

## UN GLOBAL SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORT CONFERENCE

### ***ASHGABAT TRANSPORT BUSINESS SUMMIT DECLARATION***

Adopted on November 27, 2016 in Ashgabat, Turkmenistan

#### **TRANSPORT BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY COMMUNITY IN ACTION FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT 2030**

We, the representatives of transport business and industry community, United Nations system agencies, multilateral development banks, private financial institutions and civil society actors, attended the first *United Nations Global Conference on Sustainable Transport* and convened the *Ashgabat Transport Business Summit* on 26-27 November 2016 in Ashgabat, together with co-organizers the Government of Turkmenistan and the Global Partnership of Sustainable Transport, reaffirm our commitment to advance the implementation of the United Nations Sustainable Development Agenda 2030, towards the achievement of its seventeen sustainable development goals (SDGs), as set forth in this joint *Ashgabat Transport Business Summit Declaration*:

1. We note that sustainable transport and mobility of people and goods that is safe, affordable, accessible, efficient, resilient, and minimizes carbon and other harmful emissions and environmental impacts, is a key prerequisite for human economic activity, prosperity, development, and the eradication of poverty.
2. Recognizing that the *2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*, the *Addis Ababa Action Agenda* of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development (2015), the *Paris Climate Agreement* (2015), the *Vienna Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries for the Decade 2014-2024* (2014), *New Urban Agenda* of the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development ("Habitat III" 2016), as well as UN General Assembly Resolution 70/197/ *Toward comprehensive cooperation among all modes of transport for promoting sustainable multimodal transit corridors*, adopted on 16 February 2016, and the decisions on the *Decade of Action on Road Safety*, provide a comprehensive guiding framework for national and international development cooperation on sustainable transport, we renew our commitment to bold and ambitious action to transform the world's mobility and to ensure access to mobility for all.
3. We emphasize that access to basic transport infrastructure and services, is a major precondition for ending poverty, by providing access to economic opportunities, unlocking agricultural productivity and improving living conditions, particularly in peripheral rural areas of developing countries.
4. We emphasize the importance of institutional coordination at local levels for the provision of public transport infrastructure and services. We note the growing number of best practice examples and experiences in the modernization of urban public bus fleets and the introduction of bus-rapid-transit and light rail systems, which are typically operated by professional transport operators.
5. We commit to working with local and national governments to ensure access to safe, efficient, and affordable transport, for young children, youth and for women, who play a particularly important role in the development of societies today and in the future, we call on local and national authorities to ensure that transport services are equipped to provide affordable and efficient access to particularly marginalized groups, including the disabled and the elderly.

6. We commit to taking necessary measures to promote global road safety to reduce the number of deaths and accidents on roads by encouraging a better interaction between commercial vehicles and other road users through continuing training and education of vulnerable road users and light motorised vehicle drivers so as to reduce their involvement in accidents with commercial vehicles and thus obtain better overall safety results, and we support the efforts of the FIA High Level Panel on Road Safety.
7. We note that multimodal transport corridors provide crucial routes for transport of freight over long distances; multimodal transport corridors also comprise motorways, railway lines, waterways, as well as energy and communications infrastructure, and transport infrastructure and services enable national and international trade, economic growth, structural transformation, and greater socio-economic prosperity and poverty eradication.
8. We underscore the importance of international trade facilitation to reduce transit time and costs caused by bottlenecks at ports, airports and land border crossings. We call upon all transit countries to develop policies that encourage freedom of transit of passengers and goods globally, and call for modernizing and increasing the efficiency of border crossing and procedures, through enhanced harmonisation of customs procedures and customs cooperation, and reiterate that fighting corruption and bribery remains crucial to ensure transport efficiency globally.
9. We encourage all UN Member States that have not yet done so should consider acceding to the United Nations conventions and agreements on trade and transit facilitation, including the *Customs Convention on the International Transport of Goods under Cover of TIR Carnets (TIR Convention, 1975)* and the *International Convention on the Harmonization of Frontier Control of Goods (1982)*, and encourage WTO members that have not yet done so to consider ratifying the *WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement*.
10. We welcome the formation of the Global Partnership for Sustainable Transport (GPST) “as a business- and industry-led, action-oriented, multi-stakeholder initiative involving all modes of transport” (A/RES/70/197), under the guidance and in close cooperation with principal organs, agencies, programmes and bodies of the United Nations, as well as with its Member States, that brings together leading actors from all four modes of transport, as well as transport stakeholders in governments, international organizations and specialized agencies to contribute to the implementation of the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda and the SDGs, which mission and objectives we fully support and endorse.
11. We recognize the need to monitor and track progress implementing the transport related global commitments and welcome the *Global Tracking Framework (GTF)* initiative that will allow to bring together global goals and country-level performance on a common platform and will play a critical role in allowing the transport sector to unite and coordinate action towards sustainable transport, and require a broad-based multi-stakeholder effort, including national and city champions, international actors, civil society, and private sector champions. To that effect, the private sector will have a critical role to play in achieving these goals/targets and will likely to remain at the cutting edge of sustainable transport, and private sector investment will be indispensable to a more sustainably mobile world.
12. We commit to the promotion of responsible and sustainable business practices, including the adoption of the Global Partnership for Sustainable Transport (GPST) Pledge Statement and integrating the UN Global Compact Ten Principles into business strategies and operations.



