It is my belief that road traffic crashes can be largely prevented. Yet, 1.35 million deaths occur on the world’s roads every year and up to 50 million road crash victims are left injured or disabled for life. We lose 3,700 lives on the roads every single day, many of them are children. Not only is this a tragedy for everyone impacted by a road crash, but a substantial economic burden to countries, costing significant loss in GDP every year. Road traffic injuries are the 8th leading causes of death, and, unfortunately, the fatality numbers are projected to grow, if no immediate action is taken.

In my role as the UN Secretary-General’s Special Envoy for Road Safety since April 2015, I have been advocating for improved road safety and increased awareness of the magnitude of the issue. I am working to build considerable and sustained political commitment to improving road safety, through establishing strategic partnerships with governments, civil society, regional bodies, development banks and the private sector. I am extensively promoting UN Road Safety Conventions, which provide a strong legal framework for road safety governance. Most importantly, I am reminding each person I meet of our individual responsibility to the cause. Having travelled to more than 70 countries and held nearly 150 bilateral meetings with high-ranking government officials, I am delighted to witness increased attention, greater political commitment, and, above all, willingness to take action towards advancing road safety. I am convinced that by scaling up our joint efforts we can significantly reduce the number of road fatalities and injuries.

To date, we have managed to integrate road safety into global frameworks, such as the Decade of Action for Road Safety, 2010-2020 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the New Urban Agenda. We are also attracting increased global attention to road safety issues, recognizing its cross-cutting nature and its impact not only on roads and transport, but also on health, environment, education and economic development. In recognition of the challenges and need for action, the UN General Assembly on 12 April 2018, adopted the resolution 72/271 on improving global road safety, recognizing the pressing need for intensified efforts and ensuring the establishment of the Trust Fund.

The establishment of a first-ever United Nations Road Safety Trust Fund, aimed at supporting member States in their efforts towards strengthening their road safety systems, is a remarkable achievement, which would have not been possible without a support from many partners, stakeholders and our road safety allies. The impact of the Trust Fund will only reach its full potential if catalytic support from the Trust Fund are complemented by national level investments.

We have generated a substantial momentum, but much remains to be done. It is by taking stronger measures and implementing the effective solutions that we will resolve existing challenges and achieve our desired results across the globe. The time has come to mobilize resources and activate a global response to the road safety crisis. I urge all road safety stakeholders to join forces and to take rigorous action towards achieving UN Sustainable Development Goal target 3.6, which calls for road fatalities and injuries to be halved by 2030, and target 11.2, which calls for safe and affordable access to sustainable transport systems for all by 2030.

It is my conviction that we can reverse the anticipated trend, reduce road traffic fatalities and injuries, and ultimately, save many lives. Safe roads can and should become a reality for everyone, and together, we can make it happen.

Jean Todt was born on 25 February 1946 in Pierrefort, Cantal (France). He has one son, Nicolas, and shares his life with actress, film producer and UNDP Goodwill Ambassador Michelle Yeoh. He is an alumnus of the Ecole des Cadres in Paris.

RALLY CO-DRIVER
In 1966, he began his career and participated in the World Rally Championship until 1981. That same year, alongside Guy Fréquelin, he won the World Rally Championship for Manufacturers with a Talbot Lotus.

Between 1966 and 1981, Jean Todt co-drove alongside 18 of the most successful drivers of the period for 12 major manufacturers, winning many international titles in the process.

PEUGEOT TALBOT SPORT
He was appointed Peugeot’s Director of Racing and founded Peugeot Talbot Sport (PTS), which claimed the ‘Drivers’ and ‘Manufacturers’ FIA World Rally Championship titles in 1985 and 1986 before going on to take first place in the general classification in four editions of the Paris-Dakar Rally between 1987 and 1990.

In 1986, Jean Todt became Director of Sporting Activities of the PSA Peugeot Citroën Group, overseeing Peugeot’s participation in the World Sports Car Championship, which Peugeot won in 1992. It also took two consecutive victories at the 1992 and 1993 24 Hours of Le Mans.

