Eighty-First Session of the Commission

# Side Event Concept Note

# Transforming Urban Transport for a Resilient and Sustainable Future

**Date:** 22 April 2025, 12:45 – 13:45 (GMT +7)

**Location:** In-person (Conference Room CR 3, United Nations Conference Centre, Bangkok) & online (Zoom)

**Co-Organizers:**

- Global Sustainable Transport Innovation and Knowledge Center (GSTIKC), China
- Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO), United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
- International Transport Forum (ITF)
- ESCAP Transport Division

**Registration link:** https://forms.office.com/e/z0GzphMd2w

**All in-person participants are required to register online at:** https://indico.un.org/e/CS81

**Event format:** The event will be held in hybrid format in English only.

**Zoom link:** https://zoom.us/j/91279978590

## Background

Sustainable urban transport is essential for designing low-carbon and resilient cities. It has a vital role in ensuring accessibility and social equity while supporting economic growth. However, this is not without challenges. Policymakers must reconcile individual mobility needs and desires with broader societal imperatives, such as reducing air pollution, promoting inclusive access, and easing congestion. The challenges of balancing these are particularly pressing in Asia and the Pacific, where growing urban populations highlight the evolving need for efficient, low-emission, and well-connected urban transport solutions that enhance sustainable urban development. This includes improving first- and last-mile connectivity to ensure seamless access to public transport systems, better integrating active mobility, and expanding electric and shared mobility solutions to reduce emissions and promote efficient and green transport. At the same time, digital innovation and data-driven planning can enhance service reliability and help transport systems adapt to disruptions. Equally critical is ensuring access for vulnerable users such as low-income individuals, women and persons with disabilities, who often experience the greatest mobility barriers.

## Event Objective and Scope

### Objectives

- Highlight strategies for strengthening urban transport connectivity through improved first- and last-mile mobility and better integration of active mobility.
- Showcase the role of electrification and shared e-mobility in reducing air pollution and enhancing sustainable urban mobility.

- Explore the potential of data-driven transport planning and digitalization to improve service reliability and resilience in urban transport systems.
- Raise awareness of the importance of equitable access, particularly for low-income commuters, women, persons with disabilities, and informal transport workers.

**Scope**

This side event will feature expert presentations on key strategies for advancing sustainable urban transport in Asia and the Pacific. Discussions will focus on enhancing accessibility, promoting electric mobility, utilizing data-driven solutions, and improving equity. The side event aims to inform policy makers on various policy approaches, emerging technologies, and best practices on planning and developing low-carbon, efficient, inclusive and resilient urban mobility systems and encourage regional collaboration in building sustainable, accessible and resilient urban transport systems.

## Tentative Programme

**Moderator: Ms. Katrin Lugar, Chief, Transport Policy and Research Section, Transport Division**

| Time | Programme |
|---|---|
| 10 minutes | **Opening Remarks**<br>• ***Ms. Lin Yang, Deputy Executive Secretary, ESCAP***<br>• ***Mr. Young Tae Kim, Secretary General, International Transport Forum*** |
| | **Thematic Presentations** |
| 40 minutes | • Urban Transport and Innovative Technology: ***Mr. Tim Dobermann, Director of Research, International Growth Centre (IGC), UK***<br>• Achieving Cleaner and More Connected Cities with Electric Mobility- Experience from China, ***Ms. Si Liu, Researcher, Global Sustainable Transport Innovation and Knowledge Center (GSTIKC), China***<br>• Using Data and Digitalization to Build Resilient Urban Transport Systems, ***Mr. Nicholas Caros, Transport Policy Analyst, International Transport Forum***<br>• Developing Sustainable and Inclusive Urban Public Transport System - Experience from Nepal: ***Mr. Subha Raj Neupane, Superintending Engineer, Federal Road Supervision and Monitoring Office, Ministry of Physical Infrastructure and Transport, Nepal***<br>• Gender, Urban Transport and Innovation: ***Ms. Girija Borker, Senior Gender Expert, ieConnect*** |
| 10 minutes | **Questions and Answers**<br>**Closing** |

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