

PRESENTATION

The 19th Codatu Scientific Conference focuses on the sustainability of transport systems in cities in the Global South.

Among the many challenges linked to demographic, environmental and urban transitions in the Global South, eight discussion topics have been identified as suitable subjects for reflection by the scientific community, with a view to considering what responses and recommendations might be offered to the community's various stakeholders in a medium- to long-term perspective.

Held prior to the CIMDC (International Conference on Sustainable Mobility and Climate), on 19 October 2026, the aim is to present the views of scientists to conference participants during sessions on these various topics.

The eight themes will be examined during sessions open to discussion amongst participants. A moderator and two speakers will outline possible directions for the development of scientific activities in the medium to long term and will open the floor for participants to share their experiences and views on these topics.

PROGRAMME

19 OCTOBER 2026 - HOTEL IVOIRE - ABIDJAN

8:30 - 9:00	Welcome	
9:00 - 9:30	Introduction to the day's programme	
9:30 - 10:45	Mass data collection in the transport and urban mobility sector: what is it used for?	How can we redefine governance models to better represent users and paratransit operators?
10:45 - 11:00	Break	
11:00 - 12:15	N'a-t-on pas oublié les marchandises ?	How can high-capacity transport modes be integrated into existing networks?
12:15 - 13:45	Lunch	
13:45 - 15:15	Are motorbike taxis a marginal form of transport within urban mobility systems in Africa?	Is transport infrastructure the main focus of urban mobility in Africa?
15:00 - 15:15	Break	
15:15 - 16:30	Is electric mass transport viable in cities in the Global South?	How can public transport be made affordable for residents of African cities?
16:30 - 17:00	Summary and closing remarks	

OVERVIEW OF THE SESSIONS

Mass data collection in the transport and urban mobility sector: what is it used for?

Moderator: Olivier Ninot

In a highly digitalised world, what is the reality regarding the collection and use of transport data in the Global South? The aim of this session is to examine the tools used for data collection and processing, and to clarify the role of each stakeholder in ensuring the reliability, availability and effective use of this data.

Haven't we forgotten the goods?

Moderator: Nora Marei

The delivery of goods within towns and cities is often given little consideration in urban mobility strategies, even though it is a significant source of pollution and nuisance. Potential improvements hinge on a combination of technological (infrastructure, digital solutions, etc.), organisational (governance), environmental and social challenges. The aim of this session is to highlight the scientific approaches that will enable urban mobility decision-makers to address these challenges, particularly with a view to better integrating urban logistics into urban mobility planning.

Are motorbike taxis a marginal form of transport within urban mobility systems in Africa?

Moderator: Assogba Guézembé

Among recent developments in African transport modes, the use of motorbike taxis remains largely marginal in African cities, whilst it is very widespread in South-East Asia. These difficulties in roll-out reveal divergent approaches and visions of mobility in African cities, driven by these different categories of stakeholders. The topics covered during the session will therefore focus on incorporating the development of motorbike taxis into mobility development strategies, their future in relation to buses, minibuses and other modes of urban transport, and the impact of their electrification.

Is electric mass transport viable in cities in the Global South?

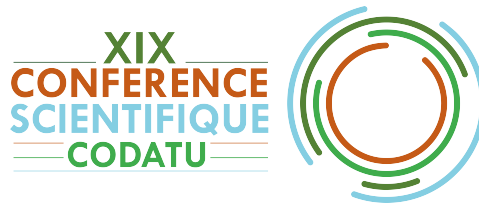
Moderator: Youssouf Meite

The electrification of buses, minibuses, ... presents a challenge for many cities in the Global South – one that is economic, technical and social in nature. Several studies and research projects have addressed this topic on the basis of existing implementations or projects, often independently of one another. The aim of this session is to highlight the interplay between these various factors and to identify ways of achieving overall optimisation, particularly in relation to various areas such as the production and operation of vehicles and their components, their integration into fleets and planning methods, and their financing, amongst others.

How can we redefine governance models to better represent users and paratransit operators?

Moderator: Gladys Nyachieo

One of the key characteristics of cities in the Global South is the presence of various paratransit modes of transport, the fragmentation of transport operator companies, the associated socio-cultural references, and their integration into civic life. It is therefore necessary to take these 'informal' modes into account within the governance mechanisms for urban mobility. The aim of this session is to consider how urban transport decision-makers can better take into account the findings of the numerous current and future research projects on this subject.



How can high-capacity transport modes be integrated into existing networks?

Moderator: Pape Sakho

The implementation of high-capacity transport systems in cities in the Global South, such as BRT, does not always achieve the desired results. It therefore seems important to explore the possibility of a paradigm shift in the planning of African transport systems, whereby high-capacity projects would be adapted to existing networks and promote intermodality. This session therefore proposes to examine several topics that form the pillars of a new paradigm, particularly through a bottom-up approach based on existing operations.

Is transport infrastructure the main focus of urban mobility in Africa?

Moderator: Virginie Boutueil

For several decades, transport policies in Africa have focused primarily on the implementation of infrastructure projects. However, despite significant progress in several major cities, this infrastructure remains inadequate in relation to users' needs and mobility patterns. It is therefore necessary to integrate its development into a comprehensive strategy for sustainable urban mobility, particularly by taking existing networks into account. To address this challenge, the session will explore topics such as 'by design' approaches, the improvement of decision-making tools – particularly in planning and investment decisions – the training of decision-makers and technical staff, the integration of new technologies and, of course, factors that enhance the resilience of this infrastructure.

How can public transport be made affordable for residents of African cities?

Moderator: Xavier Godard

Access to transport in Africa is a key issue for economic development, social inclusion and the environmental transition. The financial aspect is a major factor for users, operators and local authorities alike.

PRACTICAL INFORMATION

**XIX
CONFERENCE
SCIENTIFIQUE
CODATU**



**Monday 9 October 2026
from 9.00 am to 5.00 pm
Sofitel Hotel Ivoire – Abidjan**

To find out more about the [programme, how to take part and how to register](#), scan this QR code:

Or visit the webpage:

www.cimdc2026.com/en/xix-codatu-scientific-conference/



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