

1 June 2021

## **Concept Note**

### **Second Global Sustainable Transport Conference**

Convened by the United Nations Secretary-General

*Theme: Sustainable transport, sustainable development*

14-16 October 2021

*Sustainable* transport seeks to fully realize the benefits while avoiding or alleviating the negative effects. At the global level, the subject gained prominence through the report of the UN Secretary-General's High-Level Advisory Group on Sustainable Transport

<sup>1</sup> (October 2016). The report defined sustainable transport as the provision of services and infrastructure for the mobility of people and goods, advancing

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All of this underscores the importance of sustainable transport towards achieving the overarching aspirations of the 2030 Agenda ity for all  
people on a thriving planet through reaching the SDGs and fostering climate action.

The global commitment to sustainable transport was spotlighted in the first ever Global Sustainable Transport Conference<sup>2</sup>, convened by the UN Secretary-General on 26-27 November 2016 in Ashgabat, Turkmenistan. The Conference attracted broad participation from senior Government officials, business and civil society representatives and UN and other inter-governmental entities. The Conference addressed all modes of transport - road, rail, air and waterborne, including both passengers and freight - and accorded priority attention to the concerns of developing countries. The report of the Secretary- High-Level Advisory  
Group on Sustainable Transport (HLAG-ST) served as an input to the Conference. Outcomes included the Ashgabat Statement on Commitments and Policy Recommendations; a report of the Conference; and a compilation of partnerships, voluntary commitments and initiatives to support sustainable transport.

The United Nations Second Global Sustainable Transport Conference comes at an opportune time, given the importance of sustainable transport for the achievement of the 2030 Agenda and the Paris Agreement on Climate Change.

*UN General Assembly*

The General Assembly, in its resolution 72/212 of 20 December 2017, **ent**

*Organizational details*

The Conference will take place in hybrid format with limited in-person presence in Beijing and virtual events and participation from global stakeholders. It will be held over a period of three days, allowing for one opening and one closing session, three sessions with statements by Heads of State and Government/Ministers/Heads of Delegations, and six consecutive thematic sessions, all in plenary. Three forums, the Business Forum and the Science, Engineering and Technology Forum, will also be part of the official programme. The provisional programme is attached. The official programme would be complemented by virtual side events. Detailed information on participation will be made available separately.

*Substantive inputs*

An inter-agency report on sustainable transport would be prepared as substantive background for the Conference. In addition, other reports and papers by individual Member States, groups of Member