



THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

10 February 2021

Dear Mr. de Pretto,

I wish to thank you for your letter dated 23 November 2020. I have taken note of the International Road Transport Union's call to action, as well as your findings on the status of road transport in light of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Sustainable transport, including road transport, is crucial for attaining the Sustainable Development Goals and is the backbone of international supply chains and trade. Indeed, the impact of the pandemic on the transport sector and its actors, including road transport operators, has been significant. The findings you present in the call to action will help to inform the United Nations analytical work in this area.

This is an unprecedented crisis – the latest estimates indicate that income per capita likely fell in 170 countries last year. Such a crisis also calls for unprecedented solidarity to sustain lives, maintain livelihoods and recover better. I thank you for your continuous efforts to promote sustainable transport globally, including your call for countries to keep their borders open in these trying times, especially for goods and essentials, and to ensure their efficient distribution.

As we look towards a more inclusive and sustainable recovery, I encourage you to actively engage with the United Nations, particularly by working closely with the Department of Economic and Social Affairs on the substantive preparations for the second United Nations Global Sustainable Transport Conference to be held in Beijing.

I look forward to our continuing work with you and with other transport actors to make sustainable transport worldwide a reality.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'António Guterres', written over a long, thin horizontal line that tapers to a point on the right side.

António Guterres

Mr. Umberto de Pretto
Secretary General
International Road Transport Union
Geneva