

Distinguished Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Dear Minister KANEKO, our host for this Ministerial Conference on Global Environment, and Energy in Transport.

(see slide 1)

1. Introduction

I would like to thank you for the opportunity given to the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) World Forum for Harmonization of Vehicle Regulations (WP.29) to present its activities regarding one of the most important challenges for the planet: global environment and energy in relation to transport activities.

Global environment and energy in transport in general and global warming due to transport activities in particular are global issues that require our common action toward global solution. However, remedy should be based on global and local solutions that are adapted to countries' needs.

I think we should bear in mind that energy production is the main source of CO₂ emissions and that transport comes only next. We should also recall that transport, which is essential for the economy and the well-being of society, has negative effects, mainly in terms of accidents and emissions of pollutants.

Transport being a CO₂ and a pollutant producer, it is important that the transport sector, governments, industries and individuals act responsibly and take actions to reduce both the greenhouse gas emissions and the emissions of pollutants.

The World Forum for Harmonization of Vehicle Regulations (WP.29) has been working for the past 50 years toward the reduction of pollutants emissions and CO₂ from motor vehicles. Recently, in the framework of the UN activities to combat global warming, the World Forum is developing new and more accurate universal methods to better control CO₂ emissions by road vehicles.

This worldwide activity of the World Forum was recognized by the first International Transport Forum (ITF) in Leipzig (Germany), on 28-30 May 2008. One of the conclusions of the ITF was to urge WP.29 to continue its work for reducing emissions of pollutants by motor vehicles and to elaborate a worldwide cycle for measuring CO₂ emissions.

2. Presentation of the World Forum for Harmonization of Vehicle Regulations (WP.29)

The World Forum is a permanent working party of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) that develops and adopts harmonized international vehicle regulations on safety and emissions. Through these harmonized regulations, the World Forum facilitates global vehicles' trade.

The World Forum has a double role:

It is the **unique** World Forum that allows open discussions among its worldwide participants. Participation in the World Forum is open to all the UN countries and to all NGOs with such a status granted by the UN Economic and Social Council. Delegates representing a country or a NGO have free access to the meetings of the World Forum and can freely express their views on the matters related to regulatory aspects of road vehicles. WP.29 is an open forum. All its documents are made freely available, not only to its participants, but also to general public through its website.

WP.29 is truly a World Forum. More than 120 delegates through the entire world participate in each of its three annual sessions, representing more than 25 European Countries and more than 10 non-European countries. In addition, representatives of other governmental organizations, like the International Energy Agency (IEA) and the European Community (EC), as well as more than 25 NGOs, also participate in the sessions. It is important to mention that more and more Asian and African countries are showing interest in the work of the World Forum. In this respect, I would like to thank Japan and South Africa for their efforts to increase public awareness of WP.29 activities in their respective geographical regions. Around 20 countries of these regions are being informed about the regulatory activities of the World Forum.

In the development of the technical provisions of vehicle regulations, the World Forum is assisted by six permanent Working Parties, which also have a permanent status in the United Nations organigram. **(see slide 2)**. These Working Parties, called groups of rapporteurs, meet each twice per year during seven working days each. In addition, when a matter requires more time and a more detailed consideration, an informal group is set up to deal with it. Currently, more than 30 informal groups are working in different areas.

WP.29 has a permanent secretariat of four engineers and three secretaries based in Geneva (Switzerland).

WP.29 administrates two UN Agreements on Construction of Vehicles: the 1958 and the 1998 Agreements on construction of vehicles.

The 1958 Agreement has 48 Contracting Parties and contains annexed to the Agreement 127 vehicle regulations. One of its main provisions is the mutual recognition of vehicle type-approved in conformity to its regulations. Once a vehicle is type-approved in one country, it is automatically recognized by the other countries applying the regulation.

The 1998 Agreement has no administrative provisions. It has nine global technical regulations established in its Global Registry. Today, the 1998 Agreement has 31 Contracting Parties.

The administration of both Agreements by the World Forum ensures that the technical prescriptions for vehicles are parallel and do not contain any inconsistency between the two sets of provisions.

The purpose of these two Agreements is to establish a global process for the worldwide harmonization of technical requirements regarding safety, environmental protection, energy efficiency and anti-theft performance of motor vehicles and their trailers.

The slide shows the geographical extension of the two Agreements. The countries being at least contracting parties to one of the Agreements produce more than the 80 per cent of the vehicles worldwide (**see slide 3**).

3. Vehicle emissions regulations

The focus of the World Forum so far has been on trucks, passenger cars and motorcycles. The level of particulate emissions by vehicle engines is 10 times lower today than in 1990.

With regard to the emissions of passenger cars, the World Forum has adopted Regulations for the emissions of gaseous pollutants and particulates as well as for the measurement of the engine fuel consumption (CO₂ emissions).

As you can see on this slide (**see slide 4**), substantial abatements of 95-97 per cent in emission limits to vehicles have been imposed to the different pollutants by the regulations adopted by the World Forum. Today, the limits are 20 times lower than before.

4. Current pending projects of the World Forum

I would like to draw your attention to some of the pending projects of the World Forum regarding control of emissions (**see slide 5**):

- A. Worldwide harmonized emission test procedures, including the measurement of CO₂ emissions are under preparation, including performance requirements;
- B. Based on the results achieved so far in reducing vehicles' emissions, more drastic measures with regard to vehicles could be implemented and more emphasis needs to be put on fuel quality, not only for conventional fuels, but also for biofuels;
- C. Development of environmentally friendly vehicles (such as hybrid, electric, hydrogen and fuel cell vehicles).

5. Expectations from the MEET

The debate over energy consumption and environmental performance of road vehicles prevalent in international conferences, such as the MEET, is very important because it could provide an opportunity for high-level policy makers, participating governments and organizations, to develop international common understanding and future direction for global efforts on environmental and energy measures in the transport sector. It could also serve as a catalyst for WP.29, which conducts technical deliberations on motor vehicles, to achieve its goals.

From this perspective, WP.29 expects that, at this conference, its activities, including the development of technical regulations on vehicles and promotion of international harmonization of vehicle regulations, will be widely known and appreciated, and that fruitful discussion will be held to encourage WP.29 to foster such activities.

In particular, WP.29 supports the understanding at the MEET on the importance of the development of a worldwide identical measurement cycle of CO₂ emissions (**see slide 6**).

6. Expectations from the governments participating at the Conference

The World Forum WP.29 hopes that the governments present at the MEET participate in a continuous and proactive manner in the discussions of WP.29 for the development of global regulations for vehicles and in the international harmonization of vehicle regulations.

WP.29 expects that each government participating in the MEET should accelerate the adoption and implementation of environmental measures in each country, through the utilization of outcomes of the technical deliberation at WP.29, including internationally harmonized regulations and definition of environmentally friendly vehicles.

Particularly, WP.29 hopes that the conditions to promote and facilitate the worldwide dissemination of environmentally friendly vehicles (**see slide 7**) are met at the earliest opportunity.

I AM AVAILABLE FOR ANY QUESTION YOU WOULD LIKE TO RAISE
THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR YOUR ATTENTION

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