

Malaysia

United Nations Nations Unies

Secretary-General's Global Sustainable Transport Conference
Hosted by the Government of Turkmenistan
Ashgabat, Turkmenistan
26 – 27 November 2016

Plenary session with statements of commitment and ambition
Statements by ministerial-level participants

His Excellency Ban Ki-moon
Secretary-General of the United Nations,

Excellencies,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Good Morning,

Introduction

1. I am truly delighted to be here in Ashgabat, Turkmenistan to participate in this Global Sustainable Transport Conference this morning.
2. It gives me great honour to address this conference on behalf of the Government of Malaysia.
3. I wish to also express my appreciation to His Excellency Ban Ki-moon, Secretary-General of the United Nations for his leadership and able stewardship.

The Importance of Transport

Excellencies,

4. An efficient and integrated transport system is imperative to increase economic competitiveness and facilitate integration with the global economy. Transport is without doubt, a catalyst for economic growth. The importance of transport's role, its contribution and the need for further development of transport infrastructure to enhance transport linkages and connectivity is well recognized.

5. Therefore, sustainable transport is crucial to ensure the freedom of mobility of both, people and goods, without sacrificing essential human or ecological values including affordability for socially disadvantaged groups and the long-term financial feasibility of transport systems.

Malaysia`s commitment for SDGs

6. Malaysia is committed to support and implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Looking at the current development strategies and goals of the country, I am pleased to inform that Malaysia is on the right track towards achieving the global SDG Agenda, particularly in the transport sector.

7. In supporting the SDG agenda on climate change, Malaysia has pledged commitment to reduce its greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions for up to 45% in terms of emission intensity of GDP by the year 2030. The commitment is conditional to technology transfer and financial support from developed countries.

Eleventh Malaysia Plan 2016-2020

8. The Eleventh Malaysia Plan 2016-2020, a plan formulated prioritising the wellbeing of the people across all development efforts, in many aspects mirrors the multi-dimensional nature of the SDGs and will serve as an overarching and guiding policy for sustainable development in this country.

9. With the theme “Anchoring Growth on People”, the Eleventh Malaysia Plan sets out six strategic thrusts designed to drive the economy forward, address challenges and embrace opportunities in the rapidly changing global landscape. Global sustainable development goals are integrated into the planning framework as part of the national outcomes for the strategic thrusts.

Green Growth Strategy For Development

10. Recognizing the importance of conserving our environment for our future generations and the increasingly extreme changes in weather events, the fourth thrust of the Eleventh Malaysia Plan will focus exclusively on adopting green growth strategy for development. It represents Malaysia’s strong commitment towards the environment and its long-term sustainability.

11. While Malaysia’s development plans are extensive, it is important however to examine areas where the SDGs can further enrich our development plans. This is to ensure that our development aspirations are aligned comprehensively to the Post 2030 Agenda.

12. To achieve these outcomes, Malaysia will be focusing on four key areas in pursuing green growth for sustainability and resilience:

- (a) Strengthening the enabling environment for green growth;
- (b) Adopting the sustainable consumption and production concept;
- (c) Conserving natural resources for present and future generations; and
- (d) Strengthening resilience against climate change and natural disasters.

Encouraging Low Carbon Mobility

13. The transportation sector in Malaysia accounts for approximately 35% of the total energy consumed nationally, and produces nearly 50 million metric tons of Carbon Dioxide (CO₂) in 2015, second only to electricity power generation.

14. Out of this, 85.2% of transportation emissions comes from road transport. This is due to the high rate of personal automobile ownership, where cars account for about 59% of the overall emissions from transport, while freight contributes 27%.

15. In facing these challenges, one of the strategies in adopting the sustainable consumption and production concept under the Eleventh Malaysia Plan is by encouraging low carbon mobility. This is in line with SDG's goal of making cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable as well as taking urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts.

Encourage The Usage Of Public Transport

16. Low carbon mobility emphasises on the usage of public transport, which emits nearly half of a single occupant car's carbon footprint. By encouraging the use of public transport, we can reduce congestion and at the same time minimise environmental pollution.

17. There are several mechanisms to reduce energy consumption and emissions of harmful gases including black smoke of the transport sector.

Energy Efficient Vehicles (EEVs)

18. These include using energy efficient vehicles (EEVs), increasing the use of biofuels and compressed natural gas (CNG), placing higher fuel standards to reduce air pollution and increasing the use of public transportation as the preferred mode by providing a seamless and reliable modal mix of transportation.

19. This will eventually reduce overdependency on private vehicles.

20. Furthermore, the use of EEVs is in line with the objectives of the National Automotive Policy (NAP) 2014. EEVs can contribute to minimising the impact on the environment in terms of reducing dependency on fossil fuel and fuel wastage as well as emission of harmful gases and black smoke.

21. The Government is working with relevant agencies to increase adoption of EEVs, especially for public transport like buses and taxis.

Public Transport Investments

22. Malaysia is currently actively embarking on massive public transport investments in cities – including Mass Rapid Transit (MRT) systems in Greater Kuala Lumpur/Klang Valley (GKL/KV) and bus systems in other state capitals. This is in line with our target to achieve 40% public transport modal share in GKL/KV and 20% in other cities.

23. The Government will also work towards increasing bio-diesel blending requirements of up to 15% in automotive fuel and implementing the EURO 5 emission standards during the Eleventh Malaysia Plan including promoting the use of Compressed Natural Gas (CNG).

Road Safety Initiative

Excellencies,

24. In making our cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable, Malaysia has launched several initiatives including the Blackspot Mitigation Programme and Road Safety Audit.

25. Through these programmes, it is estimated that the national road fatalities will be reduced by 50% by 2020, in line with the recommendations of the United Nations Decade of Action for Road Safety 2011-2020 while the response time to address road hazards, including landslides and potholes, will be shortened.

GMBM

Excellencies,

26. Recently, the International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO) during its 39th Assembly adopted a Resolution for the establishment of

Global Market Based Measure to offset CO2 emissions from international aviation and contribute to the carbon neutral growth of the sector from 2020 onwards.

27. Malaysia is committed to the 2020 goal of reducing carbon emissions by 40%, a challenge we can meet – together. To that end, we have pledged to support ICAO's Global Market-Based Measures.

GREEN PORT INITIATIVE

28. In the maritime sector, while there is still room to improve sustainable policies, our ports have taken the first step to develop a 'Green Port Policy' – a Johor Port Authority initiative. The policy is a general guide for all port operators moving towards green port environment and will act as a catalyst towards more sustainable port operation and development in Malaysia.

29. The implementation of the SDGs within the context of our five-year development plans will require a whole-of-government-approach, which will allow limited resources and funding to be optimised by implementing integrated the collaborative programmes that can benefit all parties. Malaysia has successfully applied this approach through the National Blue Ocean Strategy and we will continue to do so in the case of the SDGs.

CLOSING

30. Last but not least, I wish to thank the United Nations and the Turkmenistan Government for bringing together all the stakeholders to this Conference and I am sure we will have a fruitful session ahead.

Thank you.