



Pathways to COP28 – Synergies between SURGE and LOTUS

A Think Tank Session co-organised by the International Association of Public Transport (UITP) / International Union of Railways (UIC) / SLOCAT Partnership / Walk21 Foundation, with the support of UN-Habitat at the 2nd UN-Habitat Assembly

Wednesday, 7 June 2023 - 15:30 – 17:00 (EAT) in Conference Room 8

On-site event, by invitation only

Background

COP27 saw the launch of two related initiatives by the Egyptian Presidency - **LOTUS** (Low Carbon Transport for Urban Sustainability) & **SURGe** (Sustainable Urban Resilience for the Next Generation). They present an opportunity to activate systemic change to urban mobility that will help to provide universal access, enhanced safety, reduced environmental and climate impact, improved resilience, and greater prosperity for all. They aim to put public transport, walking and cycling at the heart of our urban transport systems and support joint, inclusive and multilateral efforts that will improve access and limit emissions.

Accelerating and supporting the uptake of public and active transport in cities, is a climate action that will significantly help achieve the objectives of the Paris Agreement and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Unlocking the potential is dependent on communities and governments (both local and national) collaborating on a sustainable mobility vision and up-skilling to translate the relevant international evidence into effective local actions, aligning to the goals set out in the New Urban Agenda.

This think tank session is being organised by the co-leads of the LOTUS capacity building workstream - UITP, Walk21 and UIC with the support of SLOCAT - and will explore the potential for more ambitious public and active transport policies linked to the achievement of the Paris Agreements and SDGs, and evaluate the gaps that need to be closed to achieve the objectives of the LOTUS and SURGe initiatives. The session will have a focus on Low and Middle Income Countries and promising practices will be shared. The discussions will be centered on three overarching questions:

- **Question 1:** Which transport policy responses will best shift people towards more sustainable, low carbon transport modes in order to meet Paris Agreement targets and SDGs?
- **Question 2:** What can national governments do to support local level action and what are their capacity building needs for the creation of policies and an enabling framework that promote local action on public and active transport?
- **Question 3:** How can investment in infrastructure be scaled up for public transport, walking and cycling to support clean, multimodal, safe, accessible and convenient mobility choices?

The outcomes of this think tank session will inform the development of a **policy toolkit (supported by a capacity building programme)** that includes a coherent set of recommended actions that national



governments can take in the next round of Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) submissions on public and active transport.

Objectives

- Raise awareness of the LOTUS and SURGe COP27 initiatives as well as share best practices and latest international evidence.
- Enable structured, interactive dialogue among transport policy makers and urban stakeholders for concerted engagement in global processes.
- Invite pledges and support to the urban mobility initiatives launched at COP27 so that a positive update can be presented at COP28.
- Gather inputs to refine and build on the work setting out recommended actions that national governments can take to support cities to enable more walking, cycling and public transport.

Session preparation

Participants are kindly requested to read the session agenda before attending the session. To maximize the time, the session will be mainly dedicated to interactive discussions among all participants.

Participants

National and local governments, transport and urban specialists, and UN Agencies as well as SLOCAT partners and UIC and UITP association members in the region.

Documents

LOTUS: <https://www.cop27.eg/#/presidency/initiative/lotus>

SURGe: <https://www.cop27.eg/#/presidency/initiative/surge-day>

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Think Tank Session Agenda

Session moderator: Mr. Christopher Dekki, SLOCAT Partnership

Welcome and session overview (15 min) [15:30 - 15:45]

Mr. Christopher Dekki, Director of Global Advocacy and Engagement, SLOCAT Partnership

Lea Ranalder & Cecilia Andersson, UN-Habitat & Asif Nawaz Shah, Specialist, International Partnerships, COP28 – UAE

Tour de table with all participants (name, country, affiliation)

Discussion Segment 1. Delivering Public Transport and Active Mobility Responses (35 min) [15:45 - 16:20]

Overarching question: Which transport policy responses will help best shift people towards more sustainable, low carbon transport modes in order to meet Paris Agreement targets and SDGs?

Challenge statement: NDCs are an important lever for advancing and financing sustainable transport, and, likewise, transport solutions can help deliver more ambitious NDCs and the SDGs. Most national climate strategies address sustainable transport in a limited manner and do not fully leverage the opportunities available. They are very rarely backed by information on how national governments plan to enable and support city level action. Most do not specify measures or targets to avoid unnecessary travel in carbon intensive modes, shift to low carbon modes such as public transport, walking and cycling or improve measures to reduce emissions with public transport.

- *Facilitator:* Mr. Christopher Dekki, SLOCAT Partnership
- *Presenters:* Mr. Philip Turner, Head of Sustainable Development, Int'l Association of Public Transport (UITP): How effective are existing NDCs for public and active transport?
- *Expert Discussion among participants* (25 min)

Discussion Segment 2: Building capacity to develop integrated, multimodal policy frameworks in Low- and Middle-Income Countries (35 min) [16:20 - 16:55]

Overarching question: How can support to low-and middle-income countries be best provided, with a focus on Africa and the Global South, to raise awareness, develop effective planning and policy frameworks, and ensure there is sufficient finance and expertise for delivery?

Challenge statement: Political leadership to deliver policies and accelerate coordinated sustainable urban mobility is needed but not always present. Even when there is political will, there is often a lack of finance, capacity and technical capabilities to plan and execute sustainable transport interventions. Few Global South countries have articulated a long-term vision making it difficult for the broader transport ecosystem to coalesce around a common goal and a lack of an integrated, systems view means that often less sustainable modes have been prioritized over others.

- *Facilitator:* Mr. Christopher Dekki, SLOCAT Partnership
- *Presenter:* Ms. Lucie Anderton, Head of Sustainability, International Union of Railways (UIC): Building capacity for more and better transport
- *Expert Discussion among participants* (25 min)

Wrap up and next steps (5 min) [16:55 - 17:00]

Mr. Christopher Dekki, SLOCAT Partnership (overview of think tank outputs and road to COP28).