

# United Nations Nations Unies

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Excellency,

The countdown to the Global Sustainable Transport Conference has begun. The Conference, convened by the UN Secretary-General in recognition of the fundamental role of sustainable transport in fighting climate change and achieving poverty reduction and a sustainable future, hosted by the Government of Turkmenistan, will take place in Ashgabat, Turkmenistan, on 26 - 27 November 2016.

Sustainable transport drives the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals - enabling trade, tourism, economic growth and allowing access to jobs, markets, services, and education. Access to sustainable and safe transport allows young people to attend school, facilitates women's opportunities for employment and empowerment, and provides persons with disabilities and older persons improved access to mobility. A move towards more sustainable transport practices will also have considerable impact on the health of our oceans, seas and terrestrial ecosystems, which will help tackle climate change.

The Global Sustainable Transport Conference will bring together key stakeholders from Governments, UN system and other international organizations, the private sector, and civil society, to engage in a dialogue that emphasizes the integrated and cross-cutting nature of sustainable transport and its multiple roles in supporting the achievement of the SDGs. All modes of transport-road, rail, aviation, ferry and maritime-will be addressed.

The programme of the Conference reflects the diversity and complexity of the transport sector, and will provide a platform for forging partnerships and initiatives to advance sustainable transport objectives. In this context I would like to invite your Government to participate in this important event, and to announce your commitments and partnerships geared towards sustainable transport. Commitments and partnerships can be registered at: <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/partnerships/transport>. Registered commitments and partnerships will signal a strong commitment to the sustainable transport we want, to drive the changes we need - for all people on our shared planet - and will be part of the official outcome of the Global Sustainable Transport Conference.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.



WU Hongbo  
Under-Secretary-General

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