

Shared principles to drive the future of transport, mobility, trade and logistics



Road transport plays a crucial role in economic and social development, as the main way of moving people and goods, and in connecting other modes of transport.

Those connections are becoming more and more important as the barriers between competing silos are broken down to develop a flexible and efficient global transport system.

To make that happen, road transport operators, logistics and mobility service providers, governments and regulators, international organisations, industry suppliers, and transport users all need to work together.

Whatever their differences, everyone shares the mutual goal of better transport.

The Muscat Compact was launched at the IRU World Congress in Muscat in November 2018. It provides a set of principles to enable and accelerate the collaboration we need.



The Muscat Compact has four key principles.

People

People are at the heart of the road transport industry. A motivated and professional workforce, with good working conditions, is critical for the smooth running of the industry, and for implementing the changes we need to make to harness all our opportunities. And we need to work together to address the global driver shortage crisis and labour issues.

We also need to collaborate to provide a wide-ranging approach to road safety. The objective is to analyse all causes of accidents involving both commercial services and other road users, and use the resulting data for to deliver comprehensive standardised training and certification of road transport professionals.

Trade

Well-managed, efficient and economically sustainable trade promotes economic growth, jobs, prosperity and ultimately peace. Roads are needed for, at the very least, the first and last mile of virtually every journey. We therefore need to ensure road transport is as efficient as it can be.

Effective collaboration between government and industry is key to realising that goal, based on clear international standards and procedures. These lead to harmonised customs and transit procedures, for example, to eliminate cumbersome and restrictive trade practices, making border operations more efficient and effective.

Environment

Transport must coexist in harmony with the natural environment. We need work together, both within the industry and beyond, to develop the practices and technology that will make road transport more environmentally sustainable while preserving commercial viability. The road transport industry is committed to further decarbonising operations. Specific measures currently include improved fuel efficiency through new vehicle technologies, wider uptake of alternative fuels, more efficient logistics operations, eco-driver training and the increased use of collective public transport.

Innovation

Technology has the power to transform our lives and our industry, and it will have the most positive impact if we all work together to develop new solutions and assimilate them into our industry.

For example, the digitalisation of road transport and transit procedures is creating significant efficiencies for the industry and governments. And investments in automation promise to increase safety and security by delivering new solutions to eliminate errors and discrepancies.

Real-time access to mission-critical data and information is also helping make mobility and transport more secure and greener, and is providing a more predictable and transparent business environment.

Measures

The Muscat Compact proposes the following measures include:

1. International organisations and global policy makers should develop clear indicators to monitor progress and measure the impact of global policies
2. Governments should accede to and implement UN trade and transport conventions
3. Lawmakers should formulate legislation, policies and measures that ensure a robust and sustainable road transport industry
4. Governments and all supply chain actors should work together to step-up efforts to further decarbonise operations, and improve safety and security
5. The financial community should make resources available to exploit the potential of the current wave of technology innovations, including digitalisation, automation and the connectivity of vehicles, drivers and transport systems

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