



UIC participates in the UN High Level Advisory Group on Sustainable Transport

(Paris, 21 November 2014) On 17 and 18 November, UIC participated in the first of the Secretary-General's High Level Advisory Group meetings on Sustainable Transport at the United Nations in New York. The aim of these meetings was to discuss priorities, work plans and methods of work of this High Level Group set up by UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon last August. The meeting on 17 November was launched by WU Hongbo, UN Under Secretary-General and Nikhil Seth, Executive Secretary. Olof Persson (Sweden), Chief Executive Officer of the Volvo Group, and Co-Chair moderated the meeting. Each Member of this Group had the opportunity to make comments and to propose some inputs.

Members of the group also had the opportunity to meet Secretary-General' Ban ki-moon directly on 18 November. Jean-Pierre Loubinoux, UIC Director General, appointed last August by the UN Secretary General as one of the Members of this High Level Group, highlighted some ideas serving the aims of common discussions.

He said: *"Of the various positions that can be proposed to sustain the development of transport for all modes around the world, it seems necessary to use the common experience of our group to develop very pragmatic approaches. One basic consideration is to have an approach towards sustainability and sustainable development in terms of accessibility; and in this respect UIC and the rail operating community worldwide, with 240 members in 95 countries, is trying to pursue the search for accessibility for directions, which I would call the four "Is".*

- The first "I" is INFRASTRUCTURE – whether rail, road or waterway – and access to infrastructure is obviously key to accessibility for the mobility of goods and people. Infrastructure is costly and more than ever the scarcity of resources calls for the optimisation of their complementarity.
- The second "I" is for INNOVATION. In terms of transport, many single ideas can be promoted – more in some modes than others – and there as well innovation in terms of modal complementarity and interfaces, and interfacing modes of transport is a domain which can certainly be further developed by appealing to universities, research centres to ministers in charge of research and development, to finance this innovation among the young population of students and researchers.
- The third "I" is for INTELLIGENCE, as especially for rail transport, the accumulated knowledge of past generations is gradually disappearing with retirement, whereas younger generations have not continued this work in sufficient numbers in this field. Therefore the transfer of knowledge through professional education is important with a vision of the news ideas, governance and management needed by a globalised world and the development of corridors between countries and cultures.

- The fourth “I” would be INTERMODAL. As I said before and above, the complementarity of modes is probably the new key philosophical approach to be developed not in opposition, but in the improvement of the benefits brought about so far by intra-modal or inter-modal competition. The basic concern in all transport modes is the satisfaction of customer needs which defend the door-to-door logistics chain. This in turn calls for a more intelligent interfacing of these modes and the intelligent new concept of passenger hubs or goods hubs to interconnect people and goods. This is what I would call a new approach, comparable to a marketing approach in terms of transport mix”.

Among other things, the Group will look for practical ways to unlock the potential of sustainable transport to contribute to poverty alleviation, sustainable growth and sustainable urbanisation. It was noted that to achieve this goal, all modes of transport must be considered, including aviation, marine, ferry, rail and road.

The Group agreed to address a whole range of issues essential to transport, including access, accessibility, affordability, efficiency, climate and environmental impacts, public health and safety.

To accomplish its goals, the Group will provide a global message and recommendations on sustainable transport. It will launch a “Global Transport Outlook Report” by July 2016 to provide analytical support for these recommendations and help mobilise action and initiatives in support of sustainable transport on the global, regional, and local and sector levels, with a particular focus on urbanisation.

The Group will support the organisation of the Global Sustainable Transport Conference that will be convened by the Secretary-General towards the end of 2016. It will promote the integration of sustainable transport in relevant intergovernmental processes, including by making recommendations on the formulation and implementation of the post-2015 development agenda.

Members of the Secretary-General’s High-Level Advisory Group on Sustainable Transport

- Olof Persson (Sweden), Chief Executive Officer of the Volvo Group, Co-Chair
- Carolina Tohá (Chile), Mayor of Santiago, Chile, Co-Chair
- Frank Appel (Germany), Chief Executive Officer of Deutsche Post DHL
- Milica Bajic-Brkovic (Serbia), President of the International Society of City and Regional Planners.
- Morten Engelstoft (Denmark), CEO of Services & Other Shipping
- Alain Flausch (Belgium), Secretary-General of the International Association of Public Transport (UITP)
- Maty Mint Hamady (Mauritania), Mayor of Nouakchott
- Patrick Ho (Hong Kong, China), Deputy Chairman and Secretary-General of China Energy Fund Committee
- Victor Kiryanov (Russian Federation), Deputy Minister of Interior of the Russian Federation.
- Jean Pierre Loubinoux (France), Director-General of the International Union of Railways (UIC)
- Tanya Müller García (Mexico), Secretary of Environment of Mexico City and Vice-President of the World Green Infrastructure Network
- Len Roueche (Canada), Chief Executive Officer of Interferry

For more information see: <http://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/index.php?menu=1843>

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