



PLANNING AND DESIGN FOR SUSTAINABLE URBAN MOBILITY

GLOBAL REPORT ON HUMAN SETTLEMENTS 2013

FOREWORD



For more than half a century, most countries have experienced rapid urban growth and increased use of motor vehicles. This has led to urban sprawl and even higher demand for motorized travel with a range of environmental, social and economic consequences.

Urban transport is a significant source of greenhouse gas emissions and a cause of ill-health due to air and noise pollution. The traffic congestion created by unsustainable transportation systems is responsible for significant economic and productivity costs for commuters and goods transporters.

These challenges are most pronounced in developing country cities. It is here that approximately 90 per cent of global population growth will occur in the coming decades. These cities are already struggling to meet increasing demand for investment in transportation. That is why my Five-year Action Agenda, launched in January 2012, highlights urban transport – with a focus on pollution and congestion – as a core area for advancing sustainable development.

This year's edition of the UN-Habitat Global Report on Human Settlements provides guidance on developing sustainable urban transportation systems. The report outlines trends and conditions and reviews a range of responses to urban transport challenges worldwide. The report also analyses the relationship between urban form and mobility, and calls for a future with more compact and efficient cities. It highlights the role of urban planning in developing sustainable cities where non-motorized travel and public transport are the preferred modes of transport.

I commend this report to all involved in developing sustainable cities and urban transport systems. Success in this area is essential for creating more equitable, healthy and productive urban living environments that benefit both people and the planet.

Ban Ki-moon
Secretary-General
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