

TRANSPORT : WORKING FOR A UNITED NATIONS
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOAL (SDG)

In June 2012, the UN Conference on Sustainable Development (UNCSD, or Rio+20) agreed to launch a process to develop a set of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) that can be used to pursue focused and coherent action on sustainable development after ratification by the UN General Assembly. An Open Working Group (OWG), is presently working on this and will submit a report to the 68th Session of the General Assembly. Transport needs to be included in this, for which the industry needs to mobilise opinion, urgently. The transport industry needs the highest priority in funding and project implementation for sustainable development.

The IRF and many in the Transport Infrastructure industry strongly feel that Transport must achieve an SDG. Some argue that Transport can be addressed by Health, Urban Development, Poverty Reduction, Energy, Education, Land-locked development, Infrastructure etc and does not need to be a separate SDG. This argument is skewed. The fact that so many aspects of life benefit directly from a good transportation network is the reason it needs to be given top priority. Its reach is beyond doubt a benefit to all aspects of development. We in the IRF and in the Transport Infrastructure industry are convinced about this and need to work for it whole heartedly.

To achieve this, the action has to be two pronged. First is to mobilise opinion at the Government and higher levels so that they can directly influence the outcome of the OWG. This will be addressed by those of us who have access to Government decision makers. The second is to mobilise public opinion in which every individual who is a part of the industry at whatever level can contribute. This is by participating in the opinion poll where votes for the Transport Industry seem to have been low because of lack of communication.

The opinion poll conducted by the OWG has listed 16 areas. Transport presently comes 12th. There is a bias towards emotional issues rather than doable development issues in which Transport definitely merits higher consideration. The opinion poll can be accessed on the web at <http://www.myworld2015.org/> by any individual.

May I request you to bring this to the notice of all in your organization and beyond. Please ask them to vote for Transport. This is the least we can do for the future of the Transport Industry, convinced we can serve humanity better through this, as a sustainable goal.