

# GLOBAL SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORT FORUM 2024

## CONCEPT NOTE

### 1. BACKGROUND

Sustainable transport is an important part of sustainable development. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development of the United Nations and its Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) fully reflect the important supporting role of transport in achieving global sustainable development. In response to the major problems facing the current global transport system, the United Nations successfully held the Second United Nations Global Sustainable Transport Conference (the Conference) in Beijing, China in October 2021, and issued the *Beijing Statement*, which reaffirmed the importance of sustainable transport, described the vision for global sustainable transport development, proposed action initiatives to strengthen transport cooperation, and called on all stakeholders to take action together to accelerate the transition to sustainable transport.

The Global Sustainable Transport Forum 2023 (Forum 2023) was held in Beijing on 25-26 September 2023, at which 26 countries and international organizations jointly proposed the *Joint Action Initiative by Ministers of Transport at the Global Sustainable Transport Forum (2023)*, i.e. *Beijing Initiative*. In order to consolidate the achievements of the Conference and Forum 2023, promote the implementation of the Global Development Initiative (GDI), and accelerate the materialization of the SDGs, **the Ministry of Transport of China is scheduled to hold the Global Sustainable Transport Forum 2024 (Forum 2024) in Beijing on 25-26 September 2024.** Forum 2024 will be organized by the Global Sustainable Transport Innovation and Knowledge Center.

### 2. GLOBAL SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORT FORUM 2024

Promoting global transport cooperation and constructing a safe, convenient, efficient, green, economical, inclusive and resilient sustainable transport system is an inherent requirement of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and an important way to promote the building of a community with a shared future for mankind.

## **2.1. THEME**

Forum 2024 will focus on sustainable transport cooperation, with the theme of “Sustainable Transport: Logistics Connecting the World”.

## **2.2. TOPICS**

### **(a) Ministers’ Forum: Global Governance - Fostering a Global Sustainable Transport Partnership**

Deepening global governance. We will actively implement the common understanding of “supporting on a regular basis the convening of the Global Sustainable Transport Forum” in the *Beijing Initiative*, and discuss how to better play the role of the Forum as a platform of “extensive consultation, joint contribution and shared benefits” and promote the building of a global partnership of sustainable transport, so as to better implement the GDI and 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and advance global sustainable transport cooperation.

### **(b) Thematic Session 1: Connectivity - Strengthening Cooperation in Governance and Emergency Response, and Building Resilient International Logistics and Supply Chains**

Strengthening connectivity. As global changes unseen in a century continue to evolve rapidly, we, while bearing in mind the essential role of transport in keeping the international logistics and supply chain stable and smooth, will focus on building an open world economy and responding to international and regional hotspot issues as well as current risks and challenges, and aim to build more resilient and secure global logistics and supply chain, in order to make economic globalization more open, inclusive, balanced and beneficial to all.

### **(c) Thematic Session 2: Common Development - Creating a Fair, Inclusive and Sustainable Rural Transport System to Ensure a Safe and Convenient Travel Environment for All**

Promoting common development. In the context of insufficient and unbalanced development of global transport, we will share China’s experience and good practices of “Four Good Rural Roads” (i.e. an initiative of building, managing, maintaining and operating better rural roads), discuss the way to better leverage the enabling role of transport and increase related input in poor regions, so that local economies and

people's lives could improve as a result of better roads. We will strengthen North-South and South-South cooperation, scale up support for developing transport infrastructure in the least developed countries and landlocked developing countries, and promote the construction of reliable and affordable transport infrastructure, so as to achieve fairness, inclusiveness and common prosperity.

**(d) Thematic Session 3: Innovation-driven Development: Boosting AI-enabling Development of Transport and Creating a New Engine for Low-altitude Economy**

Advancing innovation-driven development. We will seize the new opportunities brought by the new round of scientific and technological revolution and industrial transformation, step up efforts in developing smart transport, promote deep integration of new technologies like big data, the Internet, artificial intelligence and blockchain with the transport sector, boost the development of unmanned logistics on highways, high-level self-driving cars, intelligent Internet-connected buses among other scenarios, and accelerate commercial application of new general aviation equipment that is unmanned, electrified and intelligent, in order to create a new engine for low-altitude economy and build a better future ensuring easier movement of people and smoother flow of goods.

