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THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

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**MESSAGE TO INTERNATIONAL UNION OF RAILWAYS
GENERAL ASSEMBLY
Tokyo, 6 July 2015**

I am pleased send greetings to all participants at the International Union of Railways General Assembly.

You meet at a propitious moment. In September, world leaders will gather at the United Nations to adopt a new agenda for development to guide the global fight against poverty for the next 15 years. In December, governments will meet in Paris to adopt a universal, meaningful climate change agreement.

Your industry can contribute on these interlinked fronts by helping to make transport systems cleaner, safer and more sustainable.

I applaud the contributions of your members during the Climate Summit I convened at the United Nations last year. The UIC's Summit pledge provided a clear and bold vision of actions needed to combat climate change, including your pledge to cut by half energy consumption and carbon emissions by 2030, and to increase by 50 percent railways' share of passenger transportation by the same target year.

Your path-breaking leadership is vital for building a low-carbon future. Actions by your member companies can make a measurable difference. I urge you to accelerate efforts.

I challenge all railways, especially the major ones, to commit to reporting your progress in an open, transparent manner. The UIC's systems are ideally placed to take this step toward creating a better future.

In this spirit, I wish you great success.