
Project Working Group on Transport and Border Crossing (PWG-TBC)

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Road safety issues and policy intervention in SPECA region

(Item 4.9 of the agenda)

Note by UNECE / UNESCAP

1. The issue of road safety received global and regional attention in March 2010 with the United Nations General Assembly resolution 64/255, proclaiming the period 2011-2020 as the Decade of Action for Road Safety.
2. Despite these global initiatives, there is still scope for road safety in many countries within the Asia-Pacific, including SPECA countries, to receive a higher priority in national planning and policies. In addition, given the importance of quality road safety data in monitoring progress in road safety at the national and regional levels, road safety data collection and evaluation should become a core component of every member State's national road safety planning and policies, if it is not already.
3. The General Assembly, in its "Resolution on Improving Road Safety" (64/255) called for intensive work to reduce global road traffic fatalities by increasing activities at the national, regional and global levels. In cooperation with the United Nations Road Safety Collaboration Group and other stakeholders, a guiding document – the UN Global Plan for the Decade of Action for Road Safety (2011–2020) – was prepared to support the implementation of its objectives.

Road safety activities by the UNESCAP

4. UNESCAP continued to provide advisory services to developing countries in 2011 including Azerbaijan¹ through the organization of national workshops in collaboration with host national Ministries. The key objective of these workshops was to develop national road safety strategies and action plans with measurable road safety goals and targets.

5. At the request of UNESCAP member States², UNESCAP organized an Expert Group Meeting on Progress in Road Safety Improvement in Asia and the Pacific on 27-29 September 2011 in Bangkok. The meeting had a key focus on road safety data issues including that of the data collection and monitoring of 36 regional indicators based on the UNESCAP road safety goals, targets and indicators for the Decade of Action. The meeting was attended by national representatives from Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan and other UNESCAP member States.

6. At the expert group meeting³:

A. Suggestions were made that certain additional indicators that were currently not part of the 36 indicators could be collected/monitored (if these are available). These included the road fatality rate per 100,000 population; road safety budget in proportion to the total road construction budget; and whether there were laws addressing drink driving speed limits, mobile phone usage and the wearing of seat-belts and motorcycle helmets; and

Amongst other matters, it was agreed that:

B. national road safety plans may include the development and continuous improvement of a comprehensive road accident data system to facilitate the development of effective national road safety interventions, policies and programmes and to monitor their implementation; and

C. standard definitions of road traffic crashes and fatal and non-fatal road traffic injuries should be adopted.

¹ Baku, Azerbaijan, 10-11 October 2011.

² Requested by attending member States at the UNESCAP Regional Expert Group Meeting on the Implementation of the Decade of Action for Road Safety in Bangkok, 21-23 September 2010.

³ <http://www.unescap.org/ttdw/common/Meetings/TIS/EGM-Roadsafety-2011/EGM-Conclusions-and-Recommendations.pdf>

7. On the World Day of Remembrance for Road Traffic Victims, 20 November 2011, UNESCAP launched the Asia-Pacific Road Safety Network (APRSN), a web-based regional network of stakeholders designed to facilitate the timely and continuous exchange of road safety best practices and other useful information.⁴

Road safety activities by the UNECE

8. As the main coordinating entity in the area of road safety, the UN Global Plan for the Decade of Action for Road Safety was discussed and adopted at the sixty-second session of the Working Party on Road Traffic Safety (WP.1). The Plan falls in line with the WP.1 roadmap previously adopted (ECE/TRANS/WP.1/2008/5/Rev.1), which details strategic directions for the Working Party to improve global road safety and includes activities of the Programme of Work for the period of 2012–2016.

9. As the lead of the global project of the UN Regional Commissions on "Improving Global Road Safety: Setting Regional and National Road Traffic Casualty Reduction Targets" [funded by United Nations Development Account (UNDA)], UNECE published the global report in 2010. UNECE will support and monitor progress towards national goals and targets, through the number of regional and national targets met and establishment of a national level road accident database.

The Project Working Group may wish to

- Continue their efforts to develop and implement national road safety strategies and action plans with goals and targets in line with the Decade of Action for Road Safety;
- Continue to mobilize resources for road safety activities;
- Ensure the collection of quality road safety data so as to facilitate the regular monitoring of progress in improving road safety at the national and regional levels; and
- Agree on the principle of a SPECA Conference on Road Safety to be held in a near future as an opportunity to exchange on best practices in road safety policies settings.

⁴ <http://www.unescap.org/ttdw/roadsafety/OfficialLaunch/Remembrance-Day-20Nov11.asp>