



UNECE



ESCAP
Economic and Social Commission
for Asia and the Pacific



DEPARTMENT OF
**ECONOMIC AND
SOCIAL AFFAIRS**



ADVANCING
PUBLIC
TRANSPORT



INTERNATIONAL UNION
OF RAILWAYS



Partnership on Sustainable,
Low Carbon Transport

COP28 SDG Pavilion

Sustainable Transport Programme

INTRODUCTION

The global transport sector has the highest reliance on fossil fuels of any sector and in 2021 accounted for almost one quarter of global greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. The road transport sector, including passenger cars, buses, heavy and light duty commercial vehicles, quite unlike other inland transport sub-sectors, such as rail and inland waterway transport, and much more than the aviation and maritime sectors combined, is a main polluter accounting for approximately 77 per cent of global transport related GHG emissions. Therefore, the road-based transport sector bears a unique responsibility in helping countries meet their climate change mitigation goals with solutions already available to drastically reduce its climate impact.

Sustainable low carbon urban mobility is a high priority for all governments and central to delivering on Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) and Paris Agreement. As the world hits eight billion people, with most living in urban areas, the most equitable, meaningful, and sustainable interventions in the transport sector must focus on scaling up public transport, rail and active mobility. Yet only half of the world's urban population can claim to have a sustainable transport system fit for the future. To get us back on track, we need a transformation of transport in cities through the scaling up policy measures and shifting finance towards public transport, rail, walking and cycling.

The transport event at the SDG Pavilion at COP28 includes a high-level policy dialogue that offers a unique platform for countries to take stock of ongoing and planned regulatory and practical efforts aimed at decarbonizing the transport sector, in particular inland transport, and at strengthening transport system climate change preparedness through the adoption of appropriate adaptation and resilience measures.

In addition, best practices will be shared alongside innovative actions and solutions that should be adopted by countries as a matter of priority to enhance local and national level action and engagement. Different sessions will provide a better understanding of the relationship between policy, action, impact and what to report on to improve urban mobility with more and better public transport, rail and active mobility. In doing so, it will show what the transport sector needs to do in the short term and maintain in the long term to bring about a paradigm shift in achieving the SDGs in times of global crisis and to address the climate emergency whilst fostering social inclusion.

PROGRAMME

9:00 – 12:45 GST, Wednesday, 6 December 2023

SDG Pavilion, Blue Zone, COP28

9:00 – 9:25	<p>Welcome and Keynote Speeches Moderator: TBC</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UNFCCC High Level Champion / COP28 Presidency • WBCSD • DESA / ECE / ESCAP
<p>Part 1: Combating Climate Change through Strong Transport Sector Mitigation and Adaptation Actions</p>	
9:35 – 9:50	<p>Opening Session</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Tatiana Molcean, Executive Secretary, United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) • Ms. Armida Salsiah Alisjahbana, Executive Secretary, United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) (video statement)
9:50 – 10:40	<p>High-Level Panel Discussion</p> <p>This high-level policy dialogue offers a unique platform for member States of United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) and United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) to take stock of ongoing and planned regulatory and practical efforts aimed at decarbonizing the transport sector, in particular inland transport, and at strengthening transport system climate change preparedness through the adoption of appropriate adaptation and</p>

	<p>resilience measures. Deliberations are expected to raise awareness of the importance of the transport sector in combating climate change, building resilience and promoting commitment to effective actions in this sector.</p> <p>Panellists: <i>(Placed in alphabetical order of countries)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • H.E. Mr. Keit Kasemets, Secretary General, Ministry of Climate, Estonia • H.E. Mr. Taitusi Vakadravuyaca, Permanent Secretary for Public Works, Meteorological Services, and Transport, Fiji • H.E. Ms. Afke van Rijn, Vice Minister for the Environment, Kingdom of the Netherlands • H.E. Mr. Mark Harper, Secretary of State for Transport, United Kingdom • H.E. Mr. Carlos Monje, Under Secretary for Transportation Policy, United States
<p>10:40 – 10:50</p>	<p>Closing Session</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Stelios Pesmajoglouof, Manager, NDCs/LT LED, Impacts Assessment Support Subdivision, UNFCCC <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Key discussion outputs and the way forward ○ Way forward in finalization of the Inland Transport Committee UNECE Inland Transport Committee Strategy on Reducing Greenhouse Gas Emissions from Inland Transport and its contribution to reaching the Paris Agreement targets, as well as the development of the ESCAP Regional Cooperation Mechanism on Low Carbon Transport
<p>Part 2: Sustainable Low Carbon Mobility</p>	
<p>11:00 – 11:20</p>	<p>Opening Scene-Setting Presentations: Transport Policy Supporting Active and Public Travel and Nationally Determined Contributions (SDG 13) Moderator: Dionisio GONZÁLEZ, Senior Adviser - Advocacy & Outreach, UITP</p> <p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Philip Turner, Head of Sustainability, UITP • Lucie Anderton, Head of Sustainability, UIC • Bronwen Thornton, CEO WALK21 (invited) • SLOCAT speaker (tbd)
<p>11:20 – 11:50</p>	<p>Fireside Chat: Sustainable Finance (SDG 8) Moderator: Dionisio GONZÁLEZ, Senior Adviser - Advocacy & Outreach, UITP</p> <p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Merle Schmidt-Brunn, Board member for Finance and Sustainability, Hochbahn, Hamburg, Germany (confirmed)

