



**United
Nations**

Department of
Economic and
Social Affairs

Launch of the United Nations Decade of Sustainable Transport 2026 – 2035

10 DECEMBER 2025, 10:00 – 13:00

ECOSOC CHAMBER, UNITED NATIONS HEADQUARTERS

CONCEPT NOTE

Background

In 2023, the General Assembly declared the first ever United Nations Decade of Sustainable Transport to start in 2026. The General Assembly, through resolution 78/148 titled “Strengthening the links between all modes of transport to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals” also called for 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.

The Implementation Plan will be launched on 10 December 2025 at a special event in the ECOSOC Chamber at the United Nations Headquarters in New York. This multi-stakeholder event will also signify the launch of the United Nations Decade of Sustainable Transport. The launch event will provide an opportunity for Member States and a variety of stakeholders to showcase their commitment to sustainable transport, share good practices and make announcements of the actions and activities they intend to take to advance sustainable transport during the UN Decade.

Implementation Plan of the United Nations Decade of Sustainable Transport

Responding to the mandate of the General Assembly, DESA has prepared the Implementation Plan of the United Nations Decade of Sustainable Transport, an action-oriented global policy document, in collaboration with the United Nations Regional commissions. As requested by the General Assembly, DESA has actively consulted Member States, specialized agencies, funds, programmes and bodies of the United Nations, as well as other intergovernmental organizations, non-governmental organizations and relevant stakeholders to seek inputs to the Implementation Plan.

The consultative process for the Implementation Plan has been extensive, both in person and online. 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. This event also provided the first opportunity for the full membership of the United Nations to provide ideas and inputs to the Implementation Plan. This conversation was followed on 1 October 2024 with informal consultations with the Member States at the United Nations Headquarters. Through a [global online consultation](#), DESA received valuable inputs from 113 organizations across 45 countries. Each of the five UN Regional Commissions [held](#)



[regional consultations](#) to discuss the Implementation Plan with their constituency, and the United Nations system has provided [inputs](#) to the process through a dedicated call. Dedicated events on the Decade have been held, among others, at the UNFCCC COP29 and COP30, Transforming Transportation Conference 2025 organized by the World Bank and the World Resources Institute, and the OECD International Transport Forum Summit 2025. More information on the preparatory process can be found on the dedicated website: <https://sdgs.un.org/un-decade-sustainable-transport-2026-2035>.

While the Implementation Plan is not a negotiated document, DESA has sought the views and inputs of Member States throughout the drafting process. A draft annotated outline of the Implementation Plan was circulated to all Permanent Missions in New York ahead of a dedicated [side event](#) held during the High-level Political Forum on sustainable development on 17 July 2025. The full draft Implementation Plan will be shared with the Permanent Missions of Member States in New York in October for final comments and views.

The Implementation Plan will be a critical tool in steering global efforts towards sustainable, inclusive, and resilient transportation systems. By fostering collaboration, mobilizing resources, and encouraging effective monitoring, the plan can shine a light on the critical importance of sustainable transport, and contribute significantly to its achievement and to the attainment of several of the SDGs. The Implementation Plan is global and non-binding in nature, allowing for more detailed regional, national and local plans, strategies and ways of collaboration, as suitable.

The Implementation Plan provides a roadmap towards sustainable transport during the Decade, and sets in motion steps to enhance coordination and collaboration among member States and other stakeholders, mobilize resources for sustainable transport projects at all levels, and increase awareness and capacity building on sustainable transport practices. The Implementation Plan can also provide global visibility for sustainable transport in SDG discussions and allow for improved monitoring and evaluation of progress towards sustainable transport goals and on transport's contributions towards the SDGs.

Call for commitments

The United Nations Decade of Sustainable Transport aims at catalyzing accelerated action towards more sustainable transport systems worldwide. To support this goal, all stakeholders are encouraged to put forward bold, forward-looking initiatives that will propel us towards more sustainable transport and a more sustainable world for future generations at the launch of the UN Decade.

In September 2025, Department of Economic and Social Affairs opened a call for voluntary commitments from Member States and other stakeholders to support action during the UN Decade. These commitments will be highlighted throughout the UN Decade of Sustainable Transport at different events, starting with the 10 December 2025 launch. To enhance transparency and accountability, all initiatives will be registered on a dedicated digital space, hosted on the UN Decade website, which allows the public to access information. The action commitments will become a prominent part of the implementation and follow-up of the UN



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Decade. Further commitments and initiatives can be registered in 2026 to support the UN Decade of Sustainable Transport and to turn the associated Implementation Plan into action.

Objective

This special event will mark the start of the first-ever United Nations Decade of Sustainable Transport and formally launch the associated Implementation Plan, prepared by UN DESA, in collaboration with the United Nations Regional Commissions. The special event will be an opportunity to raise awareness on the crucial role of sustainable transport for achieving sustainable development and to mobilize voluntary commitments from the Member States, UN entities, development partners, civil society, the private sector, and academia to advance tangible action throughout the Decade. The launch will pave the way for continued assessment of activities and progress during the UN Decade and increased global visibility of sustainable transport in SDG dialogues.

Format and organizers

The launch of the UN Decade of Sustainable Transport will consist of an opening, a high-level segment, showcase of voluntary commitments, and an interactive multi-stakeholder roundtable. The meeting will be open to Member States and Observers, the United Nations system, ECOSOC-accredited non-governmental organizations and other relevant stakeholders through a dedicated registration process. The meeting will be held in English-only due to the UN budget constraints. This special event is organized by the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs.