

United Nations Forum on Climate Change Mitigation, Fuel Efficiency and Sustainable Urban Transport

16-17 March 2010
Seoul, Republic of Korea

Aide-Memoire

Background

The World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) held in South Africa in 2002 adopted the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation (JPOI), and in para.21 called upon governments and other stakeholders to:

- (a) *implement transport strategies for sustainable development to improve the affordability, efficiency and convenience of transportation as well as urban air quality and health and reduce greenhouse gas emissions, including through the development of better vehicle technologies that are more environmentally sound, affordable and socially acceptable;*
- (b) *promote investment and partnerships for the development of sustainable, energy efficient multi-modal transportation systems, including public mass transportation systems and better transportation systems in rural areas, with technical and financial assistance for developing countries and countries with economies in transition.*

A global review of progress in the implementation of decisions pertaining to transport and sustainable development will take place during the eighteenth and nineteenth session of the Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD), to be held in New York in May 2010 and in May 2011.

The transport sector is emerging as the fastest growing source of energy-related greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, accounting for more than 23 per cent of those emissions in 2006. Road transport accounts for three quarters of all transport GHG emissions. The continuously growing motor vehicle use also causes other emissions harmful to human health, including lead, total suspended particulates (TSP), nitrogen oxides (NOx), ground level ozone, carbon monoxide (CO) and volatile organic compounds (VOC).

The international expert group meeting entitled *United Nations Forum on Climate Change Mitigation, Fuel Economy and Sustainable Development of Urban Transport* seeks to provide a platform for wider information and experience sharing, in particular among experts

from developing countries and countries with economies in transition, and to facilitate international cooperation.

Objectives of the Forum

The overall objective of the Forum is to contribute to global efforts to enhance sustainable development of the transport sector and to help curb the global growth of GHG and other emissions emanating from motor vehicles, in particular in the metropolitan and other rapidly growing urban areas.

The Forum is intended to support collaborative action on implementing affordable, economically viable, socially acceptable and environmentally sound transport systems. It seeks to illustrate recent innovative initiatives and good practices in fuel efficiency promotion policies and climate change mitigation in the transport sector.

Main topics for discussion

The Forum will address, among other issues, key topics related to public transport systems and private motor vehicle use in metropolitan and other urban areas:

Day 1: Public transport systems

- What are the technical and policy options to enhance urban public transport?
- How can a sustainable low carbon future be achieved with public transport?
- Which role can private-public partnerships play in expanding public transport?
- What are the options for financing public transport systems in developing countries?

Day 2: Emissions from private motor vehicle use in urban areas

- Which technical and policy options can help curb the growth of GHG emissions?
- What are innovative business models for “green growth” and sustainable mobility?
- Which policy options/regulatory initiatives can be successful in promoting sustainable, fuel-efficient and/or low-carbon cars and other modes of transport?

Expected outcomes

The Forum is expected to lead to:

- identification of transport policy options and practical measures to (i) expand public transportation systems and services and to make them more cost effective, environmentally benign and affordable; and (ii) improve efficiency/reduce fuel consumption/emissions in private motor vehicles;
- comprehensive assessment of emerging technology options, alternative fuels and transport systems (e.g. new battery technologies, e-vehicles, etc);
- capacity building on methodologies for improved measurement and analysis of energy use in transportation and the related emissions;
- documented case studies on local and national experiences and good practices in sustainable development and the management of urban transport systems;

- identification of new projects and/or partnerships to enhance technical and financial cooperation in the sustainable development of transport systems;
- provision of background information and other input to the intergovernmental consultative process of the United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD);

Organization

The Forum is hosted by the Ministry of Knowledge Economy (MKE), Republic of Korea, the Ministry of Land, Transport and Maritime Affairs, Republic of Korea and the Korean Energy Management Corporation (KEMCO). It is co-organized by the Korea Energy Economics Institute (KEEI), the Korea Transport Institute (KOTI) and the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA) in collaboration with the United Nations Centre for Regional Development (UNCRD) and the Sustainable Low Carbon Transport Partnership Council (SLOCAT).

The Republic of Korea has a dynamic and rapidly expanding economy, resulting in significant growth of vehicle ownership and transport activities in general. The Government of the Republic of Korea has placed great emphasis on implementing environment-friendly transport policies and programmes. The offer of the Government of the Republic of Korea of hosting the Forum will enable the visiting participants to learn more about the Korean approach and experience in the development and management of efficient urban public transport systems and the promotion of fuel efficiency.

In addition to serving as the secretariat of the United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development, UNDESA also undertakes analytical studies. The Forum is viewed as a concrete opportunity for UNDESA to promote sustainable development and facilitate international cooperation in addressing the global challenge of climate change.

Participants

Participation in the Forum is by invitation only. It is expected that some 100-180 experts / participants from around the world and from the host country will attend the event, including:

- Senior government officials and policy makers
- Distinguished transport, environment and climate change experts
- Experts and representatives of relevant UN and international organizations, including international financial institutions
- Representatives and experts of civil society, academia and the private sector
- Representatives of national and international professional associations

Participation in the UN Forum is free of charge, but participants are expected to cover their own travel costs. A limited number of travel cost sponsorships will be available for invited experts/resource persons from developing countries

Provisional programme

An outline of the provisional programme is attached. A detailed annotated provisional programme will be circulated to participants in advance of the Forum.

Submission of papers and presentations

Invited speakers are requested to submit brief biographical notes and short abstracts of their invited papers and presentations for inclusion in the annotated provisional programme.

