

UNITED NATIONS



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MR. WU HONGBO
UNDER-SECRETARY-GENERAL FOR ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS

Flag Raising Ceremony
Global Sustainable Transport Conference

Ashgabat, Turkmenistan, 25 November 2016

Excellencies,
Distinguished Guests,
Colleagues,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is a great honour to join you this morning.

We are on the eve of the first-ever Global Sustainable Transport Conference.

This ceremony, simple as it is, is an important milestone.

It symbolises, not only the culmination of a long preparatory process, but also the strong commitment of the Government of Turkmenistan to the United Nations.

The United Nations is deeply appreciative of the support by the Government and people of Turkmenistan.

I wish to thank our Hosts for providing the United Nations with such a beautiful venue for the Conference.

I also thank the National Organising Committee, as well as the UN inter-departmental team, for their months and months of tireless work.

Your efforts have made this moment possible.

This Conference is of great importance as it draws global attention to the critical need for sustainable transport.

Over the next few days, leaders from Governments, the UN system, multilateral development banks, the business sector, and civil society, will be gathering together. They will

set a new direction for global transport that fosters prosperity and well-being while protecting the environment.

The Conference represents a call to action to combat climate change and to accelerate the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

Without safe, environmentally-friendly, energy efficient, inclusive, clean and sustainable transport and transit systems, we cannot achieve a sustainable future for all.

Nations, big or small, landlocked or coastal, all need sustainable transport.

It provides access - to trade, jobs, markets, education, health care and other services that contribute to better lives.

It empowers women, persons with disabilities and other vulnerable groups.

Sustainable transport is our bloodline and drives sustainable development.

It is befitting that the global community is meeting in Ashgabat to discuss these issues in depth, to launch partnerships, and to make concrete recommendations for the future.

Turkmenistan has been a leading champion of sustainable transport at the United Nations. We look forward to your continued leadership in the future as well.

Today, we are extremely pleased to receive the venue in Conference-ready condition.

We raise the UN flag side by side with the national flag of Turkmenistan, to open officially the venue of the Global Sustainable Transport Conference.

We will be working hard and working together to bring the Conference to a successful conclusion.

I thank you and wish us all a successful and productive Conference.
