

October 25, 2021

Dear Government Representatives on the global Zero Emission Vehicle Transition Council:¹

As you know, transport-related emissions are a leading cause of the climate crisis. They also contribute to poor health, especially in marginalized communities. We, the following organizations, write to urge you to meet the ambition required of the moment. We are asking your governments participating in the Zero Emission Vehicle Transition Council to lobby all countries ahead of the COP26 meeting to implement unambiguous policies that accelerate the shift to a zero-emission transport future.

As expressed in the [UN Race to Zero Breakthroughs call for commitments](#),² government policies in nations worldwide are needed to ensure that sales of all new passenger and light-duty vehicles be zero emission by no later than 2035.

We were glad to read in [your November 2020 joint statement](#) that: *A rapid global transition to zero-emission vehicles is vital to meet the goals of the Paris Agreement on climate change...*

We enthusiastically agree. We also appreciate the Council's commitment to address challenges in the zero-emission vehicle transition, including a just transition for workers and consumers.

Emissions from road transport cause respiratory illnesses, heart disease, and death. Furthermore, the recent IPCC report laid bare that even with bold government and corporate action, storms, fires, floods, and droughts will become more deadly and more common. Meanwhile, clean transport technologies and community strategies are now available. We need to ensure these solutions are adopted swiftly at scale and equitably.

Though we realize that your Council is primarily focused on smaller vehicles - and we fully endorse the urgent need to go to 100% zero emission cars and vans no later than 2035 - we also hope that you will find opportunities to advocate for government policies that will ensure that all sales of new buses be electric by no later than 2030 and that all sales of new freight trucks be zero emission by no later than 2040. Additionally, we need rapid and innovative solutions in air, rail, and marine transport.

¹ Care of Olivia Wessendorff, Head of ZEVTC Secretariat. Government representatives of the ZEV Transition Council were listed in [this November 2020 Joint statement](#), including: Alok Sharma, COP President and Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, UK * Benny Engelbrecht, Minister of Transport, Denmark * Jared Blumenfeld, California Secretary for Environmental Protection * Jean-Baptiste Djebbari, Minister for Ecological Transition, France * Kang Kyungsung, Deputy Minister, Trade and Investment, Ministry of Trade Industry and Energy, South Korea * Marc Garneau, Minister of Transport, Canada * Mathias Fischer, State Secretary, Ministry of Climate and Environment, Norway * Shigehiro Tanaka, Vice-Minister for International Affairs, Japan * Stientje van Veldhoven, State Secretary for Infrastructure & Water Management, Netherlands * Teresa Ribera, Minister for the Ecological Transition and Demographic Challenge, Spain * Tomas Eneroth, Minister for Infrastructure, Ministry of Infrastructure, Sweden * Dr. Graciela Márquez Colín, Minister of Economy, Mexico. Members from India and Italy have participated as well.

²<https://racetozero.unfccc.int/wp-content/uploads/2021/08/2020-Breakthroughs-Upgrading-our-systems-together.pdf> pages 10-11 for section on zero emission vehicles.

Many companies, cities, regions, and some nations are demonstrating leadership on electrifying transport, but the pace of change is slow. We need bold commitments to ensure every community can make this transition, including in developing nations. This will require public investment in charging infrastructure, consumer incentives, public education, job training, manufacturing, technology research, and business development.

With the COP26 climate summit approaching, the world is looking for guidance on transformational action and policies -not just rhetoric- that will rapidly decarbonise transport. We will stand with you in calling for unambiguous government policies and corporate commitments that phase in all new clean zero emission passenger and light-duty vehicles by no later than 2035. The world's citizens will be looking to you to lay out a clear destination and recommendations on how to reach it.

Sincerely,

The following organizations and the countries or regions where they operate:

Australia Institute (Australia)
Australian Conservation Foundation (Australia)
Bicitekas, A.C. (México)
Centre for Citizens Conserving Environment & Management (Uganda)
Ceres (Global)
Cleantech21 Foundation (Switzerland)
Climate Change Network Nigeria (Nigeria)
Earth Action, Inc. (United States -Gulf South)
Egyptian Green Party (Egypt)
Environmental Defense Fund (United States)
Fresh Eyes (United Kingdom)
George Mason University Center for Climate Change Communication (United States)
Glasswaters Foundation (Canada)
Green Cross Argentina (Argentina)
Green Cross Korea (Korea)
Green Cross Netherlands (the Netherlands)
Greenpeace East Asia (Tokyo, Taipei, Seoul, Beijing, and Hong Kong)
Green Transition Denmark (Denmark)
Iniciativa Climática de México (ICM) (México)
Institute for Transportation & Development Policy (East Asia)
Living Oceans Society (Canada)
Legambiente (Italy)
NABU (Nature and Biodiversity Conservation Union) (Germany)
Natural Resources Defense Council (United States, India, China)
Natuur & Milieu (the Netherlands)
Ontario Clean Air Alliance (Ontario, Canada)

Plant Based Treaty (Global)
Power Shift Africa (Africa)
Refleacciona con Responsabilidad A.C. (México)
Sierra Club (United States)
Solutions for our Climate (South Korea)
Stand.earth (Global)
SwitchOn Foundation (India)
Transport & Environment (Europe)
Trend Asia (Southeast Asia)
Women's Healthy Environments Network (Canada)
ZERO – Sustainable Terrestrial System Association (Portugal)