Unless otherwise agreed, all invited presentations should not exceed 12-15 minutes presentation time. All invited speakers are requested to submit advance copies of their papers and presentations in electronic format to the secretariat for circulation among participants.

The proceedings of the Forum are intended to be published on the webpage of the UN-DESA: http://www.un.org/esa/dsd/susdevtopics/sdt_transport.shtml

Languages: The Forum will be conducted in English only.

Logistics: Detailed information on logistics, including registration, visa requirements, travel and hotel accommodation arrangements are contained in a separate Note for Information of participants.

Contacts for further information:

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Associated side event:

The Partnership for Sustainable Low Carbon Transport (SLoCaT) was registered with the Commission for Sustainable Development (CSD) in September 2009 with the aim to promote simultaneous system level solutions to sustainable development needs and meeting greenhouse gas emission targets for freight and urban passengers. The Partnership Council will take the opportunity provided by this global UN Forum to hold a meeting 15 March 2010 to review work plans and prepare for SLoCaT activities at CSD18 activities in May 2010.

SLoCaT Contact at UNDESA/DSD: **Mr. Tom Hamlin** (Hamlin@un.org)

Annex – Outline of provisional programme

**United Nations Forum on Climate Change Mitigation,
Fuel Efficiency and Sustainable Urban Transport**

Seoul, Republic of Korea

TUESDAY, 16 MARCH 2010

TECHNICAL AND POLICY OPTIONS FOR ENHANCING URBAN PUBLIC TRANSPORT

- OPENING SESSION** **OPENING STATEMENTS**
SENIOR OFFICIALS OF THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA AND DESA/DSD
- WELCOME MESSAGES**
SENIOR OFFICIALS OF THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA
CHAIRMAN OF UN COMMISSION ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT (TBC)
- KEYNOTE ADDRESS**
PROF. ERNST ULRICH VON WEIZSAECKER, LEAD AUTHOR OF „FACTOR V“, GERMANY
AND MR. KARLSON HARGROVES, CO-AUTHOR, AUSTRALIA (CONFIRMED)
- SESSION 1:** **TRENDS AND ISSUES IN DEVELOPMENT OF URBAN PUBLIC
TRANSPORT**
- OVERVIEW OF THE MULTIPLE CO-BENEFITS OF PUBLIC TRANSPORT FOR SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT OF URBAN AREAS
- DEVELOPMENT OF URBAN PUBLIC TRANSPORT INFRASTRUCTURE AND SERVICES: CASE
STUDIES FROM PARTICIPATING DEVELOPING COUNTRIES (E.G. CHINA, INDIA)
- LUNCH**
- SESSION 2:** **NATIONAL EXPERIENCES AND CASE STUDIES IN EXPANDING URBAN
PUBLIC TRANSPORT SERVICES FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT**
- PRESENTATION OF SUSTAINABLE URBAN PUBLIC TRANSPORT SYSTEMS IN DIFFERENT
COUNTRIES: SELECTED CASE/PROJECT/CITY/COUNTRY STUDY/REPORTS
- SESSION 3:** **ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION: NEW WAYS TO FINANCE PUBLIC
TRANSPORT PROJECTS/SYSTEMS OF DEVELOPING COUNTRIES**
- PRESENTATIONS BY INTERNATIONAL FINANCING INSTITUTIONS, PRIVATE BANKS AND
OTHER ORGANIZATIONS
- INTERACTIVE DISCUSSION ON INNOVATIVE SOURCES OF FUNDING

18:30-21:00

**ASSOCIATED SIDE EVENT: EVENING RECEPTION
“THE ROLE OF CITIES IN SUSTAINABLE URBAN TRANSPORT DEVELOPMENT”**

ORGANIZED BY: **UNITED NATIONS CENTRE FOR REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT (UNCRD)**

WITH THE SUPPORT OF: **MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, GOVERNMENT OF JAPAN**

WITH PARTICIPATION OF CITY MAYORS FROM THE ASIA-PACIFIC REGION

DETAILED PROGRAMME TO BE ANNOUNCED SEPARATELY

WEDNESDAY, 17 MARCH 2010

CURBING GROWTH OF GHG EMISSIONS FROM PRIVATE MOTOR VEHICLES

SESSION 4: TECHNOLOGICAL PROGRESS IN MOTOR VEHICLE TECHNOLOGY

PRESENTATIONS ON EXPERIENCES AND RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN SUSTAINABLE AND CLIMATE-FRIENDLY TECHNOLOGIES

SESSION 5: INNOVATIVE BUSINESS MODELS FOR GREEN GROWTH AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

PRESENTATION OF INNOVATIVE TRANSPORT CONCEPTS

LUNCH

SESSION 6: POLICY OPTIONS FOR PROMOTION OF FUEL EFFICIENT CARS

FUEL ECONOMY STANDARDS

(FISCAL POLICY) OPTIONS TO PROMOTE SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORT

ANALYZING CONSUMER PREFERENCES: OPPORTUNITIES AND CONSTRAINTS IN PROMOTING FUEL EFFICIENCY AND SUSTAINABILITY IN TRANSPORT

MATERIAL RECYCLING IN AUTOMOBILE INDUSTRIES

SESSION 7: PROMOTION OF NON-MOTORIZED TRANSPORT

USE OF GREENWAYS

PROMOTION OF BICYCLE USE

PRESENTATION OF "COMPACT DEVELOPMENT" AS AN INNOVATIVE CONCEPT OF URBAN TRANSPORT PLANNING

CLOSING SESSION CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

PRESENTATION AND ADOPTION OF CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

CLOSING REMARKS

SENIOR OFFICIAL(S) OF THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA AND UNDESA