



UN Decade of Sustainable Transport (2026-2035)

Call for inputs from the United Nations system

UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs

Responding organization: The World Bank

Questions

- 1. How can the UN Decade of Sustainable Transport best boost sustainable transport around the world and increase its contribution to the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals? What kind of a shared vision of sustainable transport should the UN advocate for in the Implementation Plan?**

Recognizing sustainable transport's critical role in achieving the SDG targets related to health, climate action, economic growth, and sustainable cities, the UN and its partners should elevate transport within the SDG framework. This could be done by creating a transport-focused SDG or by further integrating transport goals in the broader structure.

This Decade of Action can boost sustainable transport by providing a collaborative framework, aligning goals, and catalyzing policy and investment. Specifically:

- 1. Increase global coordination and policy alignment.** It can help standardize sustainable transport goals across nations, promoting consistent policies and reducing fragmentation. This goes beyond advocacy and events, and delves deeper into ensuring that we all put our efforts into the policies that will have the biggest impact, while also being relevant for each country.
- 2. Increase investments in sustainable transport infrastructure.** Transport is fundamental to supporting economic growth, creating jobs and connecting people to essential services such as healthcare or education. But low- and middle-income countries face large investment gaps in mobility and infrastructure. Governments globally will face an annual transport infrastructure financing gap of between [US\\$244 to US\\$944 billion through 2030](#). The initiative can leverage stakeholders to mobilize funding from international financial institutions, private investors, and governments for sustainable transport projects, including electric public transit, EV infrastructure, and green logistics.

- 3. Establish accountability and reporting mechanisms.** By establishing a system for reporting progress on sustainable transport goals, and complementing the SDGs, the initiative can set targets and encourage accountability. By tracking data on emission reductions, air quality, public transport use, and other metrics, the initiative can adjust strategies based on results, making the transition to sustainable transport more efficient.

By integrating these approaches, the UN Decade of Sustainable Transport can accelerate the global shift towards a climate-friendly, inclusive, and resilient transportation systems, directly contributing to SDG targets, improving quality of life, and enabling a future where transportation is both efficient and ecologically sustainable.

2. What are some of the key impediments to sustainable transport and how can the UN Decade strategically address these?

Key impediments to sustainable transport include:

- 1. Technical and Infrastructure Challenges:** There is a shortage of critical infrastructure such as charging stations for EVs, which is essential for the widespread adoption of electric mobility. The transport infrastructure is also in poor condition in many places, which hampers the efficiency and sustainability of transport systems.
- 2. How to prioritize transport among other important development goals:** There is a need to emphasize the medium- and long-term benefits of transport investments, such as reducing transport and production costs, creating jobs, expanding productive capacity, improving access to markets and basic services, and reducing prices of final goods and services.
- 3. Financial Barriers:**
 - High initial costs without clear revenue streams to pay for the investment.
 - Low level of private sector participation and lack of well-prepared and bankable projects.
 - Financial interests associated with legacy business models and value chains (e.g., fuel taxes, fuel subsidies).
- 4. Funding and Financing:**
 - The transport sector requires significant investment, with an estimated gap of \$10 trillion by 2040.

- Innovative financing mechanisms such as green bonds and public-private partnerships (PPPs) are essential to fill this gap.

5. **Building local capacity.** Effective solutions require more than physical infrastructure. Financing and investments can only go so far—developing countries also need cutting-edge knowledge, technical skills, and strong institutions to design, implement, and maintain transport solutions that are clean, resilient, and accessible to all.

Countries are now at a critical junction to take advantage of the opportunity for a low-carbon growth trajectory, including transformative technologies and increased resilience in the context of economic recovery and building-back better. This change requires:

- The proactive role of many stakeholders to create a win-win ecosystem rather than reactive mobility systems;
- With new technologies and the challenges for decarbonizing transport, it is critical to rethink how transport can continue delivering on development, propelling prosperity and enabling opportunities;
- Understanding the financial, institutional, and regulatory incentives that allow technology to do its part is essential, at the country, regional and international level, by considering technology transfer and cooperation; and
- The effective leveraging of resources from all major development partners, and the private sector, will be needed to have a profound impact on the how the transport sector evolves across the developing world.

