



## **Aide Memoire Global Consultations on Sustainable Transport in the post-2015 Development Framework**

On 25 January 2012 the Secretary-General announced a Five Year Action Agenda for the second term (2012-2016), which listed transport as one of six building blocks for sustainable development.

The announcement of the Secretary General indicated that he “plans to convene aviation, marine, ferry, rail, road and urban public transport providers, along with Governments and investors, to develop and take action on recommendations for more sustainable transport systems that can address rising congestion and pollution worldwide, particularly in urban areas”.

Sustainable transport was subsequently recognised in the Rio+20 outcome document as an important sector, as transport is providing access to goods and services is essential to sustainable development. At the same time the adverse effects of congestion, pollution, noise, road accidents and unaffordable transport need to be reduced or avoided, particularly in urban areas of developing countries.

As follow-up to Rio+20 an Open Working Group was struck for the purpose of identifying a set of Sustainable Development Goals to supersede the Millennium Development Goals which come to term in 2015. Consultations are taking place on a variety of the themes from the Rio+20 outcome.

The purpose of consultation is to build a common understanding of an appropriate wording for any possible goal with targets and indicators covering environmental, economic and social aspects of transport. Equity and inclusiveness is a key aspect.

Various formulations of a Goal for Sustainable Transport have been discussed and proposed. Those that cater to equitable access are most likely to gain support such that the constraints of pollution are addressed not through limiting access to goods and services but by making access easier and more affordable through such mechanisms as transit oriented urban development.

For instance, “Equitable access to goods and services through safe, clean, affordable and reliable transport systems including land use planning” is a formulation that attempts to integrate aspects supporting sustainable development generally.

Underlying objectives and targets can then address road safety, local pollution, greenhouse gas emissions, affordability for low income groups, congestion, modal shift, and walkability.

The workshop will inform national representatives and further common understanding amongst participants that will be reflected in a consultation summary that will be communicated to the Secretary General for consideration in processes considering the post-2015 Development Agenda and possible Sustainable Development Goals. Since the number of Sustainable Development Goals will be limited, it is possible that Sustainable Transport will be an enabler of the other themes on Poverty Alleviation, Education, Health, Energy, Urban Development and Sustainable Consumption and Production. The meeting summary and knowledge gained should also be directed to national policy-makers and the national negotiators in the Sustainable Development Goals and post-2015 Development Agenda negotiations. Strong support for sustainable transport will be responded to by the multi-lateral development banks, UN agencies, bilateral aid agencies and technical assistance agencies as evidenced in their Voluntary Commitments made at Rio+20 (>\$175 billion).