

**THIRD INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON FINANCING FOR DEVELOPMENT**  
**Addis Ababa, Ethiopia**

**CONCEPT OF THE IRU SIDE EVENT**

**15 July 2015 at 8:15-9:45 at Hotel Radisson BLU, Lalibella, Addis Ababa**

**TITLE**

**“Business-Led Multi-Stakeholder Sustainability Collaboration and Partnerships for the Implementation of the Post-2015 Development Agenda: the Case of the Global Partnership for Sustainable Transport”**

**OBJECTIVE**

Multimodal transport is a driver of vibrant economic prosperity as it connects businesses from various parts of the world to global markets. For the transport industry, contributing to the sustainable development agenda translates into meeting market demand and delivering economic value through innovation and effective mitigation of negative environmental, social and ethical footprints. However, many countries continue to face major challenges including connectivity gaps, low efficiency of logistics and supply chains, and high transit costs. These factors impose serious constraints on world economic development. Outdated border-crossing infrastructure and unharmonised procedures substantially increase the total cost of transport services and stimulate corruption along supply chains.

The purpose of this side event is to present the Global Partnership for Sustainable Transport (GPST) to international transport stakeholders, companies, and to international financial institutions in order to illustrate how business-led multi-stakeholder sustainability collaboration and partnerships contribute to the implementation of the Post-2015 Development Agenda. In particular, this side event aims to highlight the role of companies and industries in the transport sector as key partners for development finance in supporting the development of sustainable modern transport infrastructure, including modern and efficient cross-border facilities, improve global logistics, and strengthen global supply chains.

The GPST was initiated by the International Road Transport Union (IRU) in close cooperation with the UN Global Compact and stands for a high level global, business and industry-led, multi-modal, strategic and action-oriented multi-stakeholder platform for all modes of transport to implement the sustainable transport agenda in the context of the Post-2015 Development Agenda to ensure inclusive, sustainable development and continued global integration. It also seeks to foster information sharing by highlighting industry best practices and showcasing contributions of responsible and sustainable business practices of companies in the transport sector to the sustainable development agenda. The potential GPST stakeholders will include: transport operators (rail, road, aviation, maritime, etc.), logistics (shipping and freight), transport manufacturers (automobiles, planes, ships/fleets, trains), and infrastructure (construction and engineering).

This session highlights how companies and industry associations can become a key partner to mobilising private sustainability finance for transportation and related infrastructure development, and discusses how business-led multi-stakeholder sustainability collaboration such as the GPST can play a catalytic role in such efforts.

## ORGANISERS

- The International Road Transport Union ([IRU](#))
- The United Nations Global Compact
- The Global Partnership for Sustainable Transport (GPST)

## PARTICIPANTS

Up to 40 - 50 participants, including governments, business leaders, representatives of industry associations representing transport sectors, multilateral development banks, international organisations and other transport stakeholders.

## FORMAT AND TIMING

The duration of the event will be 1.5 hours, and will feature panel presentations and discussions, 4 - 5 presentations by the International Road Transport Union (IRU), UN Global Compact, representatives of global businesses – stakeholders of GPST, IRU national transport member associations (Kyrgyzstan and Turkmenistan), senior government representatives, multilateral development banks and international organisations, followed by open floor discussions and a Q&A session.

8:15 - 8:30 am	Opening
8:30 - 9:15 am	Panel presentations
9:15 - 9:45 am	Question & Answer, discussions

## VENUE

Hotel Radisson BLU, Lalibella, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

## CONTRIBUTION TO THE CONFERENCE

- Promote a better understanding of the role of the sustainable transport and inter-modal connectivity for development in Post-2015, which can have great impacts on sustainable supply chain management, the circular economy, resilience and anti-corruption.
- Highlight the role of public-private partnerships in the formulation of viable solutions to the challenges and problems faced by the transport industry, consumers, and the international development community alike. The event aims to bring together a variety of relevant additional international stakeholders to enhance collaborative action towards the envisaged common sustainable transport development objectives.
- Raise awareness of the critical role of the international legal framework for trade facilitation and infrastructure development, namely the Vienna Programme of Action for (LLDCs), the General Assembly Resolution 69/213 on Transport and Transit Corridors in Ensuring International Cooperation for Sustainable Development, adopted in December 2014, and well-established UN instruments – the UN International Convention on the Harmonization of Frontier Controls of Goods 1982 and the UN Convention on International Transport of Goods Under Cover of TIR Carnets 1975 (TIR Convention).