United Nations | Department of Economic and Social Affairs

UN Decade of Sustainable Transport 2026-2035

Draft Implementation Plan: Stakeholder Final Comments and Reflections

November 2025

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Background

In 2023, the General Assembly declared the first-ever United Nations Decade of Sustainable Transport to start in 2026.

The United Nations Decade of Sustainable Transport will be an opportunity to further raise awareness of transport's crucial role in advancing the Sustainable Development Goals and to gather and rally new solutions, resources and partnerships to advance sustainable transport globally.

Through the resolution A/78/148 titled "Strengthening the links between all modes of transport to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals" Member States also requested the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs to develop an Implementation Plan for the UN Decade of Sustainable Transport, in collaboration with the UN Regional Commissions and in consultation with Member States, the United Nations system and all other relevant stakeholders.

The Implementation Plan for the United Nations Decade of Sustainable Transport will be a critical tool in steering global efforts towards sustainable, inclusive, and resilient transportation systems. By fostering collaboration, mobilizing resources, and ensuring effective monitoring, the plan can shine a light on the critical importance of sustainable transport, contribute significantly to its achievement and to the attainment of several of the SDGs.

The Implementation Plan will be launched on 10 December 2025 at a special event in the ECOSOC Chamber at the United Nations Headquarters in New York. More information regarding the event is available here: https://sdgs.un.org/sustainabletransportlaunch.

Call for Stakeholder Final Comments and Reflections - Draft Implementation Plan

Responding to the mandate of the General Assembly, DESA has prepared the draft Implementation Plan of the United Nations Decade of Sustainable Transport, an action-oriented global policy document, in collaboration with the United Nations Regional Commissions. As requested by the General Assembly, DESA has actively consulted Member States, specialized agencies, funds, programs and bodies of the United Nations, as well as other intergovernmental organizations, non-governmental organizations and relevant stakeholders to seek inputs to the Implementation Plan.

Stakeholders were invited to provide **final comments and reflections** on the draft Implementation Plan through an open call broadly disseminated between 6 and 31 October 2025. This document presents a summary of key messages.

All inputs received are available here.

CALL FOR FINAL COMMENTS AND REFLECTIONS

QUESTIONS

The call for stakeholder final comments and reflections on the draft implementation plan for the United Nations Decade of Sustainable Transport was open to all stakeholders through a dedicated online form. Stakeholders were invited to respond to the following questions:

1	Please indicate the focus area for transformative action through transport that you would like to contribute to: 1. Ensure access to sustainable transport for all 2. Advance low-carbon, resilient and environmentally sound transport systems 3. Enhance efficiency and promote sustainable connectivity and logistics 4. Shape people-centred urban mobility and livable cities 5. Make transport safe and secure 6. Leverage Science, Technology and Innovation for sustainable transport
2	Considering the selected focus area, please, share your final comments/reflections on the draft Implementation Plan
3	Supporting the implantation of the UN Decade for Sustainable Transport (2026 – 2035). Please, select one enabler of sustainable transport that you plan to support/advance during the Decade: 1. Foster effective partnerships and collaboration 2. Improve integrated policymaking and governance 3. Secure more effective and adequate financing 4. Enhance capacity-building and peer learning 5. Boost data collection, analysis and use 6. Assess progress toward sustainable transport
4	Considering the enabler of sustainable transport you selected, how do you plan to support the implementation of the UN Decade for Sustainable Transport (2026 – 2035)?

Responses in Numbers

The consultation registered a total of **59 responses** from stakeholders based in 39 countries. A few duplications and unverifiable responses were identified and not considered for this analysis.

