

Message by Mr. Alexander Trepelkov, Officer-in-Charge, Division for Sustainable Development Goals, UN DESA, for the Third UN Partnership Meeting for Road Safety

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The second Global Sustainable Transport Conference will be held from 5 to 7 May 2020 at the China National Convention Center in Beijing. It will build upon the first Global Sustainable Transport Conference, which took place in Ashgabat, Turkmenistan in 2016. Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs, Mr. Liu Zhenmin, has been designated as the Conference Secretary-General to lead preparations on behalf of the United Nations.

The Conference comes at a very opportune time given the importance of sustainable transport for the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Paris agreement on climate change. All modes of transport – road, rail, aviation and waterborne – will be addressed, and recent scientific and technological advances deliberated. The concerns of vulnerable groups, such as women, the youth, the elderly, persons with disabilities, and the poor, and of developing countries, including least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States, will receive particular focus. Key transport objectives, such as access for all while leaving no one behind, green mobility, efficiency and safety will be discussed.

The provisional programme and concept note for the Conference have been uploaded to the Conference website. The Conference itself will be held over a period of three days, allowing for one opening and one closing session, three plenary sessions, and 15 parallel thematic sessions. Three forums, namely, the Ministers' Forum, the Business Forum and the Science, Engineering and Technology Forum, will also be part of the official programme. The official programme will be complemented by side events, field visits and an exhibition.

One parallel thematic session will specifically be dedicated to the topic of sustainable and safe transport, including ways to enhance transport safety and realizing SDG target 3.6 on road safety.

The outcome of the Conference will not be a negotiated text – rather, it will be a forward-looking visionary statement calling for global action to further advance sustainable transport worldwide. There will also be a Conference report summarizing the proceedings and a compilation of registered voluntary commitments, partnerships and initiatives to support sustainable transport. These outcomes will also serve to follow up on other important Summits/Conferences/Meetings in 2019-2020, such as the Climate Action Summit, the SDG Summit, the forthcoming third Global High-Level Conference on Road Safety to be held in February 2020 in Sweden and others. They will also be an important input into subsequent events.

An inter-agency report on sustainable transport will be prepared as a substantive background document for the Conference. In addition, other reports and papers by individual Member States, groups of Member States and other stakeholders, will also be made available. Individual sessions would be supported by brief background notes and other relevant materials. The topic of transport safety is expected to figure prominently in these documents.

We have reached out to UN agencies and other partners regarding the substantive preparations for the Conference and are looking forward to working with them, the host government and all of you to make this Conference a success.