

Framework on Global Sustainable Transport Development and Cooperation

Draft

Preamble

Transport is the artery of the economy and a bond between civilizations, playing a foundational, pioneering, and enabling role in the economic and social development of nations, while also constituting a vital service sector in its own right. Promoting global sustainable transport is of paramount importance for ensuring the stability and efficiency of global logistics and supply chains, as well as for fostering world economic and trade growth, and for achieving the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Building a sustainable transport system that is safe, convenient, efficient, green, economical, inclusive, and resilient is increasingly becoming a global consensus.

The United Nations attaches great importance to the role of sustainable transport, having convened the first and second Global Sustainable Transport Conferences in Turkmenistan and

China in 2016 and 2021, respectively; designating 26 November as “World Sustainable Transport Day” in 2023; and releasing the “Implementation Plan for the United Nations Decade of Sustainable Transport (2026-2035)” in 2025.

China actively promotes sustainable transport development and cooperation. In 2022, it established the Global Sustainable Transport Innovation and Knowledge Center (GSTIKC). In 2023 and 2024, it hosted the Global Sustainable Transport Forum, with a view to building a platform for cooperation, enhancing exchanges among countries, and advancing the realization of “easier movement of people and smoother flow of goods”, so that the progress of sustainable transport development can deliver more tangibly for people of all countries in the world.

Advancing global sustainable transport requires consensus-building, coordinated efforts and shared benefits. Based on this understanding, this Forum initiates cooperation in the following areas.

Objectives for Development and Cooperation

Through pragmatic cooperation at both the policy and implementation levels among governments, research institutions, educational institutions, enterprises, international organizations, and other stakeholders committed to global sustainable transport development, Participants of this Framework (hereinafter referred as Participant(s)) aim to effectively address key issues and challenges in sustainable transport, establish a global cooperation platform for sustainable transport development, support the implementation of the Global Development Initiative and the Global Governance Initiative, and advance the achievement of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Principles for Development and Cooperation

Openness and Inclusiveness: Practice true multilateralism, fully respect the differences and uniqueness of all stakeholders, encourage equal consultation, and promote win-win results.

Innovation-Driven Approach: Closely focus on frontier issues, key priorities, and major challenges in global sustainable

transport development to carry out cooperation, and form innovative solutions.

Practical and Results-Oriented Approach: Conduct various operations centered on the practical needs of global sustainable transport development, ensuring that the outcomes achieved are pragmatic and effective.

Policy and Practice

The Participants will:

1. enhance research in, exchange of, and cooperation on sustainable transport strategies to jointly promote the improvement of global transport infrastructure networks, the optimization of transport service systems, and the enhancement of transport governance capacity and effectiveness;
2. strengthen research in, and exchange and coordination of sustainable transport planning, and jointly promote the alignment of transport planning with regional economic corridors; with transport infrastructure development as a priority, establish efficient logistics channels to foster integrated and

mutually reinforcing development between transport and the economy;

3. enhance research in, exchange of and cooperation on sustainable transport policies; jointly develop, and promote rules, standards and practice guidelines in the field of sustainable transport, contributing global public goods for global sustainable transport governance; and encourage and promote stakeholders in sustainable transport, including financial institutions, investment organizations, transport infrastructure construction enterprises, and transport operators and service providers, to adopt and implement rules, standards and practice guidelines that are conducive to global sustainable transport development;

4. support and participate in the preparation, release, and promotion of the Global Sustainable Transport Development Report and global best practice cases in sustainable transport; and

5. collaboratively study transport history and culture to foster transport cultural identity and mutual respect, and regularly conduct cultural exchanges in the field of transport.

Sustainable Transport Investment

The Participants will:

1. explore establishing a cooperation mechanism for sustainable transport planning and investment, and promote the implementation of relevant bilateral or multilateral sustainable transport development plans;
2. enhance cooperation in sustainable transport investment, share experience and practices in sustainable transport investment and financing, showcase sustainable transport investment and financing projects, and promote high-quality sustainable transport projects and relevant financial products; and
3. actively explore promoting public funding support for the transport sector through international development cooperation funds and multilateral financial institutions, encourage strengthening government and social capital cooperation, and promote the diversification of transport investment and financing.

Cooperation in Science, Technology and Innovation

The Participants will:

1. encourage mutual exchange programs among researchers and experts, facilitate joint research programs, academic exchanges, and international cooperation projects in transport science and technology;
2. actively utilize the Global Sustainable Transport Forum, transport-related expos and other platforms for showcasing, promoting, and facilitating the application of innovative achievements and best practices in global sustainable transport;
3. actively promote the joint establishment of a Global Sustainable Transport Innovation Award together with relevant bodies of the United Nations, and actively support the nomination, evaluation, and conferment of the Award; and
4. enhance cooperation among transport think tanks, jointly study, prepare, and release influential joint research reports.

Capacity Building

The Participants will:

1. explore establishing a higher education exchange and cooperation mechanism in the transport sector to facilitate international academic exchanges; promote joint training programs among higher education institutions of the Participants specializing in transport, and encourage collaborative development of curricula and teaching materials, with a view to promoting mutual recognition of curricula and teaching materials; and
2. explore establishing an exchange and cooperation mechanism for transport professionals, and facilitate the mutual recognition of transport professional qualifications among Participants, so as to facilitate cross-border mobility of transport professionals.

Methods of Work

With a view to better promoting global sustainable transport development and cooperation under this framework, the Global Sustainable Transport Forum establishes the following mechanisms: Ministerial Meetings, Working Group Meetings, and Expert Meetings. Among them, Working Group Meetings

and Expert Meetings are intended to support the implementation of this Framework and submitting work outcomes to the Ministerial Meetings.

The Participants may, as needed, establish Thematic Partnerships under the Global Sustainable Transport Forum to facilitate in-depth cooperation in specific fields, including, inter alia, organizing seminars, implementing professional training programs, conducting thematic research, carrying out knowledge sharing, and providing policy and technical recommendations.

Each Participant will designate a focal point. The Chinese focal point is GSTIKC. Any Participant may propose amendments to this Framework. Amendment proposals should be submitted in writing by the focal point of the Participant to the Chinese focal point, and shall, upon consensus reached through consultation among all Participants, be incorporated into this Framework.

Note: Should there be any comments or suggestions on this draft framework, they may kindly be communicated to gstf_meetings@163.com by 1 July 2026.