Title of the meeting	**UN World Sustainable Transport Day: Leapfrogging to Sustainable Transport in Africa – Digital Transformation and the Global Decade on Sustainable Transport** **- Stakeholders' consultation -**
Session Type (Closed, open, plenary etc.)	Open
Session Organiser	United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA)
Rapporteur (Name & Email)	Placide Badji, ECA, aconkpanle.badji@un.org

Summary of discussions	Organised by ECA, the session discussed with Member States and technical and financial partners how adequate and rapid digitalisation of transport infrastructures and services in Africa can unlock significant benefits for trade and movements of persons across the continent and beyond. The session also reflected on the conditions and critical elements to internalise and make the UN General Assembly declared Global Sustainable Transport Decade (2026-2035) a successful initiative.
	
	Session / participants:
	
	The meeting was attended by 82 participants from the African Union Commission, European Union, World Bank, Corridor Management Institutions, Regional Economic Commissions, Specialised Institutions, ECA and Member States.
	
	Moderator:
	   • Robert Lisinge, Director, Technology, Innovation, Connectivity, and Infrastructure Development Division, ECA
	
	Panellists:
	   • Emmanuel, Imaniranzi, Director – The Northern Corridor Transit and Transport Agency (NCTTA)
	   • Fabio Di Stephano; Team Leader Economic Integration, Trade, Transport, Digital, STI – European Union
	   • Monali Ranade, Programme Leader, Eastern Africa, The World Bank Group
	   • Waleed Hamdi, Head of Information Society Division, African Union Commission (AUC)

	• Eng. Michael Muchiri, Ministry of Transport, Kenya

The panellists praised the organisers for this timely discussion on the urgent need to accelerate sustainable transport development across Africa.

Discussions revealed two major areas for actions: (a) the need for capacity building on digitalisation of transport systems in other to make them more sustainable, and (b) the need for innovative approaches in digitalisation adapted to both transport operations and infrastructure.

The meeting highlighted various strategic continental frameworks that could support the implementation plan for the Sustainable Transport Decade 2026-2035. Among them are the Continental Digital Transformation Strategy and the Artificial Intelligence Strategy.

The transition to e-vehicle is fundamental to achieve sustainable transport. However, holistic approach and collaboration among stakeholders will be key for the success of e-vehicle initiatives in Africa.

Corridors are a good ground for deploying sustainable transport including taking advantage of innovative digital solutions. The Northern Corridor Agency is making progress in transforming itself in a full-fledged SMART corridor by taking many steps including being part of the African Regional Transport Corridor Management Systems (ARTCOMS).

Sustainability is a key element of the European Union (EU) successful transport policy and Africa could learn from the European experience. Europe's shift to clean, efficient, and accessible transportation relies on digitalization. The European Commission (EC) supports this shift with data exchange, smart traffic management, automated mobility, and workforce impact. Thus, the transportation sector is rapidly progressing as it adopts digitalization and technology. These perspectives are helping to reshape European transport by prioritising safety, efficiency, and sustainability.

From the World Bank's perspective, transport in Africa can capitalize on the rapid digital advancements occurring globally to enhance sustainability. As such digitalisation should be mainstreamed holistically together with urban planning, transport, energy, etc and not be applied to transport solely.

Key recommendations	Overall recommendations:
	From a transport and digitalisation perspective, multiple prerequisites, drivers and factors need to be addressed. As such, the following recommendations were made: • ECA and all multilateral and private partners should intensify their support to countries in terms of sustainable transport while taking advantage of the rapid development of digital progress recognising that digitalisation is a key driver of sustainable transport • Take advantage of the existing policy and strategic frameworks in Africa to build an integrated and prosperous digital transport to achieve more sustainability. Examples: Programme for Infrastructure Development in Africa (PIDA); Single African Air Transport Market (SAATM); TransAfrican Highway network (TAH); etc. • Countries require better support from Partners and the Private sector to navigate the transport sustainability and implement the coming Decade of Sustainable Transport. In this respect, in-depth knowledge in innovative finance is useful to countries. • Road safety is key to achieve Sustainable transport. • Countries need more capacity in terms of innovation, digitalization, infrastructure development and think their association holistically together with urban planning. • The particular needs of Landlocked Developing Countries (LLDCs) should be duly considered, and digital means should be employed to enhance their accessibility. • EVs should be developed in the frame of a coherent and integrated policy at the regional.
Communique Text (100 words max)	*Reiterate the urgent need for African countries to achieve a resilient, green, safe, SMART and affordable transport that facilitates movement of people for jobs and amenities, and also that supports the movement of goods and particularly the AfCFTA. Call for multilateral organisations and private sector to support such initiatives. Call for countries to continue contributing and supporting the implementation plan of the Sustainable Decade of Sustainable Transport.*