UIC vision for sustainable development and actions at Rio+ 20

Jean- Pierre Loubinoux,
Director General, UIC
The transport challenge....
Transport is the fastest growing sector in terms of emissions

Transport CO₂ emissions in emerging economies

India

+70%

China

+350%
Rail as the one of the main actor of the solution.

Source: IEA 2011
UIC Mission Statement

To promote rail transport at world level and meet the challenges of mobility and sustainable development.
Strategy

The UIC Declaration for Sustainable Mobility

The EES Strategy for 2030 and beyond
The UIC Declaration on Sustainable Mobility & Transport

- Agreed by UIC members on December 2010

- Objectives
  - Sets out UIC vision for sustainable development
  - Asks UIC members to make a public declaration and provide regular progress reports

The declaration has 18 commitments in the economic, society and environmental fields

Signed by 50 UIC members, including Indian and Russian railways, JR-East and Chinese Ministry of Railways
• UIC asked all signatories to the Declaration to provide case study examples to illustrate progress on the commitments.
• These responses contributed to the first UIC sustainability report, published in 2012. Selected highlights are presented in the next slides.
• UIC has also published a set of indicators to help members produce their own sustainability reports.
Highlights from our members

• Renewable energy investments include a “Solar Tunnel” in Belgium where solar panels cover a railway tunnel eight football fields in length

• Innovative approaches to wildlife management including providing nesting sites on catenary poles to protect rare birds in Bulgaria
Highlights from our members

- Accessibility improvements for persons of reduced mobility, e.g. assistance for rail passengers across Europe
- Roll-out of WiFi on many rail services e.g. the Acela Express service on the North East corridor of the United States and Thalys service in Europe
Highlights from our members

• Railways are stable and attractive employers. Chinese and Indian Railways are two of the largest employers in the world with 2 million and 1.65 million staff respectively.

• Railways try to attract a more diverse workforce. For example the SNCF “Equal Opportunity Train” tours the country promoting careers in rail to less advantaged areas.
UIC at Rio+20

• Objectives
  – Help put sustainable transport on the table during Rio+20, working with partner organizations
  – Have positive text on railways included in the final political agreement
Activities before Rio+20

• The Rio+20 Earth Summit was prepared over a two year period
• UIC provided written inputs, arranged workshops at UN events and encouraged members to participate at the national level
UIC Side Event - Sustainable Transport in the Cities of the Future

Date/Time: Friday 15th June, 13:30 – 15:00

This side event, organized and Chaired by UIC, explored the sustainability challenges facing urban areas today and in the future, and how sustainable transport can meet these challenges. Other speakers included UIC, UITP, UNIFE, the Japan International Transport Institute and EMBARQ. Over 70 people attended.
Activities at Rio+20 - Highlights

Conference Speaker:
Global Forum on Human Settlements and Electric Mobility

*Date: Monday 18th June*

UIC Director General Jean-Pierre Loubinoux made a presentation at an important Conference on Electric Mobility held as an associated event at Rio+20.
This half-day workshop welcomed over 70 transport professionals, national government and UN officials, journalists and other stakeholders, to showcase ways in which transport can contribute to a green economy. Speakers included the President of FeTranspor, the CEO of Brazilian railway association EDLP, UIC Director General Jean-Pierre Loubinoux, and a representative of the Colombian city of Bogota.
Date / Time: Tuesday 19th June, 19:00 - 22:00

UIC, UNIFE, UITP and the SLOCAT Partnership welcomed 80 guests to a high-level evening cocktail reception for diplomats, UN officials, national government representatives, transport professionals and the media. The event will celebrate the many different Voluntary Commitments that have been developed by the sustainable transport sector, coordinated by the SLOCAT partnership. Guest of Honour was Mr. Paulo Sergio Passos, Federal Minister of Transport.
Launched on 20 June 2012
This statement set out the challenges facing mobility in cities and puts forward the key rail and public transport messages to decision makers at Rio+20.
Outcomes: Voluntary Commitments

• The UN encouraged all participants at Rio+20 to make a Voluntary Commitment
• The most important commitment for transport was a coalition of developmental banks committing $175 billion, over ten years, toward sustainable transport projects worldwide.
• UIC submitted our Declaration on Sustainable Mobility and Transport as the international railway sector’s Voluntary Commitment for Rio+20.

Side event promoting voluntary agreements in the transport sector, Rio+20, 2012
Outcomes:
Political Agreement

• The most important outcome of Rio+20 was a document called “The Future We Want”, in which Parties to the Rio+20 conference agreed a high-level strategy for sustainable development.

• Paragraph 133 states the following: We support the development of sustainable transport systems, including energy efficient multi-modal transport systems, notably public mass transportation systems.
Did we meet our objectives at Rio+20?

- Objectives
  - Help put sustainable transport on the table during Rio+20, working with partner organizations
    - Achieved by the SLoCaT partnership working together – UIC played an important part in this
    - Have positive text on railways included in the final political agreement
      - Partially achieved. Text was favourable to public mass transportation systems
Next Steps

- UIC has been invited to join a working preparing the UN Secretary General’s High Level Panel on Sustainable Transport
- UIC is following closely the development of Sustainable Development Goals, which were promised at Rio+20 and will be launched in 2014
Conclusion: The railway commitment to sustainability

“We will strive to deliver a transport mode with a strong sense of responsibility and to raise our levels of customer satisfaction and for rail to become an increasingly preferred transportation mode...

This will be achieved by further improving safety, reliability, punctuality, cleanliness, comfort, and environmental advantage…

On this basis, we will seek to play our full part in supporting the fundamental social infrastructure for each country in the world for many years to come”

UIC Declaration on Sustainable Mobility, 2010
Thank you for your kind attention!

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