Context

The ITF Annual Consultation provides an opportunity for the International Transport Forum (ITF) and its partner international organisations to engage in an open dialogue around the main themes of the ITF Annual Summit. In addition, an integral part of this meeting is an informal consultation on how the questions related to gender equality in transport should be addressed at the Summit.

In January 2020, the ITF held the consultation meeting on the Summit theme *Transport Innovation for Sustainable Development*. Based on the inputs received from the international organisations during the consultation, the Summit programme was further refined and ITF engaged with a number of international organisations in a preliminary planning of their presence at the 2020 Summit. However, due to the Covid-19 crisis, the Summit was postponed to 26-28 May 2021, and its programme adjusted to reflect the impact of the Covid-19 on innovation in transport.

Since the beginning of the Covid-19 crisis, the ITF has served as a global platform for sharing information and policy insights on the transport sector’s responses to the Covid-19 related challenges. The ITF has published a number of policy briefs on key topics related to the Covid-19, organised a series of webinars for Member countries, and held a special ministerial roundtable on Transport and Covid-19. In addition, numerous exchanges between ITF and international organisations have taken place on this topic, both in formal and informal settings (*i.e.* conferences, webinars, bilateral meetings...).

The postponed 2021 Summit on *Transport Innovation for Sustainable Development: Reshaping Mobility in the Wake of Covid-19* will further provide a unique opportunity to discuss the transport sector’s responses to this crisis and options the way forward.

Objectives

In preparation for the 2021 Summit, the ITF invites its partner international organisations to share their perspectives on *Transport Innovation for Sustainable Development: Reshaping Mobility in the Wake of Covid-19*.

Building on the inputs received from the international organisations during the 2020 Annual Consultation, and in preparation for the discussions at the 2021 Summit, the consultation will serve as an opportunity to share insights and perspectives on the impact of COVID-19 on transport and mobility, related challenges and options for the way forward.
Participants will have an opportunity to highlight their current priority themes and how these relate to the 2021 Summit theme. This exchange among international organisations will serve as input to a further discussion on Covid-19 and transport at the 2021 ITF’s Summit.

**Thematic scope**

The Covid-19 crisis has profoundly affected all spheres of our private and public lives, including how we move in our cities and communities. Travel restrictions, border closures and confinement measures have had an immediate impact on transport, prompting fears of permanent job losses and business failures among transport operators and the many service providers linked to them.

The Covid-19 crisis in the transport sector has necessitated a strong policy response from governments: they have reacted to the pandemic by ensuring that transport networks are organised in a way that would limit the spread of the virus. Governments also devised plans and support programmes to help the transport sector reboot mobility during the pandemic. Going forward, policymakers will need to focus on how to reshape the transport sector to provide connectivity in a safe, sustainable, and inclusive way.

In this context, the consultation will feature the role of innovation to address challenges brought to the transport sector by the Covid-19 crisis. It will highlight how innovation in the sector can be embraced beyond the Covid-19 crisis to deliver on the long-term objectives in transport:

1. Better connectivity and resilient infrastructure
2. Equitable access for all travelers
3. Inclusive transport workforce
4. Environmental sustainability
5. Safety and security.

The consultation will also focus on the governance framework for innovation in transport as a key enabler to allow or steer the development of innovative services towards these objectives.

**Format**

Held in a virtual space, the consultation is designed to facilitate active participation and exchange among all international organisations. The meeting is broadly divided into three parts:

1. **Opening session** (plenary): ITF priorities for the 2021 and Summit highlights (45 min).
2. **Discussions in breakout groups** (5 groups planned) structured around the five key long-term objectives in transport as listed above. Please note that there may be more breakout groups, pending the number of confirmed participants. Participants will be asked to indicate which group they would like to join; more details on the thematic scope of the groups and registration guidelines for this part of the meeting will follow shortly.
3. **Closing session** (plenary): Wrap up and next steps (30 min).

**Outcomes**

The discussion and input provided by participants will enrich ITF’s preparation of the 2021 Summit: the content for the 2021 Summit programme and the Ministerial Declaration. A summary of the consultation will available on the 2021 Summit website further to the consultation.

**Background documentation**

- Highlights of the 2021 Summit programme (attached)
Draft agenda

14.00-14.05 Welcome and introduction

14.05-14.20 Opening remarks
Eamon Ryan, Minister for Transport and for the Environment, Climate and Communications of Ireland, ITF Presidency

ITF cooperation with international organisations: priorities for 2021
Young Tae Kim, Secretary-General of the International Transport Forum (ITF)


14.45-15.30 Connecting and sharing: discussions in breakout groups (5 groups)
- Introduction to the discussions in breakout groups
- Discussions in five breakout groups on how innovation in transport can be embraced beyond the Covid-19 crisis to deliver on the long-term objectives in the sector, respectively on:
  1) Better connectivity and resilient infrastructure
  2) Equitable access for all travelers
  3) Inclusive transport workforce
  4) Environmental sustainability
  5) Safety (focus on road safety).

15.30-16.00 Outcomes of the breakout group discussions, wrap up and next steps

16.00 Closing of the meeting

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