

**Speech by the president of
JSC Russian Railways and
Chairman of UIC Mr.
Vladimir Yakunin at the
82nd session of the UIC
General Assembly on Item 2
of the agenda: “Programme
of UIC activities”
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Republic**

The spoken word alone prevails

Esteemed participants of the session,
Dear colleagues,
Ladies and Gentlemen!

In the presentation of my vision of the future activity of UIC, I would like to expand upon the ideas which I have shared with you during the past session of the General Assembly in December.

I am convinced that the Organisation can have a future only when it is **useful for all of its members**. The benefit in our case is the comprehensive development of cooperation between the railway enterprises of all regions, exchange of expertise and proactive project implementation activity.

An important result of our joint work is the **enhancement of the global status of UIC** as a professional railway organization, which is capable of effectively defending the interests of its members and promoting large-scale regional and global projects.

The global nature of UIC is founded upon three principal **values of the Organisation** – unity, solidarity and universality. These three crucial qualities are a basis for the future development of the UIC.

My vision of the UIC future is built upon the **professional areas of activity of the Organisation**, which are well familiar to all of you – sustainable development of the railway transport, standardization, scientific research, development of competence, as well as safety and security.

Finally, the dynamic forces which are able to transform our visions of the future into reality are the **fundamental principles of encompassing involvement, integration and innovation**, of which I have spoken in my report in December.

I believe all shall agree that each organization and each company, through its accession into UIC, has become a part of a vast organism. In order for the system to function properly, each of its composing parts must be **fully involved in its activity**.

However we must not act on our own, relying exclusively upon our individual benefits and interests. In order to ensure an effective and concerted mode of activity, our cooperation must be of a **coordinated** nature and should be aimed at **surpassing the constraints of national and regional borders**.

Ultimately, the adoption of an innovative approach to the activities – including the project sphere – will become a powerful factor for the development of the Organisation. UIC has the capacity to become a global centre for innovations in the railway industry and so to ensure that its opinions are taken into account at the highest levels of the decision-making process.

In which vectors of activity and in which specific steps could this vision become a reality?

Firstly, it is the proliferation of UIC involvement in the formation of global transport policy. It is the stepping up of work within the frameset of Memoranda on mutual understanding, signed with other international organizations; inclusion of UIC into the deliberation and construction process of the new Almaty programme of activities to develop transit transportation and provide access to landlocked countries; as well as consolidation of activities within the framework of the UIC to form a unified position of the railways of the world on some of the most relevant issues of transport policymaking.

We could consider the possibility of creating a UIC Concept of global development of railway transport, including the separate development strategies for each of the 6 regional assemblies.

A separate line of activity is further development of **cooperation with the United Nations bodies** in the field of regulating the development of railway transport, as well as freight transportation, passenger transportation, border crossing procedures (regional commissions of UNECE, ESCAP, ECLAC, ECWA and UNECA) and cooperation with UNCTAD in the field of development of railway transport and logistics.

An important and productive step in enhancing the public image of the Organisation in the entire railway community could be the reclassification of the UIC within the framework of the ECOSOC in order to augment the standing of the UIC at the ECOSOC, which would in its turn afford a right to influence the agenda of UN events and proactively participate in the work of its bodies.

The third important area of activity, which I would like to present before you – is the **regulatory harmonization**, aimed at formulation of unified methods and approaches to the creation of a harmonized model of transport law, applicable on a global scale. Activities in this field could be pursued through the unification of statutory provisions and standards in the field of railway machinery, infrastructure and technologies, including the possible

transfer of standards, stipulated in UIC leaflets, onto a global level. We all clearly realize that regulatory harmonization involves a broad range of “players”. These include freight consignors, who are interested in the development of competitive rail freight transportation, and railway enterprises themselves, which strive to expand their market access and increase the volume of freight traffic across the vast domain of UIC. States are also a part of this process, since the development of international rail transportation allows fulfilling the nation’s foreign trade and transit potential and receiving a wide array of multiplier effects on the basis of transport and trade development. Ultimately the objective of international organizations is to create an effective platform to facilitate cooperation of all related parties in the field of regulatory harmonization of railway transport.

Now I would like to briefly talk about the approach. This issue is of a principal importance, since a correctly defined problem contains the key to its solution. First of all, the processes of regulatory harmonization upon the railways of the UIC domain must be of a multidimensional and systematic character. It is precisely for this reason that cooperation of international organizations in the questions of creating a new legal basis for the regulatory governance of international freight transportation is so important.

UIC must be considered as a principal platform for cooperation in this matter, as well as the joint work in the framework of UIC collaboration with OSJD, CIT, UNECE, ESCAP, as well as with other international organizations and the European Railway Agency (ERA).

Another key dimension is the **cooperation in the field of safety and security, in the framework of which representatives from all the regions are able to conduct** joint work on formulation of global principles to ensure the security of freight and passenger rail transportation from the threat of unlawful intervention.

Expansion of **cooperation in the field of sustainable development** is another important line of activity. Today in the framework of this sphere statistical data on energy-saving and energy efficiency in various regions is gathered, processed and analyzed, and work is conducted to elaborate a general strategic programme of sustainable development, taking into account the economic, social and ecological factors.

In order to achieve the set objectives we shall require some additional steps. I believe that in this light it would be reasonable to contemplate the possibility of **organizing special meetings of the UIC executives** (chairman, vice-chairman, general directors, heads of regional assemblies), to be held once or twice a year before the General Assembly, in

order to formulate solutions to the strategically-important problems, posed before the Organisation.

Another organizational measure, aimed at fulfillment of the aforementioned objectives, could be the creation of a “**Global Assistants Taskforce**” comprised of expert-level representatives from all regional assemblies and charged with the task to implement the ideas and suggestions, which arise in the course of the Executive council sessions and special meetings of the UIC executives.

Dear colleagues! I am of the opinion that the realization of this programme will contribute to the fulfillment of the founding values of UIC, and of its vast potential of a global organization. I hope to find your support and active participation in this endeavor!

Thank you for attention!