

UNITED NATIONS



NATIONS UNIES

THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

**MESSAGE ON THE 70TH ANNIVERSARY
OF THE UNECE INLAND TRANSPORT COMMITTEE
Geneva, 21 February 2017**

I am pleased to greet the Inland Transport Committee of UNECE on its 70th anniversary.

Sustainable transport is vital in adapting to climate change, fostering development and ensuring peace and stability. The growing transport sector links markets, facilitates trade and is a major employer and source of revenue. Success in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, and in implementing the Paris Agreement on climate change and New Urban Agenda, will require affordable, efficient and environmentally sound transport systems.

At the same time, the transport sector itself consumes significant energy resources, generating air and noise pollution as well as greenhouse gas emissions. I encourage the sector's leaders to show strong political commitment to a low-carbon transport future. We also need to do more to reduce road crashes and other traffic accidents.

The legal instruments under the purview of the Inland Transport Committee provide a universally applicable framework to reap the benefits of the transport sector while managing it in a sustainable way. The United Nations will continue to partner with you as we strive together to innovate, cooperate, share lessons and take action that will meet the demands for mobility and transport while reducing their negative impacts. I also call on Member States to join UN Transport Conventions and carry out their provisions.

Thank you for your important work. Please accept my best wishes for success in your deliberations.