



Press Release
78th Cairo Climate Talks
October 12, 2021

On the 12th of October 2021, the Cairo Climate Talks (CCT) hosted their 78th panel discussion in which experts from Germany and Egypt discussed the potential and challenges of E-mobility, in the event titled “**Welcome to the Future: E-mobility’s Potential and Current State**”.

The transportation sector is responsible for the largest share of global greenhouse gas emissions at currently 29%. The most recent IPCC report points to the growing per capita demand for transport, pushed by rising incomes and infrastructure development. **More people are on the move than ever, and the solution lies just within this movement.**

Mr. Tilman Hochmüller, Deputy Head of Mission, opened the discussion on behalf of the Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany, expressing his pleasure to be discussing the topic of mobility, especially since the Corona pandemic has shown us how closely CO₂ emissions are connected to transport, with 2020 being a year with record reduction in global emissions. Mr. Hochmüller further stated that “We need to totally rethink the way we travel, from using more trains and public transportation to the use of bikes or electric scooters on short distances. It is particularly important to work on taking traffic away from the streets and unto the rails, especially in urban settings.”

Opening on behalf of the Ministry of Environment of the Arab Republic of Egypt, Dr. Ayman El-Maazawy, General Manager of Technical Office of the Environmental Quality Sector, spoke about the initiatives being implemented by the Ministry within the transport sector and their relation to managing air pollution and climate change in the Greater Cairo Region. He also elaborated on the protocol between the Egyptian Environmental Affairs Agency, the Ministry of Planning and Economic Development, and the Ministry of Health and Population, which includes the development of the metroline and monorail, purchasing of electric busses, and establishment of the electric charging infrastructure.

In a discussion moderated by Mr. Ahmed Dorghamy, Basic Services and Climate Change Officer at UN-HABITAT, the panelists had a dynamic conversation on the potential and challenges of E-mobility. Starting with their vision of the future of mobility in Egypt, delving into infrastructure, electric vehicles, mass transport and the informal transport sector, regulations and tariffs, integration, and finally smart cities.

Mr. David Allan, Associate Director for Sustainable Infrastructure at the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD), spoke on the support the EBRD is providing to the mobility

and transportation sector on the different levels, including financing and regulatory support. Mr. Allan highlighted how using a “No-regrets” approach to design in new cities, allows for factoring in the infrastructure for integrated mobility systems. His main advice was to: Start now and start small. The system does not have to be completely changed overnight, rather working on the capacity building and development of the value chain, are the way forward to prepare for the future.

While cars are usually at the center of the discussion of e-mobility, when talking about the initiatives, the conversation was naturally steered towards the mass and public transport sectors. This was then taken forward by Mr. Abdelrahman Hegazi, Co-Founder and Research Associate at Transport for Cairo and Mr. Ahmad Sami, Business Development Manager at Siemens Mobility. Mr. Hegazi pointed out the very vital role played by the informal transport sector in Egypt, and how essential it is to look into the potential of retrofitting for the electrification of the existing fleet, as well as raising the question on the accessibility of opportunities and services to vulnerable and marginalized groups.

Mr. Sami highlighted how a fully electrified large-scale rail system can cut the emissions by 70%, in comparison to the current system. In addition to how integration and alignment between the different transport sectors can materialize through well-established networks in each of the sectors individually with the support of software and hardware solutions, which can transform a simple model to a fully smart electrified model for the Greater Cairo Region.

Redirecting the conversation back to Electric Vehicles, Mr. Ahmed El-Araby, Technical Manager of Infinity EV, provided details on the growing EV charging infrastructure in Egypt, as well as the regulatory context. To date, all EV charging has been at no cost to the consumers, however, a draft proposal for the executive regulations and tariffs has been recently finalized and is due to be issued within weeks. Moreover, the state-owned car manufacturer “El-Nasr” is planning to roll out the first batch of locally produced EVs by mid-2022, with over half its production aimed for taxis and other ride sharing services.

In closing, the panel agreed that before being smart, cities should assess and integrate the different levels of livability, and that e-mobility can play a role in obtaining that, as part of a more holistic approach, where each sector and market player adds a piece to the puzzle.

Background Information:

The Cairo Climate Talks are conceived, organized and hosted as a cooperation between the German Embassy in Cairo, the Egyptian Ministry of Environment, the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) and the German Corporation for International Cooperation (GIZ).

You can find the recordings for all talks here: www.youtube.com/cairoclimatetalks
And the reports for all talks here: https://bit.ly/CCT_report

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