

2018 VOLUNTARY NATIONAL REVIEWS: SHOWCASING THE CRITICAL ROLE OF THE TRANSPORT SECTOR TO ACHIEVE THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



HIGH LEVEL
POLITICAL FORUM
2018 REPORT



Partnership on Sustainable
Low Carbon Transport



HIGH-LEVEL POLITICAL FORUM
ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT



2018 VOLUNTARY NATIONAL REVIEWS: SHOWCASING THE CRITICAL ROLE OF THE TRANSPORT SECTOR TO ACHIEVE THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

SEPTEMBER 2018

**ALICE YIU
KARL PEET
NIKOLA MEDIMOREC
HOLGER DALKMANN**

Table of Contents

Executive Summary	1
I. Background and Objectives	2
A. Transport and Sustainable Development Goals	3
B. Assessment Objectives	3
II. References to Transport in VNRs	5
III. References to Sustainable Transport	7
A. References to Transport and Sustainability	7
B. Data Reported to Show Progress in the Transport Sector	9
C. Transport-related Targets in VNRs	10
D. References to Transport Policy Measures (Avoid-Shift-Improve)	11
E. References to Transport Adaptation Measures	12
IV. Conclusions and Recommendations	13
Annex I: List of Countries Submitting VNRs to HLPF 2018	16
Annex II: List of Transport Typologies Used in Assessment	17
Annex III: Countries Reporting Data on Transport SDG Indicators	18
Annex IV: Countries Reporting Transport Targets in 2018 VNRs	19

List of Figures

Figure 1. 17 Sustainable Development Goals of the 2030 Agenda	2
Figure 2. Direct and Indirect Transport SDG Targets	3
Figure 3. Level of Information Relevant to Transport Sector in 2018 VNRs (Source: SLoCaT 2018)	5
Figure 4. Share of VNRs with Transport References to SDGs (Source: SLoCaT 2018)	6
Figure 5. Share of VNRs with References by Transport Modes (Source: SLoCaT 2018)	6
Figure 6. Share of VNRs with References to Transport Sub-Sectors (Source: SLoCaT 2018)	6
Figure 7. Level of Information Relevant to Sustainable Transport in 2018 VNRs (Source: SLoCaT 2018)	8
Figure 8. Share of Countries with References to Transport Development Benefits (Source: SLoCaT 2018)	8
Figure 9. Percentage of Reported Measures, Classified by A-S-I	11
Figure 10. Share of Countries with References to A-S-I Transport Measures (Source: SLoCaT 2018)	11

List of Tables

Table 1. References to Transport in the 2018 SDG Progress Report	14
-------------------------------------------------------------------------	-----------

List of Abbreviations

A-S-I	Avoid-Shift-Improve
BRT	Bus Rapid Transit
CO ₂	Carbon Dioxide
ECOSOC	United Nations Economic and Social Council
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GHG	Greenhouse Gas
GMR	Global Mobility Report
HLPF	High-Level Political Forum
ITDP	Institute for Transportation and Development Policy
ITS	Intelligent Transport Systems
Lao PDR	Lao People's Democratic Republic
MSGI	Maritime Singapore Green Initiative
NAMA	Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Action
NDCs	Nationally Determined Contributions
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
SLoCaT	Partnership on Sustainable, Low Carbon Transport
SUMP	Sustainable Urban Mobility Plan
TCC-GSR	Global Status Report on Transport and Climate Change
UAE	United Arab Emirates
UNCTAD	United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
VNR	Voluntary National Review



Executive Summary

The High-level Political Forum (HLPF) on Sustainable Development is the United Nation (UN)'s central platform for the follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda and the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The HLPF in 2018, held from 9 to 18 July 2018, focused on the theme, "Transformation towards sustainable and resilient societies." SDGs under review at the HLPF 2018 included SDG 6 (Clean Water and Sanitation), SDG 7 (Affordable and Clean Energy), SDG 11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities), SDG 12 (Responsible Consumption and Production), SDG 15 (Life on Land) and SDG 17 (Partnership for the Goals).

A key reporting mechanism within the HLPF is the Voluntary National Review (VNR) process which aims to facilitate the sharing of experiences among countries, including successes, challenges and lessons learned, with a view to accelerating the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

Although sustainable transport is not represented by a standalone SDG in the 2030 Agenda, it is mainstreamed in [a direct or indirect manner into several SDGs](#), especially those related to poverty alleviation; food security; access to health services, clean water, education, and employment; gender equality; energy; infrastructure; cities and human settlements; energy and food consumption, and climate change.

Since the first HLPF in 2016, the [Partnership on Sustainable, Low Carbon Transport \(SLoCaT\)](#) has been conducting analyses on the VNRs submitted each year. SLoCaT continued to track the references to transport in the 47 VNRs submitted to HLPF in 2018.

Results of this analysis finds that despite a slight improvement from 2016 and 2017, gaps remain in reporting on transport and its contribution to sustainable development in VNRs submitted in 2018. In 2018, references to the transport sector have been included in 94% of the VNRs submitted (44 out of 47 VNRs). Nevertheless, there remains a tendency in a number of VNRs to merely report on outputs (e.g. kilometers of highways built or kilometers of rail constructed) without demonstrating linkages to broader development goals. While 81% of VNRs refer to the role of sustainable transport in achieving the SDGs, only 12 out of 47 VNRs (26%) offer considerable information with specific cases and policy examples on sustainable transport. Furthermore,

the majority of VNRs fall short to offer any concrete evidence and policy measures to demonstrate their commitment to achieve sustainable transport.

Moreover, data to illustrate progress on transport-related SDGs are not always provided in the VNRs in a consistent format or level of detail, which creates challenges to measuring progress over time. 18 out of 47 VNRs (38%) submitted in 2018 have provided data to demonstrate their progress in implementing SDG 3, SDG 7, SDG 9 and SDG 11, which is a significant increase from last year's data reporting (18% of VNRs submitted in 2017 reported data related to the transport sector). However, there remain inconsistencies in the formats, units, and time spans of the limited data sets provided in these VNRs, which is a common issue to the previous two rounds of VNRs.

There is also need to set more specific, quantified targets aligned with the transport-related SDGs. In 2018, 15 countries (or 32% of VNRs) include targets for sustainable transport development, which is a significant increase from 2017 (19% of VNR submissions in 2017 included transport targets). The majority of targets reported are related to SDG 7. Very few targets are being reported on road safety (SDG 3.6.1), rural access (SDG 9.1.1), and access to inclusive public transport (SDG 11.2.1). No quantified targets have been reported in 2018 for SDG 9.1.2 on passenger and freight volumes and SDG 12.c.1 on fossil fuel subsidies.

The analysis also finds that transport does not appear to be receiving a comparable increase in attention in the SDG progress reports released by the UN Secretary-General. The new report in 2018 only reports road safety data from 2013 and includes general descriptions related to transport financing and urban transport.

The SLoCaT Partnership believes that there is further potential to demonstrate the critical role of sustainable transport in this SDG implementation and review process. VNRs can create a more comprehensive vision of sustainable transport development if countries include specific policy examples, case studies, and quantified targets to emphasize that transport is a vital, cross-cutting sector which enables other sectors to implement the 2030 Agenda.

I. Background and Objectives

On 1 January 2016, the [2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development](#) officially came into force. The 2030 Agenda is a set of [17 Sustainable Development Goals \(SDGs\)](#) adopted by world leaders in September 2015 which aims to stimulating actions to shift the world onto a sustainable and resilient path (Figure 1). A complementary set of [169 targets](#) has also been adopted to track the progress made towards achieving the SDGs. As the most important roadmap to guide policy actions for sustainable development in the next 15 years, the 2030 Agenda mobilizes efforts to end all forms of poverty, fight inequality and tackle climate change, while ensuring that “no one is left behind.”¹

The [High-level Political Forum \(HLPF\) on Sustainable Development](#) is the United Nation (UN)’s central platform for the follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda. From its inception in 2016, the HLPF provides an annual platform to provide policy guidance and recommendations on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and offers opportunities for countries to share how implementation of various SDGs have been integrated in their national policies, strategies, and development plans to date.

The HLPF in 2018, held from 9 to 18 July 2018, focused on the theme, “Transformation towards sustainable and resilient societies.” SDGs under review at the HLPF 2018 included SDG 6 (Clean Water and Sanitation), SDG 7 (Affordable and

Clean Energy), SDG 11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities), SDG 12 (Responsible Consumption and Production), SDG 15 (Life on Land) and SDG 17 (Partnership for the Goals). A key reporting mechanism within the HLPF is the Voluntary National Review (VNR) process, as further described in Box 1:

Box 1: Voluntary National Reviews

As part of its follow-up and review mechanisms, the 2030 Agenda encourages member states to “conduct regular and inclusive reviews of progress at the national and sub-national levels, which are country-led and country-driven.”² This mechanism, known as the [Voluntary National Review \(VNR\)](#), is expected to serve as a basis for the regular reviews by the HLPF, meeting under the auspices of the United Nations Economic and Social Council. These regular reviews by the HLPF are to be voluntary, state-led, undertaken by both developed and developing countries, and involve multiple stakeholders.³

The VNRs aim to facilitate the sharing of experiences, including successes, challenges and lessons learned, with a view to accelerating the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. The VNRs also seek to strengthen policies and institutions of governments and to mobilize multi-stakeholder support and partnerships for the implementation of the SDGs.

An online VNR platform has been set up at <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/vnrs/>.