**(e) Thematic Session 4: Eco-sound Development - Promoting New Energy Development and Accelerating Green and Low-carbon Transition of Global Transport**

Prioritizing ecological conservation. We will focus on the temperature goal set by the Paris Agreement, speed up the mobilization of the transports sector across the world to address climate change, strengthen green infrastructure development, advance the integrated development of the transport industry and green and renewable energy, create a synergy between the transport network and energy network, foster a green and low-carbon way of transport, and promote green transition in all respects of economic and social development around the globe.

**2.3. PROGRAMME**

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

**25 September 2024 (Wednesday)**

## **Opening Ceremony and Plenary Session**

**Ministers' Forum:** Global Governance - Fostering a Global Sustainable Transport Partnership

**Thematic Session 1:** Connectivity - Strengthening Cooperation in Governance and Emergency Response, and Building Resilient International Logistics and Supply Chains

**Thematic Session 2:** Common Development - Creating a Fair, Inclusive and Sustainable Rural Transport System to Ensure a Safe and Convenient Travel Environment for All

## **Welcome Dinner**

### **26 September 2024 (Thursday)**

**Thematic Session 3:** Innovation-driven Development: Boosting AI-enabling Development of Transport and Creating a New Engine for Low-altitude Economy

**Thematic Session 4:** Eco-sound Development - Promoting New Energy Development and Accelerating Green and Low-carbon Transition of Global Transport

## **Technical Visit**

### **2.4. PARTICIPANTS**

State leaders and ministers of transport of relevant countries, heads of international organizations, foreign diplomatic envoys in China, etc. are to invited to attend the Forum and deliver speeches, and entrepreneurs and scholars from home and abroad will also be invited to participate in the event and speak, with a view to building a high-level official platform for advancing global transport cooperation and contributing to the implementation of the GDI.

### **2.5. TECHNICAL VISIT**

Technical visits are to be organized during the Forum. Three visit routes covering various modes of transport, such as railway, highway, waterway and port, civil aviation, postal services and urban rail transit, are to be chosen from:

**Route 1:** High-level Autonomous Driving Demonstration Area, Intelligent Logistics Park (locations subject to minor alteration);

**Route 2:** Beijing Rural Roads, Urban-Rural Passenger Mobility

**Route 3:** Beijing Daxing International Airport, Urban Rail Transit;

**Route 4:** Beijing South Railway Station, Beijing-Tianjin Intercity High-speed Train, and Tianjin Port (Zero-carbon Terminal).

Participants may choose ONE from the listed options.

## **2.6. DELIVERABLES**

At the Forum, practical outcomes are expected to be released on implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and promoting sustainable transport development, as well as *China's Sustainable Transport Development Report (2023)*. In addition, the Ministry of Transport of China will continue to deepen its established cooperation with the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs in sharing knowledge and promoting good practices in sustainable transport.

## **3. GLOBAL SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORT INNOVATION AND KNOWLEDGE CENTER (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 the establishment of 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 United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and building a community with a shared future for mankind.

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

sustainable development.

The main working goals of GSTIKC include:

- Promoting open interplay and connectivity. GSTIKC will hold international fora on sustainable transport and create a global cooperation network for sustainable transport.
- Promoting common development, fairness and inclusiveness. GSTIKC will build a knowledge-sharing and showcasing platform for global transport development.
- Promoting innovation-driven approach and creating more drivers for development. GSTIKC has set up the Global Sustainable Transport Innovation Alliance (GSTIA) to develop smart transport and smart logistics and promote deep integration of new technologies like big data, the Internet, artificial intelligence and block chain with the transport sector.
- Promoting ecological conservation as a priority and pursuing green and low-carbon development. GSTIKC organizes high-level people-to-people exchange programmes to improve global capacity-building on green and low-carbon transport and make transport and travel more environment-friendly.
- Promoting international cooperation to tackle global challenges. GSTIKC, with its vision of global governance featuring extensive consultation, joint contribution and shared benefits, will build a high-end think-tank to provide intellectual support and improve global awareness and actions for sustainable transport development.