



United Nations  
Decade of  
Sustainable  
Transport

## Laying the groundwork for effective action during the UN Decade of Sustainable Transport

12 March 2026, 10:00 – 12:00

World Bank I Building, Room I2-220, Washington, D.C., USA

### CONCEPT NOTE

#### **Background**

On 10 December 2025, United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA) organized the launch of the UN Decade of Sustainable Transport 2026 – 2035 and its associated Implementation Plan as a special event in the Trusteeship Council Chamber at the UN Headquarters. The well-attended event brought together Member States, UN entities, civil society, and private sector partners to showcase commitments to sustainable transport, share good practices, and to announce actions for the Decade ahead. The UN Decade is a unique opportunity to raise the profile of sustainable transport in multilateral arenas and to highlight its importance in peoples' lives, for our planet and for sustainable development at large. Several workstreams are already in place to make the UN Decade as impactful as possible.

The United Nations Decade of Sustainable Transport was declared by the United Nations General Assembly in 2023 (resolution 78/148) to start in 2026. The General Assembly also requested 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, developed through a consultative process, covers all modes of transport from active mobility, walking and cycling, to road, rail, public transport, inland waterway and maritime transport and aviation. It outlines six focus areas and associated means of implementation, providing a roadmap to align policies, finance, technology and data with sustainable transport. The Implementation Plan also highlights the importance of annual global and regional gatherings to showcase progress, share innovations, and foster peer learning among Member States, local, and regional governments, development partners, and other stakeholders, and includes the proposal to establish an ad hoc high-level advisory board to provide strategic guidance, expert insights, and independent perspectives to support progress assessments and inform future priorities and adjustments throughout the Decade.

In the lead-up to the launch of the UN Decade, DESA opened a call for voluntary commitments from Member States and other stakeholders to support action during the UN Decade. The launch event on 10 December 2025 unveiled 83 Sustainable Transport Action Commitments from around the world, backed by billions in financial resources. This is a powerful signal that the global community is ready to act. The commitments cover all modes of transport, and address the needs for increased financing, knowledge-sharing, capacity-building, research and innovation required for a transformation towards more sustainable transport globally. The commitments, and the



United Nations  
Decade of  
Sustainable  
Transport

organizations behind them, provide an excellent starting point for concrete action during the UN Decade.

The political momentum in support of sustainable transport has been growing at the United Nations in recent years. Following the successful preparatory process of the Implementation Plan, Member States agreed on another General Assembly resolution in 2025 (A/RES/80/132) that provides further mandates and requests. Among other requests, the General Assembly:

- Invited DESA to lead and facilitate the implementation and observance of the UN Decade, in collaboration with the United Nations regional economic commissions and other relevant organizations;
- Decided to establish visual and data-driven tools, such as a joint Atlas of Transport Sustainability, to track and trace progress in the implementation of the Decade, building on existing United Nations and other relevant initiatives and platforms, under the coordination of DESA;
- Requested the Secretary-General to conduct an assessment on the potential need for establishing a coordination mechanism with a view to enhancing UN system-wide coherence and coordination on sustainable transport and to present recommendations to the eighty-first session of the General Assembly;
- Decided to convene a midterm review of the Decade in 2030, to be known as the Third United Nations Global Sustainable Transport Conference, as a session in the margins of an existing international event, and to hold a final high-level review conference in 2035 to consider the overall achievements of the Decade;
- Requested the Secretariat to report to the General Assembly at its eighty-fifth and ninetieth sessions on the implementation of the UN Decade.

## **Objective**

This workshop will provide an opportunity for Member States and all relevant stakeholders to unpack the mandates provided by the General Assembly for the UN Decade of Sustainable Transport and to provide inputs and ideas on how best to lay the groundwork for effective implementation and action in the coming years.

The workshop will provide a moment for updates from numerous stakeholders contributing to different streams of UN Decade implementation on their work and existing projects and plans, including on monitoring progress during the UN Decade and on the Sustainable Transport Action Commitments.

## **Format and organizer**

The event will be held in person and in English only. The workshop aims to encourage an open exchange of ideas with short kick-off presentations and open dialogues. All participants must hold a valid registration to the 2026 Transforming Transportation Forum.

The event is organized by the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs.