

PAN-AFRICAN ACTION PLAN FOR ACTIVE MOBILITY ENDORSED BY TRANSPORT AND ENERGY MINISTERS FROM ACROSS AFRICA

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In April 2026, Transport and Energy Ministers from across Africa endorsed the [Pan-African Action Plan for Active Mobility](#) and a Continental Framework on Electric Mobility [at the 5th Ordinary Session of the African Union's Specialized Technical Committee on Transport and Energy \(STC-T&E\) held in Johannesburg](#). The two frameworks aim to tackle the continent's rising road traffic deaths, air pollution, and greenhouse gas emissions by scaling up investment in walking, cycling, and electric vehicles.

The Action Plan is a comprehensive framework aimed at transforming mobility across Africa by prioritizing the needs of pedestrians, cyclists, and other non-motorized transport users. Its five goals cover safety, accessibility, comfort, user satisfaction, and increased commitment and investment. Developed through direct engagement with over 1,500 stakeholders, the Action Plan is co-led by the United Nations Environment Programme, [UN-Habitat](#), and the World Health Organization Regional Office for Africa ([WHO](#)), with support from the [FIA Foundation](#).

This endorsement, made within the first year of the [UN Decade of Sustainable Transport \(2026–2035\)](#), positions Africa to address climate, health, accessibility, and safety challenges while unlocking economic opportunities through an integrated approach spanning both active and electric mobility. Together, the frameworks form a roadmap to mobilize investment, strengthen policy commitments, and accelerate national action on sustainable transport across Africa. This endorsement sends a clear signal that African governments recognise the urgency of shifting to electric mobility while at the same time investing in the safety and well-being of the billion people who walk and cycle every day. These two continental frameworks provide the strategic direction that will drive coordinated policy action and unlock the resources the continent needs to industrialize and build safer, cleaner, and more inclusive transport systems.

[The article published on the UNEP website underlines that](#) “the *Continental Framework on Electric Mobility in Africa* is a policy framework developed by the African Union Commission ([AUC](#)) in collaboration with the UN Economic Commission for Africa ([UNECA](#)) and the UN Environment Programme ([UNEP](#)). It sets out strategic directions for AU member states to accelerate the shift from fossil fuel-dependent transport to electric vehicles, build local manufacturing capacity, and harness the continent's vast renewable energy potential. The case for change is compelling: Africa's transport sector accounts for [31% of CO2 emissions](#), and more than 70% of refined fuel demand in Africa [is still met through imports](#). Electric mobility is already gaining momentum across Africa. Approximately 132,000 electric vehicles are in operation, with Ethiopia leading the way, and about half of African countries are engaged in



assembling or manufacturing EVs and charging equipment. Some 31 African countries now mention electric mobility in their nationally determined contributions ([NDCs](#)) under the Paris Agreement.

The stakes are high: [more than a billion people in Africa walk or cycle for nearly an hour every day](#) to reach work, school, markets, and health services. Yet road and street infrastructure across the continent often fails to meet [recommended safety standards](#), and investments in pedestrian and cycling infrastructure remain far below what is needed. The consequences are stark. [Africa accounts for 24% of global road traffic fatalities](#) despite having only 3% of the world's vehicle fleet, with pedestrians and cyclists making up more than a third of those killed. Walking, cycling, and electric vehicles are among the most effective, affordable, and practical solutions we have for tackling the climate crisis, improving public health, and building more liveable cities. These endorsements mean African governments have a blueprint to accelerate investments that deliver benefits across sectors, from cleaner air and lower emissions to economic savings, stronger communities, and energy independence”.

[The UNEP article highlights that](#) the endorsement decisions build on a wave of policy commitments already underway across the continent for both active and electric mobility. Ethiopia adopted its [Non-Motorised Transport Strategy](#) (2020–2029). Addis Ababa has since constructed more than 60 km of walkways and protected cycle tracks, with plans to expand to over 76 km of cycle tracks and 200 km of walkways. Steps have also been made in Uganda, where a new road design manual was released last year, and in Egypt, with the launch of its [Active Mobility Strategy Framework](#) (2025–2034). On the electric mobility front, Rwanda has introduced comprehensive [fiscal incentives for EVs](#), including zero-rated VAT, duty exemptions, and a carbon tax on polluting vehicles. At the same time, [Kigali has banned](#) new registrations of combustion-engine passenger motorcycles. In [Dakar, Senegal](#), the first fully electric bus rapid transit system is operational, deploying more than 140 electric articulated buses over an 18-kilometre corridor. [Kenya](#), which [launched its National Electric Mobility Policy in early 2026](#), already has more than 24,000 e-motorcycles on its roads, the result of earlier pilot projects, most of them operating as taxis. These policy shifts, developed through extensive consultation and collaboration, demonstrate the institutional momentum that today's continental endorsements are designed to accelerate.

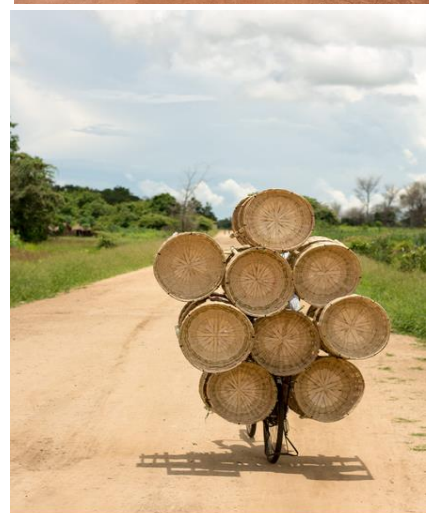
[Another article published on the UNEP website underlines that](#) other countries are following these examples. Ghana's transport and roads ministries have approved a bike-friendly work plan, and Malawi is moving to embed non-motorized transport into its national transport policy. Meanwhile, Morocco held a kick-off workshop and is planning interventions in multiple cities. In June, a French-language edition of the Pan-African Action Plan for Active Mobility was launched at a regional workshop that featured representatives from nine countries. With the plan endorsed, the task is to translate it into safe, connected walking and cycling infrastructure for more than [1 billion](#) Africans who walk and cycle every day.

To know more

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[Pan-African Action Plan for Active Mobility](#)



[Un Decade Sustainable Transport 2026-2035](#)

[UN Decade Sustainable Transport 2026 2035 Implementation Plan](#)

[Walking and Cycling in Africa – UNEP Publication](#)

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