

PUBLIC TRANSPORT LEADERS FORUM'S DECLARATION ONE PLANET, ONE PLAN

The International Association of Public Transport (UITP) held its Leaders Forum on 6 September 2019 in Barcelona, Spain. The Leaders Forum is composed of executives of 40 public transport organisations from 23 countries who gather to discuss key topics linked to sustainable urban mobility. The following text is the expression of common declaration by the members on the fight against the climate crisis.

On 23 September 2019, world's leaders will answer the United Nations' Secretary General call and meet in New York, United States of America, to discuss concrete, realistic plans to enhance "their nationally determined contributions by 2020, in line with reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 45 per cent over the next decade, and to net zero emissions by 2050".

Urban transport accounts for roughly 40 per cent of emissions from the entire transport sector, public transport is thus a vital weapon in the fight against the climate crisis. By moving more people from individual vehicles and on to public transport, the sector can play a large part in reducing both local emissions and global warming and improving the quality of life in cities.

The Public transport actors are already engaged in the fight against climate change, as they are implementing concrete strategies and measures to reduce or offset CO₂ emissions, innovate to reduce plastic waste or water consumption and taking so many others actions to improve their corporate citizen's role in their communities. As an example, the members of the Leaders Forum are taking internal commitments, such as, for example, replacing existing fleet by clean vehicles, using renewable energy, recycling tires, reusing heat from the subway system to reach carbon neutrality by 2050.

The public transport sector is calling on policy decision makers to take action instead of encouraging car use, it must be recognised that public transport has the tools to tackle the urban mobility challenges currently faced by our cities in order to advance the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) agenda.

By investing in sustainable urban mobility and doubling the market share of public transport, cities and governments can prevent the emission of greenhouse gas emissions equivalent to 550 million tonnes of carbon dioxide (CO₂) by the year 2025 compared to 2005.

Given that only 35 per cent of the state actors involved in the Paris Agreement in 2015 are including public transport as part of their climate action plans, **the public transport sector is calling on decision makers to take action: commit to invest and develop public transport as it is one of the main tools to tackle the urban mobility challenges and ensure healthy and liveable cities. Per passenger, public transport needs 3 to 4 times less energy than private cars.**

The Public Transport Leaders Forum is calling decision-makers to implement the following four-step plan in a common gesture to save our planet from the consequences of the climate crisis while improving air quality:

1. **PRIORITISE accessible, safe, breathable and walkable streets through urban planning**, by involving careful coordination of land-use and mobility long-term planning with the participation of all the stakeholders from the beginning of the project.
2. **STRENGTHEN public transport's role as the backbone of all mobility service**, by shifting individually-used transport in cities to more sustainable modes as part of an integrated public transport system to provide door-to-door seamless journeys that eliminate the need for a private car.

3. **GUARANTEE financial incentives and a regulatory framework for an emission transition** by providing incentive schemes to local public transport stakeholders to invest in electric vehicles and other clean-fuelled vehicles to reduce emissions. Policy makers should scale down and eliminate inefficient fossil fuel subsidies by national and sub-national governments.

4. **ENSURE renewable energy sources are accessible to further reduce carbon footprint** by ensuring that the space and necessary funding is available to construct renewable energy facilities, or provide financial incentives for companies powering their vehicles with renewable energy sources.

As the modern world is bracing to face one of its most important challenge yet that is the climate crisis, the public transport sector is inviting the world leaders to look towards sustainable urban mobility actors as allies in this common fight, as well as a concrete solution to drastically lower the levels of emissions of CO2.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The international Association of Public transport would like to thank the members of the Public Transport CEO Forum for their participation and their commitment to providing millions of passengers from around the world with sustainable urban mobility solutions.

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Kölnener Verkehrs-Betriebe (Germany)
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Transport for London (United Kingdom)

The Go-Ahead Group PLC (United Kingdom)

Transport for West Midlands (United Kingdom)

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