



United Nations  
Decade of  
Sustainable  
Transport

### **Title of the commitment**

Structuring cooperation to implement “Avoid & Shift” strategies in freight transport

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### **Description of the commitment and its main planned activities**

This commitment aims to strengthen international cooperation on “Avoid & Shift” (A&S) strategies in freight transport, to accelerate their integration into future Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) and inform the Global Stocktake 2026-2028.

An IDDDRI blog on “Avoid & Shift” strategies in freight transport, released at COP30, outlines 4 key thematic areas to guide action: <https://www.idddri.org/en/publications-and-events/blog-post/avoid-shift-strategies-freight-transport-4-key-themes>

Most measures on freight focus on “Improve” strategies assuming continuity in freight demand / logistics organizations, and betting on technologies such as biofuels, electric vehicles and digital to improve energy efficiency and shift away from carbon-intensive fuels.

This technology-focus often neglects structural « Avoid & Shift » strategies key to achieving a low-energy, less-resource intensive & congested, more health-positive & sustainable industrial and freight development in line with carbon neutrality.

These strategies rely on the articulation & implementation of four key organizational transformations:

- a) producing and consuming sustainably to lower unnecessary freight demand
- b) producing goods closer to consumers to reduce km travelled
- c) developing inland waterways and coastal freight, rail freight, cargo biking, storage and logistics infrastructures and services integrated into the industrial organizations
- d) changing consumption, production and logistics patterns & organizations to reinforce the attractiveness of non-road logistics in terms of costs, time and quality

International cooperation on freight remains also largely focused on “Improve” strategies—particularly zero-emission vehicles, fuels & refueling infrastructures. Yet, the implementation of the four “Avoid & Shift” transformations depends not only on national actions but also on enhanced international collaboration. This includes:

- (i) experience-sharing on national policies
- (ii) international technical assistance program
- (iii) international financing conditions
- (iv) other international legal instruments related to production, trade or transport

Each of the four transformations (a–d) relies on a combination of these drivers (i–iv). change.

### Recommendations for action

- 1) Structure international cooperation around the four key organizational transformations needed for “Avoid & Shift”
- 2) Involve the right mix of stakeholders able to identify barriers and enablers of the four transformations, and cooperation opportunities
- 3) Use a needs-based approach to engage participants – especially national policymakers

### Partners

- **IDDDRI**
- **UN Climate Champions**
- **UIC**
- **Implementation actors:** shippers & producers, infrastructure developers, logistics service providers, rail and IWWC carriers, and consumer NGOs
- **International cooperation actors:** local & national policy makers, experts of international legal instruments related to production (UNCTAD), trade (WTO), transport (UNECE), private finance sector, public cooperation entities
- **Additional expertise:** local country policy experts from the DDP initiative ([ddpinitiative.org](http://ddpinitiative.org))

### Timeline

**Start date:** November 14, 2026

**End date:** December 31, 2028 (aligned with the GST)

### Endorsing entities

- UN Climate Champions
- UIC

### Monitoring and evaluation

IDDDRI will program several dialogues to address the questions and could report key lessons from these meetings on how to structure an “Avoid & Shift” breakthrough on freight.

### Additional sources of information

- Examples of national actions aiming at organizational changes for freight decarbonization <https://ddpinitiative.org/ddp-annual-report-2023/> (pp. 17-25)
- IDDDRI Note: Companies and carbon neutrality, a story of systemic transformations and cooperation: Illustration on the freight transport sector <https://www.idddri.org/sites/default/files/PDF/Publications/Catalogue%20Iddri/Autre%20Publication/202111-Note%20transport.pdf>