



INTERNATIONAL UNION  
OF RAILWAYS

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### **The International Union of Railways (UIC) kicks-off the signing of its Declaration on Sustainable Mobility & Transport**

#### **18 statements promoting rail's contribution and commitment to sustainable development, far beyond its energy efficiency and low emissions performance**

(Paris, 02.11.2010). The eighteen statements of the UIC Declaration on Sustainable Mobility & Transport target society, customers and the rail sector itself. The UIC Reporting Guideline on Sustainable Mobility & Transport will explain and support each statement in the declaration. These milestone documents aim to support UIC's members in demonstrating their roles as responsible, forward-looking and innovative business leaders as well as offering tools for external communication with key stakeholders. Each member can use the Declaration and the Reporting Guideline to define its key focus areas and priority issues in accordance with its individual sustainability strategies and action plans.

The Declaration is supported by United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and Global Compact and is in line with the Global Reporting Initiative (GRI).

UIC's 200 members are now encouraged to sign the Declaration. Mr. Andreas Meyer, CEO of the Swiss railways, was the first to sign it, on 21 October in Bern, Switzerland.

The Declaration and the Reporting Guideline were discussed in the first external stakeholder workshop in October with, among others, leading transport and sustainability experts from the United Nations and the Global Reporting Initiative (GRI), transport research institutes and universities.

The objective of the workshop was to discuss the two documents with key external stakeholders, raising awareness and leading to increased acknowledgement of the sustainable advantages of rail and its important role in current and future transport systems. Furthermore, the focus of the two-day workshop was on how to explore potential areas for cooperation, partnerships and multi-stakeholder approaches which can create an environment more favourable to sustainable transport solutions.

The UIC Declaration and Reporting Guideline for Sustainable Mobility & Transport were well received, as was the creation of this new network. There was a warm welcome and applause for the systematic approach behind the documents, as well as their functions as tools for transparent reporting and continuous improvements within the rail sector and as a concrete method for promoting rail's contribution to sustainable transport systems. Moreover, their role as a door opener for cooperation and partnerships was also highlighted by the participants of the workshop.

Key issues for implementation at a global level such as sustainable transport innovation, multimodal transport chains, green economy, green jobs, corporate governance and communication were identified.

The next steps are the completion and implementation of the UIC Reporting Guideline for Sustainable Mobility & Transport as well as further stakeholder workshops to explore and discuss individual aspects in detail. It is planned that the first UIC Sustainability Report will be published in spring 2012 with a selection of good practice examples based on the Declaration and Reporting Guideline. This will be for both the Rio 20+ conference and the 12<sup>th</sup> UIC Sustainability Conference. From then on it is planned that a UIC Sustainability Report will be published bi-annually.

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