

Paris, 3 June 2015

Argentina, Israel and Morocco join International Transport Forum

**Summit of transport ministers unanimously approves membership
/ Morocco first ITF member country from African continent**

Argentina, Israel and Morocco are new members of the International Transport Forum (ITF). The organisation's top decision-making body, the Council of Ministers of Transport, unanimously agreed to the accession of the three countries at the ITF Summit in Germany on 28 May.

Housed by the OECD in Paris (France), the ITF is an intergovernmental organisation that acts as a think tank for transport policy and organises the Annual Summit of transport ministers. ITF is the only global body that covers all transport modes. Last week's decision takes the number of ITF member countries from 54 to 57.

Morocco is the ITF's first full member on the African continent. Previously, Morocco was an observer country since the creation of ITF in 2006. "Morocco's accession will be a plus for the Forum. It is also a positive development for Morocco", said Mohamed Najib Boulif, Morocco's Deputy Minister of Transport. "The geostrategic position of Morocco in the Mediterranean, in Africa, in the MENA region: these are all strategic assets for Morocco's participation."

Israel joins the ITF after becoming a member of the Organisation of Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) in 2010. "Israel is keen to contribute to the work of the ITF, and to be inspired by it", said Moshe Kamhi, Director of Economic International Organizations in Israel's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, on the occasion of Israel's accession.

Argentina is the second ITF member country from South America, following the accession of Chile in 2012. Argentina has been actively involved with the ITF's permanent working group on road safety (known as IRTAD) since 2009. It has been a leading force in establishing the Ibero-American Road Safety Observatory (OISEVI), for which IRTAD operates a Spanish-language database with road crash information.

The Hon. Simon Bridges, Minister of Transport of New Zealand, the 2015 ITF presidency country, said: "New Zealand welcomes Morocco, Argentina and Israel to

the International Transport Forum. The expanded membership of the ITF promises the opportunity to promote an increasingly global outlook for the work of the ITF.”

ITF Secretary-General José Viegas also expressed his satisfaction at the accession of the three countries: “ITF is the global, all-modes transport organisation. These three new members make the ITF even more global, and they bring significant transport experience to the table”, said Viegas. “We will be working with the governments of Argentina, Israel and Morocco to ensure that they get value for their policy making out of their membership.”

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ABOUT THE INTERNATIONAL TRANSPORT FORUM

Who we are

The International Transport Forum is an intergovernmental organisation with 57 member countries. It acts as think tank for transport policy and organises the Annual Summit of transport ministers. ITF is the only global body that covers all transport modes.

What we do

ITF works for transport policies that improve peoples’ lives. Our mission is to foster a deeper understanding of the role of transport in economic growth, environmental sustainability and social inclusion and to raise the public profile of transport policy.

How we do it

ITF organises global dialogue for better transport. We act as a platform for discussion and pre-negotiation of policy issues across all transport modes. We analyse trends, share knowledge and promote exchange among transport decision-makers and civil society. ITF’s [Annual Summit](#) is the world’s largest gathering of transport ministers and the leading global platform for dialogue on transport policy.