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ana Maria Pinto, Chief of The Transport Division, IDB (invited)
11:50 – 12:15	<p>Panel Discussion 1: Technology drivers – how is innovation in transport accelerating decarbonization on this sector? (SDG 7)</p> <p>Moderator: Joo-Hyun HA, UIC</p> <p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sandeep Jain UN ESCAP – Digitalization (confirmed) Paul Bou Chebl, VP Alstom (confirmed) Elisabetta Tromellini, CSR Director, FNM Group (Italy) & Chair of SDC of UITP (confirmed) Alok Jain, CEO & Managing Director of Trans-consult
12:15 – 12:40	<p>Panel Discussion 2: Solutions on the ground – leading cities and countries share strategies and policies that are transforming mobility and communities (SDG 11)</p> <p>Moderator: Joo-Hyun HA, UIC</p> <p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tatiana Gatica Navea, EFE Chile (confirmed) Antonia HÖÖG, Head of CSR and Engagement, Keolis (confirmed) Urda Eichhorst, Project Director of the NDC Transport Initiative in Asia, GIZ (confirmed) Nahla Nabil, Sustainability Expert at Etihad Rail (confirmed) Jill Warren, ECF
12:40 – 12:45	<p>Concluding Remarks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minoru Takada, Deputy Director, UNFF, UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs

Background and concept on parts 1 and 2:

Part 1: Combating Climate Change through Strong Transport sector Mitigation and Adaptation Actions

Background: The global transport sector has the highest reliance on fossil fuels of any sector and in 2021 accounted for almost one quarter of global greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. The road transport sector, including passenger cars, buses, heavy and light duty commercial vehicles, quite unlike other inland transport sub-sectors, such as rail and inland waterway transport, and much more than the aviation and maritime sectors combined, is a main polluter accounting for approximately 77 per cent of global transport related GHG emissions. Therefore, the road-based transport sector bears a unique responsibility in helping countries meet their climate change mitigation goals with solutions already available to drastically reduce its climate impact.

Objective: This high-level policy dialogue offers a unique platform for member States of United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) and United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) to take stock of ongoing and planned regulatory and practical efforts aimed at decarbonizing the transport sector, in particular inland transport, and at strengthening transport system climate change preparedness through the adoption of appropriate adaptation and resilience measures.

Deliberations are expected to raise awareness of the importance of the transport sector in combating climate change, building resilience and promoting commitment to effective actions in this sector. The outcome will feed into the process for the finalization of the **UNECE Inland Transport Committee Strategy on Reducing Greenhouse Gas Emissions from Inland Transport** ahead of its envisaged endorsement in 2024, contribute to the development of the **ESCAP Regional Cooperation Mechanism on Low Carbon Transport**, as well as to inform and support other transport dialogues, such as the meetings of the ESCAP Committee on Transport, the annual ECE Inland Transport Committee sessions and other regional or global events.

Format: This high-level policy dialogue has been designed as a moderated discussion, with two rounds of questions for each speaker. Proposed questions are shown as follows.

- 1. Finalized in 2015, the Paris Agreement and the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development both represent universally approved policy visions and ambitious objectives. Connecting these two global processes will require coherent national development and implementation of policies that can achieve the sustainability and climate change targets. As transport plays a significant role in achieving both objectives, how can countries further advance sustainable transport development targets and the goals of the Paris Agreement at the same time?*
- 2. Regional and global cooperation and multistakeholder collaboration, including the strengthening of horizontal coordination across line ministries within national*

governments, remain key to the success of the implementation of low carbon and resilient transport policies. What are some examples where your country has engaged with different stakeholder groups or sectors to develop and implement low carbon and resilient transport policies?

