

MEDIA RELEASE

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Viegas welcomes UN High-level group's Sustainable Transport report

ITF Secretary-General sees shift to providing access rather than reducing travel times

José Viegas, Secretary-General of the International Transport Forum, the Paris based intergovernmental policy think tank attached to the OECD, has welcomed the *Global Sustainable Transport Outlook report entitled "Mobilizing Sustainable Transport for Development"* issued by the UN Secretary-General's High-level Advisory Group on Sustainable Transport, on 28 October.

"Sustainable transport drives sustainable development. It is fundamental to meeting the needs of people in their personal and economic lives, while maintaining the ability of future generations to meet theirs", said Viegas.

The ITF Secretary-General, who was appointed to the High-level Group in September 2015, specifically applauded the report's move away from a concept of mobility focused on motorised transport and improving traffic speed to the notion of **transport as an enabler of access** and prioritising quality of life.

"Transport is not an end in itself. It is a means for access to jobs, markets, education, health services, cultural interaction and a whole range of other services and amenities that contribute to healthy and fulfilling lives", Viegas said.

Viegas also highlighted that the report:

- ▶ Recognises the **Avoid-Shift-Improve** approach of reducing unnecessary mobility ("avoid"), moving towards more energy-efficient forms of mobility ("shift") and enhancing the sustainability and efficiency of existing forms of mobility ("improve") as a useful framework for assessing transport measures and for taking action in support of sustainable transport.
- ▶ Highlights the importance of an integrated, **holistic approach to policy and investment** decisions and the benefits of engaging a wide range of stakeholders and funding sources.
- ▶ Emphasises the high priority for **developing cleaner fuels**.

- ▶ Puts particular weight on the needs, challenges and opportunities in **developing countries**.

The High-level Advisory Group on Sustainable Transport was created by UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon in 2014 to develop actionable policy recommendations on sustainable transport at national, local and sectoral levels, and to promote the integration of sustainable transport both in development strategies and climate action.

Said Viegas: "I was delighted to work with Secretary-General Ban's High-level Advisory Group, composed of transport actors from very different national contexts and positions in the sector. It sends a strong signal that this diverse group was able to come to a consensus on a report that sets clear priorities and guidelines that can help societies at different levels of economic development to move towards more sustainable transport solutions."

[Full report *Global Sustainable Transport Outlook "Mobilizing Sustainable Transport for Development"* on the UN website](#)

[Related ITF press release](#) (September 2015)

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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 a think tank for transport policy and organises the Annual Summit of transport ministers. The ITF is the only global body that covers all transport modes. The ITF is administratively integrated with the OECD, yet politically autonomous.

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. The ITF's Annual Summit is the world's largest gathering of transport ministers and the leading global platform for dialogue on transport policy.

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