



United Nations
Decade of
Sustainable Transport
2026–2035

CONCEPT NOTE: HIGH LEVEL POLITICAL FORUM (HLPF) OFFICIAL SIDE EVENT

Ambition to Impact: Connecting the SDGs and the UN Decade for Sustainable Transport through Monitoring

Tue 7 Jul 2026, 1.15pm – 2.30pm, In-person
(UNHQ) in Conference Room; CR-F

Co-hosted by;

- SLOCAT (Partnership on Sustainable, Low Carbon Transport)
- GIZ (German Corporation for International Cooperation)
- WRI (World Resource Institute)
- CCG (Climate Compatible Growth)
- ADB (Asian Development bank)
- UK FCDO Research on Infrastructure in Developing Economies (RIDE) Programme
- TDC (Transport Data Commons)
- IDRC (The International Development Research Centre)
- UNCRD (United Nations Centre for Regional Development (DSDG/UN DESA)



WORLD
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**Official UN HLPF side event title; Ambition to Impact: Connecting the SDGs
and the UN Decade for Sustainable Transport through Monitoring**

Date; Tue 7 July 2026

Time: 1.15pm–2.30pm (75 minutes)

Venue: UNHQ (Conference Room; CR-F)





Background:

Transport connects people to jobs, schools, and healthcare, while moving the goods that drive the global economy. The sector accounts for roughly 7% of global GDP and employs more than 200 million people worldwide. However, it remains the second-largest and fastest-growing source of global greenhouse gas emissions, with fossil fuels still supplying 95.4% of its energy. Persistent infrastructure gaps leave billions of people in transport poverty and limit the economic advancement of developing nations.

To limit global warming to 1.5°C, transport emissions must fall by at least 59% by 2050 compared to 2020 levels. Achieving this requires a major paradigm shift, especially as global demand for passenger and freight travel continues to rise sharply. Compounding the challenge, climate-related disasters already cause an estimated USD 15–22 billion in annual damage to transport infrastructure, hitting low- and middle-income countries hardest. Closing the investment gap will require an estimated USD 2.7 trillion annually until 2050 — seven times the total invested in 2023, yet still short of current fossil fuel spending of USD 7 trillion.

The world does not lack ambition for sustainable transport. But what it now needs is a shared framework supported by a clear vision, rigorous metrics, reliable data, visible reporting, and real accountability. During this UN HLPF official side event, join leading international experts to discuss how we can truly monitor, track progress and showcase best practice for the UN Decade of Sustainable Transport.

This session is framed by the three goals under review this year: SDG 7 on energy, SDG 9 on infrastructure and SDG 11 on cities, all of which can-not be achieved without transport.

The objective of this side event is to; share sustainable low carbon transport good practice across the SDG's, advance discussion on monitoring and implementation under the Decade; engage UN country representatives to raise the profile of the Decade and related activities.

This multi-stakeholder side event will:

- Spotlight the vital role of transport in delivering and accelerating the SDG's through the UN Decade of Sustainable Transport, which provides a unique framework to accelerate progress on the SDGs under review at the 2026 HLPF: SDG 7, SDG 9 and SDG 11.
- Feature inspiring good practice examples from the Global South; demonstrating how local leadership and context-driven solutions can deliver real, scalable impact, and serve as blueprints for action elsewhere.
- Explore the critical role of monitoring and implementation under the UN Decade, identifying practical approaches to track progress, showcase best practice.

Target Audience:

- Leading transport experts, researchers, and strategic advisors, whose technical knowledge will ensure the criteria are grounded in the latest evidence and best practice
 - High-level policymakers and government representatives from transport, energy, and environment ministries, whose institutional experience will ensure the criteria are actionable and politically feasible across different national contexts
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AGENDA

Facilitator – Ben Welle, Director of Integrated Transport & Innovation, World Resource Institute

Time	Session/Item
1.15pm – 1.20pm	Welcome (5 min) • Shigeo Murata, Head of UNCRD-DSDG/UN DESA
1.20pm – 1.30pm	Opening Remarks (10 min) • Carly Gilbert-Patrick, Secretary General, SLOCAT Partnership on Sustainable, Low Carbon Transport (<i>a North star for transport; global goal and target to monitor the decade</i>) • Holger Dalkmann, Senior Consultant, Asian Development Bank (ADB) • Erin Tansey, Program Director, Sustainable Inclusive Economies, The International Development Research Centre, Canada (<i>the importance of research and evidence in the context of SDG and the UN Decade</i>)
1.30pm – 1.50pm	Good practice showcase of transport – delivering the SDG' (20 min) • Abimbola Akinajo, Managing Director, Lagos Metropolitan Area Transport Authority (LAMATA), Nigeria - <i>Research on Infrastructure in Developing Economies Programme (RIDE)</i> • Choudhury Rudra Charan Mohanty, Environment Programme Coordinator, UNCRD-DSDG/UN DESA - <i>Aichi 2030 Declaration on EST ~ Making Transport in Asia Sustainable (2021-2030)</i> • Mr. Sang-Jin Shin, Hon. Mayor of Seongnam City, Republic of Korea - <i>Walking, cycling and bike sharing, Global outlook on Freight</i> • Mark Major, Senior Strategy Director, Kuehne Climate Centre - <i>Global Freight Best Practice</i>
1.50pm - 2.25pm	Discussion with the audience (35 min) – how do we build a robust monitoring and showcasing mechanism for the UN Decade bring together research, evidence and practice?
2.25pm – 2.30pm	Closing remarks (5 min) - Carly Gilbert-Patrick , Secretary General, SLOCAT Partnership on Sustainable, Low Carbon Transport & Holger Dalkmann , Senior Consultant, Asian Development Bank (ADB)

