

HLPF 2024 SIDE EVENT

Implementing the UN Decade of Sustainable Transport

11 JULY 2024, 13:15 – 14:30

LOCATION: UNCTAD NEW YORK OFFICE, 2 UNITED NATIONS PLAZA

CONCEPT NOTE

Background

While there is no single dedicated Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) for transport, it is reflected in several SDG targets and recognized as an enabler for achieving many of the goals. For example, sustainable transport is crucial for the achievement of SDG 9, which aims to develop quality, reliable, sustainable and resilient infrastructure, including regional and transborder infrastructure, and SDG 11, which includes a target on providing access to safe, affordable, accessible and sustainable transport systems for all. Both the political appreciation of sustainable transport as well as our scientific understanding of transport's linkages with issues such as resilient infrastructure development, regional and global trade, food security, economic growth, health promotion, the transition to clean and efficient energies and the tackling of climate change have greatly improved in the last years.

In 2023, the General Assembly resolution 78/148 titled “Strengthening the links between all modes of transport to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals” called, among others, for closer UN cooperation, a UN Decade on of Sustainable Transport (2026-2035), and a Third UN Global Sustainable Transport Conference, and the celebration of the next World Sustainable Transport Day on 26 November 2024. The Member States also requested the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA) to develop an Implementation Plan for the UN Decade of Sustainable Transport, in collaboration with the UN Regional Commissions and in consultation with the Member States, the United Nations system and all other relevant stakeholders.

On 17 April 2024, the President of the General Assembly organized a [High-level Meeting on Sustainable Transport](#) at the United Nations Headquarters as part of his Sustainability Week. The event highlighted sustainable and effective solutions to improve the balance between economic, social, and environmental dimensions of sustainable transport, while recognizing the important role of safe and inclusive transport systems in supporting economic growth, facilitating global supply chains and enhancing international cooperation among countries. If set on a sustainable pathway, the transport sector can play a key role in accelerating the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The event also provided the first opportunity for the full membership of the United Nations to provide ideas and inputs to the Implementation Plan of the UN Decade of Sustainable Transport.

Objective

This side event will provide an opportunity for Member States and relevant stakeholders to consider how the UN Decade of Sustainable Transport and its associated Implementation Plan can best advance sustainable transport and its contributions to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. It will provide a platform to share experiences from other UN Decades and selected examples from sustainable transport efforts undertaken by member States so far. The event will pave the way for more formal consultations with the Member States and other stakeholders later in 2024.

Format and organizers

The side event will be held in hybrid format to allow for online participation. The side event aims to encourage an open exchange of ideas with a short panel discussion and an open dialogue. The event will be held in English only.

The side event is organized by the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, together with the UN Regional Commissions, and kindly hosted by UN Trade and Development (UNCTAD).