FIGURE 1. 17 Sustainable Development Goals of the 2030 Agenda (Source: UN)

1 United Nations. 2015. Transforming our World: 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. <http://bit.ly/1Ep648>
 2 Paragraph 79, Transforming our World: 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. <http://bit.ly/1Ep648>
 3 Paragraph 84, Transforming our World: 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. <http://bit.ly/1Ep648>

A. Transport and Sustainable Development Goals

Although sustainable transport is not represented by a standalone SDG in the 2030 Agenda, it is mainstreamed in [a direct or indirect manner into several SDGs](#), especially those related to poverty alleviation; food security; access to health services, clean water, education, and employment; gender equality; energy; infrastructure; cities and human settlements; energy and food consumption, and climate change. Transport services and infrastructure are therefore essential to achieving most, if not all, SDGs (Figure 2):

Targets being reviewed in HLPF 2018 with relevance to transport include the following:

- **Indirect transport target 6.1** on universal and equitable access to drinking water
- **Indirect transport target 7.2** on increasing renewable energy share in total final energy consumption
- **Direct transport target 7.3** on improvement in energy efficiency
- **Direct transport target 11.2** on access to public transport (with indicator 11.2.1 on proportion of population that has convenient access to public

- transport, by sex, age and persons with disabilities)
- **Indirect transport target 11.6** on sustainable cities
- **Indirect transport target 12.3** on food waste and loss reduction
- **Indirect transport target 12.c** on fossil fuel subsidies removal

B. Assessment Objectives

[The Partnership on Sustainable Low Carbon Transport \(SLoCaT\)](#) represents over 90 international organizations that are actively working to promote sustainable transport in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Advocacy to raise the profile of sustainable transport in the 2030 Agenda and its subsequent SDG review process at the HLPF is one of the key priorities of the mandate of SLoCaT.

Since the first HLPF in 2016, SLoCaT has been conducting analyses on the VNRs submitted each year. [While only 64% of the 22 VNRs submitted in 2016](#) contained references to transport (with not all references sustainability-specific), [98% of the 43 submitted VNRs in 2017](#) had some degree of reference to the transport sector, with 35% of submissions in 2017 giving specific examples to link transport with sustainable development impacts.

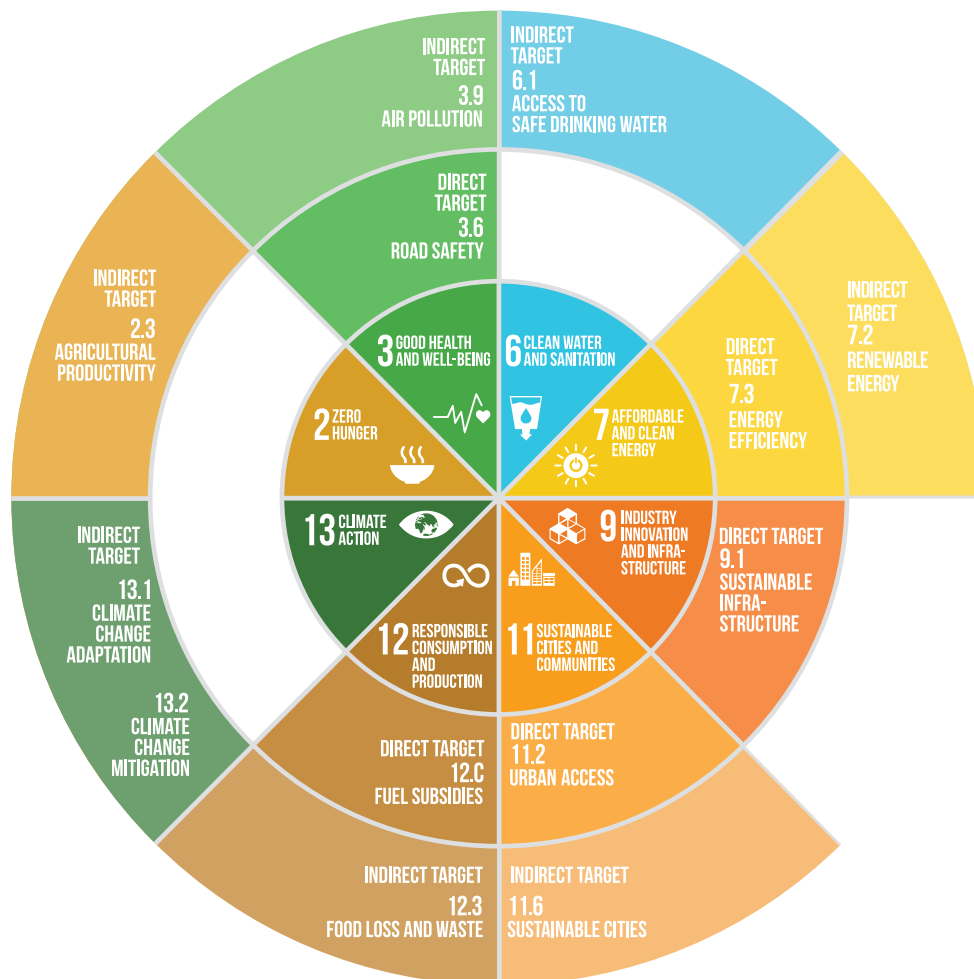


FIGURE 2. Direct and Indirect Transport SDG Targets (Source: SLoCaT 2018)



Photo Source: IISD

SLoCaT has continued to track the references to transport in the 47 VNRs submitted to HLPF in 2018.⁴ This assessment analyzes the third round of VNRs through the following questions:

1. Do countries refer in their VNRs to progress achieved in the transport sector?
2. Do countries link transport development with sustainable development impacts, such as poverty alleviation, food security, social inclusion and equity, road safety, and a cleaner environment?
3. With the review of SDG 11 in 2018, do countries report on any actions for public transport development, improvement in access to urban transport, and enhance the inclusiveness of transport services and infrastructure?
4. What good practices and policy measures for sustainable transport are identified in the VNRs? Is there a pattern to which types of transport policy measures are most commonly adopted by countries?

To answer the above questions, SLoCaT has developed a quantitative assessment⁵ on countries' references to the SDGs, two transport modes, seven transport sub-sectors, and 20 transport policy measures in the VNRs,⁶ based on the [Avoid-Shift-Improve \(A-S-I\) framework](#).⁷ The assessment also considers whether these transport references are made in relations to nine different sustainability-related impacts, including poverty alleviation, food security, social inclusion and equity, urban access, rural access, regional connectivity, road safety, congestion reduction, and air pollution/ public health.

The SLoCaT Partnership believes that there is further potential to demonstrate the critical role of sustainable transport in this SDG implementation and review process. VNRs can create a more comprehensive vision of sustainable transport development if countries include specific policy examples, case studies, and quantified targets to emphasize that transport is a vital, cross-cutting sector which enables other sectors to implement the 2030 Agenda.

4 See Annex I for the list of 47 countries submitting VNRs to HLPF 2018.

5 The analysis presented here is documented in a matrix which is available on the SLoCaT website at www.slocat.net/vnr2018.

6 Refer to Annex II for all the transport modes, sub-sectors, and policy measures reviewed in the assessment.

7 The A-S-I framework is an alternative approach to define sustainable mobility solutions in the context of GHG emission reduction, reduced energy consumption, less congestion, and more livable cities: "Avoid" measures seek to improve the efficiency of the transport system as a whole through integrated land-use planning and transport-demand management to reduce the need to travel and length of trips; "Shift" measures seek to improve trip efficiency by increasing modal shift from the most energy consuming transport modes (e.g. private motorized vehicles) to more environmentally friendly modes (e.g. public transport and non-motorized transport); "Improve" measures focus on vehicle and fuel efficiency as well as on the optimization of transport infrastructure through related technology and alternative energy use. For more information, please see: <http://bit.ly/1ZAuq56>



Photo Source: ITDP

II. References to Transport in VNRs

47 countries have submitted their VNRs to the HLPF 2018. A list of countries submitting their VNRs in 2018 is provided in Annex I.

Transport has gained increased attention in the SDG review process compared to the inaugural HLPF in 2016. In the first round of VNR submission in 2016, only 64% of the 22 submitted VNRs contained references to transport with not all references sustainability-specific. In 2017, 98% of the 43 submitted VNRs have some degree of reference to the transport sector, with 35% of submission giving specific examples to link transport with sustainable development impacts.

In the third round of VNR submission in 2018, references to the transport sector have been included in 94% of the submitted VNRs (44 out of 47 VNRs) with 35% of submission giving specific examples to link transport with sustainable development impacts (more analysis on sustainable transport impacts are included under section III).

This analysis uses a rating scale based on the number and degree of references to the transport sector:

- **5** = considerable information on the transport sector with more than five specific policy examples and cases;
- **4** = some information on the transport sector with less than 3 specific policy examples;
- **3** = Limited information on the transport sector with no specific policy examples. Transport is referenced in general terms;
- **2** = Transport is mentioned briefly along with other sectors only;
- **1** = No information on the transport sector.

References to the transport sector have been included in 94% of the VNRs submitted (i.e. with greater than a rating of '1').⁸ 32% of VNRs give considerable information with a rating of '5', and 30% include some information on transport development with one or two specific examples (i.e. rating of '4'). 19% give brief statements on transport development with no specific examples or measures identified (i.e. rating of '3'), and transport is only mentioned briefly with other sectors (i.e. rating of '2') in 13% of the VNR. 6% of VNRs did not include any specific references to the transport sector (i.e. rating of '1') (Figure 3):

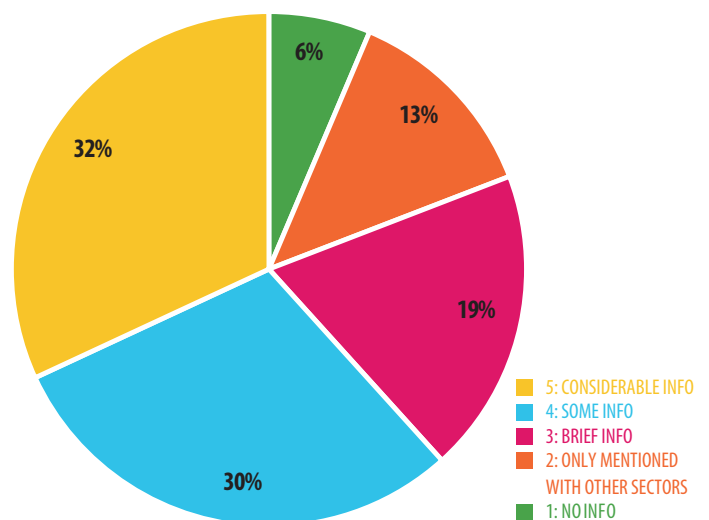


FIGURE 3. Level of Information Relevant to Transport Sector in 2018 VNRs (Source: SLoCaT 2018)

⁸ <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/vnrs/>

SDG 11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities) was one of the main SDGs reviewed at HLPF 2018 and the majority of countries (33 out of the 47 submitted VNRs, or 70%) refer to transport on topics such as public transport, inclusive transport services and infrastructure development, sustainable urban mobility planning, and urban mobility management. 53% of VNRs refer to SDG 9 (Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure) including topics on port and shipping facilities expansion, road development, urban transport infrastructure development, urban and rural access. 47% of VNRs refer to transport in the context of SDG 7 (Affordable and Clean Energy), mostly in the context of energy consumption of the transport sector, the need to increase the use of renewable energy in the sector, expansion of e-vehicle fleet and charging infrastructure, and the electrification of the public transport fleet (Figure 4).

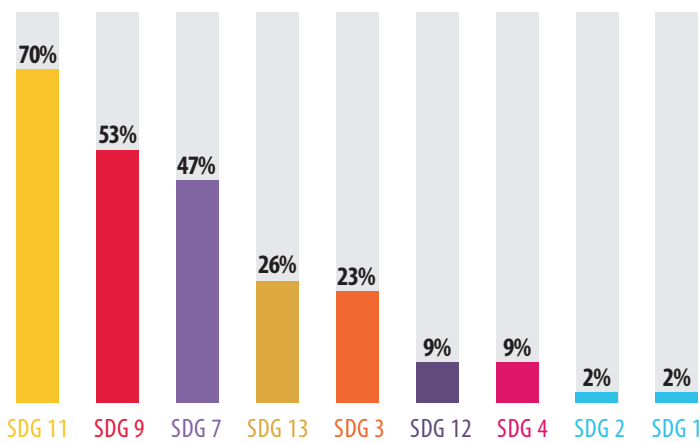


FIGURE 4. Share of VNRs with Transport References to SDGs (Source: SLoCaT 2018)

12 out of the 47 submitted VNRs (26%) refer to climate mitigation and adaptation in the transport sector (SDG 13 for Climate Action), such as transport greenhouse gas (GHG) emission status and the measures to increase resilience of road infrastructure. 23% also refer to road safety issues and transport's role in increasing public health in the context of SDG 3 (Good Health and Well-being). 9% of VNRs refer to sustainable consumption issues in the transport sector through SDG 12 (Responsible Consumption and Production), although no countries have specifically indicated progress on the reduction of fossil fuel subsidies.

Concerning other indirect transport SDGs, Cabo Verde is the only country which discusses the role of improved maritime transport development in reducing inequality and poverty (SDG 1 No Poverty). Mexico is the only country which reports on its improved planning and investment in transport to enhance agricultural productivity (SDG 2 Zero Hunger). For SDG 4 on Quality Education, Kiribati, Slovakia and Sudan refer to the provision of transport subsidies to minorities and students to enhance access to education.

In terms of transport modes, 33 out of the 47 VNRs (70%) refer to passenger transport, such as public transport (bus-based and metro systems), cycling and bikesharing, electric mobility and alternative fuels for vehicles. 49% of VNRs refer to freight transport, such as maritime transport (shipping and port facilities development), rail freight and road infrastructure expansion (Figure 5):

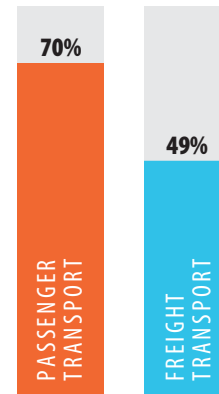


FIGURE 5. Share of VNRs with References by Transport Modes (Source: SLoCaT 2018)

As SDG 11 was one of the SDGs under review at HLPF 2018, urban transport is covered by 33 out of 47 VNRs (70%), covering a wide range of solutions including public transport (bus and metro), walking and cycling, Sustainable Urban Mobility Plans (SUMPs), mobility and traffic management, and parking policy. It is followed by aviation (38%) and maritime transport (38%). Major urban mobility options including heavy rail, walking and cycling are mentioned in 28% and 23% of VNRs respectively. Rural transport is mentioned in 21% of submitted VNRs and High speed rail is only mentioned in 4% of VNRs (Figure 6).

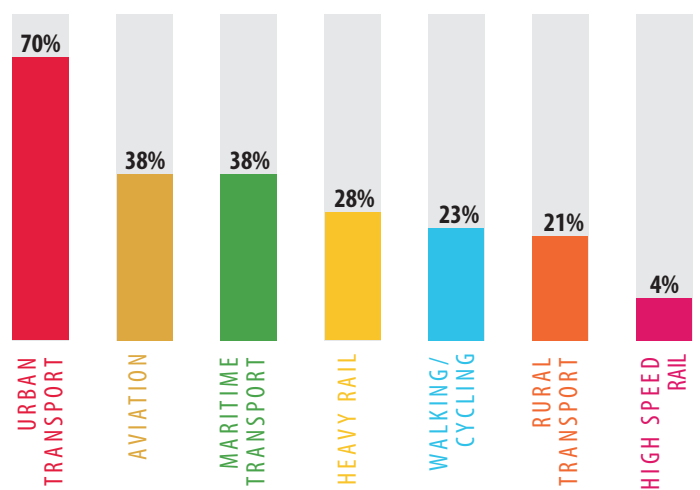


FIGURE 6. Share of VNRs with References to Transport Sub-Sectors (Source: SLoCaT 2018)



Photo Source: Shutterstock photo

Out of the 47 submitted VNRs, 66% indicate the challenges faced in the transport sector. A number of countries point out that the transport sector is a major GHG emitter or the largest energy consuming sector. For example, transport accounts for about 40% of the total energy consumption in Albania and 35% of total energy consumption in Ireland.

Other obstacles that hinder sustainable transport development include the lack of basic transport infrastructure and network in good conditions (Andorra, Guinea, Kiribati, Latvia, Lebanon, Malta, Republic of Congo, Slovakia, Sri Lanka, Vietnam), road and transport safety issues (Andorra, Ecuador, Kiribati, Lao PDR, Mexico, Vietnam), rapid increase of transport demand due to population and economic growth (Australia, Canada, Colombia), geographic location (Armenia, Bhutan, Kiribati), unfavorable political barriers (e.g. trade and transport blockade in landlocked Armenia; remaining submunitions in Lao PDR, border closures in Lebanon, political volatility in the State of Palestine), lack of interest of citizens to shift to low carbon transport modes (Mexico), and difficulties in reaching transport emission reduction target (Switzerland).

In terms of financing and investment for transport development, Australia is investing in key rail infrastructure to reduce the burden on road traffic and to provide more reliable transport networks through initiatives such as the Melbourne to Brisbane Inland Rail for freight. Bhutan has developed a Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Action (NAMA) plan for transport to seek for investment for green transport system development to compliment Bhutan's carbon neutral promise. Ireland is providing about €8.6 billion in capital funding for public transport projects over the next decade. €2.7 billion for investment in public transport has been provided for the remaining four years of the National Development Plan to 2021.

For Lebanon, transport accounted for more than a third of the funding requested at its [International Conference in Support of Lebanon Development and Reforms \(CEDRE conference\)](#) with projects worth around US\$ 5.6 billion. In Saudi Arabia, over US\$ 106 billion have been invested in transport infrastructure over the last 10 years, resulting in the construction of a solid transport network covering all parts of the country. The government is keen to develop infrastructure and transport by allocating more than US\$ 14.4 billion in its 2018 budget.

III. References to Sustainable Transport

Adequate, efficient, affordable, safe, low-carbon and climate resilient transport services and infrastructure are important enabling conditions to address the key issues of sustainability, including urban and rural access, regional connectivity, road safety, air pollution and public health, and congestion. Transport also plays a critical role in achieving the overarching goals of the 2030 Agenda to alleviate poverty, enhance food security, and ensure social inclusion and equity. Thus, it is crucial that countries in their VNRs do not merely list actions taken to grow the transport sector, but rather that countries link these transport measures with their respective

development benefits to amplify the impact of the transport sector in implementing the SDGs.

A. References to Transport and Sustainability

Information on transport provided in the VNRs is not always synonymous with sustainable transport. For example, a number of countries give ample information on transport in the context of economic development (e.g. expansion of road

infrastructure and port facilities) but make little connection to how transport addresses sustainability issues (e.g. road safety, poverty alleviation, green mobility).

While 44 out of the 47 submitted VNRs (94%) mention the transport sector, 81% of them refer to sustainable transport (with or without presenting specific policy examples). Only 12 out of 47 VNRs (26%) offer considerable information on transport in the context of sustainable development benefits and impacts. 17% make references on sustainable transport development with one or two specific examples. 25% highlight that sustainable transport is a priority area of their actions but no specific policy examples are given in their VNRs. 13% mention briefly sustainable transport but give no further attention to the topic. 19% give no information on actions taken in the transport sector to address sustainability issues (Figure 7). The distribution shows that although more than 80% of VNRs acknowledge the needs and importance to implement sustainable transport measures, not all of them provide concrete evidence to showcase their actions.

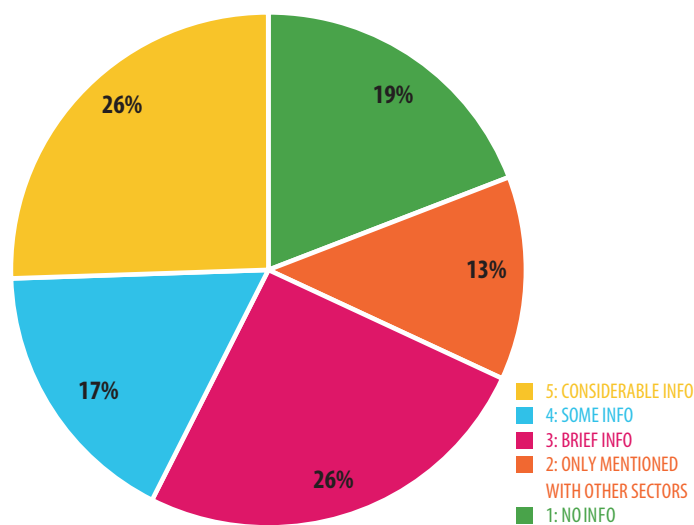


FIGURE 7. Level of Information Relevant to Sustainable Transport in 2018 VNRs (Source: SLoCaT 2018)⁹

In terms of connecting transport actions with sustainable development benefits, SDG 1 on No Poverty is one of the underlying principles for the 2030 Agenda, but only Cabo Verde (2%, or 1 out of 47 VNRs) links progress on transport development with poverty alleviation (Figure 8). Cabo Verde indicates that quality inter-island maritime transport contributes to market integration, with an impact on employment, income distribution and the reduction of inequalities and poverty, contributing to “leaving no one behind” in the country.