3. Please share up to five (5) main policy recommendations that should be included in the Implementation Plan? If applicable, indicate the level most aligned with the policy recommendation (global, regional, national, subnational and local, or other).

1. **Focus on Low-Carbon Modes:** Emphasize the development of low-carbon transport modes, such as electric mobility, green logistics, and mass transit systems like Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) to reduce carbon emissions and improve air quality.
2. **Road Safety:** Implement the Safe System Approach to road safety, which includes reducing driving speeds, improving road infrastructure, and enhancing vehicle safety standards to reduce traffic fatalities and injuries.
3. **Urban Mobility Management:** Develop integrated urban mobility management approaches that include smart mobility solutions and active mobility.
4. **Resilience:** Incorporate climate resilience measures into transport infrastructure planning to ensure that roads, railways, ports, inland waterways, airports, and public transport can withstand the impacts of more frequent and intense extreme weather events and rising temperatures, and resilience to non-climate related crises.

4. How can the implementation of the plan be effectively monitored, and what methods can be used to track its progress across Member States? Please share most relevant existing monitoring frameworks and indicators?

- Select a few core transport indicators to monitor progress during the decade of action.
- Establish standardized data collection frameworks for key transport indicators like vehicle emissions, public transport ridership, walking and cycling rates, and infrastructure development.
- Require member states to submit regular reports detailing their progress on sustainable transport initiatives, including policy changes, investment plans, and achievements.
- Facilitate active participation from diverse stakeholders like NGOs, industry representatives, academia, and civil society organizations in the monitoring process.
- The World Bank's new Scorecard is at the core of this effort and will provide a yardstick to measure how we deliver on our mission to end extreme poverty and boost shared prosperity on a livable planet. [The Connected Communities indicator](#)

for transport measures the number of people that benefit from improved access to sustainable transport infrastructure and services.

5. Please share up to three (3) examples of concrete initiatives, projects or programmes that your entity is engaged in that can contribute to the success of the UN Decade of Sustainable Transport? Please, make sure to include relevant links.

1. The Global Facility to Decarbonize Transport, housed at the World Bank
 - <https://www.worldbank.org/en/programs/global-facility-to-decarbonize-transport>
2. The scaling up of sustainable transport solutions such as public transport projects, among others, with World Bank Group support, such as the Dakar BRT and Quito Metro, among others:
 - <https://blogs.worldbank.org/en/voices/five-reasons-get-excited-about-bus-rapid-transit-dakar-senegal>
 - <https://blogs.worldbank.org/en/voices/transforming-urban-transport-lessons-QUITO-metro-line-one>
 - <https://www.worldbank.org/en/results/2024/03/13/promoting-livable-cities-by-investing-in-urban-mobility>
3. Transforming Transportation
 - <https://www.transformingtransportation.org/>

6. Please provide up to five (5) main reports or other publications that the Implementation Plan of the UN Decade should draw upon. Please, make sure to include relevant links

1. Financing Climate Action for Transportation in Developing Countries
<https://www.worldbank.org/en/topic/transport/publication/financing-climate-action-for-transportation-in-developing-countries>
2. The Economics of E-Mobility for Passenger Transportation
<https://www.worldbank.org/en/topic/transport/publication/the-economics-of-e-mobility-for-passenger-transportation>
3. The Path Less Travelled: Scaling Up Active Mobility to Capture Economic and Climate Benefits
<https://openknowledge.worldbank.org/entities/publication/be01e203-e60d-49cb-94bd-159132427bdc>



4. Decarbonizing Urban Transport for Development
<https://www.worldbank.org/en/topic/transport/publication/decarbonizing-urban-transport-for-development>
5. Green Logistics for Development
<https://blogs.worldbank.org/en/transport/greener-logistics-can-bring-big-climate-gains>