

Mr. Mang.

**Excellencies, Honorable Ministers, Distinguished Guests,
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

Good afternoon

At the outset, on behalf of UNIDO, please allow me to extend our sincere thanks to everyone who has contributed to the organization of the Global Sustainable Transport Conference. A special thanks goes to the host country and City of Ashgabat for their leadership and warm hospitality, and to all partners who have worked tirelessly in making this event a grand success.

When seen in the context of 2030 Development Agenda adopted on SDGs and Climate Agreement reached in Paris in 2015, this conference gives global community a unique window of opportunity to recognize the fundamental role of sustainable transport in fighting climate change and achieving the sustainable future we want.

The recently adopted Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) include sustainable transport objectives as part of SDG7 on clean and sustainable energy, SDG 9 on innovation, industrialization and infrastructure, and SDG 11 on sustainable cities and communities, among others.

UNIDO, as a specialized UN Agency promotes sustainable transportation that supports the Inclusive and Sustainable Industrial Development (ISID) of its member states. Our interventions focus on promoting higher efficiency, low-carbon production throughout the vehicle manufacturing supply chain, fostering enabling policy frameworks, building and strengthening local capacities and enhancing knowledge transfer and innovation.

UNIDO believes that mobility is an enabler for urban life in large and small cities alike. The creation of affordable reliable and low emission transportation for people - which is efficient and economical for freight and business - remains a key dimension in urban planning and city level industrial development. Having adequate transport infrastructure, together with inclusive and sustainable industrialization, is a precursor to economic development, job creation and prosperity. Therefore, the provision of sustainable mobility requires policy-makers and planners to understand and incorporate the needs of different societal stakeholders into policy frameworks for providing both public and private transport.

Together with its partners, UNIDO stands ready to harness its expertise, resources and network to proliferate sustainable transport strategies and low carbon technologies in cities across the globe. However, it is also clear that no agency or country can be successful in acting alone. The scale of the challenge confronting us is daunting. Hence it is imperative that all partners work together to promote effective urban planning and institutional structures, targeted policy and legal frameworks, sustainable economic growth, appropriate funding streams, robust collaboration mechanisms and cutting-edge knowledge and data.

We thus look forward to engaging with the many representatives of governments and municipal authorities, the private sector, academia and civil society present here to deliver concrete action on ground.

To conclude, UNIDO will continue assisting developing countries, including least developed countries, landlocked

developing countries and small island developing countries towards the path of more sustainable transport practices that will bring jobs, security and prosperity to people and planet for a sustainable future that we all want.

Thank you for your attention.