

Thank you chair,

I have the pleasure of addressing this session on behalf of UITP, the International Association of Public Transport, one of the co-chairs of Policy Unit 9m dealing with urban services and technologies.

I would like to thank the panellists for their presentations this morning. I would like to highlight the link and the cross-cutting nature of the work undertaken by the policy units. Many of the topics which were mentioned today came up strongly in the discussion we have had in our panel yesterday, as well as the work of our policy unit. As such, I would like to highlight several points which came up during the debate:

- National Urban Policies should re-emphasise the role of the cities as catalysts of both national economic growth and as creators of opportunity for citizens, which would allow both citizens and local governments to have ownership of local actions.
- National Urban Policies should be focused on the services being provided in the cities and the opportunities created there, providing the essential framework – both legally and fiscally – needed for local governments to provide high quality services. In the same way as effective urban services need national urban policies as a framework for their delivery, national urban policies need to be designed and formulated so as to facilitate urban service provision, which is essential to improving quality of life in cities
- Emphasising the presentation in the beginning of the session, an integral part of National Urban Policies should be setting a clear framework for the procurement of urban services, enabling local authorities to take leadership in setting local-level targets, including for sustainable mobility – public transport, walking and cycling – as well as energy provision, water and sanitation, etc.
- Finally, National Urban Policies should also include clauses that provide the necessary means, in terms of investment facilities, to reach these targets for sustainable services.

Thank you for the opportunity to address you today.