Background Note on Global Road Safety

Fourth UN Partnership Meeting for Road Safety

4 November 2020, 15:00 to 17:00 CET (09:00-11:00 EST)

The Global Burden of Road Traffic Deaths

Today, 1.35 million people are killed and 50 million injured every year.

#1 cause of death for children and young adults 5-29 years of age.

90% of road traffic deaths occur in low- and middle-income countries.

Rates of road traffic death per 100,000 population (by WHO regions, 2016)

- AFRICA: 26.6
- SOUTH-EAST ASIA: 20.7
- EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN: 18
- WESTERN PACIFIC: 16.9
- AMERICAS: 15.6
- EUROPE: 9.3
- WORLD: 18.2

UN General Assembly Resolutions on Improving Global Road Safety

On 31 August 2020, the most recent UN General Assembly Resolution on Improving Global Road Safety (A/RES/74/299), was adopted by Member States, calling for a second Decade of Action for Road Safety, and setting a new target to halve deaths and injuries by 2030. The drafting process of the resolution was led by the Russian Federation, reflecting key language from the Stockholm Declaration which was the outcome document from the Third Ministerial Conference on Road Safety, hosted by Sweden.

10 UNGA Resolutions on road safety since 2003

Below are additional key calls of action by the Resolution:

- Encourages support for the UN Road Safety Fund (UNRSF);
- Invites to support the activities of the Secretary-General’s Special Envoy for Road Safety as well as the extension of the Special Envoy’s function through 2030;
- Reaffirms the importance of the UN legal instruments on road safety, administered by UNECE;
- Decides to convene a high-level meeting by 2022;
- Invites Member States to further invest in road safety at all levels, including by allocating appropriate dedicated budgets for institutional and infrastructural improvements for road safety;
- Requests the World Health Organization and the UN regional commissions, as well as other relevant UN agencies, to continue activities aimed at supporting the implementation of the road safety-related targets in the 2030 Agenda, while ensuring system-wide coherence.
UN Road Safety Fund

The UN Road Safety Fund (UNRSF) was established in 2018 to effectively coordinate investments that contribute to two Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) targets that address road safety: SDG target 3.6 to halve the number of global road deaths and injuries; and SDG target 11.2 to provide access to safe, affordable, accessible and sustainable transport systems for all.

The Fund strengthens low- and middle-income countries’ national road safety systems. Its business model is a pooled financing mechanism, that collects funds from the public and private sector to finance projects in low- and middle-income countries. Already, a diverse group of 14 public and private sector donors have stepped up to pledge approximately US$ 20 million to the UNRSF. Their commitment to financing is driving innovation in resource mobilization efforts. Thanks to this generous support from its donors, the Fund is currently supporting 15 projects, spanning 4 regions, showcasing the strength in impact of joint partnerships between the UN and an array of stakeholders.

Additional funding is needed for the UNRSF to realize its mission and vision to reduce mortality and injury on the roads and in doing so, assist in reaching the SDGs on health, cities, poverty and more. Read more on why investing in safe mobility through the UNRSF is important here.

For more information on the UNRSF and its work: www.unece.org/unrsf/home.html
Contact the UNRSF secretariat: www.unece.org/unrsf/contact-us.html