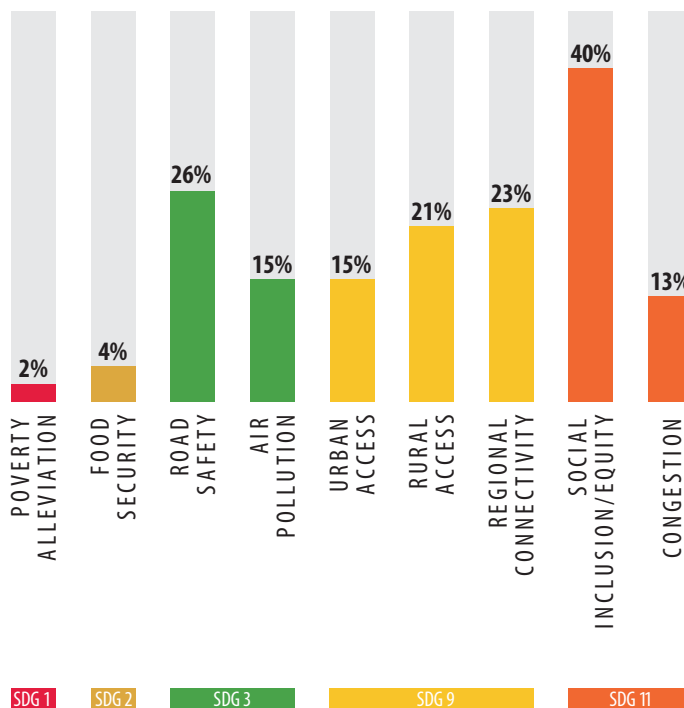


FIGURE 8. Share of Countries with References to Transport Development Benefits (Source: SLoCaT 2018)¹⁰

While the provision of reliable and affordable transport infrastructure and services is key to increasing agricultural production and food security (SDG 2), only Mexico and Niger make this linkage in their VNRs. Mexico indicates that improved planning and investment in transport is important to enhance transport access and contribute to a sustainable agricultural production model. Niger’s Development Strategy for Sustainable and Inclusive Growth¹¹ plans to reduce by approximately 50% the cost and travel time along major corridors in order to increase national and international trade flows and facilitate access to urban centers for agricultural products.

The contribution of transport to SDG target 3.6 on road safety is highlighted in 12 out of 47 VNRs (26%). Greece has developed the Strategic Plan for the Improvement of Road Safety in Greece (2011-2020) which gives particular emphasis on educating children and youth. An e-learning platform called “E-Drive Academy” has been launched and a road safety course is introduced in the primary school curricula. Malta adopted the Road Safety Strategy in 2014 which sets out a 10-year plan for safer land transport systems with the aim of achieving 50% reduction in fatalities, 30% reduction in grievous injuries, and 20% reduction in slight injuries by 2024. The United Arab Emirates (UAE) has conducted a project with the aim to reduce road traffic deaths on five of the most dangerous roads in

⁹ The rating scale is measured based on the number and degree of references to sustainable transport development:
 5 = considerable information on sustainable transport development with more than five specific policy examples and cases related to the A-S-I/ adaptation/transport financing
 4 = some information on sustainable transport with less than 3 specific policy examples related to the A-S-I/ adaptation/transport financing
 3 = limited information on sustainable transport with no specific policy examples.
 2 = Sustainable transport is mentioned briefly along with other sectors only
 1 = No information on sustainable transport development
¹⁰ This figure refers to transport-related development benefits. Reference to the SDGs are covered under Figure 3.
¹¹ Stratégie de Développement Durable et de Croissance Inclusive (SDDCI) Niger 2035 <https://www.nigerrenaissant.org/sites/default/files/pdf/synthse-sddci.pdf>

the UAE by 21%. In the first 100 days of implementation, a reduction of 63% was achieved. This solution will be rolled out across other main roads country-wide.

15% of VNRs link transport development with air pollution reduction. For example, Ireland has implemented train configuration changes and eco-driving initiatives in the public transport sector in order to curb air pollution in cities. Hungary has launched a nationwide Inter-sectoral Action Program for the Reduction of Particulate Matter (PM10) (2011–2030). The estimated budget of this program is approximately €2.5 billion. By the end of 2016, the Government spent more than €504 million and the largest investments has gone to the transport, energy efficiency, and green investment sectors. In addition, Spain encourages modal shift from road to the rail in the context of merchandise mobility.

The contribution of transport to enhancing urban access (SDG indicator 9.1.2) is addressed in 7 out of 47 VNRs (15%). Australia's Plan Melbourne includes the creation of "20-minute neighborhoods" that offer accessible, safe and attractive local areas where people can meet most of their everyday needs within a 20-minute walk, cycle or local public transport trip. Andorra promotes intermodality and mobility with a focus on collective transport instead of private use vehicles. Colombia has implemented projects to construct aerial cables in marginalized areas of Medellín and Bogotá. In Medellín, the project has benefited more than 3,000 people with reduced travel time.

Contribution of transport to enhancing rural access, which has a direct link to SDG indicator 9.1.1, is mentioned in 10 out of 47 VNRs (21%). Lao PDR reports that around 85% of its rural population now live in villages with all-weather road access. Romania has adopted a budget allocation model to increase funding for county roads and local road transport network as they connect all localities to functional urban areas. Sri Lanka has also conducted the Gemi Sariya project, which aims to provide reliable and economical passenger transport services to the public who lack access to transport facilities in rural areas.

Regional connectivity, which has a heavy focus on trade and economic development, is also addressed by 11 out of 47 VNRs (23%). Bhutan, Cabo Verde, Egypt, Greece, Lebanon and Poland indicate how maritime transport and aviation development contribute to territorial cohesion and increased economic opportunities. Kiribati indicates that transport and ICT infrastructure is a key component for the country in enabling access to international markets. Latvia uses the example of the Rail Baltica as a project for the decarbonization of transport which provides passengers with sustainable high-speed mobility and offer new rail freight and trade opportunities throughout the Baltic region.

19 out of 47 VNRs (40%) specifically identify transport measures for the purpose of enhancing social inclusion and

equity, including improving access to transport for women, girls, elderly, people with disabilities, and other socially vulnerable groups. For example, Egypt has passed legislation in 2018 which requires transport service providers to dedicate space for disabled commuters. Latvia provides free public transport for persons with disabilities, orphans and other socially vulnerable groups and families with three and more children are entitled to a 25% discount for public transport. Sri Lanka has started the Sisu Sariya company which provides reliable and concessionary bus service for school children. Singapore has also upgraded its public transport facilities with barrier-free entrance to lifts, tactile guidance system, and wheelchair-accessible toilets, and priority queue zones for passengers in need. By 2020, all public buses will be wheelchair-accessible in Singapore. Hungary, Republic of Congo, Spain, and Switzerland are working to adapting their public transport infrastructure and services for people with disabilities. In addition, Colombia launched projects to install security cameras and others equipment which provide safer conditions for women to travel.

Congestion reduction, which is another important impact related to sustainable transport systems (SDG 11), is mentioned in 6 out of 47 VNRs (13%). Bahamas has received support from the Inter-American Development Bank for its New Providence Transport Programme to improve its public road system and reduce congestion. Lebanon indicates that work is underway to ease traffic and congestion through a large public transport project in Beirut and its suburbs. Malta conducts projects with the aim of addressing traffic congestion by addressing bottlenecks and using tidal traffic systems. Singapore is developing a study on the development of an underground goods mover system to reduce freight transport on roads.

B. Data Reported to Show Progress in the Transport Sector

Quantitative data to illustrate progress on the transport-related SDGs are provided in 18 out of 47 VNRs (38%), with the majority of data reported related to SDG 9.¹² Albania, Benin, Canada, Guinea, Ireland, Lebanon, Senegal and Sri Lanka report on data related to SDG indicator 9.1.2 (passenger and freight volumes, by mode of transport (port, rail, and aviation)). Other countries report data related, but not exactly consistent, with indicator 9.1.2. For example, Ecuador reports on its Airport Infrastructure Quality Index, Lithuania reports on the volume of freight transport relative to Gross Domestic Product (GDP) index, Vietnam reports on the growth rate of total number of passengers transported by roads, railways, airports and sea-river ports.

Guinea, Senegal and Sri Lanka report data related to SDG indicator 9.1.1 (proportion of the rural population who live within 2 km of an all-season road). Other countries report on road infrastructure expansion and maintenance, such as

¹² A list of countries and their respective data reported in the VNRs are listed under Annex III.

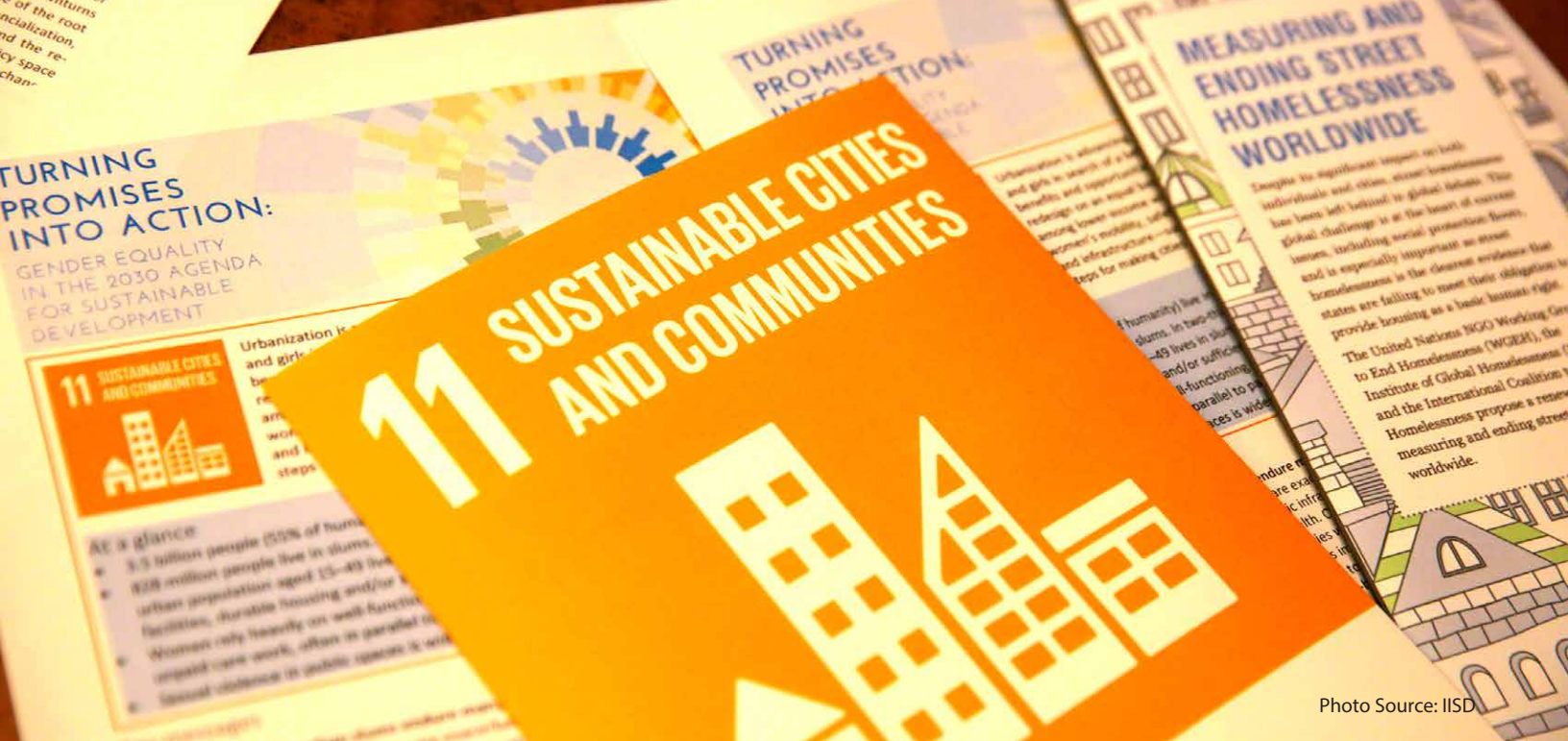


Photo Source: IISD

Ecuador and Mali reporting on the expansion of state road networks (without particular indication for access to all-season roads) and Latvia reporting on the share of roads with black surface among all local roads.

For SDG 11, a few countries report data related to public transport, such as Ireland and Lithuania (share of collective transport modes in total passenger land transport by vehicle/train), Latvia (passenger turnover in public transport and the share of public transport in total domestic passenger volume), Lebanon (use of public transport - buses, service taxis, and private cars), and Sri Lanka (growth in number of passengers using public transport). Ireland, Mali, Mexico, and Uruguay also report on data related to accessibility to public transport. Canada reports on the percentage of its population that commutes to work using sustainable transport. Poland reports on a more comprehensive context through the "Index of multimodal accessibility of transport."¹³

Data reporting related to SDG 7 on energy efficiency in the transport sector comes in various indicators and formats. Poland is the only country reporting on the share of renewable energy in transport. It also report on the share of its urban bus fleet powered by alternative fuels. Romania reports on its transport sector's share of total final energy consumption. Sri Lanka reports on demand for energy by major user categories, while Ireland reports data on average new car efficiency and average carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions per km from new passenger cars.

Canada, Malta and Sri Lanka are the only three countries reporting data on road safety under SDG indicator 3.6.1 on death rate due to road traffic injuries.

While these countries set examples on providing data to demonstrate their progress in implementing SDGs 3, SDG 7, SDG 9 and SDG 11, there remain inconsistencies in the formats, units, and time spans of the limited data sets provided in these VNRs, which is a common issue to the previous two rounds of VNRs.

C. Transport-related Targets in VNRs

Setting specific, quantified targets is an important element in establishing a vision and tracking progress toward sustainable transport development. In the previous round of VNRs in 2017, quantified targets for the transport sector were only set by 19% of submissions (8 countries). In 2018, 15 out of 47 countries (or 32% of VNRs) include targets for sustainable transport development, which is a significant increase from 2017 (only 8 out of 43 countries, or 19% of total submissions in 2017 reported transport targets).¹⁴

10 countries have reported quantified targets related to SDG 7. Ireland, Latvia, Lithuania, and Malta have set targets to increase the share of renewable energy in total final energy consumption of the transport sector. Lebanon and Lithuania set targets related to the fuel efficiency of vehicles. Singapore includes targets to increase uptake of shared electric vehicle and charging infrastructure, while Uruguay sets targets to increase electric vehicles in its public transport fleet. Five countries have set targets related to public transport, such as Senegal's target to increase the proportion of population with easy access to public transport by 50% by 2030 and Singapore's target that by 2020, all public buses will be wheelchair-accessible.

Very few targets are related to the other SDGs with direct transport indicators. Senegal is the only country setting a

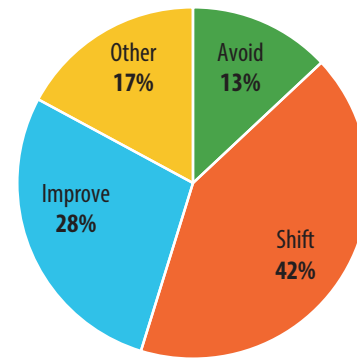
¹³ Tomasz, K, P. Rosik, M. Stepniak, and K. Kowalczyk. 2018. Evaluation and Monitoring of Accessibility Changes in Poland Using the MAI Indicator. <https://bit.ly/2Kwi5ps>
¹⁴ A list of countries with specific, quantified transport targets reported in the VNRs can be found under Annex IV.

target on rural access, and Malta and Saudi Arabia are the only countries reporting on specific targets for road safety (i.e. reduction in fatalities and injuries). Saudi Arabia also reports quantified targets for improving international logistics performance and congestion reduction and Niger is the only country reporting a target on reducing the cost and travel time along major transport corridors.

D. References to Transport Policy Measures (Avoid-Shift-Improve)

The A-S-I framework is an alternative approach to categorize sustainable mobility solutions in the context of GHG emission reductions, reduced energy consumption, less congestion, and more livable cities:¹⁵

- **“Avoid”** measures seek to improve the efficiency of the transport system as a whole through integrated land-use planning and transport-demand management to reduce the need to travel and the length of transport trips.
- **“Shift”** measures seek to improve trip efficiency by increasing modal shift from the most energy consuming transport modes (e.g. private motorized vehicles) to more environmentally friendly modes (e.g. public transport, cycling and walking).
- **“Improve”** measures focus on vehicle and fuel efficiency as well as on the optimization of transport infrastructure through related technology and alternative energy use.



Total No. of Reported Measures: 121

FIGURE 9. Percentage of Reported Measures, Classified by A-S-I

Figure 9 shows that countries have been more inclined to identify transport “Shift” measures (accounting for 42% of all measures reported in VNRs) over “Improve” measures (28% of all measures reported) in their VNRs, with “Avoid” measures receiving the least attention (13% of all reported measures). Countries should, however, utilize all three types of measures in order to address transport sustainability issues in a comprehensive and effective manner.

Figure 10 below shows the percentages of VNRs referring to different A-S-I transport measures.

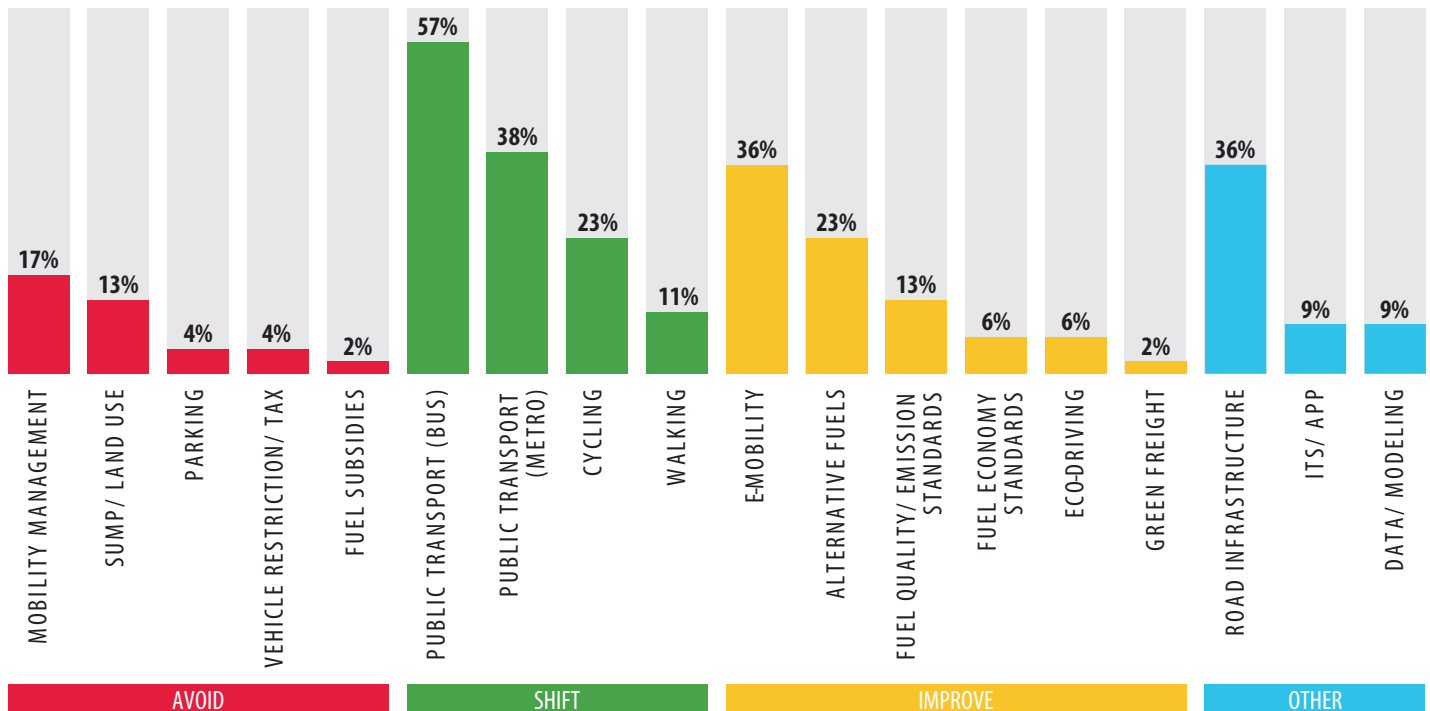


FIGURE 10. Share of Countries with References to A-S-I Transport Measures (Source: SLoCaT 2018)

