Transport Commitments made at the UN Secretary General's Climate Summit and emerging initiatives offer opportunity for Transformative Change of the transport sector

The upcoming 21st Session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), otherwise known as Paris 2015 or COP21, provides a global stage to highlight the importance of climate action by all sectors – with climate actions on transport central among these. To this end the efforts will build on the tremendous momentum and specific transport announcements delivered on 23 September 2014 at the UN Secretary General Ban Ki-Moon hosted Climate Summit in New York which mobilized international action on climate change.

The actions on transport presented at the Climate summit in particular can result in scaling up public transport and make it the number one choice for travel; greater use of more efficient rail and public transport; accelerated introduction of urban electric transport; more fuel efficient passenger vehicles; and action plans on green freight. Collectively they can reduce the carbon footprint of at least half of all the passenger and freight trips made by 2025. These actions, together with possible new and additional commitments being developed on cycling, zero emission vehicles, water borne transport, urban mobility planning and greener roads will be key in implementing ambitious action on climate change. Evidence shows that actions such as these can result in savings of $70 trillion by 2050 as less money would be need be invested in vehicles, fuel and transport infrastructure reflecting the strong economic case for climate action.

The UIC Low Carbon Sustainable Rail Transport Challenge - Rail is a solution to climate change

- 50% reduction in CO2 emissions from train operations by 2030, and 75% reduction by 2050 (specific average CO2 relative to a 1990 base line - i.e. reduction of emissions per passenger / km + tonne/km)
- 50% reduction in energy consumption fro train operations by 2030, and 60% reduction by 2050 (specific final energy relative to 1990 baseline)
- 50% increase in rail’s share of passenger transportation by 2030 and doubling by 2050 (2010 baseline)
- Rail freight activity equal to that of road freight by 2030, and exceeding road freight volumes 50% by 2050

For more information, please see, UIC Low Carbon Rail Transport Challenge-Action Plan
Focal point: Nick Craven, International Union of Railways (UIC), Craven@uic.org

UITP Declaration on Climate Change Leadership - Supporting Our Goal to Double the Market Share of Public Transport by 2025

- UITP confirms public transport’s leadership in climate action and brings around 350 commitments and actions from 110 public transport undertakings
- Actions aimed at giving a greater role to public transport in mobility help decrease the regions carbon footprint. For example every additional tonne due to more public transport in New York and Rio, delivers a reduction of up to 7 tonnes of wider CO2
- Actions will also help organisations meet their emissions reduction targets, such as London's public transport stretch target to cut CO2 emissions per passenger km by 40% by 2025 and Montreal's GHG emissions intensity (gCO2e/passenger-km) reduction targets by 20% by 2020
- These actions will also support UITP’s goal to double the market share of public by 2025, which prevent half a billion tons CO2 equivalent in 2025

For more information, please see, International Association of Public Transport Action Plan
Focal point: Philip Turner, International Association of Public transport, Philip.turner@uitp.org

Urban Electric Mobility Initiative - Harnessing Technological Innovations and Better Urban Planning to Promote Low Carbon Transport

- Increase the market share of electric vehicles in cities to at least 30% of all new vehicles (including cars and motorized 2-3 wheelers) sold on annual basis by 2030 while simultaneously developing the enabling infrastructure for their effective use
- Through increased use of electric mobility for passenger transport (both private and public) as well as freight transport combined with measures to reduce the need for individualized motorized transport and increased use of public transport and non-motorized transport achieve a 30% reduction of CO2 emissions in urban areas by 2030

For more information, please see, Urban Electric Mobility Initiative-Action Plan
Focal point: Andre Dzikus, United Nations Human Settlement Program (UN-Habitat), Andre.dzikus@unhabitat.org
Vehicle Fuel Efficiency Accelerator - We have the technology to double fuel economy and reduce fuel waste. Now we need the Policy

- Achieving the Global Fuel Economy Initiative (GFEI) target, of doubling by 2030 the efficiency of all new vehicles and by 2050 the complete global vehicle fleet, would save over 1 Gt of CO₂ a year by 2025 and over 2 Gt/yr by 2050, and results in savings in annual oil import bills alone worth over USD 300 billion in 2025 and USD 600 billion in 2050
- Countries working with the GFEI under this accelerator are committing to develop national fuel economy policies, with support from the private sector and NGOs at national level, and globally by international finance institutions, UN agencies and donors
- This Accelerator has detailed plans to build support and engagement with this work up to and beyond the COP in Paris 2015. The GFEI’s ‘100 for 50by50’ campaign aims to engage 100 countries in the GFEI’s work as a practical contribution to COP21

For more information, please see, Energy Efficiency Accelerator Platform - Action Statement
Focal point: Sheila Watson, Global Fuel Economy Initiative, info@globalfueleconomy.org

Global Green Freight Action Plan - Green Freight Programs as Catalysts for More Efficient and Environmentally Sustainable Goods Movement

- Aligning and enhancing existing green freight through knowledge sharing, peer-to-peer partnerships, and government industry exchanges that will build a bridge between policy makers, business leaders and civil society at the global level
- Expanding and improving green freight in interested countries; and
- Identifying ways to incorporate black carbon, particulate matter and other air pollutant emission reduction calculations in green freight programs

For more information, please see, Global Green Freight Action Plan- Action Statement
Focal Points: The Secretariat of the Climate and Clean Air Coalition (CCAC) atccac_secretariat@unep.org and the Green Freight Steering Group at rachel@theicct.org.

Sustainable Urban Mobility: Do you have a Plan? - Sustainable urban mobility planning to reduce GHG emissions in urban transport

- Engage 100 developing cities into Sustainable Urban Mobility Plan (SUMP) before 2020 to improve urban transport for both passengers and goods in order to reduce CO₂ emissions through comprehensive policies;
- Build support and capacity to implement national sustainable urban mobility policies based on SUMPs at local level in 12 to 15 developing countries
- Foster the development of Measuring, Reporting and Verification systems in order to register the national sustainable urban mobility as a Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Actions (NAMAs)
- 50 % reduction in CO₂ emissions from urban mobility by 2050 in cities that implement a SUMP

For more information, please see, www.codatu.org
Focal point: Julien Allaire, CODATU, jallaire@codatu.org

Voluntary Commitment from World Cycling Alliance (WCA) and European Cyclists’ Federation (ECF) - modal shift to cycling worldwide and doubling cycling in Europe by 2020

- Show the importance of cycling to achieve the new UN Sustainable Development Goals, with special attention to climate action
- Showcase the ambitions of cities to increase the modal share of cycling worldwide and to double cycling in Europe by 2020
- Mobilize support of WCA and ECF members to enable local, national and international governments and institutions to scale up action on cycling

For more information, please see, www.ecf.com
Focal point: Bernhard Ensink, European Cyclists’ Federation and World Cycling Alliance, b.ensink@ecf.com