

United Nations Partnership Meeting for Road Safety

Hosted by the UN Secretary-General's Special Envoy for Road Safety

29 October 2019, 9:30-12:30
Room S-4, Palais des Nations, Geneva

Meeting Report

I. Opening and Welcome

- **Mr. Jean Todt, UN Secretary-General's Special Envoy for Road Safety**

The Special Envoy welcomed meeting participants, emphasizing the momentum generated in advancing road safety globally and calling for immediate and well-coordinated action leading up to the end of the Decade of Action for Road Safety and beyond. While highlighting the progress made, the Special Envoy underlined that target of halving road traffic fatalities is not being achieved and highlighted the importance of strong partnerships for delivering on collective promise.

The Special Envoy outlined the achievements since last meeting in November 2017, including the launch of UN Road Safety Strategy and UN Road Safety Fund (UNRSF), establishment of Friends of Road Safety Networks in Geneva and New York as well as a number of successful country missions to Member States, capacity building events and technical assistance activities implemented in strong partnership with UN agencies. Furthermore, the Special Envoy highlighted the most recent development within the automotive industry, which announced the Manifesto concerning minimum vehicle standards, under the leadership of the Organisation Internationale des Constructeurs d'Automobiles (OICA).

In summary, the Special Envoy thanked Agencies represented at the meeting both in the room and virtually for their contribution to advancing road safety as well as reiterated his commitment and dedication to improving road safety jointly with global road safety stakeholders. The Special Envoy called on UN system to bring the road safety to the next level.

- **Ms. Olga Algayerova, Executive Secretary, Economic Commission for Europe (ECE)**

The Executive Secretary thanked meeting participants for joining forces towards improving road safety. She outlined global road traffic fatality numbers, signifying the immense development challenge, requiring coordinated efforts from relevant stakeholders. The Executive Secretary emphasized road-safety-related Sustainable Development Goals, highlighting that they are far from being achieved and proposing to take an opportunity of this meeting to reflect on what could be done differently. She expressed her high appreciation of the Special Envoy's tireless efforts, including those on generating much needed resources for tackling the issue of road safety.

The Executive Secretary highlighted 59 UN transport legal instruments hosted at the ECE, emphasizing that they are indispensable for safe and sustainable inland transport and highlighting their direct relevance to road safety. Furthermore, the Executive Secretary spoke about the recently established UNRSF, aimed at implementing projects to address key gaps with concrete institutional impact. Currently implementing five pilot projects in eight countries, UNRSF launched its first formal call for proposals in October 2019, the outcomes of which are expected to be announced in Sweden in February 2020.

In conclusion, the Executive Secretary welcomed Mr. Petteri Taalas from World Meteorological Organization (WMO), highlighting adverse weather affects on roads and road user performance and expressing her openness to collaboration on embedding potential weather risks in ECE work.

- **Ms. Rola Dashti, Executive Secretary, Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA)**

The Executive Secretary greeted meeting participants by video-conference, highlighting that the current situation in Lebanon prevented her from joining the meeting in person. She outlined the number of road traffic fatalities in the Middle East, representing over 600,000 fatalities and the fatality rate of 19 per 100,000, which is four times higher than the average EU rate of 4.9. She further emphasized that the total number of traffic fatalities increased by 6% between 2015-2016.

The Executive Secretary acknowledged the urgency to take action, given limited time to achieve results within the 2030 Agenda and called for intensified efforts and sustainable solutions. She concluded by expressing hope to catalyse joint efforts through the UNRSF and expressing ESCWA's strong commitment to working together and ensuring appropriate implementation of innovative solutions.

- **Ms. Naoko Yamamoto, Assistant Director-General, Division of UHC/Healthier Populations, WHO**

The ADG thanked the Special Envoy for his leadership and expressed WHO's continuous commitment to advancing road safety. She further highlighted the upcoming Third Global Ministerial Road Safety Conference in Sweden as an opportunity to define new road safety targets for the coming decade. She shared about the new structure in WHO, with reinforced focus on promoting global health.

The ADG highlighted WHO's global status report on road safety as a good instrument for Member States to understand and address the gap in road safety performance. In conclusion, the ADG highlighted upcoming UN Road Safety Collaboration meeting, inviting everyone to participate and reiterated WHO's commitment to road safety as well as support to relevant road safety efforts.

II. Tour de Table

Meeting participants briefly introduced themselves. A List of Participants is enclosed to this document.