13. We note that achieving a more sustainable transport future is both urgent and possible. We call for better coordinated local and national transport policies and a level playing field to enable transport businesses and the transport industry at large to fully drive productive capabilities in the spirit of sustainable development. We note that the private sector will have a critical role to play in achieving a sustainable transport future. Private sector investment will be indispensable to a more sustainably mobile world.
14. We call for greater international cooperation among industrialised and developing countries and for continued collaboration and support from international trading partners, including through enhanced means of implementation to enable developing countries to accelerate progress towards achieving sustainable transport infrastructure, systems and services, that are indispensable to drive sustainable, transformative change and development, and ensure that no one is left behind on the way towards a sustainable transport future for all. We further recognise the importance of enhanced resilience, disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation for key coastal transport infrastructure, particularly in SIDS, as well as for transport infrastructure along international transit corridors linking LLDCs, and of the urgent need for related research, capacity-building and financing.
15. We welcome the report *Mobilizing Sustainable Transport for Development* of the *High-level Advisory Group on Sustainable Transport of the United Nations Secretary-General* and we endorse its recommendations, including the proposed nomination of a United Nations Special Envoy on Sustainable Transport.
16. We recommend to periodically review progress towards sustainable transport in the future and also recommend that the United Nations consider declaring the period 2017 - 2027 as the United Nations Decade of International Cooperation for Sustainable Transport and that the private sector, under the auspices of the Global Partnership for Sustainable Transport in the implementation for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the SDGs, and in the implementation of the recommendations of the High Level Advisory Group on Sustainable Transport.
17. We urge the international community to integrate the recommendations that emerge from the first Global Sustainable Transport Conference and related events on sustainable transport into a global and comprehensive United Nations Programme of Action to be implemented under the auspices of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which we further propose be presented at the convening of bi-annual United Nations Conferences on Sustainable Transport, the next to be convened in 2018.
18. We express our appreciation of the United Nations Secretary-General, Mr. Ban Ki Moon, for his leadership and his effortless advocacy for universal sustainable development, for global climate change mitigation, and for raising awareness of the importance of sustainable transport for "*The future we want*". We also thank the United Nations Secretary-General for his initiative to convene the first-ever Global Sustainable Transport Conference and Business Summit.
19. We express our sincere thanks to the Government of Turkmenistan for co-organising the Ashgabat Transport Business Summit, and we convey our thanks to the people of Turkmenistan for their generous hospitality.



