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Review and monitoring of emerging issues and sustainable development goals:

Technical assistance to countries with economies in transition:

Regional adviser technical assistance

Better Road Safety System based on in-depth analysis of road accidents in Bosnia and Herzegovina and Serbia – UNECE-led United Nations Road Safety Fund (UNRSF) - financed capacity development project

Note by the secretariat

I. Background

1. Countries that have developed national road safety systems based on United Nations legal instruments have demonstrated superior road safety performance. This success is attributed to their alignment with safe system principles. The United Nations Road Safety Fund (UNRSF), as per its Terms of Reference, is committed to adopting a comprehensive and integrated approach by embracing safe system principles and advocating for cost-effective strategies.

2. The significance of safe and sustainable mobility cannot be understated in the context of sustainable development. It stands as a critical cross-cutting concern that contributes to achieving various goals and targets. This is why it has been explicitly incorporated into the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, specifically in targets 3.6 and 11.2. Target 3.6 strives to reduce global road traffic deaths and injuries by 50 percent, while target 11.2 aims to ensure universal access to safe, affordable, accessible, and sustainable transportation systems by 2030.

3. The inception of the UNRSF occurred in April 2018, establishing it as a collaborative financing mechanism among multiple partners. This instrumental platform serves to catalyse tangible efforts toward realizing the road safety objectives outlined in Sustainable Development Goals 3.6 and 11.2. The primary aim of the UNRSF is to leverage the collective expertise and resources of the United Nations system and all stakeholders associated with the Fund. Through this collaboration, the Fund seeks to bring about a significant reduction in

road traffic injuries and fatalities, subsequently curtailing the economic losses incurred due to these incidents.

4. In 2020, the United Nations General Assembly proclaimed the decade 2021-2030 as the Second Decade of Action for Road Safety and set a goal to stabilize and reduce the level of global road traffic fatalities by increasing safety programmes at the national, regional and global levels.

5. Road safety is a global concern that affects both developed and developing nations. Road accidents lead to significant loss of life, injuries, economic costs, and emotional distress. This issue is particularly pronounced in countries like Bosnia and Herzegovina and Serbia. Despite ongoing efforts, these countries continue to record high numbers of road deaths per million inhabitants compared to the EU average. In 2021, the EU average for road deaths per million inhabitants stood at 44.6, while Serbia reported 75.82 (70% higher) and Bosnia and Herzegovina reported 67 (52.2% higher).

6. Both Bosnia and Herzegovina and Serbia are committed to improving road safety and are in the process of adopting road safety strategies and action plans. These strategies acknowledge the importance of modern tools for enhancing road safety. While tools like road safety audit and road safety inspection are recognized as valuable components of road safety improvement, in-depth analysis of road accidents is not yet incorporated into the national legislation in these countries.

7. In-depth analysis of road accidents is a comprehensive and systematic approach that aims to understand the underlying causes of accidents. This analysis considers various factors, including human behaviour, vehicle characteristics, road conditions, and environmental elements. By identifying primary causes, in-depth analysis facilitates targeted interventions, leading to a reduction in road accidents and ultimately saving lives.

II. The Project goal

8. The primary aim of the "Better Road Safety System Based on In-depth Analysis of Road Accidents in Bosnia and Herzegovina and Serbia" project is to improve national road safety system through the implementation of in-depth analysis of road accidents. The overarching goal is to bridge the gap in the current road safety legislation and strategies by introducing in-depth analysis as a proactive tool for improving road safety.

9. Both Bosnia and Herzegovina and Serbia have recognized the urgent need to improve road safety and have taken the crucial step of developing and adopting national road safety strategies. These strategies serve as comprehensive frameworks that outline the countries' road safety goals, objectives, and action plans. They also play a pivotal role in aligning road safety efforts with international road safety standards, such as those outlined in the Global Plan of Action for Road Safety 2021-30 and the ITC Recommendations for Enhancing National Road Safety Systems.

