**A Year After Rio+20: Measuring Progress on Sustainable Transportation Commitments**

In June 2012, at the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, or Rio+20, ITDP and many other organizations offered 16 pledges to advance sustainable transport, including an uprecedented $175 billion commitment by multilateral development banks towards more sustainable transport. On the first anniversary of Rio+20, ITDP and other organizations released a report on initial year progress and registered six new pledges with the UN to evaluate progress on sustainable transport.

“These new commitments will make it possible for the transport community and other development partners to better observe and track how the sector develops and what the impact of policies and measures will be on the sustainability of the transport sector at the global, national or local level”, said Michael Replogle, Managing Director for Policy and Founder of the Institute for Transportation and Development Policy.

ITDP and its partners will develop and analyze scenarios to consider the potential impacts on sustainable development indicators of sustainable transport Voluntary Commitments, including anticipated scale-up of best practice transport policies and strategies, and changes in national transport initiatives.

Implementation of the Voluntary Commitments on Sustainable Transport launched at Rio+20 is well on track according to the report *Creating Universal Access to Safe, Clean and Affordable Transport*, presented on June 20, 2013 at the Berlin High Level Dialogue on Implementing Rio+20 Decisions on Sustainable Cities and Transport.

The 17 Voluntary Commitments launched at Rio+20 include activities on knowledge management, capacity building, policy dialog and facilitation as well as financing. The eight largest multilateral development banks (MDBs) last year pledged to invest US$175 billion to finance more sustainable transportation systems over the coming decade.

“Working on transport is part of this moral responsibility we have especially to the cities of today, but also to future generations” commented World Bank President Jim Yong Kim when talking about the World Bank’s role earlier this year at the 10th Annual Transforming Transportation Conference.

The relevance of the Rio+20 Voluntary Commitments and especially the Rio+20 MDB commitment was acknowledged by Secretary General Ban Ki-Moon in welcome remarks delivered on his behalf at the Berlin meeting “While financing investments in sustainable transport can be challenging, we have a model in the Rio+20 conference, which saw an unprecedented level of voluntary commitments. The eight largest multilateral development banks jointly committed to invest $175 billion over the next ten years in more sustainable transport in developing countries. I commend their initiative”.

“The world is facing an unprecedented process of motorization. In the coming ten years we will add more vehicles than in the last 100 years combined”, says David Ward, Director General FIA Foundation. “The overall costs of congestion, air pollution, and road crashes are close to 10% of GDP in many countries. Road crashes now kill more people than malaria or tuberculosis. These trends are unsustainable and unacceptable”.

The UN Secretary General’s High Level Panel of Eminent Persons on the Post-2015 Development Agenda called last month to end extreme poverty in all its forms in the context of sustainable development and to have in place the building blocks of sustained prosperity. “The Rio+20 Voluntary Commitments can be of great help in improving inclusive access, one of the most important of those building blocks for sustained prosperity”, says Tyrrell Duncan, Transport Practice Leader at the Asian Development Bank and currently the Chair of the MDB Working Group on Sustainable Transport. “The MDBs welcome the High Level Panel report and we believe that the MDB Rio+20 commitment can make a real difference in realizing the call of the High Level Panel for a transformative change in the manner people travel and goods are transported”.

“The Voluntary Commitments on Sustainable Transport entered into at Rio+20 were a game changer”, concludes Cornie Huizenga, Joint Convener of the SLoCaT Partnership and principal author of the report. “Without the Rio+20 commitments on sustainable transport it would be much more difficult for transport to become an integral and important part of the post-2015 goal framework. This underscores the strategic relevance of the commitments, which goes well beyond their direct implementation results”.

 # # #

The full report can be downloaded from <http://slocat.net/rio20-VC>

The SLoCaT partnership, a multi-stakeholder partnership of over 80 members, was formed in 2009 to improve the knowledge on sustainable low carbon transport, help develop better policies and catalyze their implementation. It has influenced sustainable transport policies and strategies across a wide range of its member organizations including development banks, international organizations, NGOs, private sector, and research organizations.

 For more information:

* *Cornie Huizenga*, Joint Convener, SLoCaT Partnership and principal author of the report, cornie.huizenga[at]slocatpartnership.org  Tel. +86 13901949332 (Thursday 20 June and Friday 21 June in Berlin, Germany).
* *Tyrrell Duncan,* Director, EATC concurrently Practice Leader (Transport), Asian Development Bank and Chair of the MDB Working Group on Sustainable Transport tduncan[at]adb.org Tel. +63 920 949 6409 (Thursday and Friday in Beijing, China)
* *Michael Replogle****,*** Managing Director for Policy and Founder, Institute for Transportation and Development Policy michael.replogle[at]itdp.org Tel. +1 301 529 0351 (Thursday in Mexico City and Friday in Cancun, Mexico)
* *David Ward,* Director General, Fia Foundation d.ward[at]fiafoundation.org  Tel. +44 207 747 5187