

**High Level Segment of the COP26 Session  
Glasgow, UK**

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**Statement by Secretary General Dr. Young Tae Kim**

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Your Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is a great honour to address you all on behalf of the International Transport Forum. As a sector that emits around a quarter of global energy-related carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) emissions, transport policies are critical to climate action. By 2050, passenger demand is projected to be more than twice 2015 levels, while freight demand is set to grow by a factor of 2.6 in the same period. Based on the current trajectory, transport CO<sub>2</sub> emissions are projected to grow by 16% between 2015 and 2050, reaching nearly 8.7 Giga tonnes. Yet only 16% of Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) included specific transport emissions reduction targets.

We already know that current policies will not be enough to reduce transport emissions sufficiently as any advances in decarbonising transport will be more than offset by increased demand for mobility. But more ambitious policies coupled with a green recovery from the Covid-19 pandemic could put the transport sector on a path to achieving the necessary reductions for the Paris Agreement.

There are six top tasks for policy makers. The first is to increase ambition. The second is to align policies to revive the economy, mitigate climate change and strengthen equity. The third is to focus on accessibility and create seamless trips and increase opportunities. The fourth is to target sectors with strategies geared to their emissions reduction potential. Urban mobility has the highest potential, road freight and aviation are the hardest to decarbonise. The fifth is to support innovation to accelerate technological breakthroughs needed to decarbonise transport. And the sixth task is to break down silos and boost collaboration between interdependent sectors, such as transport, energy, tourism and trade. Only stronger cooperation among sectors will enable more ambitious climate action.

Thank you very much.