As noted, **“Avoid”** measures have not been referenced by many countries; these include the implementation of SUMP and transport/ land-use planning, traffic and mobility management policies, vehicle restriction policies (tax reduction for clean/ e-vehicles, vehicle quota system), parking and fuel subsidies. In Lithuania, 18 municipalities are eligible to prepare and implement SUMP under the newly approved national guidelines. At the end of 2017, nine municipal administrations of Lithuania had their SUMP prepared, and the remaining nine municipalities will have their SUMP ready in 2018. Greece is providing financial support to 162 municipalities to develop their SUMP with a total budget of EUR 9 million. Lao PDR is implementing the Vientiane Sustainable Urban Transport Project to improve traffic management, paid parking systems, and accessibility for pedestrians and non-motor traffic in the core of the city. In Ireland, vehicle registration and motor taxation systems were changed in July 2008 to be based on CO₂ emissions rather than engine size. A zero emissions band for electric vehicles was also introduced for motor tax purposes only. Cars with CO₂ emissions of 140 g/km or higher now comprise just 4% of new car purchases.

“Shift” measures are included in the greatest number of countries, as urban public transport is part of SDG 11 which is being reviewed this year. These policy measures include bus-based public transport development (e.g. public bus services, Bus Rapid Transit (BRT)), metro systems, cycling and walking policies). In Lebanon, a BRT project is being tested for feasibility and the design concept proposes a re-configuration of the Beirut ring road to include BRT as part of the network. Poland is conducting a review of measures needed to develop low-carbon public transport, including solutions for the transition to low-carbon rolling stock in public transport and low-carbon vehicles. Singapore has introduced the **“Walk Cycle Ride SG”** program to make walking, cycling, and riding public transport a way of life for its people, and has developed a Walking and Cycling Plan to encourage high pedestrian and cyclist traffic. Developers are incentivized to provide bicycle lots and supporting facilities through exemption of these spaces from the gross floor area calculation. More covered walkways are being constructed so that people can walk to train stations, bus interchanges, and neighborhood amenities comfortably regardless of the weather. To date, 120 kilometers of sheltered walkways have been constructed, with 200 kilometers planned for completion by the end of 2018.

“Improve” measures are covered in fewer VNRs than **“Shift”** measures but more than 1/3 of countries refer to electric mobility measures. Improve also covers measures for introducing alternative fuels and energy efficient vehicles, improving fuel quality and vehicle emission standards, fuel economy standards, eco-driving and green freight programs. Andorra has provided direct aids and incentives to ensure that by 2050, half of the car fleet of the country consists of electric vehicles. In Latvia, the government has approved the Alternative Fuel Development Plan 2017-2020 to promote the use of compressed or liquefied natural gas, hydrogen,

biofuels, and electricity in transport. Malta has allocated a total budget of €50,000 to a scheme in which vehicle owners are compensated when converting their diesel/petrol vehicle to liquefied petroleum gas. In 2017, 220 vehicles benefited from this scheme. Malta is also conducting feasibility studies on increasing the use of LNG in maritime transport. Similarly, Singapore has established the Maritime Singapore Green Initiative (MSGI) with pledged to invest up to US\$73 million over a five-year period to the Green Ship Programme, Green Port Programme and Green Technology Programme. MSGI also supports local maritime technology companies in developing and deploying green technologies through co-funding grants of up to 50% of the qualifying costs. Uruguay is working to introduce electric taxis and buses in Montevideo, with plans to reach 300 e-taxis and 100 e-buses in the next two years.

Other transport policy measures mentioned include road infrastructure expansion and rehabilitation, application of Intelligent Transport Systems (ITS) and development of transport phone applications, and improvement in data collection and modeling for the transport sector. Road infrastructure is a primary example of transport sector expansion for Bhutan, Ecuador, Guinea, Mali, and Malta; while other countries such as Cabo Verde, Greece, and Romania consider road infrastructure expansion as a solution to improve poor rural access, relieve urban congestion, and enhance employment and other socio-economic opportunities. In Romania, the Oradea City App application helps to increase convenience to use public transport by allowing users to pay for public transport or parking. Information is also provided on the routes of different bus or tram lines or public parking system in the city. Australia is improving road safety and conditions through better data collection and analysis. Industries including transport, agriculture, and aviation are adopting technologies like Geoscience Australia's National Positioning Infrastructure program,¹⁶ and Foundation Spatial Data Framework¹⁷ to improve performance.

E. References to Transport Adaptation Measures

Although the 2030 Agenda focuses on a broad set of sustainable development issues, its linkages to climate change mitigation and adaptation are significant. In the context of transport, SDG Target 9.1 calls for the development of low carbon and resilient transport infrastructure, which is closely tied to achieving SDG Goal 13 on climate action. Climate adaptation in the transport sector is necessary for both developed and developing countries, as transport systems worldwide are vulnerable to the increasing impacts of extreme weather, and rapid motorization increases the potential for catastrophic impacts. Crucially, sustainable transport systems must adapt to climate change to maintain reliability to enable transport's role in economic and social development. Many sustainable transport solutions combine increased mitigation potential and resilience as mutual benefits (e.g. during

¹⁶ National Positioning Infrastructure. <https://bit.ly/2gXQub7>

¹⁷ Foundation Spatial Data Framework. <http://fsdf.org.au>

the Great East Japan Earthquake in 2011, high-speed rail proved to be more resilient than conventional rail transport infrastructure). In short, adaptation in transport sector is a crucial pre-condition to provide universal access, increase and maintain efficiency of transport system, ensure safety of road users, and contribute to sustainable, resilient mobility for all.

In the 47 submitted VNRs in 2018, ample examples have been made to transport policy measures related to the Avoid-Shift-Improve framework, which has a strong orientation to climate change mitigation and decarbonization in the transport sector. References to transport adaptation are, however, very limited.

IV. Conclusions and Recommendations

The analysis described in the previous sections emphasizes that there is considerable scope for improvement in the treatment of sustainable transport in the VNR process.

1. Despite a slight improvement from 2016 and 2017, gaps remain in reporting on transport and its contribution to sustainable development in VNRs submitted in 2018

Transport has generally gained increased attention in the SDG review process compared to the inaugural HLPF in 2016. In the first round of VNR submission in 2016, only 64% of the 22 submitted VNRs contained references to transport with not all references sustainability-specific. In 2017, 98% of the 43 submitted VNRs have some degree of reference to the transport sector, with 35% of submission giving specific examples to link transport with sustainable development impacts. In the third round of VNR submission in 2018, references to the transport sector have been included in 94% of the VNRs submitted (44 out of 47 VNRs), with 35% of submission giving specific examples to link transport with sustainable development impacts.

There remains a tendency in a number of VNRs to merely report on outputs (e.g. kilometers of highways built or kilometers of rail constructed) without demonstrating linkages to broader development goals. While 80% of VNRs acknowledge the role of sustainable transport in achieving the SDGs, only 12 out of 47 VNRs (26%) offer considerable information with specific cases and policy examples to showcase their actions on sustainable transport. 17% of VNRs cited one or two policy examples related to sustainable transport and 36% of VNRs acknowledge the need for sustainable transport but fall short of offering any concrete evidence and policy measures to demonstrate their commitment to achieve it.

On the other hand, with SDG 11 in review, the issue on social equity and inclusive urban transport has received increased attention. In addition, SDG 3 on Road Safety and SDG Indicator 9.1.1 on rural access have been mentioned in more than a quarter of the submitted VNRs. Other key sustainability issues related to SDG 9 and SDG 11, including urban access, congestion and air pollution, have only been mentioned by around 15% of VNRs. Although SDG 1 on No Poverty is one of the underlying principles for the 2030 Agenda, only one country has linked its

Only 5 out of 47 VNRs (11%) have included specific references related to transport adaptation. In Bhutan, 94 village block (or “gewog”) roads have been black-topped and 37 are underway as of 2016 in order to make the road infrastructure more resilient to impacts of climate change. For Lao PDR, the new Road Sector II Project is part of the country’s national program to build climate-resilient roads and infrastructure. Singapore ensures that its public transport networks are protected by raising the minimum crest levels for entrances to underground facilities such as the metro stations. At Changi Airport, the future Terminal 5 will be built 5.5 meters above the mean sea level as a precaution, higher than the minimum height of four meters.

progress on transport development with poverty alleviation and no country has made any reference to transport in the context of food security (SDG 2) or food loss and waste (SDG 12), though the latter is a specific focus of this year’s HLPF.

At the same time, there is ample evidence of sustainable transport policies and measures in the 2018 VNR countries, which could be reported in a more substantive manner. For example, Mexico, has been a leading example for sustainable transport development and its capital, Mexico City, has won the Sustainable Transport Award by the Institute for Transportation and Development Policy (ITDP). A wide range of recent best practices, case studies, and reports related to the implementation of sustainable, low carbon transport in Mexico is available on various sources and database (e.g. ITDP’s Mexico Archive, Mexico’s Transport NAMA, World Resources Institute Archive on Mexico), yet the country has only reported very briefly on transport without citing any specific examples in its VNR.

