

# Declaration from Ministers on Transport for a Changing World

**2014 Annual Summit**

**2014**



## DECLARATION FROM MINISTERS ON TRANSPORT FOR A CHANGING WORLD

Global transformational change is a characteristic of our age. Demographic trends including ageing of societies in many mature economies and a growing share of younger people in a number of developing and emerging countries is altering the population profile of nations and of global society. Massive urbanisation is concentrating economic activity in rapidly expanding urban regions around the world. Major trade flow changes are reconfiguring supply chains throughout the world. Climate change and issues related to fuel supply remain significant policy challenges. New technologies and digitalisation are creating previously unthought-of possibilities. These and other megatrends are impacting the mobility of goods and people in ways that need to be understood today in order to shape responses that will remain valid in a changing world.

While adapting to these global economic and societal phenomena, transport itself is also a driver of change, as innovation in the sector opens new frontiers. In this way, transport is itself defining new landscapes of opportunity for a greener and more inclusive economy and society.

In this environment of transformation, policy-makers are facing greater levels of uncertainty in decision making, with the speed, nature, intensity and timing of change in recent years occurring beyond what has been expected. Further, with increasing interdependencies of countries and regions, the global effects of policy decisions must be considered. The reality of governing in this interconnected world requires greater emphasis on international and regional cooperation as well as information sharing, and suggests that policy makers should work together more effectively to adopt common policy responses.

We, the Ministers responsible for transport in the member countries of the International Transport Forum, met in Leipzig, Germany on 21-23 May 2014 for our Annual Summit under the theme of “Transport for a Changing World”, to seek mutual understanding of the global trends that impact transport policy, and to align our responses to those challenges.

With this our common perspective and working in partnership with all transport sector stakeholders, we:

- **recognise** the importance of creating a transport policy environment that not only accommodates change emerging from these global economic and societal megatrends, but also enables the transport sector to innovate in ways that promote green and inclusive growth;
- **affirm** the need to invest in capacity-building to better inform decision-making; and
- **renew** our commitment to pursue transport policies that contribute to economic resilience and growth, environmental protection and social inclusion and foster innovation in our changing world.

## Recalling:

- the Key Messages for Ministers from the 2008 Summit *on Transport and Energy: The Challenge of Climate Change*<sup>1</sup>;
- the Key Ministerial Messages from the 2009 Summit on *Transport for a Global Economy: Challenges and Opportunities in the Downturn*<sup>2</sup>;
- the Key Messages from the 2010 Summit on *Transport and Innovation: Unleashing the Potential*<sup>3</sup>; and
- the Key Messages from 2011 Summit on *Transport for Society*<sup>4</sup> as well as
- the ongoing development of a set of global Sustainable Development Goals within the United Nations Rio+20 process, highlighting transport as an important component of the post-2015 agenda.

## ADAPTING TO CHANGING DEMOGRAPHY AND LIFESTYLE

### We:

- **note** the significant impact on demand for access and mobility brought about by a rising world population - with ageing societies in many countries and larger shares of youth in others. With this in mind,
- **recognise** that transport users are becoming more diverse in both lifestyle and mobility choice. To more clearly ascertain how transport should adapt to this diversity, we encourage better monitoring and assessment of the impacts of these socio-demographic trends on mobility behaviour and demand.
- **re-iterate** the importance of effective cooperation among all levels of authority to ensure that transport systems in cities and regions provide access to services and amenities and mobility solutions for the rapidly expanding populations in urban areas around the world.
- **reaffirm** our commitment to systematic consideration of the safety and accessibility of older and disabled people in all transport and land use policies and planning.
- **are mindful** of the challenges to the transport sector workforce in relation to skill needs and availability as well as gender inequalities, and remain committed to develop and

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<sup>1</sup> Ministers made reference to Key Messages for Ministers from 2008 Summit *on Transport and Energy: The Challenge of Climate Change*

<sup>2</sup> Ministers made reference to Key Ministerial Messages from 2009 Summit on *Transport for a Global Economy: Challenges and Opportunities in the Downturn*

<sup>3</sup> Ministers made reference to Key Messages from the 2010 Forum on *Transport and Innovation: Unleashing the Potential*

<sup>4</sup> Ministers made reference to Key Messages from 2011 Summit on *Transport for Society*

implement policies that promote skill formation in the transport workforce and equity in employment opportunities throughout the sector.