III. Third Global Ministerial Conference on Road Safety, 19-20 February 2020

- **Dr. Etienne Krug, Director, Department for Management of Noncommunicable Diseases, Disability, Violence and Injury Prevention, WHO**

Dr. Krug presented the upcoming [3rd Global Ministerial Conference on Road Safety](#), scheduled to take place in Stockholm, Sweden on 19-20 February 2020. This Conference is third in the series, the first was hosted by the Government of the Russian Federation in Moscow in November 2009 and led to declaring a Decade of Action for Road Safety 2011-2020. The Second Global High-Level Conference on Road Safety was hosted by the Government of Brazil in Brasilia in November 2015, where the discussion focused on strategies for making progress towards the road safety related target 3.6 that aimed to halve road traffic fatalities by 2020.

Speaking of the upcoming Third Global Ministerial Conference on Road Safety, to be hosted by the Government of Sweden and co-sponsored by WHO, Dr. Krug described its forward-looking nature and the expectation to host between 1000-1500 participants around the discussion about the lessons learned from the past Decade and decisions on the ambitions of the next.

Five plenaries and 18 parallel sessions of the Conference are expected to discuss the lessons learned, vision zero, financing for road safety, leadership and international collaboration aspects, among others. In addition, the participation of Youth Assembly, FIA High-Level Panel for Road Safety and parliamentarians was emphasized, with encouragement to participate in their pre-meetings. Dr. Krug

highlighted successes of the Decade demonstrated by stabilized rates of road traffic fatalities despite growing population and motorization.

In conclusion, he shared that the King of Sweden and UN Secretary-General or Deputy Secretary-General are expected to participate at the Conference.

Comments:

Some participants expressed concern about Governments having not received invitations yet, the short deadline for confirming attendance and questions on availability of funding for low- and middle- income countries. A suggestion was made to invite Multilateral Development Banks and other relevant stakeholders, including on the city level. Agencies in attendance expressed their interest to identify relevant Ministers and their interest to contribute to relevant sessions which interlink with their mandate.

In response to comments, Dr. Krug informed the participants that the invitations to governments through Embassies as well as to UN Heads of Agencies were sent by the Swedish Ministry of Transport in September 2019 and the follow up is on-going. WHO welcomed the offer of support with the follow up and contribution to relevant sessions. WHO further explained that the registration deadline will likely be extended through the end of the year. As for the funding, Dr. Krug confirmed that there is indeed a travel fund, administered by WHO, that will help to support the attendance of one representative from each low-income country. In addition, funding is available for NGOs representatives, through the travel fund administered by Global Alliance of NGOs for Road Safety.

The Special Envoy commended a great job done by WHO so far. With increased visibility of the issue globally over the past decade, road safety stakeholders are much better equipped to tackle the issue over the coming decade. The Special Envoy also highlighted the discrepancy between fatality figures estimated in the WHO report and actual figures reported by Member States, recognizing the ongoing need to improve road safety data at the country level.

IV. United Nations Internal Road Safety Strategy

- **Mr. Giulio Galante, Head of Road Safety Unit, Division of Specialized Operational Support, UNDSS**

Mr. Galante provided an update on [UN Road Safety Strategy](#) implementation, aimed at advancing road safety within the UN System. He emphasized Strategy's vision of zero fatalities among UN personnel and highlighted a multi-sectoral nature of the issue. The Strategy, endorsed in January 2018, was launched by 15 Senior UN officials, including Chef de Cabinet on behalf of the Secretary-General and the Special Envoy for Road Safety. Mr. Galante provided update on strategy implementation within five pillars and shared about the establishment of Road Safety Unit within the UNDSS mandate to support the implementation of the UN Internal Road Safety Strategy, including through coordination of activities and collaboration with UNDSS Security advisers in the field. *IASMN Road Safety Strategy Working Group* is the main tool to implement the Strategy.

Comments: the Special Envoy highlighted opportunity to better inform UN country teams and emphasized the importance of communicating the existence of the Strategy and encouraging its effective implementation with country counterparts. UNDSS committed to reaching out to the people in the field, as they are the most vulnerable to the potential threat. World Food Program and OHCHR shared that there is increased awareness among country counterparts in their respective agencies and proceeded to share about their road safety campaigns.

V. Key Note Speech

- **Mr. Petteri Taalas, Secretary-General of World Meteorological Organization (WMO)**

Mr. Taalas shared about major reform carried out in the WMO with the larger focus on transport sector, air, road and marine transportation. He highlighted WMO's collaboration with standard setting agencies, including UNECE and emphasized the Inland Transport Committee (ITC) Strategy 2030 as a good base for potential collaboration. He shared about the link between transport sector and Meteo services, highlighting the importance of collaboration towards saving lives on the roads. He mentioned the relevance of human factor and impact of adverse weather condition and poor air quality.

