

Opening Speech by Minister Juan Carlos Muñoz at the Opening Plenary of the ITF 2025 Summit

Leipzig, 22. Mai 2025 –

Ladies and gentlemen, esteemed colleagues, ministers, delegates, and friends,

It is an immense honor to welcome you today to the International Transport Forum Summit 2025, here in Leipzig, Germany. As Minister of Transport and Telecommunications of Chile, and as President of the ITF, I am deeply grateful for the opportunity to open this global gathering on behalf of all member countries. I would like to begin by expressing our sincere appreciation to the ITF for its tireless work in organizing this Summit, and in particular to the Secretary-General Young Tae Kim, for his unwavering support throughout Chile's presidency.

This year's Summit is convened under the theme **"Transport Resilience to Global Shocks"**. It is a timely and urgent subject, given the convergence of crises we have faced in recent years—from pandemics to natural disasters, cyberattacks, urban social unrest, to geopolitical tensions. These events have revealed strengths and vulnerabilities in our transport systems, and they have also taught us something essential: that resilience is not only about recovery—it is about anticipation, preparation, and transformation.

Chile, like many of your countries, has experienced the consequences of these shocks firsthand. Earthquakes, tsunamis, volcano eruptions, wildfires, floods, supply chain disruptions, and public health emergencies have all tested the robustness of our infrastructure and the responsiveness of our institutions. But they have also galvanized action.

Through this action Chile has developed a successful action plan to address these risks by listening to our scientists. Nobody would dare or be allowed in Chile to build infrastructure that ignores the scientific evidence organized around our construction manuals and regulation, well, the risks posed by climate change cannot be addressed differently.

So first, I want to emphasize that **resilience and decarbonization must go hand in hand**. The long-term threat posed by climate change must be at the center of our resiliency strategies. Therefore, in Chile, we have made resilience a cornerstone of our national mobility strategy. This includes modernizing transport planning, improving climate risk assessments, and embedding adaptation criteria into infrastructure investment.

We cannot ignore that transport is a major contributor to global greenhouse gas emissions—accounting for nearly one quarter of CO₂ emissions from energy use. It is clear: we will not meet the goals of the Paris Agreement unless we accelerate the transition to low-carbon transport systems. That is why Chile is promoting a call to action to countries in order to increase ambition in the coming COP30 this year in Brazil, where we think it is possible to agree on some concrete indicators and goals from the transport sector. This call to action demands countries to commit in their NDCs about how much they plan to reduce energy consumption and what fraction of this energy will come from renewable sources.

In Chile, we are advancing the decarbonization agenda through an integrated vision of sustainable mobility. We have adopted a National Sustainable Mobility Strategy and a Mitigation and Adaptation Plan in the Transport Sector. But we know this is not enough. That's why we are calling on all ITF members to go further, together.

Second, we must recognize that **resilience is not just a technical concept—it is fundamentally social**. A resilient transport system must be inclusive, equitable, and accessible to all, especially the most

vulnerable. In Chile, we are working to improve public transport in Santiago, our capital city, where at the end of this year, 2 out of 3 buses of the 6,500-bus fleet will be electric -that is, more than 4,300 electric buses in just one city-. But also, we are extending our Metro and train networks, and providing better public transport to underserved regions and rural areas. We believe that resilience requires making sure that, in moments of crisis, no community is left behind.

Third, **resilience requires better governance and stronger institutions**. We need more effective coordination across sectors and levels of government. We also need to ensure that infrastructure investments are guided by robust data, sound risk assessments, and inclusive consultation processes.

Fourth, we need to **mobilize innovation and partnerships**. The private sector plays a vital role—not only in deploying technologies but in helping governments deliver flexible, scalable, and sustainable solutions. Our electric bus program in Santiago, for example, is the result of a successful public-private collaboration involving bus operators, bus manufacturers, energy providers, and financial institutions. We must replicate and scale these kinds of alliances across all modes of transport and in all regions.

Fifth, as a global community, we must build **resilience through solidarity and cooperation**. We face common challenges, but we also have shared tools and shared knowledge. This is especially true for Latin America and the Global South, where infrastructure gaps and exposure to climate risks make resilience an even greater imperative. Let this Summit be a platform for dialogue and learning across regions, where the experiences of one country can inspire action in another. Notice that the more specific a country's commitment to specific actions and targets, the more attractive this country becomes to attract climate financing.

As part of our role as ITF Presidency, Chile has led the preparation of two policy recommendations that we have submitted for the approval of the Council of Transport Ministers:

- The first is focused on Road Safety, reaffirming our collective commitment to reduce road fatalities and outlining practical steps for improving safety across all modes of transport. This recommendation stresses the need for systemic approaches, data-driven policies, and shared accountability between stakeholders.
- The second addresses the emerging challenges and opportunities posed by Artificial Intelligence in Transport. It provides a framework for the responsible and inclusive deployment of AI technologies, ensuring that innovation is aligned with public values and societal goals.

We believe these two policy recommendations are both timely and essential. They reflect the priorities of our presidency and the broader vision of a resilient, sustainable, and equitable transport future.

Finally, I want to return to the idea that resilience is a choice. It is a choice we make through the investments we prioritize, the policies we adopt, and the partnerships we forge. As President of the ITF, I have seen firsthand the value of multilateral dialogue. But now is the moment to move from dialogue to delivery.

Let us use this Summit not only to share ideas but to shape commitments. Let us leave Leipzig with a renewed sense of urgency—and a common purpose to build transport systems that can withstand the shocks of today and rise to the opportunities of tomorrow.

On behalf of Chile, I thank you again for your presence, your commitment, and your vision.

Let's make this Summit a turning point in the global journey toward resilient and climate-compatible transport.

Thank you.