

## Panel I - Inland Transport Committee –

### *Special Envoy Remarks*

**20 February 2018 – 11:30 – 13:00**

**Palais Des Nations – Salle XII**

*Panel I: ITC – Intermodality leads to sustainability*

- *Moderator: Young Tae Kim, Secretary-General, International Transport Forum*
- Peter Gašperšič, Minister of Infrastructure of Slovenia
- TBC - Minister of Transport
- Matthew Baldwin, Deputy Director General, DG MOVE, European Commission
- **Jean Todt, United Nations Secretary-General's Special Envoy for Road Safety**
- Jean-Pierre Loubinoux, Director-General, International Union of Railways (UIC)
- Nancy Vandycke, Coordinator, Sustainable Mobility for All (SuM4All), World Bank

#### **REMARKS (7 Min)**

Thank you, Moderator  
Excellencies,  
Dear colleagues,

I am very pleased to be here along with so many key decision makers who are committed to improving transport. Sustainable transport and mobility is a very complex concept, encompassing a combination of elements:

Affordable public transport, investment in infrastructure for motorized and non-motorized transport, as well as environmentally friendly, connected, efficient intermodal transport options.

These elements must align with urban planning, land management, border-crossings and other relevant policies. As complex as they are, transport and mobility can only be sustainable if they are also safe.

Simple to say, but much more difficult to achieve...

1.25 million people die on the roads every year, as pedestrians, cyclists, motorists, passengers, public transport users, or commercial vehicle drivers.

And more than 90 percent of these deaths are accounted for in low- and middle- income countries.

Up to an estimated 50 million more are injured.

As countries develop, there is no doubt that the role of transport will simultaneously grow.

This means it will be even more vehicles and new road networks, and we will see an ever-growing movement of people and goods.

In fact, it is estimated that there will be a 50 percent increase in passenger traffic and a 70 percent increase in freight traffic by 2030.

Furthermore, 1.2 billion cars are expected to be on the road by 2050.

How do we ensure that transport is not taking the lives of those it aims to serve? How do we ensure that it will not continue to result in road injuries that, today, are the leading cause of death for young people aged 15-29?

Well, maybe “intermodality” could be part of the solution. As the demand for mobility and transport continues to rise, intermodality must become an essence of transport, if we are to build more sustainable transport systems.

We know there are more efficient, and most importantly, safer, ways to transport than what we know and practice today.

When we consider the expansion of public transport, the impact could be tremendous. An increase in public transport trips per capita has been associated with a decrease in traffic fatality rates.

It is estimated that when the use of public transport increases from 10 to 20 percent of total trips, traffic fatalities are reduced by 15 percent. In developing cities such as Bogota, Colombia, implementation of the Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) System – coupled with quality infrastructure - has shown a marked improvement in safety.

There are similar results when walking and cycling are promoted. For example, New York City, Minneapolis and Copenhagen have reported improvements, particularly in safety, after they have installed quality infrastructure for cyclists and pedestrians - protecting the most vulnerable road users.

However, in many parts of the world, these modalities are often inaccessible or pose serious safety risks.

Inaccessibility to safe and affordable multimodal transport options, amidst the increasing demand in mobility, can explain the rise of private vehicle ownership, including motorcycles.

It is clear that providing more transport options and connectivity can provide us tremendous benefits, in safety and beyond. For one, intermodality could help curb the expected doubling of the number of cars on the roads by 2050, which would have implications far beyond the transport sector.

For intermodal transport to be fully realized and sustainable, however, its rise must be coupled with a decrease in road traffic fatalities.

For this, the work of the Inland Transport Committee is critical. The UN transport legal instruments are the basis for strong regulatory framework and could help facilitate sustainable intermodal transport, including safety, efficiency and environmental considerations.

I have been promoting road safety related legal instruments in my role as United Nations Secretary-General's Special Envoy for Road Safety.

In addition, another key priority since my appointment has been to call for the establishment of a dedicated UN Fund for Road Safety.

As shared earlier, with the positive support from the United Nations Secretary General, we are moving forward with the next steps of its establishment.

UNECE estimates that every \$100 million contributed to the Road Safety Fund, would support:

- the leveraging of \$3.4 billion of country and city road safety investment;
- the saving of 64,000 lives; and
- the averting of 640,000 serious injuries.

The road safety fund would account for a holistic approach, supporting activities that encourage more sustainable (and safer) transport options.

The Fund would support initiatives under the five pillars of the decade of action, allowing for possible activities that encourage safer intermodal transport. Success in road safety and intermodality go hand in hand.

I hope that we can count on your support during the next stages of the Fund's establishment including consideration of contributions.

With the inclusion of road safety and transport into the SDGs and other global frameworks as well as with the promise of renewed funding on the issue, we can be encouraged that we are making progress towards our shared goals.

As much as road safety can contribute to creating sustainable transport – sustainable and intermodal transport can also contribute to decreasing the number of lives lost on the roads, and in turn a more resilient, healthier and sustainable world.

Thank you for your attention.