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Chinese Railways commit to sustainable development – 50th signatory of the UIC Declaration on Sustainable Development and Transport

(Paris, 7 November 2011) The Minister for Railways of the People's Republic of China Mr. Sheng Guangzu recently signed in Beijing the UIC Declaration on Sustainable Development and Transport. Chinese Railways thus became the 50th signatory of the Declaration, which was officially launched at the United Nations in May 2011, in presence of UN Under-Secretary-General Mr Sha Zukang.

The Declaration lists the most important sustainable development goals for the global railway sector. By signing it, railway organisations are making a public commitment to work towards these objectives and provide progress reports regarding further improving safety, reliability, punctuality, and environmental performance.

The Chinese railway sector is one of the most dynamic and rapidly growing anywhere in the world, and railways are an essential component of the sustainable development of the Chinese economy.

Mr Jean-Pierre Loubinoux, UIC Director General said: *“Chinese Railways signing the UIC Declaration on Sustainable Development and Transport is a landmark event, and it is fitting that this dynamic and crucially important railway organisation has become our 50th signatory. This event demonstrates once again that the railway sector worldwide is committed to sustainable development. There is no green economy without the transportation sector, and no green transport without railways. Railways have an essential role to play to build a sustainable future.”*

Notes to the editor

The UIC Declaration on Sustainable Development and Transport contains 18 key commitments on sustainable development. The Declaration and list of signatories can be found here: www.uic-sustainability.org

UIC is an accredited member of the UN ECOSOC (Economic and Social Council) and regularly participates in UN activities including UN CSD, UNFCCC and others.

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