



High Level Political Forum Partnership Exchange - 18th July 2016

Statement on behalf of the global **Partnership for Sustainable Low Carbon Transport (SLoCaT)**. Delivered by Ramon Cruz, Institute of Transport and Development Policy (ITDP)

Over the last years the Partnership on Sustainable Low Carbon Transport (also known as SLoCaT) has been working to integrate sustainable transport in the global sustainable development processes.

SLoCaT welcomes the emphasis placed on improving both rural and urban access in the SDGs, which will be crucial to aid the 1 billion people in rural areas that lack access to an “all weather” road and the 2.3 billion additional urban population by 2050.

Transport needs to become more sustainable – current congestion delays, air pollution, traffic deaths and injuries, and carbon emissions are proof that transport is currently not sustainable.

The good news is that cost effective solutions to these problems are available which will improve access in a more sustainable manner. **Land use planning, leading to more compact cities**, reduces demand for transport and avoids “locking in” unsustainable transport patterns for decades. **Shifting investments away from car focussed projects** to investments in walking, cycling and public transport will improve access, health, safety and reduce inequality for all, while also reducing emissions.

We are pleased that the important contribution of transport is recognised in the **UN Decade of Action on Road Safety, Rio+20**, the **2030 Sustainable Development Agenda** (where it contributes to 7 of the 17 SDGs), the **Addis Ababa Action Agenda**, the **Paris Agreement** on Climate Change as well as the draft **UNCTAD 14** outcome and the draft **Habitat III New Urban Agenda**.

A comprehensive set of voluntary commitments on sustainable, low carbon transport, many of which undertaken by members of SLoCaT can help to implement these global agreements.

Here is our main message:

The moment to act is now - Asia is developing already rapidly, Africa will be next and cities are growing quickly and there is large unmet mobility needs in rural areas.

Mobility and Transport is essential to the success of the SDGs, although it is not an SDG by itself. To help realize its critical role the HLPF should ensure that transversal topics such as transport does not “fall through the cracks” in the SDG review. Even though it was absent in the original draft a few weeks ago, the language in last Friday’s draft of the Ministerial Declaration points to the right direction when it emphasizes the commitment to “universal access to safe, affordable, reliable and sustainable transport and energy systems”.

The HLPF can help by putting in place **improved and strengthened institutional arrangements** to support accelerated, co-ordinated action on sustainable transport across the globe. Addressing this point effectively across the UN system will make an essential

contribution to delivering on the sustainable development commitments all of you have made in the SDGs as well as the transport related commitments in the other global agreements.

Thank you for your support to increase the sustainability of transport.