

2 June 2020

**Excellencies Mr. Tijjani Muhammad-Bande, President of the United Nations General Assembly,  
Ms. Mona Juul, President of the United Nations Economic and Social Council,  
Mr. Antonio Guterres, United Nations Secretary-General,  
Mr. Selwin Hart, Assistant Secretary-General of the Climate Action Team,  
Mr. Luis Alfonso de Alba, Special Envoy for the 2019 Climate Action Summit,**

***Sustainable, low-carbon transport is vital  
to the health of communities and economies now and for the post-COVID-19 recovery***

In the words of Secretary-General Guterres, the world is undergoing ‘the greatest test that we have faced together since the formation of the United Nations’. COVID-19 is wreaking havoc at an unprecedented scale, causing intense strain on our societies. Against this backdrop, the challenges and opportunities presented by climate change and inequality are more crucial than ever. We have ten years to deliver on the 2030 Agenda, while the clock toward Paris Agreement targets continues ticking. The Decade of Action is upon us, and we must boldly deliver on these frameworks.

We welcome the Secretary-General’s call for a ‘different economy’. Decisions by world leaders, whether at national level or in the framework of multilateral entities, must not derail us from the overall goals of decarbonisation and equity. Sustainable, low carbon transport is vital to the health of communities and economies and will be central to worldwide equitable and green socio-economic recovery. Transport is essential to empowering livelihoods, to moving people and goods. It is the veritable engine of our global economy, generating jobs, guaranteeing the delivery of essential goods like food and medicine, and ensuring social links and a deep rooted the sense of togetherness.

This pandemic has had massive impacts on transport and mobility. It has weakened trust in public transport at a time when it is critical to ensure the economic viability of and affordable access to public transport, especially since so many essential workers and first responders rely on public transport to go to work. In many places, private-sector informal transport services are the only means of transport for the most vulnerable. We must work to help secure their livelihoods, strengthen their safety and wellbeing, and build a foundation for their overall resilience. A panoply of active mobility and tactical urbanism solutions – including greater attention to walking and cycling infrastructure – are being deployed by sub-national governments to offer safe mobility alternatives to residents. It is vital we harness this momentum towards scaled up sustainable, low carbon transport and mobility systems.

**We, the members of the Action towards Climate-friendly Transport (ACT) coalition**, born under the auspices of the 2019 Climate Action Summit, are fighting to decarbonise transport. We urgently call on you to encourage socio-economic support schemes that enable the goals of transport for an equitable 1.5°C Planet and to facilitate Member States’ deliberations accordingly. In solidarity and partnership, we seek to work with you to highlight and support:

- Economic stimulus packages that rebuild green and equitable societies by unleashing green investments at scale for low-carbon, resilient transport infrastructure, enabling cost-effective transport solutions particularly adapted to low-, middle- and emerging economies, and by providing incentives and clear market signals for climate-friendly, low-emission passenger and freight transport.
- Industry liquidity schemes that do not further exacerbate inequality and climate change, but harness the opportunity to put all sectors of the economy on track towards rapid decarbonisation and sustainability.
- Urgent support to sub-national governments to bolster their limited financial capacities and ensure growth in the provision of public transport – new and existing – and other low carbon mobility modes such as active mobility.
- Multi-stakeholder and multi-sectoral engagement and dialogue opportunities among governments at all levels and the private sector to accelerate solutions-oriented policy and investment debates.

While all governments are facing budgetary challenges, investing in long-term, sustainable transport and mobility systems will have far-reaching impacts, especially by creating good jobs at a time when an unprecedented number of people are out of work.

This global health crisis is shining a light on the inextricably linked social, economic, and environmental matters our societies must address. The ACT Initiative and the wider transport community will continue to work to harness opportunities for positive transformation. With your support, our message can ring loudly throughout the UN System and provide Member States with the impetus to protect vital transport and mobility systems that serve all people, especially those who are most vulnerable and often left behind.

Sincerely,



**Maruxa Cardama**  
**Secretary General**  
**SLOCAT Partnership on Sustainable, Low Carbon Transport**  
**On behalf of the ACT coalition**

The ACT coalition is coordinated by the following entities:

NATIONAL  
GOVERNMENTS  
- leveraged and  
targeted through



CITIES /  
SUBNATIONAL  
GOVERNMENTS -  
leveraged and  
targeted through



COMPANIES –  
leveraged and  
targeted through



GLOBAL  
PARTNERS  
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