## Annex A: GPST Pledge Statement

### THE GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP FOR SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORT (GPST) PLEDGE STATEMENT

The Global Partnership for Sustainable Transport (GPST) is a global, business and industry-led, multi-modal initiative that brings together leading companies from all transport modes to support global development priorities while ensuring long-term, sustainable growth-oriented business opportunities for the industry. The GPST will accomplish its mission by engaging businesses in the formulation of actionable recommendations to address today's most pressing sustainable transport and mobility-related development issues, thereby ensuring their central role as an implementation mechanism for the recommendations of the UN Secretary General's High-level Advisory Group on Sustainable Transport (HGLAST). The GPST also serves as a platform for broad collaboration between the private sector and other global transport stakeholders.

The GPST acknowledges the universality of transport and mobility, and their relevance to meeting people's basic needs, to ensure inclusiveness, growth, and prosperity in all countries in all regions of the world, as embodied in global commitments set out in UN General Assembly Resolution A/70/L.1, adopted by UN Member States on 25 September 2015 on "Transforming our world: The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development", which establishes a global mandate for the attainment of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), guided by 149 targets, among which several specifically address transport and mobility.

**The Members of the GPST pledge** to support the values, principles, efforts and initiatives that advance the objectives of sustainable transport and mobility. The following pledges demonstrate the shared responsibility of GPST Members to contribute to the vision set out in this document, and:

To work in collaboration with governments and civil society to achieve global sustainable transport and mobility objectives, notably as embodied in the "2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development";

To work together to deliver mobility and transport solutions that are inclusive, accessible and that facilitate the seamless movement of persons and goods;

To strive to improve the quality, safety and reliability of transport and mobility services, notably through the use of innovative technologies;

To work toward the reduction of global pollution levels, in accordance with international agreements and protocols governing the reduction of CO2 emissions;

To deploy concrete measures to ensure safety in transport by road, air, and sea by respecting global rules, standards and principles governing transport safety;

To promote inclusiveness for disadvantaged groups for whom mobility will facilitate access to critical services and opportunities;

To respect universal principles of law that recognise the rights of providers and users of transport services, the integrity of procedures governing financial transactions in the transport sector and the settlement of disputes;

To engage in appropriate conduct in the use of our natural resource endowments, acting as global citizens whose exemplary conduct will be shared and showcased as best practices in sustainability in the transport sector;

To develop innovative and effective training tools to promote excellence among transport professionals, with a view to improve industry standards and service quality;

To recognise the 10 Principles of the United Nations Global Compact;



To undertake corporate actions in accordance with the above pledges.

## **Annex B: The Ten Principles of the United Nations Global Compact**

### **I. The Ten Principles of the UN Global Compact**

Corporate sustainability starts with a company's value system and a principled approach to doing business. This means operating in ways that, at a minimum, meet fundamental responsibilities in the areas of human rights, labour, environment and anti-corruption. Responsible businesses enact the same values and principles wherever they have a presence, and know that good practices in one area do not offset harm in another. By incorporating the Global Compact principles into strategies, policies and procedures, and establishing a culture of integrity, companies are not only upholding their basic responsibilities to people and planet, but also setting the stage for long-term success.

The UN Global Compact's Ten Principles are derived from: the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Labour Organization's Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work, the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, and the United Nations Convention Against Corruption.

#### **Human Rights**

Principle 1: Businesses should support and respect the protection of internationally proclaimed human rights; and

Principle 2: make sure that they are not complicit in human rights abuses.

#### **Labour**

Principle 3: Businesses should uphold the freedom of association and the effective recognition of the right to collective bargaining;

Principle 4: the elimination of all forms of forced and compulsory labour;

Principle 5: the effective abolition of child labour; and

Principle 6: the elimination of discrimination in respect of employment and occupation.

#### **Environment**

Principle 7: Businesses should support a precautionary approach to environmental challenges;

Principle 8: undertake initiatives to promote greater environmental responsibility; and

Principle 9: encourage the development and diffusion of environmentally friendly technologies.

#### **Anti-Corruption**

Principle 10: Businesses should work against corruption in all its forms, including extortion and bribery.

To learn more about how to formally join the UN Global Compact initiative, visit [www.unglobalcompact.org](http://www.unglobalcompact.org)