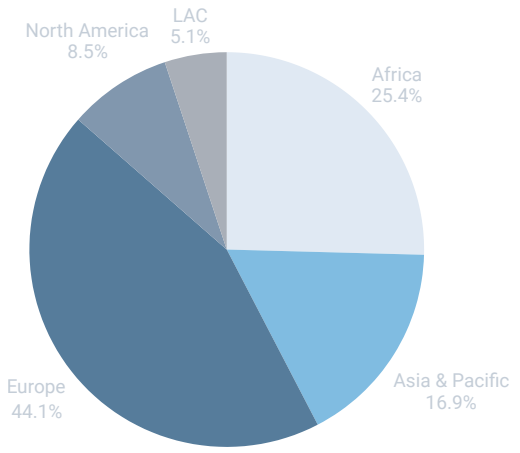
59
INPUTS

19%
RESPONSES FROM YOUTH BELOW 35 YEARS OLD

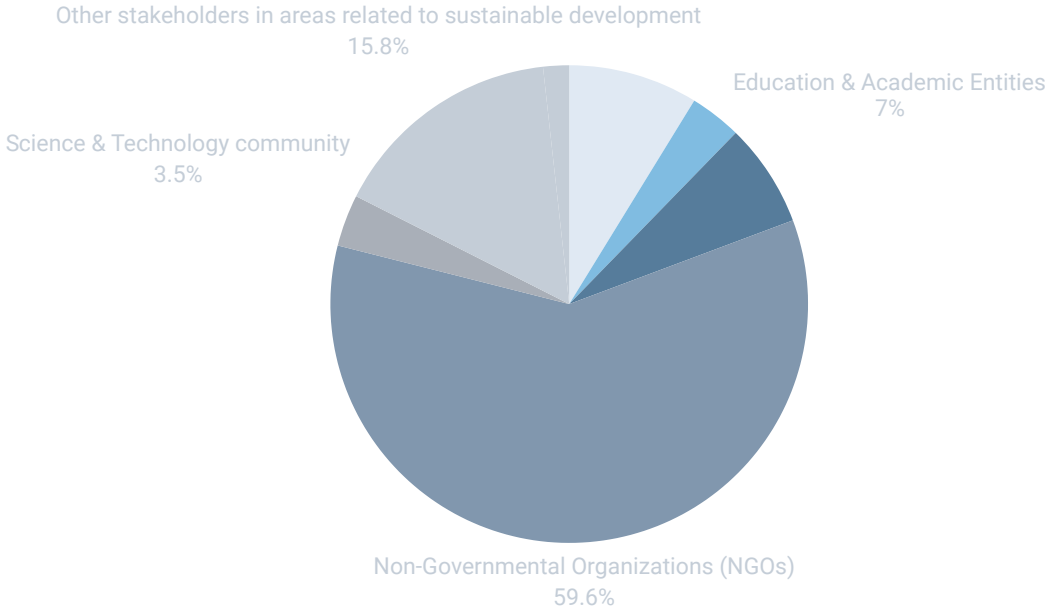
39
COUNTRIES

COUNTRIES

Responses were received from stakeholders based in: Andorra, Austria, Botswana, Cameroon, Canada, Chad, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Denmark, Eswatini, France, Ghana, Greece, Guinea, India, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Japan, Kenya, Mali, Mexico, Pakistan, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Romania, Russian Federation, Spain, Switzerland, Togo, Uganda, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Viet Nam.



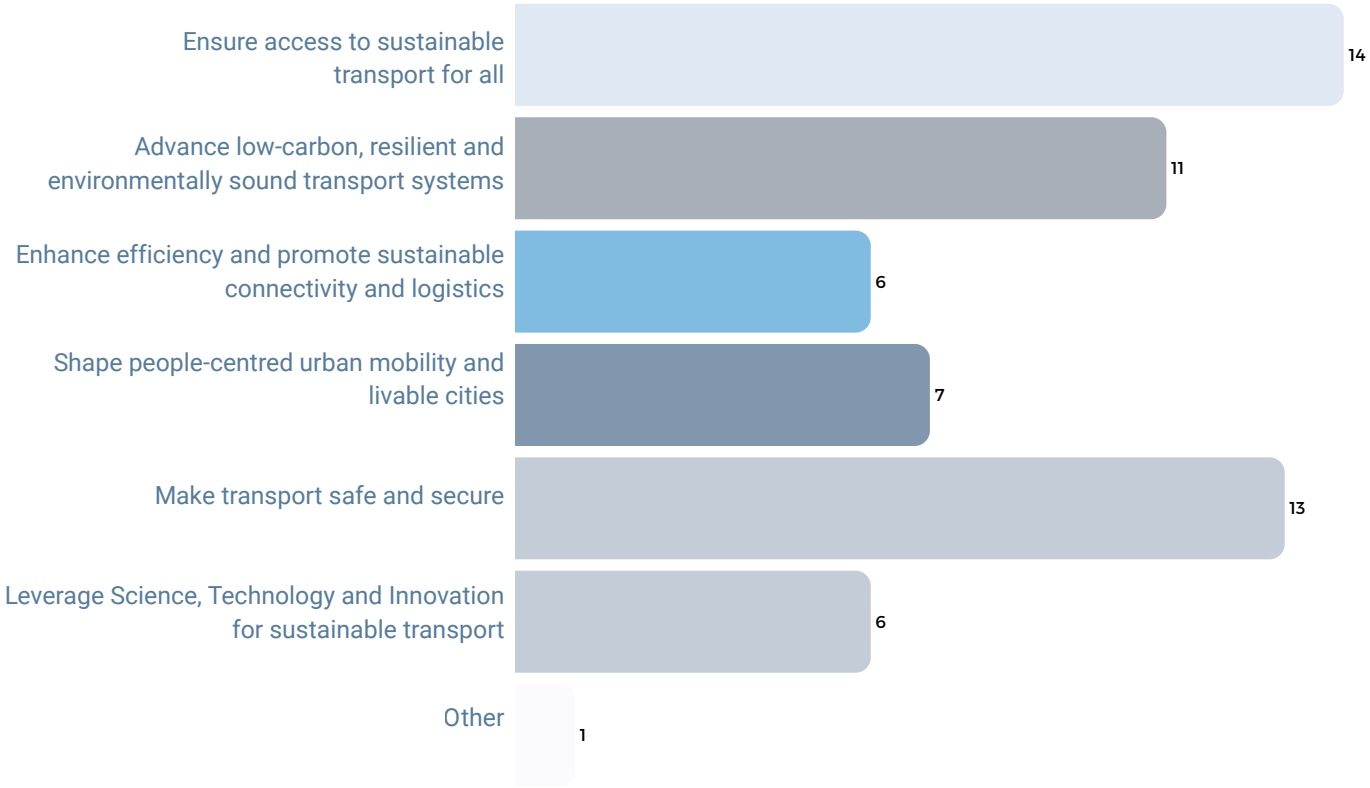
Distribution of submissions by region. Source: UN DESA