In conclusion, he expressed his support to global road safety efforts and expressed willingness to collaborate towards enhancing road safety.

VI. United Nations Road Safety Fund (UNRSF)

- **Mr. Romain Hubert, Acting Head of the UNRSF secretariat**

Mr. Hubert presented the recently established [UN Road Safety Fund](#) (UNRSF), including its vision and mission, governance mechanism and pledges announced to date. Established by the signing of ten UN agencies, many represented at the meeting, the UNRSF showcases the possibility that exist through partnerships. He emphasized key achievements, including the establishment of UNRSF secretariat, five on-going pilot projects and the recent launch of 2019 Call for proposals. The priority is to support immediate impact-driven project proposals. He further briefed the Agencies on the application guidelines as well as eligibility and funding criteria for submitting project proposals in line with the Fund's Global Framework Plan of Action aimed to strengthen and complete National Road Safety Systems in low- and middle-income countries.

Mr. Hubert concluded his presentation by outlining the priorities of UNRSF, which include increasing Fund's visibility and enhancing fundraising activities, collecting data from pilot projects and announcing the outcome of the 2019 call for proposals at the Stockholm Ministerial Conference in February 2020.

VII. UN 2nd Sustainable Transport Conference, 5-7 May 2020

- **Statement by Mr. Alexander Trepelkov, Officer-in-Charge, Division for SDG, DESA**

(Statement document is enclosed to this report.)

Comments: Strong focus and visibility should be made for road safety. The Special Envoy encouraged participation by UN agencies in this regard. More information can be found on the website of the [Conference](#).

VIII. Open Floor to Participants

- **World Bank, Global Road Safety Facility (GRSF)**

Highlighted the importance of reliable road safety data in systematic addressing of road safety. Suggested that regional observatories could be one of the ways to address the issue, bringing examples of Africa road safety observatory established in partnership with FIA Foundation and UNECA as well as Asia Pacific observatory, which is being established in collaboration with ESCAP and ADB. Emphasized the importance of integrating the urban mobility aspect in advancing road safety and further highlighted a publication on best practices in road safety, recently published by the World Bank.

Comments: Some participants suggested that the SDG target 3.6 was overly ambitious. However, others expressed disagreement, giving the example of many countries which managed to achieve significant

improvements during a similar duration of time, recognising that political will was key to making the significant progress.

- **United Nations Human Settlement Programme (UN-Habitat)**

Spoke about importance of engaging Ministers of Urban Development and Ministers of Cities in road safety dialogue, highlighting their linkage to addressing road safety, as significant share of road crashes occurs on urban roads. Shared about the upcoming Tenth Session of the World Urban Forum, planned to take place in Abu Dhabi during 8-13 February 2020, where 22,000 participants will gather around discussion on sustainable urbanization. UN-Habitat is an implementing agency of the UNRSF pilot project entitled “Scaling up safety streets designs” in Ethiopia.

- **Economic and Social Commission for Asia-Pacific (ESCAP)**

Agreed on importance of ensuring the highest level of participation in the 2020 Conference and offered ESCAP’s help in ensuring participation from their region. Welcomed ILO Guidelines on promotion of decent work and road safety for the transport sector, highlighting their relevance in the Asia-Pacific region. Shared about ESCAP’s collaboration with ADB in establishing the Asia and Pacific Road Safety Observatory and informed of its first Annual Meeting is scheduled for December 2019.

- **World Food Program (WFP)**

Expressed appreciation of all the efforts to advance road safety, shared about extensive leadership engagement on the issue, which resulted in the newly established road safety cross-divisional group in WFP. This group developed a WFP implementation plan for the UN Road Safety Strategy which is currently being implemented. The WFP owns and contracts 5,000 commercial trucks for food deliveries, predominantly in Africa, hence the importance and relevance of road safety program in the Agency. WFP shared promotional videos prepared by their office on the occasion of UN Road Safety Week 2019.

- **Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)**

Shared about its commitment to vision zero and Agency’s road safety strategy, launched in 2015 and currently being implemented. Within the Strategy, trainings of trainers and drivers are on-going and will continue through 2020, safe driver program has been established, offering rewards for good behaviour on the roads, administrative instructions and policies are being updated. Moreover, systematic recording of incidents and post-crash investigation are reinforced, and road safety is included in the risk register in the countries.

