

Committee of the Permanent Representatives
Subcommittee meeting
Nairobi, 10 September 2024
09:00 – 12:00 and 13.00 – 16:00 (GMT+3)
Hybrid meeting
Conference Room 4 (in person)
and Microsoft Teams (online)

Agenda item 4: Briefing on UNEP Sustainable Mobility Programme.

This background document has been developed by the Secretariat to brief the Committee on UNEP's electric mobility programme that supports Member States with switching to zero emissions electric mobility.

Following the presentation, the Committee is invited to hear about the plans for the coming years, to share feedback and join a discussion around how this could support Member States' needs, and, how to support the scale up of this work at the request of Member States.

Background Document: Briefing on UNEP's Sustainable Mobility Programme

1. Objectives

- Brief the Committee of Permanent Representatives (CPR) on the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) electric mobility programme;
- Share feedback and join a discussion around how this could support Member State's needs, and, how to support the scale-up of this work, at the request of Member States.

2. Background

Climate emissions of the transport sector are growing faster than any other sector and the transport sector is a key contributor to urban air pollution.

The global vehicle fleet is set to double by 2050 – with almost all of this growth happening in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs). In 2050, three out of five vehicles will be found in LMICs. Business as usual will see a major increase in climate emissions, urban air pollution, fossil fuel dependence and imports, and dependence on import of petrol and diesel vehicles – used and new.

UNEP is implementing several leading sustainable mobility programs that promote and support;

- to **avoid** the need for transport, for example through designing compact cities;
- to **shift** to more efficient modes of transport, for example mass transit solution, walking and cycling and;
- to **improve** transport environmental impact and efficiency, for example to switch to electric mobility and using digitalisation

The Avoid-Shift-Improve approach is widely used in policies and programs aimed at reducing emissions from the transport sector.

UNEP's global electric mobility programme is one of the leading global programs to support a global shift to zero emissions electric mobility. Its objective is to promote and support electric mobility, to improve air quality, reduce climate emissions, reduce fossil fuel dependence, develop sustainable and circular economies, and create green jobs.

3. Relationship to UNEP's Programme of Work

UNEP's global electric mobility programme is a key contributor to UNEP's climate change and pollution priorities, as identified in the **Medium-term Strategy 2022-2025**. It contributes to the implementation to **UNEP's POW**, in specific to the following outcomes:

- 1A- Decision makers at all levels adopt decarbonization, dematerialization and resilience pathways;
- 1B- Countries and stakeholders have increased capacity, finance and access to technologies to deliver on the adaptation and mitigation goals;
- 3C - Releases of pollutants to air, water, soil and the ocean are reduced.

In addition, UNEP’s electric mobility programme contributes to the following **UNEA Resolutions**: sustainable mobility (UNEA4/Res.3); sustainable infrastructure resolution (UNEA4/Res.5); circular economy (including cleaner fuels and vehicles) (UNEA5/Res11); mineral and metal life cycles (UNEA5/Res12); and air quality (UNEA6/Res10).

4. Programmatic overview

UNEP’s global electric mobility programme is a large programme supporting close to 60 country projects, with a total budget of more than USD 125 million, with activities in all regions, and at global, regional and national level.

At **national level**, UNEP, with its partners, are supporting **close to 60 country projects** with the introduction and switch-over to electric mobility. Most country projects include components on fleet introductions and policy development.

