

The mission of the International Union of Railways (UIC) is to promote rail in order to meet the global challenges of mobility and sustainable development. As the world-wide association for cooperation between and promotion of railways, UIC has a strong tradition of working on sustainability issues, both in supporting members in improving their sustainability performance as well as communicating on sector level towards external key stakeholders in order to support development of sustainable transport systems.

The UIC supports with its declaration the ten principles of the UN Global Compact with respect for human rights, labour, environment and anti-corruption. With this commitment, the UIC members express their intent to advance these principles within their sphere of influence, and will make a clear statement of this commitment to their stakeholders and the general public.

We, as the members of UIC hereby affirm our joint desire to contribute to the sustainable development of our planet, in order to provide a common future for our companies and stakeholders:

We will strive to deliver a transport mode with a strong sense of responsibility and to raise our levels of customer satisfaction through meeting the needs and expectations of our end-users. Our goal is for travel and consignment by rail to become an increasingly preferred transportation mode. We believe that this will be achieved by further improving safety, reliability, punctuality, cleanliness, comfort, and environmental advantage, through independently and collectively enhancing technological innovation, setting ourselves targets both as individual companies and across regions, and by conducting joint research into the best practices and procedures.

To this end, we will actively work to contribute towards national and global reductions of CO₂ emissions, through providing opportunities for modal shift from other transport modes and through our work to increase the energy efficiency of the railways. Our environmental contributions will also extend to addressing the reduction of noise and other impacts - not only from our railway operation, but also from all our facilities including; stations, factories, back offices, and other activities.

“Moving towards sustainable mobility is a key issue for our modern societies, for the transport sector’s far reaching effects on economic and social development and the environment. It involves rethinking current transport systems, promoting inter-modality and encouraging the use of the most energy efficient mode of transport for a given transport situation, as well as efforts in making each mode as clean and efficient as possible. This is a challenge that requires action and cooperation by all players of society: governments, local authorities, private business, and the individual.

I applaud the UIC Declaration on Sustainable Mobility & Transport as it demonstrates the commitment by UIC members to continue to pursue the sustainability track, to strengthen the environmental advantages that rail transport features, and further improve environmental performance. I look forward to an ever deeper collaboration between UNEP and the Union.”

Achim Steiner,
UN Under-Secretary
General and Executive
Director of the United
Nations Environment
Programme (UNEP)

We will contribute to global environmental conservation through the protection of biodiversity and efficient use and recycling of natural resources, including land use and construction activities.

Through promoting modal-shift and seeking to improve rail transportation capacity our goal is to meet the expected transportation demand for today and for the future.

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, by further developing our strengths and advantages within the transportation sector. This will be achieved by playing a leading role in working towards continued improvement in the convenience of the transportation network of rail passenger and freight services, and their integration with other transportation modes.



To support our contribution to sustainable development and the necessary paradigm shift we shall endeavour to work towards and uphold - now and in the future - the approach and commitments set out in the statements below and to regularly report on our progress:

Meet the expectations of society

We are the backbone for sustainable mobility and transport systems in our society

- A1 Rail offers solutions to cope with the mobility and transport challenges of the future.
- A2 Rail has lower impact on climate and environment than most other transport modes.
- A3 Rail is the safest mode of transport.
- A4 Rail relieves roads and reduces congestion.
- A5 Rail has macro-economic advantages for society.
- A6 Rail enhances sustainable integration of transport and mobility modes.

Meet the expectations of customers

We provide attractive mobility and transport solutions for our customers

- B1 Rail travel and commuting increase quality and productive time.
- B2 Rail provides reliable mobility and transport.
- B3 Rail improves access to mobility.
- B4 Rail reduces the environmental footprint of its customers.
- B5 Rail is the backbone of attractive and sustainable door-to-door-mobility and -transport concepts
- B6 Rail involves its customers in developing target-group specific services.

Governance & Responsibility

We sustain the mobility and transport business through responsible leadership

- C1 Rail companies are committed to sustainability and sound corporate governance as a matter of course and to create sustainable value for their stakeholders.
- C2 Rail companies are committed to being responsible and attractive employers.
- C3 Rail companies maintain high levels of safety and security by comprehensive management.
- C4 Rail companies apply precautionary approaches to environmental challenges and support initiatives, projects and new technologies for further improved environmental performance.
- C5 Rail companies support and respect internationally accepted ethical standards, also in their supply chains and will work against corruption in all its forms, including extortion and bribery.
- C6 Rail companies maintain dialogues with their various stakeholders and report transparently about their sustainability performance.

