IRU & TOBB as Business Sector Envoy of COP31

Joint COP31 Statement

Recognising the vital role of road transport in enabling economic growth, trade and resilient supply chains;

Recalling the importance of the COP process and the commitments by countries to the UN Decade of Sustainable Transport;

Acknowledging the strategic importance of connectivity corridors linking regions, countries and markets, including the pivotal role of Türkiye as a bridge between Europe, Asia and the Middle East, facilitating international trade and transport flows;

Recognising that sustainable transport and connectivity are mutually reinforcing objectives and that the road transport industry has a critical role to play in advancing both;

Recalling the industry's pragmatic Green Compact commitment to reach carbon neutrality by 2050 through efficiency measures, transition to alternative fuels and collective mobility.

Recognising that these objectives can only be achieved through an enabling policy environment. Despite major advances in technology and infrastructure, international transport operations continue to face significant barriers at borders, including excessive administrative procedures, inconsistent regulations, lengthy waiting times and growing difficulties in obtaining visas for professional drivers and transport operators. These obstacles undermine connectivity, increase costs, reduce efficiency and hinder sustainable development.

We, the undersigned, reaffirm our shared commitment to:

- Advancing the objectives and targets of the COP process aligned with the UN Decade of Sustainable Transport.
- Supporting the implementation of the Green Compact through practical and measurable actions.
- Strengthening regional and intercontinental connectivity to promote trade, prosperity and sustainable growth.
- Enhancing the efficiency, resilience and sustainability of road transport and logistics systems.

- Fostering constructive public-private cooperation to address transport challenges and accelerate implementation.

Call to Governments

To unlock the full potential of sustainable transport and connectivity, we call on governments to:

1. Prioritise international connectivity by developing and maintaining efficient transport corridors.
2. Reduce red tape at borders through the simplification, harmonisation and digitalisation of transport, customs and transit procedures.
3. Remove all barriers, including visa issues, affecting professional drivers engaged in international transport operations.
4. Strengthen public-private dialogue to ensure that transport policies are practical, effective and supportive of sustainable economic growth.

Together, we affirm that sustainable road transport, efficient international connectivity form the foundation of modern, resilient and prosperous economies. By combining industry leadership with government action, we can create transport systems that are greener, more competitive, more inclusive and better equipped to meet the challenges of the future.

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