The VNR process was set up to facilitate the sharing of experiences, including successes, challenges and lessons learned, with a view to accelerating the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. The VNRs are also expected to support the strengthening of policies and institutions and to mobilize multi-stakeholder support and partnerships for the implementation of the SDGs. VNRs deal with this guidance mostly in a fairly general manner, and therefore sector related information, including for the transport sector, is often presented in a cursory and qualitative manner. This limits the use of VNRs as a tool to inspire and guide other countries in taking greater sector-based action in support of the targets set by the SDGs.

2. Data to illustrate progress on transport-related SDGs are not always provided in the VNRs in a consistent format or level of detail, which creates challenges to measure progress over time.

38% of VNRs submitted in 2018 have provided data to demonstrate their progress in implementing SDGs 3, SDG 7, SDG 9 and SDG 11, which is a significant increase from last year’s data reporting (18% of VNRs submitted in 2017 reported data related to the transport sector). However, there remain inconsistencies in the formats, units, and time spans

of the limited data sets provided in these VNRs, which is a common issue to the previous two rounds of VNRs.

The majority of data reported in the VNRs are related to SDG 9 on passenger and freight volume by transport modes, while a few countries report data related to other transport-focused indicators such as road safety (3.6.1), energy efficiency and the share of renewable energy use in transport (7.2.1), rural access (9.1.1), and access to public transport (11.2.1).

However, the data are not always reported according to the official SDG indicator framework. For example, instead of reporting on the proportion of the rural population who live within 2 km of an all-season road, some countries report on the expansion and maintenance of road infrastructure; instead of reporting on the proportion of population that has convenient access to public transport, some countries report on share of public transport in passenger transport activities or the intermodality accessibility of transport.

3. There is need to set more specific, quantified targets aligned with the transport-related SDGs

Setting specific, quantified targets is an important element in establishing a vision and tracking progress toward sustainable transport development. In the round of VNRs in 2017, quantified targets for the transport sector were set by only 19% of submissions. In 2018, 15 countries (or 32% of VNRs) include targets for sustainable transport development, which is a significant increase from 2017.

The majority of targets reported are related to SDG 7 on increasing the share of renewable energy in the transport sector, fuel efficiency, and electric mobility development. Very few targets are being reported on direct transport indicators such as road safety (SDG 3.6.1), rural access (SDG indicator 9.1.1), and access to inclusive public transport (SDG 11.2.1). No quantified targets have been reported for direct transport indicators for SDG 9.1.2 on passenger and freight volume and SDG 12.c.1 on fossil fuel subsidies. This shows that although it is positive that slightly more countries have reported on setting their quantified targets for sustainable transport, there is more room for countries to set goals which are aligned with the SDG indicator framework.

It is recommended that countries consider setting specific, quantified targets aligned with the following SDG targets:

- Increasing substantially the share of renewable energy in the transport sector (Target 7.2)
- Doubling the rate of improvement in transport energy efficiency (Target 7.3)
- Increasing modal shift to public transport through expansion of metro, BRT and bike-sharing systems, and increasing uptake of e-mobility in public transport fleets (Target 11.2)
- Reducing food losses along production/supply chains through improved rural transport access (Target 12.3)
- Phasing out inefficient fossil fuel subsidies that encourage wasteful consumption, particularly in the transport sector (Target 12.c)

4. There is increased attention to transport in the VNRs but not in the SDG Progress Reports

While transport has generally gained increased attention in VNRs since the first year of the HLPF, transport does not appear to be receiving a comparable increase in attention in the SDG progress reports released by the UN Secretary-General.

UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres issued the 2018 SDG progress report titled “Progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals.” The report provides the third account of where the world stands at the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. It gives an overview of all 17 SDGs using data currently available to highlight the most significant gaps and challenges. The data presented are based on the global SDG indicator framework and are produced by national statistical systems.

Table 1 presents all the transport-related references of the 3rd SDG Progress Report 2018:

TABLE 1. References to Transport in the 2018 SDG Progress Report

SDG	Reference (Excerpt)
SDG 3 (Good Health and Well-being)	Road traffic crashes killed 1.25 million people worldwide in 2013 and injured up to 50 million more.
SDG 9 (Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure)	Total official flows for economic infrastructure in developing countries reached US\$56 billion in 2016, a slight decrease from 2015 but an increase of 27 per cent in real terms since 2010. The main recipient sectors continue to be transport and energy.
SDG 11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities)	Globally, as cities are absorbing more inhabitants, they are also becoming less dense. The average rate of physical expansion of cities is about one and a half times that of population growth. The regions that are experiencing the most rapid urban expansion—Eastern and Southeastern Asia, sub-Saharan Africa and Central and Southern Asia—are also recording the highest ratios. Some of the forces driving this urban expansion include rising per capita incomes, cheaper agricultural lands on the outskirts of cities, more efficient transport and the proliferation of informal settlements.

The attention given to the transport sector has decreased compared to last year’s progress report. In last year, the SDG Progress Report built linkages between transport and several SDG targets, such as SDG 3.6 (road safety), SDG 3.9 (public health), SDG 7.3 (sustainable energy consumption), and SDG 9.1 (economic development). The new report in 2018 only reports road safety data from 2013 and includes general descriptions related to transport financing and urban transport.



The SDG progress reports have demonstrated effort from the sustainable development process to capture the progress made towards achieving the SDGs. However, it is clear that these reports have yet to measure progress in a structured and coherent manner, particularly in the transport sector.

The process for development of the annual SDG progress report is not clear and it is apparent that better linkages with organizations and groups (e.g. UN agencies, development organizations, academe) collecting relevant data on transport and SDGs could have improved the coverage of transport in the progress report¹⁸. For now, it appears that the VNRs and SDG progress reports are two separate processes. This is in part caused by the timing of the VNRs. The SDG progress report is prepared before the VNRs have been submitted, and this process could be more closely coordinated in future HLPFs.

5. There is an opportunity to draw upon other reporting frameworks for sustainable transport in formulating VNRs

The 2030 Agenda and the Paris Agreement together represents two of the major global processes for sustainable development and climate change with much potential to steer the world towards a more sustainable future. While reporting mechanisms for the two global processes are separate, there are ample opportunities for countries to jointly advance the agendas. The World Resources Institute indicates that joining up implementation for the two processes can be achieved by coordinating institutions, ensuring alignment and synergy of SDG and NDC targets, mainstreaming both sets of goals into policy planning, optimizing financial resources, and building mutually reinforcing monitoring and reporting frameworks.¹⁹ This would require requires governments to make significant shifts in institutional, policy, financial, and monitoring frameworks that have the potential to generate clear benefits such as reduced transaction costs, enhanced policy coherence, and cost efficiency.

Moreover, it is clear that substantial progress in sustainable transport development is being made in many of the countries in the world; yet, the VNRs and SDG progress report lacks the necessary structure and framework to report such progress. This gap underscores the need for actors in the transport sector to develop complementary status reports

The SLoCaT Partnership is leading the development of a Transport and Climate Change Global Status Report (TCC-GSR),²⁰ which aims to provide a resource for national and sub-national policy-makers to measure progress on transport mitigation and adaptation and increase transport ambition in their country reporting to global processes, especially the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) and long-term plans. The report will provide a central data repository for monitoring transport and climate-relevant indices in global agreements (e.g. Paris Agreement, SDGs, the New Urban Agenda, and related processes).

Another framework to measure progress in sustainable transport is the Global Mobility Report (GMR) developed under the Sustainable Mobility for All initiative. The GMR is built around three components: a vision for sustainable mobility articulated around four global objectives (Universal Access, Efficiency, Safety, and Green Mobility); global targets drawn from international agreements; and transport-relevant indicators supported by country data and agreed methodologies.

The concerted development of such tracking frameworks can help to create a more comprehensive picture of the status of sustainable transport on global, regional, and local levels; however, these individual reporting initiatives are currently independent from the HLPF process and current VNR reporting structure. It is thus important that the HLPF draws from relevant transport reporting mechanisms and that these mechanisms be integrated more fully into policy discussions around the formulation of VNRs in 2019 and in future years.

18 Examples include the [Global Status Report on Road Safety](#) by the World Health Organization, the [Logistics Performance Index](#) developed by the World Bank, and the [UNCTAD stat database on Maritime Transport](#), developed by the United Nations Conference and Trade and Development.

19 World Resources Institute. 2018. Connecting the Dots: Elements for a Joined-Up Implementation of the 2030 Agenda. <http://www.wri.org/publication/connectingthedots-ndc-sdg>.

20 The TCC-GSR is scheduled to be released in December 2018. For more information, please contact Alice Yiu at alice.yiu@slocatpartnership.org.

Annex I: List of Countries Submitting VNRs to HLPF 2018

47 VNRs have been submitted to the HLPF 2018 by the following countries:

1. Albania
2. Andorra
3. Armenia
4. Australia
5. Bahamas
6. Bahrain
7. Benin
8. Bhutan
9. Cabo Verde
10. Canada
11. Colombia
12. Dominican Republic
13. Ecuador
14. Egypt
15. Greece
16. Guinea
17. Hungary
18. Ireland
19. Jamaica
20. Kiribati
21. Lao People's Democratic Republic (PDR)
22. Latvia
23. Lebanon
24. Lithuania
25. Mali
26. Malta
27. Mexico
28. Namibia
29. Niger
30. Paraguay
31. Poland
32. Qatar
33. Republic of Congo
34. Romania
35. Saudi Arabia
36. Senegal
37. Singapore
38. Slovakia
39. Spain
40. Sri Lanka
41. State of Palestine
42. Sudan
43. Switzerland
44. Togo
45. United Arab Emirate
46. Uruguay
47. Vietnam

For more information, please see:
<https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/vnrs/>.



Photo Source: Carlos Pardo

Annex II: List of Transport Typologies Used in Assessment

The list of transport modes, sub-sectors, policy measures (Avoid-Shift-Improve), and other typologies are being used to assess the treatment of transport in the submitted VNRs in 2018.

