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H.E. Mr. Liu Zhenmin
Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs
United Nations

Dear Mr. Zhenmin,

Subject: Long-term legacy and impact of the Second UN Global Sustainable Transport Conference 2021

On behalf of the SLOCAT Partnership on Sustainable, Low Carbon Transport, we warmly welcome the initiative of China and the United Nations to organise the Second UN Global Sustainable Transport Conference on 14-16 October 2021 in Beijing, and would like to commend your efforts in organising this important gathering despite the ongoing pandemic context.

We believe that this high-level gathering can provide a unique window of opportunity to reinvigorate political momentum across the international community and enhance synergistic approaches across the UN system towards placing transport and mobility systems at the centre of an equitable and green recovery that is aligned with the goals of the 2030 Agenda and Paris Agreement.

The outcome of the Conference, the *Beijing Declaration*, should take full advantage of the opportunity presented by the multilateral and multi-stakeholder nature of the Conference, and we would like to encourage you to consider the inclusion of concrete and action-oriented mandates as to enable a practical, lasting impact of the Conference's legacy. Some ideas for specific mandates include:

- A reinvigorated commitment from transport ministers to work together and with other sectoral ministries and subnational governments, as well as with other stakeholders, to drive the transition to sustainable, low-carbon transport in service of national commitments on the 2030 Agenda and Sustainable Development Goals.
- A robust message to the UNFCCC 26th Conference of the Parties (COP26), set to take place in Glasgow, United Kingdom on 1-12 November 2021, outlining how nations shall enhance the specific transport targets in their respective Nationally Determined Contributions and Long-Term Strategies (in the framework of the Paris Agreement) and ensure their effective implementation.
- A call to transport ministries in every country to convene national transport decarbonisation platforms bringing together a multi-stakeholder base of actors engaged in transport demand and supply (cities, companies, service providers and others) across passenger and freight services to work jointly in the implementation of transport actions for sustainable development and climate change commitments.
- An agreement to establish an annual gathering of transport ministries under the auspices of the United Nations to review progress and guide the global sustainable, low-carbon transport transformation and to feed into the annual global review of the 2030 Agenda at the UN High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) and the annual UNFCCC COP. Such annual ministerial gatherings would serve to keep momentum and articulate concrete multilateral and multi-stakeholder efforts in between the



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different editions of the UN Global Sustainable Transport Conference, which should be held at regular intervals to renew efforts and take stock of concrete progress.

- **A mandate to establish a UN Inter-Agency Task Force on Sustainable Transport**, based on similar task forces and networks that facilitate UN inter-agency synergies and cooperation on important topics of cross-cutting nature.
- **A call to the UN General Assembly to declare a World Sustainable Transport Day** to promote the legacy of the Conference, as well as increase awareness of the role that sustainable, low-carbon transport plays in enabling equitable lives and livelihoods for all, in alignment with the goals of the 2030 Agenda and the Paris Agreement.

New business models, recovery investments and novel technologies offer great potential to transform transport and mobility systems and enhance their contribution to the sustainable low-carbon development we need - momentum is certainly building worldwide. The Second UN Global Sustainable Transport Conference can help catalyse this momentum, and thus ensure that the *Beijing Declaration* leaves a legacy of concrete and long-lasting impact for the international community and the UN system.

The SLOCAT Partnership Secretariat is at your disposal to help deliver a successful Conference - in particular in engaging key stakeholders - and a robust and action-oriented outcome.

Yours sincerely,

Maruxa Cardama
Secretary General, SLOCAT Partnership

CC: Mr. Alex Trepelkov, Officer-in-Charge, Division for the Sustainable Development Goals; Mr. Shantanu Mukherjee, Chief, Policy and Analysis Branch, Division for Sustainable Development Goals



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