

Summary of DESA announcements on global initiatives

The UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs, UN DESA, continues to actively promote sustainable transport, including road safety, worldwide, by organizing transport-related Conferences and webinars, and compiling comprehensive background information and reports.

UN DESA provided Secretariat services for the second United Nations Global Sustainable Transport Conference, held from 14 to 16 October 2021 in Beijing, China, in hybrid format, which featured all aspects of sustainable transport, including road safety. The Conference raised unprecedented visibility around sustainable transport as a vital accelerator of progress towards the SDGs and the objectives of the Paris Agreement.

The inter-agency report, “Sustainable Transport, Sustainable Development,” provided expert perspectives from across the UN system as a substantive input to the Conference, and, among others, highlighted issues of road safety.

The Beijing Statement, presented at the closing ceremony by China’s Minister of Transport in his capacity as Conference Chair, put forward a framework to guide implementation for accelerating progress towards sustainable transport and called for significantly increasing road safety globally. It is expected to be submitted to the General Assembly by the Permanent Representative of China. In the run up to the Conference, a new online repository to capture voluntary commitments and initiatives in the area of sustainable transport, attracted notable submissions, such as the FIA foundation-led partnership for safer roads. The online repository will remain active, and all stakeholders are encouraged to submit voluntary commitments. A detailed summary of the Conference proceedings, as well as a comprehensive roundup of voluntary commitments and initiatives, will be available on the Conference website.

UN DESA will continue working closely with the Special Envoy and UN agencies to further promote sustainable transport and improve global road safety worldwide, including in the context of next year’s High-level meeting on Road Safety planned to be held back-to-back with the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF).