



COP29 Side Event Concept Note

Transforming Urban Mobility: Leveraging NDCs for Sustainable Transport and Climate Action

19 November 2024 • 16:45-18:15

SIDE EVENT 6, Baku, Azerbaijan

Up to 5 million deaths a year could be averted if the global population was more active. Walking and cycling, which generates minimal noise and air pollution, requires no use of fossil fuels and offers significant health benefits could satisfy up to 80% of urban journeys, yet our car-centric cities make little provision for this to happen safely and comfortably. Public transport complements these efforts by reducing traffic congestion, lowering emissions, and enhancing accessibility, ultimately fostering healthier urban environments.

Walking and cycling make up less than one third of all urban trips in 2020 world-wide, despite their potential to far exceed this share. In fact, 60% of urban trips are shorter than 5 km and 75% of them could be done by active mobility. Add public transport to this mix, and we already have the tools for an almost complete solution to sustainable urban mobility.

By 2030 urban mobility needs to deliver actions that have a measurable impact on reducing emissions and pollution. This will require stronger, more ambitious Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) by 2025 and a much more efficient and accelerated translation of these policies at a city level.

So countries must act now. The fastest, most reliable and affordable actions to reduce transport emissions by 50% require enabling active and public transport to be the modes of choice for such a huge proportion of trips - but this needs the right policy framework.

This event will examine how national governments can best update their NDCs with ambitious and achievable targets that support active and public transport. What are the effective actions to take? Who is already leading the momentum for active and public transport to deliver on the Paris agreement? And, How can this knowledge be best included in NDCs?



This event provides sustainable transport policy templates for more ambitious and effective NDCs and showcases exemplary actions that are being delivered at national levels to reduce transport emissions by investing in active and public transport.

Outcome of the event

The event will identify the NDC commitments required for active and public transport and the key measures that governments need to take to ensure a successful transformation of urban mobility to meet the Paris climate goals. New sustainable mobility policy maps will be announced to help national governments develop better NDCs by 2025 and enable the delivery of actions faster and more effectively for active and public transport.

Event purpose:

1. Demonstrate the win-win climate health, air quality and other potential of active and public transport
2. Identify - using policy templates - solutions to:
 - Integrate walking and cycling into Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs)
 - Integrate rail and buses into Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs)
3. Highlight the existing momentum from across the globe, in seizing these cost-effective and agile solutions

[UIC](#)

The International Union of Railways (UIC), is the worldwide professional association representing the railway sector and promoting rail transport. UIC leads an innovative and dynamic sector, helping Members find continuing success and opportunities.

[FIA Foundation](#)

The FIA Foundation is an international charity, working closely with grant partners to shape projects and advocate to secure change in policy and practice. Our objective is safe and healthy journeys for all. We are a core funder and founding partner of PATH.

[UITP](#)

UITP (Union Internationale des Transports Publics) is the International Association of Public Transport and a passionate champion of sustainable urban mobility. Established in 1885, with more than 135 years of history, it is the only worldwide network to bring together all public transport stakeholders and all sustainable transport modes.

[Partnership for Active Travel and Health](#) (PATH)



The Partnership for Active Travel and Health is a coalition of sustainable mobility NGOs. Led by the FIA Foundation, Walk21, the European Cyclists' Federation, and the UN Environment Programme, PATH calls on governments and cities to commit to walking and cycling as key solutions to climate, health, and equity challenges.

Outcomes:

- Build momentum to push NDCs to include effective actions for walking, cycling, buses and trains.
- Promote active and public transport NDC policy templates
- Launch national case studies demonstrating the global momentum for effective actions for active and public transport.