

Second United Nations Sustainable Transport Conference

Outcomes of the Sustainable Mobility for All Side Event

Event Title: Challenges and Opportunities of Equitable Transition towards Transport Decarbonization in the Global South

Date: October 15th, 2021

Time: 9.30am-11:00am EST/ 9.30pm-11:00pm CST

Speakers:

Main objective of the event

To engage and consult with countries in the Global South on the draft discussion paper produced by the Sustainable Mobility for All partnership for COP26: Electromobility in the Global South: An Equitable Transition toward Road Passenger Transport Decarbonization.

Key Messages from the session

- Countries in the Global South are heterogeneous in many aspects;
- The main critical challenges to the transition to electromobility in the global south which also present opportunities are: energy supply; economics of taxes and subsidies; financing; social dimensions; governance and regulatory issues; and the supply of materials
- Countries that are most suited to transition to E-Mobility are those with a low-carbon, reliable electricity supply and access to finance, where universal and affordable access to electricity is guaranteed;
- Transitioning to electromobility is warranted in many countries, but the high costs coupled with limited access to finance is a major challenge;

- Imports of second hand vehicles from high income countries in the Global North to the Global South can lock the countries in the Global South in a polluting path that is more expensive over time.
- The role of Multilateral Development Banks (MDBs) in helping the poorest countries move to the right directions include increasing funding and policy and capacity support for the governments
- Both the public and the private sectors have critical roles to play in the efforts to decarbonize transport. The private sector can be an innovation solution, service provider, data collector, and investor while the government work on the legal and regulatory frameworks to create the right platforms and incentives.

Recommendations

- Countries in the Global South must get the policies right to creating an enabling environment for the end user, de-risk the investment in the sector, and create right incentives
- Closing the green divide will need the endowed countries in the North to step up and make some targeted assistance to the countries in the Global South;
- There is a need to invest in more data and evidence;
- There is a need for more dialogue between the energy and the transport sectors;

