

Sixth United Nations Partnership Meeting for Road Safety
Hosted by the UN Secretary-General's Special Envoy for Road Safety

5 December 2022, 15:30-17:45 CET/09:30-11:45 ET

Summary

Moderator: Mr. Dmitry Mariyasin, Deputy Executive Secretary, UNECE

1. Opening and Welcome

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

The Special Envoy welcomed all participants to this meeting, which focuses on establishing inter-agency collaboration and innovative partnerships towards further pushing road safety as a strong priority in respective agendas, considering the calls for action from the High-Level Meeting to Improve Global Road Safety “2030 Horizon for Road Safety: Securing a Decade of Action and Delivery” (HLM). The HLM was held by the General Assembly in New York on 30 June-1 July 2022. On the occasion, Member States recommitted to relevant road safety Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) targets, to the Global Plan for the Decade of Action for Road Safety, to more investments nationally and globally, including the UN Road Safety Fund (UNRSF), all reflected in the adopted in the meeting’s political declaration.

To continue raising visibility at the global level, the Special Envoy shared about the global road safety campaign with JC Decaux that he launched in New York in July 2022, which aims at raising awareness on the issue and aims to eventually reach 80 countries over the next 2 years. To motivate action in one of the most affected regions in the world, the Special Envoy also launched the annual African Kofi Annan Road Safety Award with the Government of Ghana, the Kofi Annan Foundation and the UNECA in 2022; this award will be organized annually. To grow the network of cross sectoral stakeholders, the Special Envoy is strengthening the Friends of the Special Envoy for Road Safety global and local networks.

Considering the road traffic injuries are the number one cause of injuries and deaths for UN personnel, the Special Envoy stressed on the importance to prioritize stronger road safety policies within the UN system and urged all agencies to implement the UN internal road safety strategy and Vision Zero goal, launched with UNDSS in 2018.

- **Mr. Filippo Grandi, High Commissioner for Refugees, UN**

The High Commissioner for Refugees shared about the UNHCR’s strong commitment to reducing the risk of road traffic crashes in its operations and the recent launch of the UN Fleet initiative in collaboration with the World Food Programme. Among the other efforts, the UNHCR has been involving partners in its road safety initiatives and training, for instance by testing a bonus system for drivers towards encouraging safe driving behavior.

Priorities on road safety:

- The UNHCR will focus on how to enhance the use of technology to monitor and control road safety risk factors. This includes camera systems with algorithms to detect aspects such as seatbelt utilization, following distance and speeding.
 - The UNHCR will further look at technological solutions to address difficult behaviors and fatigue.
 - The UNHCR will create a road safety management audit program to cover performance indicators around driver training, driver identification and the application corrective actions.
- **Ms. Michelle Gyles-McDonnough, Director, Sustainable Development Unit, EOSG, UN**

Throughout her remarks, the Director congratulated on the recently increased political engagement as an outcome of the HLM, and on the funds secured through the UNRSF Pledging Conference on its margins. 15 million USD were pledged, and these will be essential to catalyze country level action. The Director encouraged participation in

the 2023 SDG Summit (19-20 September 2023) which is an opportunity to highlight all 17 SDGs and status of towards their implementation. The Director elaborated on the importance of strengthening institutions and governance towards further addressing many key issues such as climate change, road safety, infrastructure urban planning, health, youth, and education; she on the fact that concerted and well coordination actions can facilitate results.

2. Outcomes of the first UN High-Level Meeting on Road Safety

- **H.E. Mr. Csaba Kőrösi, President of the General Assembly, UN (video message)**

The President followed the Special Envoy in underlining the importance of the HLM a few months before as well as highlighted the worrisome road safety figures. “Being safe on the road should not be a luxury”, the President mentioned, and much still needs to be done.

Hence, the President urged to take a wholistic approach towards this global crisis and ensure that such an important element of everyone’s well-being is not left out of decision-making at any level on the path towards 2030.

Secondly, the President stated that investment into road safety infrastructure and technologies – especially in low-and-middle income countries, where most road accidents occur – is paramount.

Thirdly, the President shared that listening to science can play a key role. Road safety legislation and policymaking can be only improved if they include high-quality data and scientific evidence. Exchanges of expertise, scientific cooperation and capacity building must inform policies and be used to assess implementation, especially for vulnerable countries.

To conclude, the President invited urban planners, engineers, academics, civil society, youth and cars manufacturers to build partnerships towards making roads safer.