FERRARI
On 1 July 1993, Jean Todt left Peugeot and became Director of Ferrari’s Racing Division. Under his leadership, from 1993 to 2008, Scuderia Ferrari won 14 FIA Formula One World titles (eight Constructors’ and six Drivers’ titles, five thanks to Michael Schumacher and one with Kimi Räikkönen) and 106 Grand Prix victories.

On June 2004, Todt was appointed CEO of Ferrari in addition to his title of General Manager of the Racing Division. On October 2006 he took up a new post as a Special Advisor for the Scuderia Ferrari. Jean Todt left Ferrari in March 2009.

FIA PRESIDENCY
Jean Todt was elected President of the Fédération Internationale de l’Automobile (FIA) on 23 October 2003, re-elected on 6 December 2013, and again on 8 December 2017.

UN SECRETARY-GENERAL’S SPECIAL ENVOY
Since April 29 2015, Jean Todt was appointed by the UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon as his Special Envoy for Road Safety and he was confirmed on April 2017 by the UN General Assembly on 12 April 2018, adopted the resolution 72/271 on improving global road safety, recognizing the challenges and need for action, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the New Urban Agenda. We are also attracting increased global attention to road safety issue, recognizing its cross-cutting nature and its impact not only on roads and transport, but also on health, environment, education and economic development. In recognition of the challenges and need for action, the UN General Assembly on 12 April 2018, adopted the resolution 72/271 on improving global road safety, recognizing the pressing need for intensified efforts and ensuring the establishment of the Trust Fund.

The establishment of a first-ever United Nations Road Safety Trust Fund, aimed at supporting member States in their efforts towards strengthening their road safety systems, is a remarkable achievement, which would have not been possible without a support from many partners, stakeholders and our road safety allies. The impact of the Trust Fund will only reach its full potential if catalytic support from the Trust Fund are complemented by national level investments.

We have generated a substantial momentum, but much remains to be done. It is by taking stronger measures and implementing the effective solutions that we will resolve existing challenges and achieve our desired results across the globe. The time has come to mobilize resources and activate a global response to the road safety crisis. I urge all road safety stakeholders to join forces and to take rigorous action towards achieving UN Sustainable Development Goal target 3.6, which calls for road fatalities and injuries to be halved by 2030, and target 11.2, which calls for safe and affordable access to sustainable transport systems for all by 2030.

It is my conviction that we can reverse the anticipated trend, reduce road traffic fatalities and injuries, and ultimately, save many lives. Safe roads can and should become a reality for everyone, and together, we can make it happen.
UN SECRETARY-GENERAL’S SPECIAL ENVOY FOR ROAD SAFETY MANDATE

A
Promoting a global partnership to support the design and implementation of strategies and activities to improve road safety.
A first-ever United Nations Road Safety Fund (UNRSF) was established on 12 April 2018 with the goal to mobilize resources and to support Member States in their efforts to improve road safety.
To date UNRSF received $20 million in pledges from the public and private sector.

B
Advocating with governments, civil society and the private sector for the promotion of road safety, particularly in countries with high level of road fatalities and injuries.
Since his appointment in April 2015, the Special Envoy travelled to 86 Member States and held bilateral meetings with more than 200 government officials, including 25 Heads of State, calling for increased attention to the issue and support to the recently established UNRSF.

C
Participating in global and regional conferences and meetings on road safety.
The Special Envoy continuously advocates for improved road safety and increased investments to the issue globally, during international conferences and meetings on road safety.

D
Advocating the accession to, and more effective implementation of, United Nations road safety legal instruments.
The Special Envoy continuously advocates for accession to and implementation of United Nations road safety conventions, during global conferences and country missions.
Since the beginning of the Special Envoy’s mandate, the conventions were promoted during 7 regional and 7 national workshops as well as 4 road safety performance reviews.