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MESSAGE TO TRANSPORT DAY EVENT AT COP-19

Warsaw, 17 November 2013

From the upstream energy sector to black carbon, transport is responsible for a quarter of global carbon emissions. If current trends continue, transport may become the second largest source in many countries, especially in the developing world where demand is growing most. This represents a significant policy challenge. On the one hand, governments need to provide access to goods, services, decent jobs and markets to the large segments of their populations that currently lack them. On the other, there is growing pressure to reduce the environmental footprint of transport, both in terms of local air pollution and its global climate impact.

Addressing this twin challenge calls for new ways of moving goods and people. In particular, we need to rethink how we plan our urban areas to be more efficient. In recent years, hundreds of cities in the North and the South have invested in improved mass rapid public transport. A growing number are introducing bicycle lanes and public bike schemes. Voluntary initiatives, government regulation and market pressure are making vehicles and fuels cleaner and more efficient.

We now need to accelerate and scale up these advances through integrated policies, financing and an enabling institutional framework. Success in the negotiations for a new climate change agreement can greatly spur these efforts. To that end, I have called a Climate Summit in September 2014 to raise political will and catalyse concrete action on all climate-related issues, including sustainable transport. I count on all here to contribute. The transport industry, urban planners, city governments, Ministries of transport, energy and finance, investors and civil society need to collaborate on sustainable solutions. Let us place incentives on fuel efficiency, connect rural areas sustainably to urban centres, reduce urban congestion and make cities more healthy and productive environments for all people, especially the poor and marginalized. Let us use our collective wisdom to showcase what can be achieved.

The commendable work of the Bridging the Gap Initiative and the Partnership on Sustainable Low Carbon Transport demonstrates the value of multi-stakeholder partnerships. The \$175 billion voluntary commitment of the world's eight largest development banks at Rio+20 has helped to make sustainable transport a significant feature of discussions on the post-2015 development agenda. This Transport Day event can bring further prominence to this critical issue.

I wish you a successful meeting.