- Bosnia and Herzegovina has developed a Framework Road Safety Strategy and Action Plan for the period of 2022 to 2026. This strategy draws inspiration from international road safety frameworks and aims to address the unique challenges faced by the country. It places significant emphasis on the importance of modern tools for improving road safety, including in-depth analysis. While the strategy acknowledges the value of tools like road safety audit and road safety inspection, the inclusion of in-depth analysis is a vital step toward a more comprehensive approach to road safety improvement.
- Serbia recently have adopted a new Road Safety Strategy for the years 2021 to 2030. This strategy aims to provide a robust roadmap for achieving significant improvements in road safety. The strategy's goals and targets are aligned with international frameworks, such as the Stockholm Declaration, Global Plan for the Decade of Action for Road Safety 2021-2030, and the EU road safety policy framework 2021-2030. Notably, the strategy recognizes the importance of modern road infrastructure management tools. By adopting these tools, the strategy sets a

strong foundation for the integration of in-depth analysis as a proactive tool for comprehensive road safety enhancement.

10. The project's objectives are intrinsically aligned with the goals outlined in the draft Framework Road Safety Strategies of Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Road Safety Strategy of Serbia. By introducing in-depth analysis as a proactive and comprehensive tool, the project facilitates a deeper understanding of the causes of road accidents, allowing for targeted interventions that align with the broader national road safety goals. The project's emphasis on legislative enhancements, development of methodologies, professional training, and pilot projects is designed to work in synergy with the priorities set forth in the national strategies.

11. The successful implementation of the project hinges on the collaboration and engagement of various stakeholders. The project's scope and impact encompass a diverse array of stakeholders, each contributing to and benefiting from its outcomes.

- **Governmental Bodies:** Ministries in charge of internal affairs, Ministries in charge of transport and infrastructure, Ministries in charge of health, road traffic safety agencies, road administrations, municipalities, academia and NGOs in both Bosnia and Herzegovina and Serbia are essential stakeholders. They play a pivotal role in shaping road safety policies, legislation, and regulations.
- **Road Safety Experts:** Experts specializing in various domains such as roads, vehicles, enforcement, post-crash response, and health (including psychology) contribute their expertise to different aspects of road safety enhancement.
- **Vulnerable Road User Groups:** Pedestrians, cyclists and elderly individuals are directly affected by the project. The insights gained from in-depth analysis will help identify factors contributing to accidents involving vulnerable users' groups, enabling targeted countermeasures.

12. Project beneficiaries are the following:

- **General Public:** The overarching beneficiary of the project is the general public. By enhancing road safety measures, the project contributes to the well-being and safety of citizens, reducing accidents, injuries, and fatalities.
- **Road Safety Authorities:** The governmental bodies and road safety agencies involved in the project will benefit from enhanced capabilities, methodologies, and tools for improving road safety, which can be incorporated into their ongoing road safety efforts.
- **Professional Community:** Experts involved in road safety, including those in road design, vehicle safety, law enforcement, and healthcare, will benefit from the standardized methodology and training, enabling more accurate and effective analyses of accidents.
- **International and Regional Organizations:** Involvement of organizations such as the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) and the World Health Organization (WHO) contributes to the global efforts to enhance road safety standards and practices. The possible project's collaboration with TCT could ensure sharing of project outcomes, best practices, and knowledge across South-East European countries, which may lead to the potential replication of successful results.

13. The leading role of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) and the World Health Organization (WHO) in the project underscores the global commitment to improving road safety standards and practices.

14. UNECE will play a significant role in supporting the following project's objectives:

- **Legislative Analysis:** UNECE will be actively engaged in analysing legislation from countries that have successfully established in-depth analysis systems for road accidents. This analysis will contribute to the development of tailored legislation (bylaws) for Bosnia and Herzegovina and Serbia.
- **Methodology Development:** UNECE's expertise will contribute to the formulation of a robust national methodology for in-depth analysis. This methodology will ensure

the standardized and effective implementation of in-depth analyses across both countries.