- 3. Changes in transport infrastructure and systems would be necessary for the transition to low or zero carbon transport. What are some policies that have been implemented to improve vehicles, infrastructure, and operations in your country, to ensure more sustainable, inclusive and resilient transport development?*
- 4. To ensure a just transition, what are the policies in place in your country to make sure low carbon mobility remains affordable and safe for all?*

About the Organizers

United Nations Economic Commission for Europe: UNECE includes 56 member States in Europe, North America and Asia. However, all interested United Nations member States may participate in the work of UNECE. Over 70 international professional organizations and other non-governmental organizations take part in its activities. The UNECE Inland Transport Committee (ITC), a global United Nations platform administering a broad range of legal instruments is considered by a growing group of member States as indispensable for the development of efficient, harmonized, and integrated, environmentally sound, safe, and sustainable inland transport systems. At its annual session in February 2023, ITC mandated the development of an ambitious strategy and action plan for mitigating greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from the sector for adoption at its session next year.

United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific: ESCAP is the most inclusive intergovernmental platform in the Asia-Pacific region and promotes cooperation among its 53 member States and 9 associate members in pursuit of solutions to sustainable development challenges. The ESCAP secretariat supports inclusive, resilient and sustainable development in the region by generating action-oriented knowledge, and by providing technical assistance and capacity-building services in support of national development objectives, regional agreements and the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The Committee on Transport welcomed the establishment of the Regional Cooperation Mechanism on Low Carbon Transport to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from the transport sector, building upon the Regional Action Programme for Sustainable Transport Development in Asia and the Pacific (2022–2026) on its seventh session in November 2022.

Part 2: Sustainable low carbon mobility

Description of part 2:

Sustainable low carbon urban mobility is a high priority for all governments and central to delivering on Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) and Paris Agreement. As the world hits 8 billion people, with most living in urban areas, the most equitable, meaningful, and sustainable interventions in the transport sector must focus on scaling up public transport, rail and active mobility. Yet only half of the world's urban population can claim to have a sustainable transport system fit for the future. To get us back on track, we need a transformation of transport in cities through the scaling up policy measures and shifting finance towards public transport, rail, walking and cycling.

COP 27 saw the launch of two related initiatives (LOTUS & SURGe) that presents an opportunity to activate systemic change to urban mobility that will help to provide universal access, enhanced safety, reduced environmental and climate impact, improved resilience, and greater prosperity for all. They aim to put public transport, rail and active mobility at the heart of our urban transport systems and support joint, inclusive and multilateral efforts that will improve access and limit emissions.

Unlocking the potential is dependent on communities and governments (both local and national) collaborating on a sustainable mobility and up-skilling to translate the relevant international evidence into effective local actions, backed by the appropriate financial mechanisms for delivering such transformation. By supporting and enabling cities, we will bring about stepped-up efforts in national implementation and bring about a transport and energy transition.

Outcome of the event

The event will share the latest best practices alongside innovative actions and solutions that should be adopted by countries as a matter of priority to enhance local and national level action and engagement. The session will provide a better understanding of the relationship between policy, action, impact and what to report on to improve urban mobility with more and better public transport, rail and active mobility. In doing so, it will show what we need to do in the short term, and maintained in the long term to bring about a paradigm shift in how we move in order to achieve the SDGs in times of global crisis and address the climate emergency whilst fostering social inclusion.

Contacts for the combined event

UNECE Sustainable Transport Division:

Roel Janssens: roel.janssens@un.org

Francois Cuenot: francois.cuenot@un.org

ESCAP Transport Division:

Wei-Shiuen Ng: wei-shiuen.ng@un.org

Alejandro Garcia Macias: alejandro.macias@un.org

UITP:

Philip Turner, Head of Sustainable Development (UITP), philip.turner@uitp.org

UIC:

Joo Hyun Ha, Senior Sustainability Advisor (UIC), ha@uic.org

SLOCAT:

Gabriela Mora, Advocacy and Engagement Specialist, gabriela.mora@slocatpartnership.org

DESA:

Richard Roehrl: Richard.roehrl@un.org