Dear Colleagues,

The Secretary-General will convene the second United Nations Global Sustainable Transport Conference, in partnership with the host country, the People’s Republic of China, from 14 to 16 October 2021 in Beijing. This Conference was rescheduled from 5 to 7 May 2020, due to the perilous global outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic.

This Conference will take place at a critical juncture, as the world continues to be affected by the devastating impacts of the pandemic, but must also prepare for a sustainable and inclusive recovery, to bring our societies back on track to achieve the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Paris Agreement on Climate Change.

Transport accounts for approximately 25 per cent of global carbon dioxide emissions and yet, as urban population expands, more women enter the workforce, and e-commerce drives global trade, transport systems are more critical than ever for global development. The dual objective of the Conference is captured in its overarching theme “Sustainable Transport, Sustainable Development”.

The Conference will provide a platform to take stock of recent developments and innovations in sustainable transport, to enhance the ambition of existing and projected commitments, and to exchange country experiences and lessons learned. It is a pivotal moment to set sustainable transport on track for a successful 26th session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change in Glasgow, and beyond.

The Secretary-General has designated the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA) to serve as the Secretariat for the Conference, including the preparation of an inter-agency report as substantive input to the Conference.

ECESA Plus Principals
United Nations system entities provide crucial perspectives on a range of issues integral to advancing sustainable transport and have an important role to play in both the preparation and follow-up of the Conference. I therefore appreciate the contributions you have already made, and look forward to your continued engagement.

In my capacity as the Conference Secretary-General, I am pleased to invite you to participate. I also invite you to host virtual side events as may be most relevant to your work.

Given the current global health situation, the Conference will be held in a “hybrid” format, with limited opportunities for in-person participation. More information regarding the Conference, including the provisional programme, concept note and other relevant documents, as well as participation details may be accessed at: https://www.un.org/en/conferences/transport2021.

I look forward to your participation. For further information, please contact Ms. Julie Powell (powellj1@un.org).

Yours sincerely,

LIU Zhenmin
Under-Secretary-General