Africa			Asia & the Pacific			Eastern Europe, Western & Central Asia			Latin America & the Caribbean		
Burundi		UNEP	Bangladesh		UNDP	Albania		UNIDO	Antigua & Barbuda		UNEP
Cabo Verde	TBC	UNIDO	Fiji		UNEP / ADB	Armenia		UNEP	Argentina		UNEP
Cote d'Ivoire		UNEP / UNIDO	India		UNEP / ADB	Azerbaijan		UNEP	Belize		UNEP
Ethiopia		UNEP	Indonesia		UNDP	Jordan		UNIDO	Colombia		UNEP
Ghana		UNEP	Malaysia		UNIDO	Lebanon		UNDP	Costa Rica		UNEP
Kenya		UNEP	Maldives		UNEP	Ukraine		UNEP / EBRD	Chile		UNEP
Madagascar		UNEP	Nepal		UNEP / SOL+	Uzbekistan		UNDP	Cuba		UNEP
Mauritius		UNDP	Philippines		UNEP / SOL+ UNIDO				Dominican Republic		UNEP
Rwanda		UNEP / SOL+	Solomon Islands		UNEP				Ecuador		UNEP / SOL+
Senegal		UNEP	Sri Lanka		UNEP				El Salvador		UNEP
Seychelles		UNEP	Thailand		UNEP / UNIDO				Grenada		UNEP
Sierra Leone		UNEP	Vanuatu		UNEP				Guatemala		UNEP
South Africa		DBSA	Viet Nam		UNEP / SOL+				Honduras		UNEP
Tanzania		UNEP / SOL+							Jamaica		UNDP
Togo		UNEP							Mexico		UNEP
Tunisia		UNIDO							Nicaragua		UNEP
Uganda		UNEP							Panama		UNEP
Zambia		UNEP							Paraguay		UNEP
Zimbabwe		UNEP							Peru		UNDP
									St. Lucia		UNEP
									Uruguay		UNEP / SOL+

For example, UNEP supported Ethiopia with the introduction of low- and no-emissions vehicles policies. Ethiopia is now the first country that has banned new petrol and diesel vehicles. In Chile we are supporting the introduction of electric buses, Chile has the second largest electric bus fleet in the world after China. And in South-East Asia we are supporting the ASEAN Secretariat with developing a regional roadmap for electrifying heavy duty vehicles – trucks and buses.

At **regional level** UNEP has created, with partners, **Regional Support and Investment Platforms** in Africa; Latin America and Caribbean; Asia & Pacific; and Eastern Europe and West & Central Asia. These platforms provide technical and financing support to countries.

At *global level* UNEP has created several working groups that are developing *tools and knowledge products* to support LMICs in developing electric mobility programs and policies.

UNEP's activities especially focus on:

- The development of *national strategies and policies*;
- The introduction of the *first electric vehicle fleets*, with a special focus on the introduction of electric 2&3 wheelers and electric busses in LMICs;
- Local solutions; including the use of locally generated renewable electricity and the creation of local *green jobs* - including local production and assembly;
- *Gender*, promoting the role of women in the transition to electric mobility;
- End-of-life, supporting the reuse and recycling on *end-of-life electric vehicles batteries*;
- Cooperation with financing organisations to help *finance* the switch to electric vehicles.

UNEP's programme is working closely with:

- *national governments* in developing and implementing the country projects;
- other *UN agencies*, including UNDP and UNIDO, especially at national level;
- with *knowledge and technical institutions* such as the World Resources Institute, The International Council for Clean Transportation, the International Energy Agency, GIZ Germany, and the International Transport and Development Institute, which are all leading sustainable transport organisations. We also work with regional and national expert and civil society organizations, including universities;
- and with *financing organisations*, including the World Bank and regional development banks to support financing the transition.

UNEP's programme is supported by the Global Environment Facility, the United States and German Governments, philanthropic foundations, the Climate and Clean Air Coalition, the European Commission, and others.

UNEP's programme is closely implemented with the UNEP regional offices, including through staff based in the regions.

UNEP's Global Electric Mobility Programme was created only about six years ago and has grown rapidly. There is much demand from Member States and partners for UNEP cooperation and support. We expect that in the coming years UNEP's programme will further grow, both in depth – supporting programs and policy development in countries, and width - adding additional countries and partners.

5. Recommendations/relevance for the CPR

The Committee is invited to take note of the leading role UNEP is taking to support LMICs with introducing electric mobility, and invites its views and guidance on:

- 1) What specific role can UNEP play in the global transition to electric mobility?
- 2) How can this programme support the needs and interests of Member States?
- 3) How should UNEP further develop the programme?