Distribution of submissions by sector. Source: UN DESA

FOCUS AREAS FOR TRANSFORMATIVE ACTION THROUGH TRANSPORT

Stakeholders provided comments to the draft implementation plan on the focus areas for transformative action through transport listed in the draft implementation plan. The graph below indicates the number of answers received per focus area:



FOCUS AREAS FOR TRANSFORMATIVE ACTION THROUGH TRANSPORT - MAIN MESSAGES

This section features a summary of main messages on each of the focus areas for transformative action through transport:

Ensure access to sustainable transport for all

Stakeholders commended the draft implementation plan's vision of universal, climate-resilient, and inclusive mobility by 2030. Main inputs include:

- To prioritize actions to ensure sustainable, affordable transport for rural communities to support decent living conditions and social inclusion.
- Inclusive and equitable road networks must serve as the backbone of sustainable access—planned and managed to safely connect communities to schools, healthcare, markets, and employment.
- Transport transformation must be people-centered and participatory, engaging vulnerable and under-represented groups—including youth, women, persons with disabilities, the elderly, and rural and marginalized communities—while promoting behavioral and cultural shifts toward safety, shared mobility, and universal design.
- Communication and awareness initiatives, such as the "Week Without Driving" campaign, can foster empathy and reflection on mobility inequities, encouraging societies to reimagine transport systems that are accessible and inclusive for all.

Advance low-carbon, resilient and environmentally sound transport systems

Stakeholders indicated that the draft Plan effectively addressed low-carbon, resilient, and environmentally sound transport systems and proposed some inclusions:

- Strengthening its evidence base and integrate lifecycle sustainability, including preventing the dumping of obsolete vehicles from the Global North to the Global South.
- Recognized sustainable tourism as a catalyst for low-carbon mobility, including through cultural and travel initiatives (e.g., train-based journeys, community-driven tourism) that promote behavioural change and support regenerative local economies.
- Expand references to aviation alongside maritime decarbonization, noting the need for global cooperation under ICAO's Long-Term Aspirational Goal to reach net-zero carbon emissions by 2050.
- Strengthen the environmental and technological integration aspects—include biodiversity protection and restoration, ecosystem-sensitive transport planning, "future-proof" EV infrastructure (bidirectional charging, EV-ready buildings), and measures to manage motorized transport demand beyond simple promotion of alternatives.

