SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORTATION FOR THE 2030 AGENDA: BOOSTING THE ARTERIES OF GLOBAL TRADE

Thursday 21 July, 11:30-13:00
Kenyatta International Convention Centre, Nairobi

DESCRIPTION

Achieving sustainable transport has long been recognized as a key development objective (e.g. 1992 Earth Summit, UNCTAD XIII, Rio+20, UN SG HLAG on Sustainable Transport). More recently, transport, including freight transport, had been mainstreamed into the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (ASD/SDGs) and has benefited from greater visibility at COP21. While no SDG is directly and explicitly dedicated to transport, the fact that transport-related targets are included in various SDGs (Goals 2, 3, 6, 7, 9, 11, 12, 13) illustrates the essential cross-cutting role of transport within sustainable development. In addition to the importance of achieving sustainability in the transport sector per se to ensure effective implementation of a sustainable development path, all SDGs are, to a considerable extent, also dependent on transport as a vital “enabler” to meet their targets.

While freight transport has generally received less attention than passenger transport, the importance of freight transport for a workable sustainable development agenda is emerging as an important development in the international sustainability and climate policy debate. The importance of freight transport is further emphasized by the projected increase in global freight transport volumes and related implications for economies, societies and the environment. In this respect, estimates by the International Transport Forum suggest that world freight transport volumes are expected to quadruple by 2050, driven in particular by economic growth in developing countries. One third of global trade in 2050 is also projected to take place between developing economies (compared to 15% in 2010).

Against this background, promoting Sustainable Freight Transport as a multidimensional concept that entails generating economic, social and environmental value is an imperative. However, as the application of the sustainable freight transport concept may vary from country-to-country, region-to-region, as well as among the various industry players, there is a need to further define the concept, in particular by identifying the requirements that should be met for freight transport to be sustainable.

A better understanding of the concept and its scope is critical for defining coherent strategies that promote sustainable freight transport systems. An agreed common International Framework for Sustainable Freight Transport is required. By, inter alia, defining the scope of sustainable freight transport as well as setting related goals and performance tracking mechanisms, the Framework will promote a shared vision of what sustainability in freight transport entails. It will also support the design, formulation and implementation of considered and coherent sustainable freight transport policies and strategies that promote effective implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the 2015 Paris Climate Agreement.
KEY ISSUES
A roundtable at UNCTAD 14 called Sustainable Transportation for Agenda 2030: Boosting the Arteries of Global Trade and organized in collaboration with SLoCaT (the Partnership on Sustainable, Low Carbon Transport), will bring together government representatives, intergovernmental organizations, civil society groups and academia as well as key industry players from shipping, road haulage, and logistics sectors and financial institutions, among others. Panelists at the roundtable will:

- Discuss the key principles of sustainable freight transport and create a shared vision of what sustainable freight transport entails;
- Identify core elements required to establish a common International Framework for Sustainable Freight Transport;
- Identify key stakeholders, partners and their respective roles;
- Assess needs and gaps as well as next steps aimed at establishing an agreed common International Framework for Sustainable Freight Transport.

The discussions will set the pace for future action, and articulate the way forward including in terms of relevant follow-up actions by UNCTAD and its development partners.

PANELISTS
Moderator: Mr. Cornie Huizenga, Secretary General, Partnership on Sustainable, Low Carbon Transport (SLoCaT)
Opening Remarks: Ms. Shamika Sirimanne, Director, Division on Technology and Logistics, UNCTAD

- H.E. James Wainaina Macharia, Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of Transport, Infrastructure, Housing and Urban Development, Kenya.
- Mr. Erik Bromander, State Secretary, Ministry of Enterprise and Innovation, Sweden.
- Mr. Tom Boardley, Executive Vice President, Lloyd’s Register.
- Mr. Auni Bhaijji, Regional Director Development and External Affairs, Bolloré Africa Logistics.
- Dr. Aisa Kirabo Kacyira, Deputy Executive Director and Assistant Secretary-General, UN-HABITAT.
- Dr. Carlos Alberto Gonzalez-Calderon, Research Associate, VREF Center of Excellence Sustainable Urban Freight Systems.
- Mr. Amadou Oumarou, Director, Transport, Urban Development & ICT Department, African Development Bank.

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