15. WHO's involvement in the project is instrumental in achieving its aims:
 - **Training:** WHO's expertise will help in designing a comprehensive training program for professionals engaged in the analysis process.
 - **Legislation Enhancement:** WHO's contribution to the development of proposals for improving legislation related to in-depth analysis will align with its commitment to global road safety standards and practices.
16. The leadership of UNECE and WHO not only validates the significance of the project but also ensures that the outcomes are in line with international road safety recommendations and the best practice. Their guidance, expertise, and collaboration strengthen the project's impact and set the stage for the adoption of best practices beyond the borders of Bosnia and Herzegovina and Serbia.

III. Project activities

17. The project activities are structured to address various aspects of road safety enhancement, encompassing legislation, education, and technology:
18. **Activity A1: Legislative Framework Enhancement** This activity focuses on establishing a legal and methodological foundation for in-depth analysis of road accidents:
 - The project will co-organize workshops to plan and initiate the project, engaging relevant stakeholders and experts.
 - National legislation will be developed or updated to mandate in-depth analysis of road accidents. A comprehensive national methodology for conducting these analyses will also be established.
 - Based on the findings of pilot project analyses, at least two regulations will be amended to align with the outcomes of the in-depth analyses.
 - A workshop will be co-organized to conclude the project and share the insights gained from the analyses conducted.
19. **Activity A2: In-depth Analysis Implementation** This activity involves the practical implementation of in-depth analysis of road accidents:
 - National workshops will be co-organized to conduct pilot projects for in-depth analysis. These workshops will serve to enhance expertise and facilitate the sharing of knowledge.
 - Participation in national workshops focusing on death cause and trauma registries will ensure comprehensive data collection, contributing to the accuracy of analysis outcomes.
 - Workshops will be organized to consolidate the findings of pilot projects. These workshops will consider potential legislative revisions based on the enhanced data analysis.

IV. The next steps

20. At the moment, preparations for the project kick-off meeting are ongoing. Meeting will be held in Belgrade on 12-13 September 2023 and will gather all relevant stakeholders from Bosnia and Herzegovina and Serbia to understand project scope and methodology and get acquainted with the project timeline.
21. Simultaneously, UNECE is hiring international and national consultants which will be tasked to analyze international best practice, national legislation in Bosnia and Herzegovina and Serbia and prepare in-depth analysis methodology and required changes in national legislation and by laws.

22. During the project finalization, several crucial steps will follow to ensure the sustainability and effectiveness of its outcomes, within the context of the national road safety legislation and strategies:

- **Legislative Adoption:** The legislation mandating the implementation of in-depth analysis will need to be formally adopted and integrated into the legal frameworks of Bosnia and Herzegovina and Serbia. This step will align the project's outcomes with the legal requirements of the national strategies.
- **Methodology Implementation:** The developed national methodology for in-depth analysis of road accidents will be disseminated and implemented across relevant institutions and stakeholders. This implementation will bolster the national strategies' efforts to adopt modern tools for road safety improvement.
- **Professional Training:** Professionals involved in the process of in-depth analysis will undergo training based on the prescribed methodology as part of the project activities. Further capacity-building measures will enhance the quality and reliability of analyses conducted, directly contributing to the national strategies' objectives.
- **Pilot Project Insights:** The insights gained from the pilot project analyses, along with the regulatory amendments derived from the analysis findings, will be continuously monitored and evaluated within the framework of the national strategies. The insights on deficiencies of road safety system will be transferred into amendments of national legislation and standards.
- **Scaling Up and Replication:** With successful outcomes in Bosnia and Herzegovina and Serbia, there is considerable potential to replicate the results in other South-East European countries. Collaboration with the Transport Community Treaty (TCT) will facilitate the dissemination of knowledge and best practices across the region, aligning with the strategies of neighbouring countries.

23. The "Better Road Safety System Based on In-depth Analysis of Road Accidents in Bosnia and Herzegovina and Serbia" project signifies a pivotal step towards enhancing road safety in two South-East European countries. By introducing in-depth analysis as a proactive tool, the project aims to systematically address the underlying causes of road accidents and enhance overall road safety. By embedding its outcomes within the national road safety strategies of Bosnia and Herzegovina and Serbia, the project ensures that its efforts contribute directly to the achievement of broader road safety objectives. As the project's outcomes take root and manifest positive results, the potential for replication and expansion to neighbouring countries could bring improvement of road safety systems across the region.