- **Economic Commission for Africa (ECA)**

Provided an overview of the recently held Fourth African Road Safety Conference, jointly with the African Union, which was aimed to track progress within the current Decade and pave the way to the next. Among the conclusions of the conference was the need of stronger political leadership and weak involvement of private sector and civil society. ECA, therefore welcomed the role of the Special Envoy to mobilize political support and expressed its commitment to ensuring strong participation from its region.

- **International Labour Organization (ILO)**

Provided an update on ILO’s road transport activities, including the recent meeting of experts on the promotion of decent work and road safety for the transport sector, held in Geneva in September 2019.

The meeting adopted the guidelines on promotion of decent work and road safety for the transport sector, which contribute to SDG targets 3.6, 6.2, 8.8, 9.1 and 11.2. Emphasized that 25% of road crashes involve a commercial vehicle and advised on next steps, among which the plans to request authorization in March 2020 from the Governing Body to publish the Guidelines.

According to WHO, ILO's mandate to promote decent working conditions for all fits well into the discussions on road safety and professional drivers which has a dedicated parallel session during the conference in Sweden.

- **Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA)**

Reiterated commitment expressed earlier by the Executive Secretary to continue successful collaboration towards enhancing road safety. Shared about upcoming Inter-Governmental Meeting scheduled for 11-12 December 2019 which will promote the Sweden conference to ensure maximum participation from ESCWA Ministers.

- **United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)**

Provided updates on the Child Road Traffic Injury Prevention Program launched in 2016, which have projects, jointly with FIA Foundation, in nine countries in Asia and South America. UNICEF guidelines on road safety are being developed and road traffic injury is embedded in programming. Projects related to education, child protection, water and sanitation will be added a road safety component.

Expressed the importance of ensuring the highest possible level of participation at the Conference in Sweden.

Would like to reach out to WHO for any potential contribution to relevant sessions. UNICEF is an implementing agency of the UNRSF pilot project entitled "Child-responsive urban planning and sustainable urban transportation" aimed at developing capacity in child-responsive urban planning in Paraguay, Philippines and South Africa.

- **United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR)**

Congratulated for the road safety efforts, including the recently established UNRSF. Shared update on UNITAR's activities, including a road safety initiative in Cities, involving 21 municipalities around the world and training of 2,800 local government officials. Shared about over 30 events organized by UNITAR and the recent publication of the toolkit. Furthermore, informed about establishing 20 training centres around the world.

- **United Nations Environment Program (UNEP)**

Informed that 2020 has been declared as the year of climate at UNEP, which also includes road safety consideration. Provided an overview of UNEP's activities, including "Share the road" initiative aimed at promoting investment in walking and cycling infrastructure in developing countries as well as UNEP's advisory services to Member States in the area of vehicle and road safety standards.

- **International Telecommunication Union (ITU)**

Shared about the role of ITU in developing technical standards for future autonomous driving and intelligent transport systems, which are believed to contribute to advancing road safety in the future. Emphasized ITU's standard setting work and its link to the SDG targets and the New Urban Agenda. Highlighted recent establishment of a new Focus Group on AI for Autonomous and Assisted Driving,

aimed at building public trust on autonomous vehicles and supporting their deployment. Emphasized strong collaboration with ECE on institutional and committee level as well as in standard setting activities. Invited the Special Envoy to provide opening speech in the next Symposium on the Future Networked Car, the annual event co-organized by ITU and ECE, to which the Special Envoy confirmed.

- **United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (ECE)**

Highlighted its internationally recognized regulatory role for road safety, emphasizing that 148 Member States are contracting parties to ECE conventions. Highlighted the recent adoption of ITC Strategy 2030, endorsed by contracting parties to conventions, which includes a dedicated chapter on road safety. Outlined the importance of UN legal instruments in finetuning national regulations in the efforts to support national road safety systems, which is reflected from the UNRSF Global Framework Plan of Action for Road Safety.

Welcomed the idea to learn from the best performing Member States and impart good practices to those countries with opportunities to improve. ECE follows this concept through the global promotion of the UN road safety conventions, many of which are applied by the best performing countries. Similarly, the existence of strong road safety systems in these countries and the need to establish stronger systems in the most impacted countries.

IX. Closing

The Special Envoy expressed his pride and appreciation in the growing engagement of UN agencies, which demonstrates strong commitment to the issue. He especially highlighted the passion and interest of UN country teams, during his missions.

In conclusion he encouraged all stakeholders to continue combined efforts to address this crisis, including their support to attract more funding of the UNRSF. The Special Envoy looks forward to building stronger partnerships within the UN System on this very worthy cause and anticipates a follow-up meeting after we have determined, in 2020, the course and redefined targets for 2030.