Enhance efficiency and promote sustainable connectivity and logistics

On this topic, stakeholders recommended for the implementation plan to:

- Strengthen the Avoid and Shift approach in logistics by explicitly addressing systemic levers—such as production and consumption patterns, localization of production, sourcing strategies that shorten supply distances, and delivery models shaping logistics efficiency.
- Emphasize that enhancing logistics sustainability requires tackling structural drivers, not only operational efficiency, to reduce emissions and resource use across the full supply chain.
- On port and airport efficiency, clarify that delays often stem from limited airspace capacity, outdated air traffic management systems, extreme weather, and staffing shortages, rather than infrastructure performance alone.
- Reinforce the importance of investing in smart, resilient, and connected transport and logistics systems—prioritizing digitalization, multimodal hubs, and rural connectivity to lower costs and environmental impacts.
- Highlight that improving logistics and connectivity is a key enabler of trade, economic development, and equitable market access, especially for developing and landlocked countries.

Shape people-centred urban mobility and livable cities

Main inputs on this topic included:

- Emphasize accessibility, co-design with communities, and data-driven planning as core principles for creating inclusive, healthy, and resilient urban spaces.
- Position active mobility as both a transport and environmental solution—using green corridors, gardens, and tree-lined cycling routes to reconnect ecosystems, enhance biodiversity, and promote urban regeneration while encouraging climate-positive behaviour.
- Strengthen labour and social dimensions by integrating labour impact assessments into mobility planning and improving working conditions in the informal transport sector.
- Call for stronger multi-stakeholder partnerships, integrated land-use and mobility governance, and long-term blended financing frameworks to deliver equitable and low-carbon mobility systems.
- Set up specific, measurable indicators to track implementation progress and from mechanisms that enhance stakeholder participation.

Make transport safe and secure

Stakeholders indicated that the draft implementation plan outlined solid steps toward safer transport and recommended:

- Making it clear that increasing walking and cycling improves safety only when supported by safe infrastructure, appropriate speeds, and well-designed road environments.
- Highlighting the lessons from past Decades of Action for Road Safety, stressing the need for strong national leadership, institutional coordination, clear timelines, and accountability mechanisms to ensure sustained progress.
- Prioritizing the integration of smart technologies for real-time monitoring, rapid response, and coordination with local law enforcement, along with improved emergency systems, driver training, and community engagement to enhance both prevention and response capacities.
- A holistic approach to safety should include all transportation modes, including rail, by addressing systemic factors such as staffing levels, fatigue management, depot security, digital resilience, and social dialogue with workers and unions to ensure a culture of safety across the entire transport system.

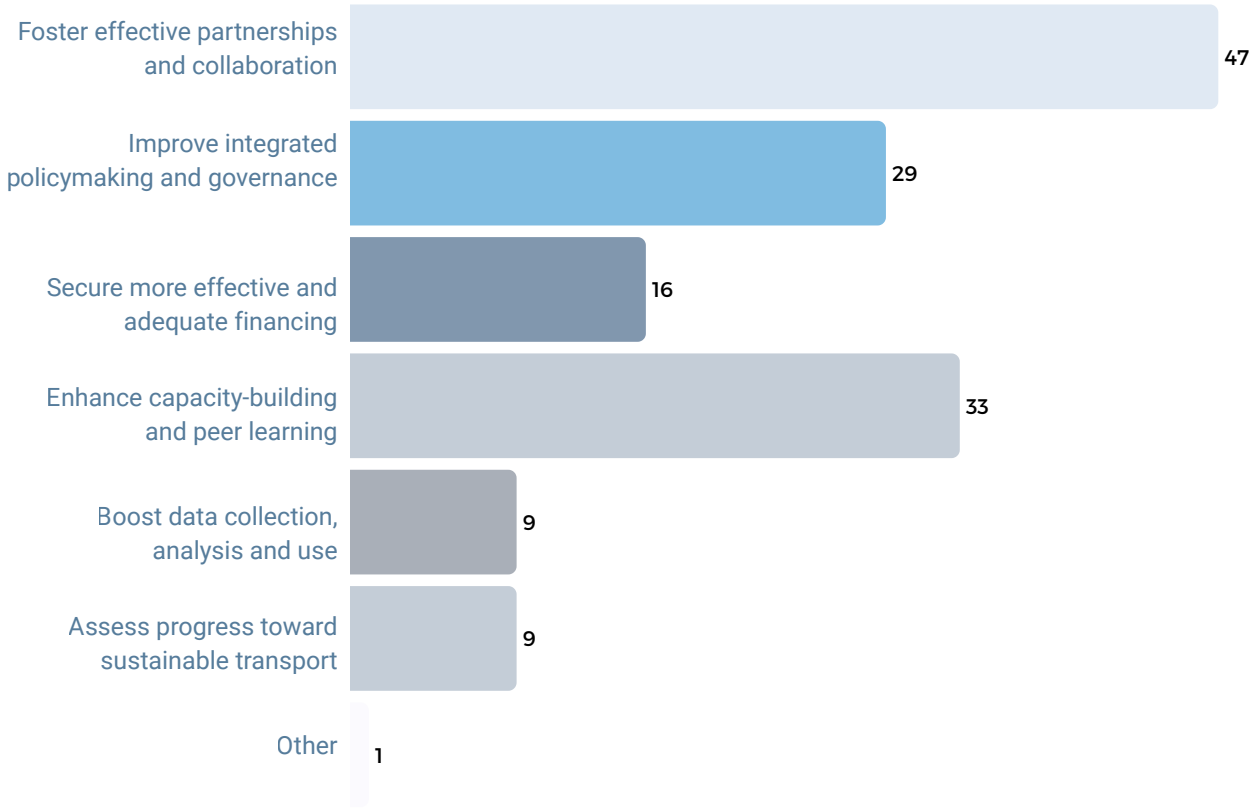
Leverage Science, Technology and Innovation for sustainable transport

