

*Ministerial Conference on International Transport Security
Tokyo, Japan 12-13 January 2006*

Ministerial Statement on Land Transport Security

1. We participated in the Ministerial Conference on International Transport Security held in January 2006 in Tokyo, and considered issues concerning the security of land transport. We reached consensus on promoting cooperation in the area of land transport security.
2. Terrorist attacks against land transport have been perpetrated in many countries, for example, the sarin gas attack on the Tokyo subway in March 1995, the bombing on the Paris subway in July 1995, the bombing on the Moscow subway in February 2004 and the bombing on the Madrid train system in March 2004. The bombings of the London underground and buses during the G8 Gleneagles Summit in July last year is particularly fresh in our memory. We reiterate our strong condemnation of such attacks.
3. Attacks against land transport, the most accessible and frequently used method of public transport, are attractive to terrorists due to its high volume of passengers, critical infrastructure, economic importance and psychological impact; and some of the characteristics of land transport make it particularly difficult to secure. Therefore, in order to effectively counter identified vulnerabilities in land transport systems, we affirm that it is essential for all States to cooperate with each other, including through the relevant international fora and to promote the sharing of information and the development of practical measures. We must also bear in mind the need to retain the benefits of land transport to national and regional economies, in particular, ease of transport, punctuality and accessibility, and adaptability to regional circumstances.
4. We support strengthening and broadening co-operation including for example G8 member states' effort to promote best practices for rail and metro security.

Principles to Guide Future International Efforts in Land Transport Security

We hereby:

1. Encourage the sharing of best practices for land transport security, including through the relevant international fora, in such areas as public awareness, deterrence, consequence mitigation, emergency response and preparedness drills, employee training, detection, and surveillance programmes;
2. Promote international cooperation in research and in the development of technology capable of detecting and monitoring potential threats, while continuing to facilitate passenger flow and passenger convenience;
3. Encourage cooperation among government authorities, land transport operators, and all relevant stakeholders, both within our states and internationally; and
4. Encourage consideration of the creation of an international working group to facilitate the sharing of best practices and enhance global cooperation in passenger rail and transit security, building on the results of the existing work at G8 and other international fora.