

Sixth United Nations Partnership Meeting for Road Safety, 5 December 2022
Background note/updates from the Department of Peace Operations

General background

- In September 2020, the United Nations General Assembly adopted resolution A/RES/74/299 "Improving global road safety", proclaiming the Decade of Action for Road Safety 2021-2030, with the ambitious target of preventing at least 50 per cent of road traffic deaths and injuries by 2030. The World Health Organization (WHO) and the United Nations regional commissions, in cooperation with other partners in the United Nations Road Safety Collaboration, have developed a Global Plan for the Decade of Action, which was released in October 2021.
- The Global Plan aligns with the Stockholm Declaration, by emphasizing the importance of a holistic approach to road safety, and calling on continued improvements in the design of roads and vehicles; enhancement of laws and law enforcement; and provision of timely, life-saving emergency care for the injured. The Global Plan also reflects the Stockholm Declaration's promotion of policies to promote walking, cycling and using public transport as inherently healthy and environmentally sound modes of transport.
- Progress made during the previous Decade of Action for Road Safety 2011-2020 has laid the foundation for accelerated action in the years ahead. Among achievements are inclusion of road safety on the global health and development agenda, broad dissemination of scientific guidance on what works, strengthening of partnerships and networks, and mobilization of resources. This new Decade of Action provides an opportunity for harnessing the successes and lessons of previous years and building upon them to save more lives.
- The Global Plan for the Decade of Action for Road Safety 2021-2030 rejects business as usual and calls on governments and stakeholders to take a new path – one that prioritizes and implements an integrated Safe System approach that squarely positions road safety as a key driver of sustainable development. It also calls for actions that will help the world hit the target of a 50 per cent reduction in the number of road traffic deaths and serious injuries by 2030. The Global Plan describes what is needed to achieve that target and calls on governments and partners to implement an integrated SAFE SYSTEM APPROACH based on five pillars: i) safe road infrastructure; ii) safe road use; iii) multimodal transport and land-use planning; iv) safe vehicles; and v) post-crash response.
- Data for road vehicle accidents in the Department of Peace Operations (DPO) is incomplete.

Road safety and United Nations Police

- Low-income countries, to which most post-conflict societies belong, are particularly prone to high rates of accidents and mortality on the roads. Putting in place the foundations for an effective system of vehicle and road traffic safety is an important task of the United Nations Police for fostering sustainable law and order and signalling a return to normalcy for communities scarred by conflict.
- Through daily operational activities, community-oriented policing, and community engagement and awareness-raising, the United Nations Police can help address reckless human behaviour on the roads, including failure to wear seat belts, failure to wear helmets, excessive or unsuitable speeds, and driving under the influence of drugs or alcohol.
- DPO and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) co-chair the Inter-Agency Task Force on Policing (IATF-P), which was established by the United Nations Secretary-General's Executive

Committee in May 2021 to strengthen strategic-level coordination, particularly in guidance standardization, strengthened planning and partnerships, resource mobilization, and communications and dialogue. The first meeting of the IATF-P at the principal level was organized in May 2022.

- The second meeting took place at the director level, with the United Nations Deputy Police Adviser and UNODC New York Representative as the co-chairs, in November 2022. DPO and UNODC welcomed the participation of the WHO European Region Programme Manager for Road Safety, Violence and Injury Prevention, and we look forward to working with WHO and all members of the IATF-P to advance joint activities in the area of road safety.