# Decarbonised and Resilient Transport for Resilient Societies and Economies

Having convened in Istanbul, Türkiye, on 15-18 October 2024 for the IRF World Congress 2024 hosted by the International Road Federation (IRF) in collaboration with the Ministry of Transport and Infrastructure of Türkiye, delegates from various countries and organisations have aligned on this declaration of understanding:

**Recalling** UN Resolution A/RES/78/1 adopted by the General Assembly on 29 September 2023, which recognises climate change as one of the defining challenges of our time and highlights the need for rapid, sustained, and ambitious action to limit its impacts.

**Recalling** the UN General Assembly Resolution (A/C.2/78/L.27/Rev.1) entitled 'Strengthening the links between all modes of transport to achieve the SDG's" which proclaimed the *UN Decade of Sustainable Transport* beginning in 2026, as an opportunity to foster global cooperation in advancing sustainable, equitable, and resilient transport systems that contribute to achieving the *2030 Sustainable Development Goals* (SDGs), in particular SDG 3.6 (road traffic injuries) SDG 9 (build resilient infrastructure) SDG 11.2 (access to safe, affordable, accessible and sustainable transport systems for all) and SDG 13 (climate action).

**Reaffirming** the commitments of the *Paris Agreement*, with emphasis on decarbonising transport systems to limit global warming to below 2°C, while recognising the critical role that resilient and adaptive infrastructure plays in enabling long-term sustainable development and reducing carbon emissions.

## We are united in the following principles:

- *Recognising* that **roads serve as the backbone of all transport systems**, enabling economic development through the efficient movement of goods, people and services across urban and rural areas, as well as economic resilience in the face of climate change impacts and other major disruptions.
- *Acknowledging* that **investments in sustainable, multimodal transport systems must take into account local and regional specificities, ensuring inclusive solutions for all**. This includes promoting active mobility (walking, cycling) and public transport as well as intermodal, low-carbon freight transport solutions as critical components of resilient societies.

- *Emphasising* the **need for a balanced energy mix and advanced technological solutions**, including electrification, but also recognising that decarbonisation requires diverse approaches across transport subsectors and regions.
- *Recognising* that the **road sector's contribution to decarbonisation must be achieved without compromising service delivery**. Roads remain vital for enabling all modes of transport, including freight, mass transit, and active mobility. As such, it is essential to continue reducing the environmental footprint of road infrastructure through innovation and digitalisation.

**We commit to:**

1. *Collaborate* on the development of **resilient, multimodal transport systems that prioritise sustainable infrastructure investments**. This includes infrastructure adaptation and improvements that support energy transitions and enable cleaner, more efficient transport systems, while fostering public-private partnerships and leveraging innovative financing mechanisms.
2. *Enhance* **cooperation at the international, regional and national levels to ensure that no one is left behind**, with a focus on low- and middle-income countries and their need to adapt road and transport systems to the interconnected challenges of safety, decarbonisation, adaptation & resilience to climate change impacts, and the mobility needs of their growing populations.
3. *Encourage* **greater use of intelligent transport systems (ITS) and digitalisation** - such as Building Information Modelling (BIM) **- to improve efficiency in assets planning and management, to enhance decarbonisation, save resources** (including natural resources) **and increase safety and resilience** while also advance on policies that promote sustainable consumer behaviour and the adoption of greener mobility solutions.
4. *Support* the **implementation of comprehensive action plans for sustainable transport under the *UN Decade of Sustainable Transport***, ensuring that roads play their full role in achieving the SDGs and global climate targets.

**Together, we commit to leading transformative change, ensuring that roads and the transport systems they are part of, continue to connect communities, foster economic growth, and contribute to a more sustainable, resilient future for all.**

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