



**Intervention**

**by**

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**at**

**International Transport Forum**

**Ministerial Roundtable 1: TRANSPORT AND CLIMATE  
CHANGE: MOVING FORWARD FROM COP27**

**24 May 2023**

**10:30-12:00, CCL, MPA2**

*Excellencies,  
Distinguished Delegates,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,*

It is a great pleasure for me to speak here at the annual International Transport Forum in the presence of Ministers and other transport leaders from around the world, who are here to debate and decide on matters that will help shape **transport and the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, in particular on climate change, among many other issues.**

I would like to start by mentioning that this year's plenary session of the Inland Transport Committee (ITC) focused extensively on the issue of climate change with high-level participation from 84 countries and key transport organizations around the world. It is clear that **our momentum is genuine and strong.** This is great – but also very necessary, as the challenges are formidable.

In 2023 we stand at a crossroad for the future of the planet and the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for sustainable development, with transport and mobility playing a critical role for the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). 2022 was a year of multiple crisis, challenging our international system, straining national and international institutions and placing pressing questions on the top-priority agendas of world leaders.

It is no accident that this year's High-level policy segment at

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ITC was dedicated to “**Actions of the Inland Transport Sector to Join the Global Fight Against Climate Change**”, one of the most formidable challenges the global community is facing today and one where our cutting-edge work has a very big and positive impact worldwide. **But we all can do better and with your support we can achieve this!**

I am sure you have heard repeatedly that CO<sub>2</sub> emitted from the transport sector account for 23 per cent of global energy-related CO<sub>2</sub> emissions. Within the transport sector, more than 71 per cent of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions are from inland transport, including about 70 per cent from the road subsector alone. This is the latest information from the IPCC sixth assessment report.

Allow me to focus on two aspects of these sobering facts.

First: It is my firm belief that the Inland Transport Committee (ITC) at UNECE, can help in ways no other UN body can – because it performs for inland transport functions equivalent to those of ICAO for civil aviation and IMO for maritime transport. Work is currently ongoing on the development of an **ambitious** strategy for reducing Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions in inland transport based on the United Nations legal instruments under the Committee’s purview, supported by a **strong action plan with milestones**, for consideration and possible adoption by countries at the next meeting of ITC. I have

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seen many initiatives on climate change in my recent years – this one carries immense potential and is profoundly needed. I wish you every success in developing it and then implementing the recommendations.

Second: Tackling this challenge requires collaboration and coordination with a wide variety of actors at international level:

- Member States who are at the cutting edge of technologies that can help transition to a low-emission or even net-zero inland transport.
- Member States for which Climate Change poses an existential threat -- not in the near future, but today!
- Transport leaders from multilateral development banks, intergovernmental organizations, non-governmental organizations and the private sector to understand the long-term benefits of this collaboration.

I have repeatedly stated that challenges of this humbling scale can only be tackled through strong partnerships. To do this an international alliance of all stakeholders in transport is necessary to reduce the climate change impacts of the sector building on the legal framework, including the 60 legal instruments managed by UNECE, for the inland transport sector.

**The Future of the planet is at stake for present and future generations - for all of us.** Now is the time to act, by harnessing

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technological developments such as automation as well as other elements of upgraded mobility to make inland transport more sustainable whilst at the same time resilient to climate change impacts.

### **Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,**

The central role of the Inland Transport Committee (ITC) as a UN centre for inland transport, assisting member States in achieving the SDGs, places it in a pivotal position to tackle the harmful effects of transport on the environment.

Let me close my message by the logo for this year's ITC session. It showed **a clock ticking just before the twelfth hour. Indeed – it is high time to act, and the time is now!**

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I thank you all for inviting me to speak here today. I look forward to hearing the remaining interventions during this session.

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