

**4TH INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE
FOR SUSTAINABLE MOBILITY
& IRF ANNUAL CONFERENCE**
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Opening Speech of Mr. Anouar Benazzouz, IRF President & ADM Director General at the 4th edition of the International Conference on Sustainable Mobility & IRF Annual Conference 2022

Your Excellencies,

Distinguished Colleagues,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am honored and very happy for the opportunity to welcome you all on behalf of the International Road Federation (IRF) to this edition of the IRF annual conference being hosted here in Morocco thanks to generous hospitality of the Kingdom of Morocco, and the support of our sponsors for this event:

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We have an impressive line-up of speakers today and I want to express my gratitude to all of them for having responded positive to this invitation. My thanks also to all of you have travelled from far to be here today. We have attendance literally from 5 continents.

It is a testimony that you find value in our work and that we are being able to fulfill IRF's core mission that is: facilitate the exchange of knowledge and expertise; foster partnerships and collaboration; and work in collaboration with others to shape policy and to advocate for a sustainable mobility.

IRF is a membership-based organisation with headquarters in Geneva but operating globally and representing leading corporate and institutional players drawn from the road and mobility sectors worldwide since 1948.

With a presence and network on over five continents, IRF is reputed in the sector for its untiring efforts to build capacity around the world and for being a hub of knowledge, expertise and contacts.

An expertise that we have put at the service of the sector and beyond thanks also to the IRF World Road Statistics (WRS) which celebrate this year 58 years and a major policy shift on which you will hear about later today and that we will celebrate together.

With COP27 only few weeks away, there could not be a better moment for us to come together as a community to talk about decarbonization, finance, digitalisation and overall how to innovate to ensure a sustainable mobility and growth for all. And I want to stress this word "for All" cause while addressing the daunting challenges in front of us we need to make sure that we leave no one behind. And this will require a much higher level of concerted action than what we have been able to stage so far. Cause siloed approaches could hamper rather than support the development of a mobility that is inclusive & sustainable for all. We need to learn system thinking. We need to build true partnerships to deliver on these critical issues.

Faithful to our mission of "enablers" when it comes to partnerships, we have convened today to this gathering other leading organisations from our sector: ASECAP - the European association of tollway operators; IRU - the international Road Transport Union; ITA - International Tunnelling Association; ERTICO-ITS Europe; IBTTA - International Bridge Tunnelling and Turnipike Association in the USA; ERF - The European Road Federation; iRAP - the International Road assessment programme. We call them sister organisations not only because we all work in the transport sector but also for ties we have developed over the years

and because we value their work and contribution. So let me take this opportunity to thank them all for being present today and represented at the highest level and for bringing to the table their expertise.

This edition of the conference has a strong focus on action, on best practices and innovation. The arrival of new digital technologies is enabling efficiency improvements in existing transport systems, as well as making them more user-friendly and sustainable. But let's not fool ourselves: transforming mobility requires more than just technology and infrastructure. It requires a system change and that will only happen if we work together.

In closing, I want to quote *President Abdel Fattah El-Sisi* from Egypt who will be hosting COP27: **we have an opportunity to showcase unity against an existential threat that we can only overcome through concerted action and effective implementation.**

I hope this event will help us build these bridges and help find solutions together. I look forward to our exchanges and I wish you all good discussions.

Thank you.