- **Mr. Etienne Krug, Director, Department of the Social Determinants of Health, World Health Organization**

The Director intervened by highlighting the success of the HLM with more than 20 Ministers who participated and 80+ Member States that took the floor. The Director shared about WHO’s plan to launch the Global Network of National Heads of Road Safety Agencies on 14 December 2022; the WHO is preparing for the mid-term of the Second Decade of Action for Road Safety (2021-2030), in view of the next HLM to happen in 2026; the next global status report, which will present recent road safety data from around the world, is expected for 2023.

3. Maximizing linkages in the SDGs agenda

- **Ms. Maimunah Mohd Sharif, Executive Director, UN-Habitat (video message) – Safe Mobility for sustainable cities**

The Executive Director shared that climate change and road accidents challenge sustainable mobility in cities. Thus, throughout her remarks, the Executive Director aimed at emphasizing the important role of cities and towns for action and implementation, adopting an integrated safe systems approach, embracing multimodal transport and land-use planning, safe road infrastructure, safe vehicles and safe road use.

The Execuitve Director showed appreciation for the UNRSF projects implemented in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia; Conakry, Guinea; Kigali, Rwanda; Quelimane and Maputo, Mozambique; Nairobi and Kisumu, Kenya; and Abuja, Nigeria. The UN-Habitat has been also setting up the Global Alliance for Cities for Road Safety, a platform for knowledge exchange and implementation support.

Through the end of her video message, the Executive Director offered the 2nd session of the UN-Habitat Assembly, happening from November 2022 to June 2023, as an opportunity to showcase road safety work.

- **Mr. Houlin Zhao, Secretary-General, International Telecommunication Union – Technology’s role in achieving road safety**

The Secretary-General highlighted the criticality of ensuring synergies in the actions taken by industry players and governments, towards capitalizing on life-saving technologies, and of international standards. In this context, the Secretary-General encouraged attendance to the ITU and UNECE annual Future Networked Car Symposium from 13 to 16 March 2023

The Secretary-General also invited participation in the AI for Good Global Summit in Geneva in July 2023.

Open floor and discussion:

- **Mr. Rob de Jong, Head, Sustainable mobility Unit, Economy Division, UNEP**
The Head provided a brief update on the global programme for export and import of used vehicles. Significant success was obtained in Africa over the past year, and UNEP is now implementing a 2nd phase, with support by the UNRSF, among other partners.
- **Mr. Jean-Luc Lemahieu, Director, Division for Policy Analysis and Public Affairs, UNODC**
The UNODC will further expand its contribution to the achievement of all the road safety commitments, including SDG target 3.6 and 11.2 and goal 9 of the Global Voluntary Performance Targets for Road Safety Risk Factors and Service Delivery Mechanisms adopted by the UN General Assembly in November 2017.

4. Regional Trends & Recommendations

- **Ms. Armida Salsiah Alisjahbana, Executive Secretary, UNESCAP (video message)**
The Executive Secretary was pleased to inform that the 7th Committee on Transport was held in Bangkok from 23 to 25 November 2022 and welcomed the Regional Plan of Action for Asia and the Pacific in line with the Global Plan. The Special Envoy participated in this Committee session, highlighting the importance of urgent investments in the region on road safety.

The Executive Secretary confirmed that UNESCAP will collaborate with UNECE, UNDP, UN-Habitat, and the WHO to implement projects to further promote road safety in the region, in the near future.

Additionally, in addressing the challenge related to road safety-related data, UNESCAP is working with development partners, including the Asian Development Bank, the Fédération Internationale de l'Automobile and the World Bank, to support countries towards the effective implementation of the Asia-Pacific Road Safety Observatory.
- **Ms. Olga Algayerova, Executive Secretary, UNECE**
The Executive Secretary started her remarks by emphasizing that a number of countries within the UNECE region managed to achieve tremendous decrease in the number of road fatalities: 52% Belarus, 49% Montenegro and Albania, 48% Norway, 46% Moldova, 45% Greece and Switzerland – just to indicate a few of them. Nevertheless, urgent action is required to further improve the regional and global situations. Hence, the Executive Secretary stressed on the importance for national road safety stakeholders to implement the UN Road Safety legal instruments and regulations, participate in the Global Forum for Road Traffic Safety, the World Forum for Harmonization of Vehicle Regulations and the Working Party on Transport of Dangerous Goods, three major UN permanent bodies for tackling safe vehicles, safe users, safe road, safe drivers and road safety management.

