

United Nations Sustainable Transport Conference  
14-16 October 2021

**Global transport at a crossroads: UN Conference to advance action on zero emission vehicles, boost economy and reduce inequalities**

While science shows that urgent action is needed to keep the 1,5°C temperature limit within reach to prevent greater climate impacts, the world is still grappling with COVID-19, which has disrupted global supply chains, reversed years of development progress and has pushed around 120 million people back into poverty. The UN Sustainable Transport Conference, seeks to provide concrete solutions for how we plan and design transport systems to ensure the pathway to achieving sustainable transport, transport that is safe, accessible and resilient, is at the scale and speed required.

While there is increasing recognition that sustainable transport can spur economic growth and protect the environment, global sales of electric vehicles grew from 1.3 million in 2015 to 5.1 million in 2018, progress has been slow and unequal.

According to the World Bank, a transition to sustainable mobility could deliver savings of 70 trillion US dollars by 2050, when considering full transport costs, including vehicles, fuel, operational expenses, and losses due to congestion. Better access to roads could help Africa become self-sufficient in food and create a regional food market worth 1 trillion US dollars by 2030.

Transport is one of the single largest contributors to air and carbon pollution emissions globally, also accounting for about 64% of total oil consumption and 27% of all energy use. Over 1 billion people worldwide still lack adequate access to an all-weather road, especially in developing countries, including countries in special situation. In Africa, 450 million people, more than 70% of the total rural population, remain unconnected to transport infrastructure and systems. Whereas road traffic injuries are the leading cause of deaths among young people aged 15 to 29.

Source: [un.org/transport2021](https://un.org/transport2021)

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