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For more information, please contact:

Verónica Ortiz Cisneros (veronica.ortiz@itdp.org or +52 55 54 71 99 31 in Mexico City)

NYC Bike Ride Hosted by UN-Habitat and ITDP Puts Spotlight on Cycling as Means for Achieving Urban Agenda Goals

UN-Habitat and the Institute for Transportation and Development Policy (ITDP), with support from Transportation Alternatives, NYC DOT, Citibike and others, call attention to cycling as a transportation mode and basic service for equitable and livable cities in a high level bike ride ahead of the UN General Assembly.

NEW YORK (27 April 2022) — Momentum is growing at the international level around the need to expand access to cycling to curtail fossil fuel dependency and slow the catastrophic impacts of climate change. The UN General Assembly (UNGA) unanimously [adopted a resolution](#) in March of this year calling for improved integration of bicycles with public transit as a way to combat climate change. The UNGA will convene again for a High Level Meeting on April 28th to discuss the effective implementation of the New Urban Agenda.

The Agenda was adopted in Quito, Ecuador in 2016 at the UN Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III) and represents a shared vision for a better and more sustainable future. It also emphasizes well-planned and well-managed urbanization as a powerful tool for sustainable development worldwide. Included in the Agenda is a “Right to the City” approach, which states that all citizens, not just the wealthy and political elite, can influence city policies and design. Growing demand for cycling lays the foundation for reclaiming urban space for more equitable and sustainable mobility for more people — especially those who have been historically underserved.

Ahead of the High Level Meeting, UN-Habitat and the Institute for Transportation and Development Policy hosted “**Riding into a New Urban Agenda**,” a bike ride which urged cities to recognize **cycling as a transportation mode and to position cycling as a key pathway toward meeting the mobility goals of the New Urban Agenda**. As with bus systems and lanes or basic services like energy, stormwater and sewage systems, cycle networks must be carefully planned, implemented and maintained to truly guarantee safety, livability and equitable access in cities.

The bike ride was held in Midtown Manhattan and was attended by UN Member State representatives, local advocacy organizations, and high-level participants including:

- Ms. **Maimunah Mohd Sharif**, Executive Director of UN-Habitat
- Ms. **Heather Thompson**, CEO of ITDP
- Mr. **Luis Donald Colosio**, Mayor of Monterrey, Mexico
- Mr. **Ydanis Rodriguez**, Commissioner of the NYC Department of Transportation
- Mr. **Jean Todt**, UN Special Envoy for Road Safety

- Mr. **Paul White**, ITDP Board President and Senior Director of Superpedestrian
- Ms. **Laura Fox**, General Manager, Citibike

The ride was supported by **Transportation Alternatives**, the **New York City Department of Transportation, PlacemakingX**, the **Urban Pathways** project, the **UN Road Safety Fund**, and the **UN Special Envoy for Road Safety**. Bikes were provided by Lyft's **Citibike**, New York City's bike share operator.

"Building and transforming cities for all people has been a central pillar of ITDP's mission for more than 35 years," said ITDP's CEO Heather Thompson. "With high-profile, cycling-centered events like this one and through ITDP's global Cycling Cities campaign, we are helping cities' governments reach climate goals and provide their residents with an active, safe and necessary alternative to high-polluting vehicles. I believe the time to act is now."

"The science speaks loud and clear. We are in a race against time to reduce transportation emissions to help fight this climate crisis," said New York City Department of Transportation Commissioner Ydanis Rodriguez. "Everyone regardless of their socio-economic background should have access to safe and greener modes of transportation and, under Mayor Adams, we're placing equity front and center as we build a more sustainable city."

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The Institute for Transportation and Development Policy is a global nonprofit that works with cities around the world to design and implement high-quality transport systems and policy solutions that make cities more livable, equitable and sustainable. Learn more at www.itdp.org and follow ITDP on [facebook.com/ITD.org](https://www.facebook.com/ITD.org) and Twitter [@ITDP_HQ](https://twitter.com/ITDP_HQ).

ITDP's *Cycling Cities Campaign* provides governments, planners, and advocates the tools to make cycling a safe and affordable transportation option in cities worldwide. Composed of a global coalition of cities and civil society organizations, ITDP's Cycling Cities Campaign calls for 25 million more people near safe cycle lanes by 2025. Learn more at cyclingcities.itdp.org.