Open floor and discussion:

- **Dr. Yarob Badr, Regional Advisor, UNESCWA**

The Regional Advisor briefly updated on the ESCWA initiative to establish the Arab Integrated Road Safety Observatory (AIRSO), which received the support of 10 ESCWA Member States: Algeria, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Palestine, Qatar, Somalia and Syria. Morocco has also expressed its firm interest to host the technical Secretariat of the AIRSO. ESCWA is now in the phase of discussing with the Government of Morocco the terms of the hosting agreement accordingly.

- **Ms. Miryam Saade, Officer in Charge, Infrastructure Services and Logistics Unit, UNECLAC**

The Officer in Charge of the Infrastructure Services and Logistics Unit elaborated on the projects implemented in Argentina and Colombia and the fruitful collaboration with the UNRSF and the Special Envoy. Furthermore, the Officer stressed on the importance of working together across regions and for the countries to accede the UN Road Safety Conventions.

5. Internal Road Safety Strategy

- **Mr. Gilles Michaud, Under-Secretary-General, UNDSS – Update on the strategy and progress, and call for UN system implementation**

The Under-Secretary-General shared about the internal road safety strategy which was approved in 2019, and the recent decrease on the number of casualties and injuries occurred on UN staff due to road accidents. Nevertheless, he emphasized that much still need to be done. In connection with this, the Under-Secretary-General underlined the criticality of Member States' investments on the internal road safety agenda.

Lastly, the Under-Secretary-General encouraged implementation of the guidelines to protect staff in the field, that were recently approved at the last Inter-agency Security Management Network Meeting.

6. Financing for Road Safety

- **Ms. Jennifer Topping, Executive Coordinator, Multi-Partner Trust Fund Office, UN**

The Executive Coordinator elaborated on the Multi-Partner Trust Fund Office (MPTFO), a financing mechanism adopted to engage multi-stakeholder partnerships in the strategic use of funds. To date, the MPTFO capitalized 25 million USD in total, but, considering the financing needs in the overall road safety agenda, the issue is how to leverage and distribute funds among the various development issues.

The Executive Coordinator concluded by conveying appreciation for the UNRSF achievements since its establishment in April 2018.

- **Mr. Nicolas Peltier, Global Director for Transport, World Bank**

The Global Director reported that in the fiscal year 2022 the World Bank Group approved the record financing of 912 million USD towards new road safety investments. Looking ahead, the World Bank's objective is to co-design and finance projects, following the previous positive examples of Bangladesh and India. The aim is that these activities will drive countries road safety sustainable financing, build institutional capacity and therefore achieve tangible results. The World Bank is committed to aligning with and supporting the efforts of the Special Envoy.

- **Ms. Nneka Henry, Head, UN Road Safety Fund**

The Head was pleased to inform that, to date, the UNRSF has 36 projects approved covering 46 countries, with 15 Agencies participating. The UNRSF is working to address the road safety pillars as well as support safety interventions across the world.

Towards building the portfolio of catalytic investments, the Head encouraged each Agency to nominate a representative who should be well placed to collaborate with the UNRSF Secretariat, specifically on marketing, fundraising and communications..

Relevant letter is available [here](#).

7. Other Global Initiatives – Open Floor

- **Mr. Jun Tan, Deputy Police Adviser, DPO, UN**

The Deputy Police Adviser informed that the DPO and UNODC co-chair the Inter-Agency Task Force on Policing (IATF-P), which was established by the UN Secretary-General’s Executive Committee to strengthen strategic-level coordination. The DPO will work with the WHO and other members of the Task Force to advance joint activities in the area of road safety. In conclusion, the DPO representative encouraged all UN system entities involved in aspects of policing and law enforcement to consider joining the Task Force.

- **Mr. Nhan Tran, Head, Safety and Mobility, Department of the Social Determinants of Health, WHO**

The Head briefly updated on the 5th Global Status Report on Road Safety which the WHO should likely publish around November 2023. Countries are currently in the process of finalizing their data entry. Being a lot of data available in the repository, the WHO stays open to collaborate with stakeholders and perhaps provide additional insights beyond the Status Report.

8. Closing

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

In conclusion, the Special Envoy encouraged to build on the momentum to get closer to the 2030 goals, by raising the financing necessary to carry out relevant projects and supporting the UNRSF; setting up as many partnerships as possible in all sectors: public, private, civil society and NGOs; following up on the outcome of the HLM, the SDGs agenda, aforementioned regional trends and recommendations, UN internal road safety strategy and Vision Zero goal.

The Special Envoy highlighted that “we all have much to learn, develop and create” and concluded by urging to use all the available instruments towards being more effective than at any time before.