Category	Typologies
Overview	Reference on transport as challenges
	Reference on transport as solutions
	Info on transport (1=No info; 5 = Considerable info)
	Specific reference to sustainability of transport (1=No info; 5 = Considerable info)
Linkages to SDGs	SDG 11
	SDG 9
	SDG 7
	SDG 3
	SDG 13
	SDG 12
	SDG 4
	SDG 2
SDG 1	
Transport Modes	Passenger Transport
	Freight Transport
Transport Sub-sectors	Urban Transport
	Aviation
	Maritime Transport
	Rural Transport
	Heavy Rail
	Walking/ Cycling
Transport AVOID Measures	High Speed Rail
	Sustainable Urban Mobility Plan / Land use
	Mobility Management
	Parking
	Fuel Subsidies
	Vehicle Restriction/ Taxation
	Low Emission Zone/ Congestion Charging

Category	Typologies
Transport SHIFT Measures	Public Transport (Bus)
	Public Transport (Metro)
	Cycling
Transport IMPROVE Measures	Walking
	Electric mobility
	Alternative Fuels
	Fuel Quality/ Emission Standards
	Fuel Economy Standards
	Eco-driving
	Green Freight
OTHER Transport Measures	Vehicle Inspection
	Road Infrastructure
	Intelligent Transport System / Mobility Phone Application
	Data collection / Modeling
Transport Development Benefits	Poverty Alleviation
	Food Security
	Road Safety
	Air Pollution
	Urban Access
	Rural Access
	Regional Connectivity
	Social Inclusion/ Equity
Congestion	
Transport Data	SDG 3
	SDG 7
	SDG 9
	SDG 11
	SDG 13
Others	Transport Adaptation
	Transport Targets
	Investment in transport development

Annex III: Countries Reporting Data on Transport SDG Indicators

Country	Reported Transport Data (Data Year(s))
Albania	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of passengers for railway/ sea/ air (2012-2017); amount of freight transport by rail (2005-2017)
Benin	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rail freight traffic (2014) Passenger traffic departing from Benin airports (2015) Air cargo traffic (2015) Transport goods at the port (2015)
Canada	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Passenger and freight volumes, by mode of transport (Air, Marine, Rail, Road, Pipeline) Death rate due to road traffic injuries (2015) Percentage of the Population that Commute to Work using Sustainable Transportation by Census Division (graph)
Ecuador	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> State Road Network (thousands of km) (2009-2017) Airport infrastructure quality index (2011-2013; 2015-2017)
Guinea	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proportion of the rural population living within 2 km of a year-round road (2016) Number of passengers and volume of freight transported, by mode of transport (2016)
Ireland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Average new car efficiency (2007, 2015) Share of collective transport modes in total passenger land transport by vehicle - trains (%) (2000-2015) Share of rail and inland waterways activity in total freight transport - total (%) (2000-2015) Average CO2 emissions per km from new passenger cars (2000-2015) Volume of freight transport relative to GDP (2000-2015) Difficulty in accessing public transport by level of difficulty and degree of urbanization - total / rural / urban / towns and suburbs (%)
Latvia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Share of roads with black surface in total local state roads (2009-2016) Passenger turnover in public transport (regular bus traffic passenger kilometers annually) (SDG 11) (2010-2016) Annual freight turnover at Latvia's ports (2011-2016) Annual number of air passengers at the Riga International Airport (2011-2016) Passenger turnover in rail transport (million passenger kilometers annually) (2008-2016) Annual number of passengers at the Port of Riga (thousand annually) (2010-2016) Reduced length of state main roads in bad and very bad condition (2012-2016) Reduced length of state regional roads with black surface in bad and very bad condition (2012-2016) Share of public transport passenger kilometers in total domestic passenger kilometers (2010-2016) Freight transport intensity (domestic ton-kilometers in GDP, 2005=100) (2010-2016)
Lebanon	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maritime trade activity at the Port of Beirut (2011-2017); Airport activity (2011-2017) Use of public transport - buses, service taxis, and private cars (1970, 2009)
Lithuania	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Share of renewable energy in transport sector (2016) Volume of freight transport relative to GDP – index (2005=100) (2016) Share of collective transport modes in total passenger land transport by vehicle, expressed as % of total inland passengers- Km - Motor coaches, buses and trolley buses (2015)
Mali	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Road network expansion (2015 - 2018); air transport activity (2015-2016) River transport passenger and goods volume (2015-2016)
Malta	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> People killed in road accidents, expressed as rate (2015) Difficulty in accessing public transport by level of difficulty - very high or high, expressed as % of total population (2012) Total emissions of CO2 in kilo tones from road transport (1990- 2016)
Mexico	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Share of population with access to public transport (2010)
Poland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Index of multimodal accessibility of transport (2010, 2013-2015) Share of renewable energy in transport (2010-2016) Share of buses powered by alternative fuels in the total number of buses serving urban transport (2010-2016)

Country	Reported Transport Data (Data Year(s))
Romania	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Romania's final energy consumption, by sector (2000-2015)
Senegal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rural accessibility index (2017) Number of passengers and cargo volume per transport mode (2000, 2015-2017)
Sri Lanka	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Road traffic death rate (per 100 000 population) (2013); no. of road accidents (2015) Demand for energy by major user categories (2016) Share of road transport in passenger transport and freight transport (2016) % of the roads with gravel surface Total passenger kilometers in bus transport (2011, 2016) Total passenger kilometers in rail transport (2011, 2016) % of the rural population live within 2 km of an all-season road Air passenger kilometers (2011, 2016) Air freight (tons) (2011, 2016) Rail freight (ton kilometers) (2011, 2016) Growth in number of passengers using public transport (2007-2015)
Uruguay	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Percentage of population with access to transport in Montevideo
Vietnam	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Growth rate (%) of total number of passengers transported by roads, railways, airports and sea-river ports in 2011-2015; 2017 Annual transport capacity (cargo transported) in 2015 - 2017

Annex IV: Countries Reporting Transport Targets in 2018 VNRs

Country	Transport Targets
Canada	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SDG 13 CO2 Emission Reduction: Reduction of 139 Mt (from 722 to 583 Mt) emissions reductions in the "with additional measures" scenarios from the measures in the Pan-Canadian Framework, including measures for electricity (coal, phase-out by 2030), buildings, transportation, industry.
Greece	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SDG 13 CO2 Emission Reduction (non-ETS sectors including transport): Reduce CO2 emissions by 16% by 2030, whereas for the LULUCF sectors Greece has to maintain a neutral balance by 2030.
Guinea	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SDG 9 Road Infrastructure: By 2020, the linear of paved roads would represent 42% of national roads.
Ireland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SDG 7 Renewable Energy: Increase the share of final energy consumption made up of renewable energy sources 10% in the transport sector by 2020 SDG 7 Electric Mobility and SDG 11 Public Transport: Transitioning to low emission, including electric, buses for the urban bus fleet, and targeting just under half of vehicle fleet to be fully electric by 2030.
Latvia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SDG 7 Renewable Energy: Achieve a 10% threshold of renewable energy (biofuels and electricity) in the transport sector by 2020. The electricity and transport sectors, however, are not on target.
Lebanon	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SDG 7 Fuel Efficiency and SDG 11 Public Transport: Set targets for public transport mode at 36% (unconditional) and 48% (conditional), and 20% (conditional) for fuel-efficient vehicles by 2030.
Lithuania	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SDG 7 Renewable Energy: Renewable energy accounts for 15% of energy in the transport sector by 2030 SDG 7 Fuel Efficiency: Reduce the use of vehicles running on conventional fuels (petrol and diesel) in cities by 50% by 2030 SDG 7 Renewable Energy: Renewable energy in the transport sector amount to 50% and reduce the use of vehicles running on fossil fuels in cities by 100% by 2050.
Malta	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SDG 3 Road Safety: Achieve 50% reduction in fatalities, 30% reduction in grievous injuries, and 20% reduction in slight injuries by 2024. SDG 7 Renewable Energy: At least 10% renewable energy share in the final consumption of energy in transport in 2020.
Niger	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SDG 9 Transport Infrastructure: Reduce by approximately 50% the cost and travel time along major corridors

Country	Transport Targets
Saudi Arabia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SDG 3 Road Safety: Reduce no. of deaths / injuries per 100,000 inhabitants (from 26 in 2018 to 20 in 2020 and 8 in 2030) • SDG 7 Energy Consumption: Reducing energy consumption in the transport sector: per capita tone oil equivalent Per capita (from 1.42 in 2018 to 1.32 in 2020 and 1.02 in 2030) • SDG 9 Logistics: Transform Saudi Arabia to become a logistics center - International Logistics Performance Index score from 3.16 in (YEAR) to 3.38 in 2020 and 3.7 in 2030. • SDG 11 Congestion: Reduce the congestion of cities (peak hours in congestion during the year in five major cities (from 235 peak hours in 2018 to 15 peak hours in 2020 and 10 peak hours in 2030)
Senegal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SDG 9 Rural Access: Between 2016 and 2030, guarantee access to all to a practicable road all year round within 2 km in the rural area • SDG 11 Public Transport: (by age group, sex and type of disability) - 50% by 2030
Singapore	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SDG 7 E-mobility: Provide 1,000 shared electric vehicles and 2,000 charging points island-wide by 2020. • SDG 11 Modal Shift to Public Transport: 75% of morning and evening peak journeys by 2030, and 85% by 2050, to be on public transport, up from 67% in 2017. • SDG 11 Inclusive Public Transport: By 2020, all public buses will be wheelchair-accessible.
Switzerland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SDG 13 CO2 Emission Reduction: Switzerland exceeded its interim targets for 2015 in the building sector (-26% versus only -22%) and industry (-17% versus only -7%), but did not achieve the target of stabilizing emissions from transport compared with 1990 (+4 percent versus 0%).
Uruguay	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SDG 7 E-mobility/ SDG 11 Public Transport: Introduction of electric vehicles in public transport: 15 Bus and 150 taxis 110 buses and 550 taxis for 2025

A photograph of a modern tram at a station platform. The tram is white with teal accents and is stopped at the platform. Several people are waiting on the platform, some looking at their phones. The platform has a paved surface with tactile paving. In the background, there are trees and a white building. The entire image is framed by a green, house-shaped border.

**For more information, please see www.slocat.net.
Follow us on Facebook and Twitter @slocatofficial**