

Your Excellencies, Distinguished delegation heads, Ladies and Gentlemen

First and foremost, I would like to initiate this speech by sincerely welcoming all distinguished and honorable guests.

I also want to extend my gratitude for to the ITC, for their continued remarkable effort and work that supports and enhances the global transport sector.

It is always a pleasure to be back in Geneva and take part in the Committee's fruitful discussions, which pave the way for the future of sustainable inland transport.

As we aim to resolve pressing transportation challenges, **we must not overlook the impact our decisions have on the climate.**

The increase risks of climate change can be seen, globally we are facing:

- damage and deterioration of built Infrastructure
- increased infrastructure maintenance costs
- increased hazards in transport infrastructure.

There is an urgent need to accelerate efforts to limit temperature rise to 1.5C, especially within the transportation sector.

Through the adaptation of resilient infrastructure & transport development and adoption of sustainable practices, we can have a real and positive impact on the effects of the changing climate.

I would like to take this opportunity to share with you the UAE's latest efforts towards building the foundation for the future of transport across the Emirates.

Transport stakeholders from all seven Emirates were united, collaborating in defining **the UAE smart mobility strategy**.

Our strategy was built on the UAE vision for the upcoming 50 years and for UAE to become a forerunner in smart intermodal mobility by 2030.

The strategic objectives are tailored to the transport challenges we face in the UAE.

**We seek to have compatible infrastructure across all 7 Emirates - considering their independence**

**We seek to integrate mobility systems and optimize data - considering the diversity of transport solutions**

**We seek to draft dynamic policies and regulations - considering the rapid evolution of the sector**

**We seek to foster a governed collaboration - considering the diversity of stakeholders**

**We seek to inspire capabilities - considering the importance of human capital**

1. **Safety:** using technological innovations to minimize accidents such as autonomous vehicles
2. **Efficiency:** optimizing and enhancing transport monitoring and operations through integrated ITS and new transport models such as shared mobility.
3. **Reliability:** ensuring the available transport services are dependable.
4. **Seamlessness:** maximizing user satisfaction and happiness.
5. **Sustainability:** to achieve and support SDG 11

Technology and innovation will play an integral role in mitigating the impact transportation has on climate change.

The UAE aspires to realize the benefits of smart mobility in reducing environmental impact.

**But the real question that I would like to conclude with is: How can we all maximize the use of technology and innovation to empower climate friendly mobility?**

Thank you for your attention and I wish you all a productive week ahead at the ITC 82<sup>nd</sup> Annual Session.