

11 December 2025

📍 Jay Suites - Bryant Park Office

Operationalising the Implementation Plan of the UN Decade of Sustainable Transport Think-tank Session

Co-organisers



Collaborators



This session takes place on the occasion of the official launch of the [United Nations Decade of Sustainable Transport](#). It will bring together a small group of transport actors representing diverse geographies, transport development contexts, and areas of professional practice, and who are attending the official launch.

Session Aims

- Provide a space for collective reflection on how to operationalise the Implementation Plan of the UN Decade and advance sustainable transport in real-world contexts.
- Build shared understanding on priority needs and opportunities for enhanced international multi-actor cooperation on three thematic areas, namely: data & research, technical capacity building, and finance, with a special attention to low-and middle-income countries.

This gathering is part of a series of reflection spaces convened by SLOCAT since 2023 to support the development and implementation of the United Nations Decade. It will particularly build upon the exchanges at the [workshop](#) co-organised in April 2025 by SLOCAT, the UK Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office and Canada's International Development Research Centre, in collaboration with FIA Foundation, Kühne Climate Center and World Resources Institute.

The following *framing perspectives* will guide discussions and help distill ideas during the session:

- Accelerating efficient sustainable transport solutions for inclusive communities and shared prosperity on a liveable planet, particularly in low- and middle-income countries.
- Inspiring action by governments, as well as other key actors who shape sustainable transport.
- Monitoring and tracking progress.
- Promoting multi-actor collaboration and international cooperation.

Context and Opportunities

The UN Decade of Sustainable Transport (2026–2035), established by the United Nations General Assembly in 2023 through resolution [78/148](#), aims to accelerate global action toward safe, affordable, accessible, and low-carbon transport systems. The United Nations General Assembly requested the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, in collaboration with the UN Regional Economic Commissions, and in consultation with Member States and stakeholders, to develop an Implementation Plan for the Decade.

The Implementation Plan provides a shared vision for the United Nations Decade of Sustainable Transport and outlines six priority areas and the means of implementation needed for transformative action by all relevant stakeholders.

Agenda

08:30 Context-Setting and Kick-off Thoughts

- *Dmitry Mariyasin*, Deputy Executive Secretary, UN Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE)
- *Colleen Duggan*, Team Leader, Sustainable Inclusive Economies, International Development Research Centre (IDRC)
- *Maruxa Cardama*, Secretary General, SLOCAT

09:00 Data and Research — From Knowledge to Decision and Progress Tracking

- What are the key research gaps to enhance the UN Decade of Sustainable Transport?
- What are the key transport data gaps and create recommendations how to close them?
- What are monitoring options for the UN Decade and create ideas for collaborative data sharing / partnerships?

Facilitators

- *Daniel Bongardt*, Program Director, Transport and Climate Change, Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ)
- *Holger Dalkmann*, Consultant, Asian Development Bank | Founder and CEO, Sustain2030

09:50 Technical Capacity Building — Constraints and Needs

- What technical capacities (skills, knowledge, tools) are currently lacking (planning, modelling, maintenance, policy design, finance mobilisation, project preparation, M&E, etc.)?
- What capacity-building modalities are feasible (training, peer exchange, study tours, institutional strengthening, digital tools)?
- How can we build sustainable capacity so that abilities remain beyond short projects?

Facilitator

- *Heather Thompson*, CEO, Institute for Transportation and Development Policy (ITDP)



Expert inputs

- *Abimbola Akinajo*, Managing Director, Lagos Metropolitan Transport Authority (LAMATA)
- *Elizabeth Jones*, Senior Transport Advisor, UK Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO)

10:40

Break

Agenda

11:00 Finance — From Intent to Funding

- What are the main financing challenges (domestic budgets, grants, donor funds, private sector, blended finance, PPPs)?
- What financing instruments or approaches could work for accelerating sustainable transport (e.g. public investment, concessional loans, grants, public–private partnerships, green bonds)
- What obstacles exist (regulatory, institutional, risk, capacity) to mobilising finance?

Facilitator

- *James Leather*, Director, Transport Sector Office, Asian Development Bank (ADB)



Expert inputs

- *Lucie Anderton*, Director of Sustainability, International Union of Railways (UIC) | Co-Lead, SuM4All's Advocacy Group

11:50 Integrated Priorities — Linking Data, Capacity and Finance

- Based on prior discussions, what integrated and cross-cutting priorities emerge?
- What are immediate next actions at organisational or collective level to help operationalise the Implementation Plan?

Facilitator

- *Colleen Duggan*, Team Leader, Sustainable Inclusive Economies, IDRC

12:25 Wrap-up and Next Steps

12:30 End of the Session

Participants



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Chief of Transport Sector Group
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Senior Adviser
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Practical Information

Important note

Participants are responsible for arranging their own visas, flights, accommodation, and ground transportation.

SLOCAT cannot support United States visa or Electronic System for Travel Authorization (ESTA) arrangements. While the ESTA is not a visa, it is mandatory for entry for Citizens of Visa Waiver Program (VWP) countries, so ensure approval before travel to avoid delays.

Requirements for entry into the United States are constantly changing. Please refer to the US Customs and Border Protection [website](#) before you travel.

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Venue

Jay Suites - Bryant Park Office Space

1441 Broadway, 6th Floor,
New York, NY 10018

Public Transport: New York City has an extensive public transport system. You can use the Metro card or contactless payment for travel.

Nearest subway stations to the venue are:

- Times Square - 42nd Street
- 42nd Street - Bryant Park

By Subway A, B, C, D, E, F, N, Q, R, W, S, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7

By Bus M42, M98, M101, M102, M103, M104

Train: If arriving from outside New York City, the nearest main train station to the venue is Pennsylvania Station.

Taxi/Ride-hailing Services: Yellow cabs are available across New York City, and ride-hailing services such as Uber and Lyft operate in the city.

Accessing the Venue

All participants must confirm their attendance with SLOCAT.

On arrival, participants ask reception to request access to the 6th Floor.

Visitors with mobility challenges may wish to make this known prior to arrival so that arrangements can be put in place to meet in a place where assistance can be easily provided on arrival.

Co-organisers



Collaborators

