

GLOBAL SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORT FORUM 2026

CONCEPT NOTE

1. BACKGROUND

Transport is the artery of the economy and a bond between civilizations, playing a fundamental, pioneering and supporting role in the economic and social development of all countries. Promoting global sustainable transport is of great significance for ensuring the stable and unimpeded flow of international logistics and supply chains, as well as for advancing global economic and trade development. As an important part of sustainable development, sustainable transport is endowed with a vital supporting role in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

China is committed to enhancing global transport cooperation and providing new opportunities for the world through its own development. Since 2023, the Ministry of Transport of the People's Republic of China has successfully hosted two sessions of the Global Sustainable Transport Forum, yielding a series of practical outcomes, further deepening consensus on cooperation and pooling synergy for development. To build on these achievements, conduct in-depth discussions on issues concerning the development and cooperation of global sustainable transport, advance the implementation of the Global Development Initiative (GDI) and the Global Governance Initiative (GGI), and contribute to the implementation of the SDGs and the UN Decade of Sustainable Transport 2026-2035, the Ministry of Transport of China is scheduled to host the Global Sustainable Transport Forum (2026) in Beijing on 22-23 September 2026. The Forum will be organized by the Global Sustainable Transport Innovation and Knowledge Center (GSTIKC).

2. GLOBAL SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORT FORUM 2026

2.1. THEME

The theme of this Forum is “Sustainable Transport: Easier Movement of People and Smoother Flow of Goods”.

2.2. TOPICS

(a) Ministers' Forum: Global Governance - Implementing the GDI and GGI for deeper cooperation on sustainable transport.

Deepening global governance. We will fully implement the important consensus

reached in *Beijing Initiative* and *Beijing Vision*, improve the platform for extensive consultation, joint contribution and shared benefits, and promote the building of a closer global partnership for sustainable transport. We will focus on the modernization of transport governance, coordination of rules and integration of actions, strengthen multilateral cooperation and policy alignment, and enhance the resilience and coordinated efficiency of the global transport system through governance innovation.

(b) Thematic Session 1: Connectivity - Building an Efficient and Coordinated Integrated Transport System for Economic Globalization

Strengthening connectivity. Faced with the new situation characterized by the accelerated evolution of the global landscape, prolonged geopolitical conflicts, and regional restructuring of supply chains, we will pursue a safe, resilient, efficient and green global logistics and supply chain system, promote the liberalization and facilitation of trade and investment as well as the facilitation of cross-border transport, and make economic globalization more open, inclusive, equitable, balanced and beneficial for all.

(c) Thematic Session 2: Eco-sound Development - Pursuing Green Transport to Advance Sustainable Development Goals

Prioritizing ecological conservation. We will align with the temperature control objectives of the Paris Agreement and the global carbon neutrality process, and fully implement the green transition requirements of the UN Decade of Sustainable Transport. We will accelerate climate action and low-carbon transition in the transport sector, advance the development of green transport infrastructure, foster the global uptake of green and low-carbon transport modes, and support the comprehensive green transition of economic and social development.

(d) Thematic Session 3: Innovation-driven Development: Empowering the Transformation and Upgrading of Transport through Artificial Intelligence

Advancing innovation-driven development. We will deepen the integration of new technologies such as artificial intelligence, new energy, 5G/6G with the transport industry, and advance large-scale and systematic implementation of smart transport. Focused on smart driving, smart shipping, smart logistics and smart safety supervision, we will explore a new path for technology-industry integrated development featuring “technological breakthrough - scenario verification - industrial application - system upgrading”, reshaping transport services and governance models through innovation.

(e) Thematic Session 4: Common Development - Making Sustainable Transport

Services Universally Accessible

Promoting common development. We will share the proven experience of various countries in inclusive transport, equal access to services, and enhanced resilience, deepen North-South and South-South cooperation, and promote the provision of affordable, accessible, safe, green and inclusive transport infrastructure and services. We will leverage sustainable transport to boost rural revitalization and industrial development and improve people's livelihood, in order to narrow the development gap and achieve common prosperity.

2.3. PROGRAMME

The Forum is scheduled for two days. The venue is located in Beijing.

22 September (Tuesday)

Opening Ceremony

Plenary Session

Ministers' Forum (Implementing the GDI and GGI for Deeper Cooperation on Sustainable Transport)

Welcome Dinner

23 September (Wednesday)

Thematic Session 1 (Connectivity)

Thematic Session 2 (Eco-sound Development)

Thematic Session 3 (Innovation-driven Development)

Thematic Session 4 (Common Development)

2.4. PARTICIPANTS

State leaders and ministers of transport of relevant countries, heads of international organizations, foreign ambassadors to China, etc., are to be invited to attend the Forum and deliver speeches. Entrepreneurs and scholars from home and abroad will also be invited and give remarks.

2.5. SIDE EVENTS

A series of supporting events will be held on the sideline of the Forum, including: The Senior Officials' Meeting of the Forum, Launch of *Global Sustainable Transport Good Practices 2026*, *Global Sustainable Transport Development Report 2025* and *China's Sustainable Transport Development Report 2025*, China-Central and Eastern European Countries Transport Meeting.

2.6. DELIVERABLES

At the Forum, the *Framework for Global Sustainable Transport Development and Cooperation*, the *Global Sustainable Transport Development Report 2025* and *China's Sustainable Transport Development Report 2025* are expected to be issued. In addition, the Ministry of Transport of China looks forward to deepening its existing cooperation with the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs to facilitate the sharing of knowledge and good practices in sustainable transport.

3. GSTIKC

Chinese President Xi Jinping attaches great importance to promoting global transport cooperation. At the Opening Ceremony of the Second United Nations Global Sustainable Transport Conference on 14 October 2021, President Xi announced China will establish the Global Sustainable Transport Innovation and Knowledge Center (GSTIKC), aimed at contributing to global transport development. On 14 October 2022, President Xi sent his congratulatory message on the inauguration of GSTIKC, in which he pointed out that China is ready to work with other countries to make full use of the platform of GSTIKC to advance global transport cooperation, and contribute to promoting the Global Development Initiative, implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and building a community with a shared future for humanity.

GSTIKC, affiliated with the Ministry of Transport of China, is committed to implementing the Global Development Initiative and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and provides an important platform for practicing the proposition of “staying connected with the world and abreast of the times”. GSTIKC aims to build itself into a high-end think-tank, a platform for cooperation and showcasing, and a medium of people-to-people exchanges, collaborating with all parties to advance sustainable transport and sustainable development.