

Background Note

UN Secretary-General's Special Envoy for Road Safety



Last update: 1 December 2023

Mandate

Appointed by the UN Secretary-General in April 2015, the role of the Special Envoy for Road Safety is to promote a global partnership to support the design and implementation of strategies and activities to improve road safety; to advocate 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; to participate in global and regional conferences and meetings on road safety; to advocate the accession to, and more effective implementation of, United Nations road safety legal instruments; and to generate adequate funding for advocacy efforts through strategic partnerships between the public, private and non-governmental sectors.

Major accomplishments of Special Envoy include:

Jean Todt,

*UN Secretary-General's
Special Envoy for Road Safety*



Meeting with more than 280 high-level officials, including 33 heads of States in 95+ countries around the world, encouraging increased investments and attention to the issue and consideration of accession to UN road safety conventions.



Leading the establishment of and majority of the fundraising for the UNRSF with strong support from ECE.



Contributing to the increase in accessions to seven UN road safety conventions. There have been 50 new accessions since the start of the mandate, many of which followed missions and discussions.



Securing a Manifesto from the Automotive Industry in October 2019 with technical support from ECE, through OICA (International Organization of Motor Vehicle Manufacturers), which supported minimum set of safety standards for new vehicles. OICA also appointed a road safety ambassador.



Launching the Global Friends of the Special Envoy for Road Safety Network and the local Groups in Geneva, NY, Washington D.C., Brussels and Bangkok, with EU Delegation and the diplomatic corps, aimed to improve road safety through awareness raising, mobilizing funding and increasing development cooperation.



Hosting sixteen regional and national capacity building workshops, in collaboration with partners, including ECA, ESCAP, ECLAC, ECE, UN-Habitat, World Bank and Inter-American Development Bank.



Supporting four Road Safety Performance Reviews in Africa in partnership with ECA, ECE and WHO.



Inspiring the establishment and implementation of an UN internal Road Safety Strategy, addressing road injury as leading cause of mortality for UN personnel, in partnership with UNDSS.



Hosting six United Nations Partnership Meetings for Road Safety with 30+ agencies to provide guidance on UN priorities for road safety.



Contributing to the second and third Ministerial Conferences on Road Safety, their Declarations and subsequent UN General Assembly Resolutions and first ever High-Level Meeting on Improving Global Road Safety.



Launching a global campaign with JC Decaux to spread awareness on road safety issues around the world.



Launching the first Kofi Annan Road Safety Awards in Accra (2022) and Marrakech (2023) with the Governments of Ghana and Morocco respectively, ECA and the Kofi Annan Foundation.