## **MAXIMISING VALUE FROM A SHIFTING ECONOMIC BALANCE**

**We:**

- **acknowledge** the impact on supply chains of shifting economic balance and resulting global trade flows, as well as the need to adjust transport operations and infrastructure to those changes.
- **affirm** that trade and freight transport performance are strong determinants of national economic competitiveness, and improving logistics performance is a core element of this.
- **recognise** that the volatility and uncertainties of today's economic environment and expanding, ever-more complex global supply chains require coordinated efforts to optimise network efficiency and reliability.
- **support** initiatives that focus on creating more efficient and effective supply chains and help to ensure seamless and free movement of goods. . In this respect,
- **encourage** better cooperation among transport modes to enhance intermodality and optimise use of available network capacity.
- **re-affirm** the need for integrated border management processes to reduce delays and simplify customs procedures, as well as for coordinated risk-based approaches to customs and security inspections among countries to expedite border-crossing.

## **COMBATting CLIMATE CHANGE AND MEETING ENERGY NEEDS**

**We:**

- **recognise** the persistent challenge to transport policy that climate change presents, in spite of focused efforts in many countries to reduce transport's contribution to greenhouse gas emissions and CO<sub>2</sub> in particular.
- **reiterate** that if greenhouse gas emission targets are to be met, the transport sector will have to pursue significant decarbonisation. Meeting such targets requires a strategic policy approach – within and across modes, with emphasis on environmentally friendly modes and at all appropriate levels of government -- to significantly improve energy efficiency and reduce transport-related carbon emissions.
- **underline** that many carbon-reduction policies have strong co-benefits in terms of the reduction of harmful levels of air pollution, enhanced health, improved road safety,

congestion mitigation and more reliable transport system performance, as well as economic growth through advances in technology and productivity improvements.

- **re-affirm** the need for an integrated package of transport and fiscal measures, including support for technological innovation, to continue to improve the fuel economy of conventional vehicles and development of large markets for alternative vehicles, along with a parallel shift to carbon-free production of electricity, hydrogen and other alternative energy carriers. In this context,
- **re-emphasise** the role that transport demand management -- alongside the promotion of traditional and innovative forms of collective transport, walking and cycling, and better integration of land use and transport planning -- can play in reducing energy consumption and mitigating transport-related carbon emissions.
- **commit** to pursue efforts for adaptation to adverse impacts of climate change, while persisting with energy efficiency and carbon mitigation initiatives.
- **acknowledge** the importance of international negotiations underway in relation to combatting climate change.
- **take note** of the increasing evidence of extreme weather events and the potential impacts of a changing climate on transport systems around the world. With these in mind, we highlight the risk to the safety and security of our citizens and investments if vulnerabilities in transport systems are left unaddressed.
- **encourage** countries to increase their resilience against extreme weather by identifying and assessing potential risks and opportunities, sharing good practice and considering climate change risk and uncertainty in planning and decision-making.

## HARNESSING NEW TECHNOLOGIES

**We:**

- **welcome** the benefits to transport brought by advances in Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS) and Information and Communications Technologies (ICT), particularly in terms of enhanced connectivity, productivity, accessibility, safety and security, and environmental performance, and affirm that these new technologies can significantly improve the overall performance of the transport sector.
- **recognise** the importance of harnessing the potential provided by ITS and ICT to enable more effective use of current infrastructure and transport services, better inform decision-making by producers and consumers of transport services, and encourage behavioural change.

- **underline** the need to put in place strong and transparent privacy safeguards for personal data.
- **promote** further research into ground-breaking technologies to improve energy efficiency, reduce air emissions, and improve safety.
- **encourage** international partnerships and collaboration with industry and civil society and on national and global levels to evaluate and demonstrate the effects of these new technologies while optimising resources and sharing good practice.
- **call for** development as appropriate of international standards for implementing new technologies alongside agreed safety and privacy protocols, and remain committed to their development in recognised international transport organisations.

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