Distinguished delegates,
Ladies and gentlemen,

Let me first thank the International Transport Forum for inviting me to be part of your 2017 Summit. Let me also thank all of the member states and everyone here who is working to make the Decarbonising Transport initiative successful.

I was a delegate at last year’s Summit, where Decarbonising Transport was launched so it is exciting to see the progress that has been made in this first year.

This initiative engages all stakeholders and visually shows what proposed policies will do, an inclusive approach that connects benefits to people with national contributions to the Paris Agreement.

This is useful for policy makers who need to know the emission reductions and livability gains that policy changes will accomplish.

This integrated approach to climate change and sustainable development recognizes our on-the-ground reality. And it opens the door to transform that reality.

I welcome the opportunity to celebrate this first year and accelerate action. With the Paris Agreement ratified by 147 countries, now is the moment to turn climate commitments into concrete action.

In some places, it is already happening. Countries are switching to all-electric car sales. International aviation is flying thousands of bio-fuel flights per year and working on a carbon pricing mechanism.

From car shares and bike lanes to efficiency standards and electric fleet vehicles, local governments are transforming transport in their communities.
All of this is very encouraging, but one look at the countless congested and polluted cities around the world shows it is not enough to meet our challenge.

To truly rise to the challenge, we must advance work in several crucial areas.

First, we need long-term plans. We must sketch the roadmaps to low-emission, highly efficient transport that make sense for each country’s circumstance.

Long-term strategies provide a framework for planning and policy as part of a well-managed transition in line with our global climate and sustainability goals.

Second, we need immediate and urgent action. This is a new and dynamic era – the era of implementation. There are more avenues for action now than ever before, and many innovative and common sense solutions.

Bonn, Germany – the host city of this year’s COP 23, which will be presided over by the Government of Fiji – needed a few new buses. So they got electric buses.

I was recently in Delhi, where the city metro is putting solar panels on their facilities. And the Railroad Ministry in India plans to do something similar.

These steps might seem small – rethinking procurement, reimagining how existing facilities are used – but every step takes us closer to the vision agreed in Paris.

Every step takes us closer to seizing the great opportunity we have. The recent OECD *Investing in Climate, Investing in Growth* report estimates that transport comprises 43 percent of the 95 trillion dollars the world will invest in infrastructure through 2030.
That same report says that integrating the sustainable development goals and Paris Agreement action raises economic output a full percentage point by 2021. And by some estimates, we open 12 trillion dollars in economic opportunity by moving to climate-safe, sustainable development.

We also deliver lasting social and economic benefits to the community. The wellbeing of people – what people and communities stand to gain – underscores the urgent need to act, to seize this opportunity and to transform reality.

I encourage everyone to use resources like Decarbonizing Transport, make long-term plans and take immediate action. Take climate action now.

I also encourage you to build partnerships. Working together and sharing what works empowers every country and community to realize their own low-emission transport success.

Together, we can transform transport and build low-emission, resilient societies where opportunity is open to all and peace and prosperity flourish.

Thank you.