, in particular in transportation.

In Ukraine we understand this very well and our Government is working hard to achieve all 17 Sustainable Development Goals, realizing that they are all interconnected and provide the needed sustainable development and progress only if fulfilled in a systematic way.

The President of Ukraine has launched a national program of the infrastructure development ("Large Construction"), which includes large-scale building of roads, railways, airports and other infrastructure facilities, as well as the total digitalization of the country and the transition of the public administration to a paperless format. Ukraine was the first in the world to introduce a digital passport and will soon have the first digital jurisdiction system for the global IT - "Diia City".

In order to attract large-scale investments the President of Ukraine and the Government have carried out the significant reforms and adopted important laws in the field of investment support and protection, as well as ensuring openness of Ukraine to investments from all around the world.

Those who invest in infrastructure projects can participate in various forms of public-private partnership, receive state support and incentives, create new or participate in existing industrial parks in Ukraine on economically viable conditions. The state has created a specially authorized body to support and protect each investor - the government office for investments involvement and support - UkraineInvest.

Ukraine has made its choice of building new green infrastructure on the way to achieving the goals of sustainable development, therefore such investment projects will have a priority and will be fully supported and protected by the state.

I would also like to mention the productive cooperation with the European Union on investment projects in the field of infrastructure and also say that many opportunities have been appearing as a result of the intergovernmental agreement signed this year with the People's Republic of China on investment cooperation in the field of infrastructure.

Ukraine has joined The European Green Deal and is recognized as a country with strategic potential for hydrogen production. Ukraine has significant reserves of minerals on its territory, which are used for the purposes of production of electric batteries for cars, electrolyzers and fuel cells for hydrogen. Ukraine has historic industrial sites for renovation in transport segments of light and heavy engineering, shipbuilding, cargo aviation and space construction. The Make in

Ukraine program has been developed for investors who want to relocate their own industrial production, the consumers of which are the EU countries, closer to these consumers in order to optimize logistics costs.

Ukraine is a member of the TRACECA international transport program and continues to emphasize the utmost importance of this inter-regional route's development, which on the one hand develops the well-known Belt and Road initiative, providing it with more sustainability, additional resilience and capacity, as it expands opportunities and options for transportation of goods from China to the EU, as well as connects these regions with macro-regions of Central Asia, the Middle East and India.

Ukraine considers it very promising and productive to develop its participation in the TRACECA program, while combining the two largest regional transport programs: the European TEN-T and the Central Asian CAREC as well as the capacity of river waterways to Europe along Danube and Dnipro. I am convinced that with the help of China and the EU, as well as the joint support of all TRACECA and CAREC participants, we could agree on this and jointly by 2030 build this model green sustainable transport corridor, which would connect the West and the East by railway (1435mm), which would at the same time use green construction technologies, create and use green rolling stock, implement full digitalization of transportation and green energy supply.

Transport corridors can be compared to a field irrigation system. While freight and passenger traffic along these corridors is like the nourishing water for the world economy and trade. Wherever the path goes, the life flourishes!

And China is a fine example of this, as it is the today's world leader in infrastructure construction, and we see how these large-scale investments are changing modern China and directly affecting the well-being of its people.

Let me take this opportunity to congratulate China on the achievement of the first important goal of sustainable development this year - the elimination of extreme poverty in a country with almost 1.5 billion population, and to express my respect to the Chairman of our forum, Mr. Li Xiaopeng, for his fruitful work as a Minister of Transport of China.

Finally, I would like to affirm that Ukraine is surely following the chosen path of building a sustainable infrastructure, based on the criteria of environmental friendliness, innovation and sustainable development, focusing on mutually beneficial multilateral cooperation and mutual benefit for all the parties involved.

Thank you!