Main recommendations on this topic include:

- Highlight citizen science as a driver of innovation, enabling communities to co-create mobility solutions through participatory data collection and monitoring.
- Embedding training–innovation pathways to equip practitioners with the skills needed for participatory design and co-creation of transport solutions.
- Capacity building and local empowerment should be positioned at the heart of sustainable mobility innovation.
- Governance of science, technology, and innovation (STI) must be guided by development goals to ensure that digital tools serve sustainable transport and human wellbeing.
- Innovation strategies should also focus on human-centric AI for public awareness and behavioral change—helping bridge the knowledge gap and securing societal buy-in for a just, inclusive transition.
- Link technology, training, and community participation, ensuring that transport solutions are not only efficient and data-driven but also equitable, context-sensitive, and people-empowering.

ENABLER OF SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORT THAT STAKEHOLDERS PLAN TO SUPPORT

Stakeholders indicated that they aimed at supporting the following enablers of sustainable transport. Selected quotations are featured in the next page.



PLANS TO SUPPORT THE DECADE

"I plan to support the UN Decade for Sustainable Transport by promoting green mobility awareness, encouraging investment in electric and low-emission transport, and fostering partnerships among local authorities, communities, and private sectors to implement sustainable, inclusive, and accessible transport solutions."
Christian Care Foundation Pakistan, Pakistan

"I plan to support the implementation of the UN Decade for Sustainable Transport by promoting low-emission mobility solutions, advocating for the expansion of public transit networks, and encouraging active transport. I'll also work on policies that integrate green technologies and foster public-private partnerships to scale up sustainable infrastructure and reduce transport-related emissions"
International Helping For The Young, Chad

"Sustainable Transport Africa will support the Decade by facilitating regional peer exchanges, training programs, and technical workshops focused on inclusive planning, climate resilience, and digital innovation. We aim to strengthen local capacity and foster cross-country learning tailored to African transport realities"
Sustainable Transport Africa, Kenya

"Through advocacy and multisector partnerships, Aleatica Foundation drives informed policies, raises awareness on transport safety, and generates knowledge to secure funding and fulfill its sustainable mobility commitments"
Aleatica Foundation for Road Safety, Mexico

"Objectif Sciences International will expand its Citizen Science for Sustainable Transport programme, creating multi-stakeholder hubs that train youth, citizens and local authorities in participatory sciences to collect, share and analyze mobility data. These hubs connect local realities to global action, ensuring inclusive, data-driven and replicable solutions for evidence-based policy practice"
Objectif Sciences International, France

"iRAP will support the UN Decade of Sustainable Transport by committing to mobilize global partnerships across a range of transport related organizations around the world to make road infrastructure safety a pillar of a sustainable transport system, and through the use of globally recognised iRAP tools, empower evidence-based safety planning, advocacy, and decision making towards a safer, inclusive, and resilient transport"
International Road Assessment Programme (iRAP), Global

Acknowledgements

This report provides a summary of the inputs received from a broad range of stakeholders through a call for comments organized by the Division for Sustainable Development Goals (DSDG) of the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA) ahead of the launch of the UN Decade of Sustainable Transport Implementation Plan. Drafting was prepared by Justin Lu and Dan Yal Maroof.

Revision: Naiara Costa, Riina Jussila

Design and layout: Justin Lu and Dan Yal Maroof

Division for Sustainable Development Goals (DSDG)
Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA)
United Nations

To learn more, visit sdgs.un.org

DISCLAIMER

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