

THE MUSCAT COMPACT

SHARED PRINCIPLES TO DRIVE THE FUTURE OF TRANSPORT, MOBILITY, TRADE AND LOGISTICS

The Muscat Compact is a voluntary, principle-based framework to encourage governments and the transport industry to work together better.

The Compact embodies a vision of collective action on the future of road transport, mobility, trade and logistics that is efficient, inclusive, green, safe and gender-balanced.

It aims to inspire and guide public-private collaboration in dealing with current road transport challenges at a local, national, regional and global level, and to prepare for and make the most of opportunities on the horizon.

I. PREAMBLE

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

Road transport operators, logistics and mobility service providers, governments and regulators, international organisations, industry suppliers, and transport users all need to work together to effect sustainable change.

While these groups have differing motivations, expertise and expectations, they all share common values and a mutual desire for better transport. The Muscat Compact outlines these, providing a set of principles to enable and accelerate collaboration, making it more efficient, timely and results-focused.

II. PRINCIPLES

The principles of the Muscat Compact are described below, along with potential measures to help transform the principles into effective and constructive actions to enable the industry, governments and stakeholders to capture the opportunities associated with the extensive transformation that is occurring in the road transport industry.

1. People

People are at the heart of road transport networks: A motivated, professional and gender-balanced workforce with good working conditions, and a safe environment for all road users, is critical to make road transport a growth enabler.

Well-trained workers are indispensable to enable the industry to respond to the disruptions and challenges affecting today's transport market, notably to address the global driver shortage crisis and labour issues, and to allow the industry to harness the opportunities presented.

Road safety requires a comprehensive and collaborative approach that covers all causes of accidents, involving commercial services and all other road users, including proper training and certification of road transport professionals.

2. Trade

Well-managed and efficient trade promotes economic growth, jobs, prosperity and ultimately peace.

The road transport industry is an essential mover of persons and goods and thus has a vested interest in ensuring the efficient, fair, inclusive, economically and environmentally sustainable and unencumbered movement of persons and goods.

Effective collaboration between government and industry is key to realising free trade, centred on clear international standards and procedures. This can be achieved through the implementation of implementation of existing trade facilitation measures, such as harmonised customs and transit procedures to eliminate cumbersome and restrictive trade practices to render border operations more efficient and effective.

3. Environment

Transport must coexist in harmony with the natural environment that supports life on earth.

Providing viable and effective responses and accompanying investments to address the challenges associated with climate change and environmental protection is indispensable to ensure the sustainable future of road transport and the industry's ability to continue to deliver wide access to safe, efficient, inclusive and green transport services.

The road transport industry is committed to further decarbonise operations to reduce harmful carbon pollutant emissions, air and noise pollution by working with partners and regulators to improve fuel efficiency through new vehicle technologies, widen uptake of alternative fuels, make logistics operations more efficient, provide eco-driver training and increase use of collective public transport.

4. Innovation

Technology is developing faster than ever before and future opportunities for road transport, mobility, trade and logistics are immense.

The transition to these new opportunities, especially at a local, national, regional and global level, must however be managed proactively and collaboratively with all stakeholders.

Creativity and innovation have enabled the road transport industry to use information communications technology to effectively manage the extensive transformation that is currently underway. In doing so, the industry has innovated services for both passenger and goods transport to create greater access, security, safety and efficiency.

Measures to digitalise road transport and transit procedures are creating strong efficiency gains for the industry and governments. Investments in automation promise to deliver increasing numbers and kinds of mobility solutions for passenger and goods transport and to eliminate errors and discrepancies, thus increasing safety and security. Real-time access to critical data and information will also contribute to making mobility and transport more secure more inclusive, more efficient and greener, and provide a more predictable and transparent business environment.

III. MEASURES

The Muscat Compact outlines a framework for governments, industry and other stakeholders to work together for a sustainable and competitive road transport industry that drives sustainable economic growth and prosperity.

Measures include:

- a) Governments should accede to and effectively implement UN trade and transport Conventions
- b) **Government lawmakers** should formulate legislation, policies and measures that ensure a robust and sustainable road transport industry to drive economic, social and environmental development
- c) **Governments and all supply chain actors** should work together to step-up efforts to further decarbonise operations, reduce air and noise pollution, improve safety, efficiency, security and inclusivity.
- d) **The financial community** should make resources available to support the massive wave of technological change and innovation, including digitalisation, automation and accelerated connectivity of vehicles, drivers and transport systems

e) **International organisations** and global policy makers should develop clear indicators to monitor progress and measure impact of global policies (Resolutions, Conventions, etc.)

The endorsements below support the principles of the Muscat Compact and represent a collective vision of the industry to evolve into a modern, forward-looking driver of sustainable economic growth and prosperity around the world.

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Mme Olga Algayerova Executive Secretary, United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE)

H.E. Dr Ahmed Mohammed Al Futaisi Minister of Transport and Communications, Oman

H.E. Mohammad Hameed Tahmasi Minister of Transport, Afghanistan

Signed in Muscat, Oman

H.E. Israel Katz Minister of Transport and Intelligence, Israel

Asset Assaubayev Chairman of the Transport Committee Ministry for Investments and Development Republic of Kazakhstan Rashid Taleb Al Nabit Assistant Undersecretary for Land Transport Affairs Ministry of Transport and Communications, Qatar

Olivier Le Ber Practice Manager, Transport, The World Bank

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