

2nd United Nations Coordination Meeting for Road Safety

Hosted by the UN Secretary-General's Special Envoy for Road Safety

3 November 2017, 14:00-17:00
Room S-4, Palais des Nations, Geneva

Meeting Report

I. Opening and Welcome

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

The Special Envoy welcomed meeting participants and highlighted the importance of collaboration in addressing the growing road safety crisis and in achieving the SDG targets 3.6 and 11.2. The Special Envoy further provided an overview of on-going activities within his Mandate, such as effective partnership building, technical assistance to Member States, regional capacity-building events, progress on the establishment of a potential UN Road Safety Trust Fund, support for the development of an Internal Road Safety Strategy and on-going Road Safety Performance Reviews in Africa. Many of these activities were initiated following the first UN Coordination Meeting for Road Safety held in 2016. These activities showcase the value of inter-agency collaboration for road safety, including between UN Regional Commissions and the WHO.

The Special Envoy thanked agencies around the table, which have already contributed to these initiatives and expressed his hope for this meeting to inspire future joint efforts in the spirit of "One UN".

- **Introduction by Ms. Gyles-McDonnough, Director, Sustainable Development Unit, Executive Office of the Secretary-General (EOSG)**

Ms. Gyles-McDonnough emphasized the importance of road safety issue and the urgency to take action. Ms. Gyles-McDonnough shared about Secretary-General's vision of UN Development System's role in supporting the Member States in achieving all 169 SDG targets, suggesting the need to draw synergies across the goals and targets to ensure a cohesive UN response. Ms. Gyles-McDonnough expressed the need to raise awareness on road safety and increase its priority on national agendas of Member States. She shared that the Secretary-General welcomes the efforts of all parties involved in finalizing the Internal Road Safety Strategy and in exploring the establishment of a UN Road Safety Trust Fund. She further highlighted some areas requiring greater clarity, such as how the Fund would ensure effective programming at the country level, address the root causes of road safety issue, and engage with the UN's local operations. Further explanation would help regarding the Fund's difference from the World Bank's Global Road Safety Facility, and whether interested donors have been identified.

Ms. Gyles-McDonnough reassured meeting participants of the UN's commitment to improved road safety and welcomed the conversation.

- **Introduction by Ms. Olga Algayerova, Executive Secretary, Economic Commission for Europe (ECE)**

The Executive Secretary provided an overview of ECE's contribution to road safety, which includes engagement in the Special Envoy's agenda, as ECE is host to the Special Envoy's Secretariat. Such efforts include its leading role in developing a proposal for the establishment of the UN Road Safety Trust Fund and providing technical basis for the promotion of the UN Road Safety Conventions. She highlighted road safety intersection across ECE activities in environment, trade, transport, housing, land management and other divisions as well as the Inland Transport Committee (ITC)'s role as custodian to 58 UN transport legal instruments. The Executive Secretary outlined ECE's road safety efforts, within its regulatory work, capacity-building activities, and analytical work, such as developing For FITS and Safe FITS tools designed to support CO2 reduction and road safety policy making on national levels. Executive Secretary reiterated ECE's commitment to improved road safety, to scaling up efforts on tackling the global road safety crisis and to increased inter-agency collaboration.

II. Tour de Table

Participants briefly introduced themselves. A List of Participants is enclosed to this document.

III. Internal Road Safety Strategy

- **United Nations Department of Safety and Security**

Mr. Peter Drennan, Under-Secretary-General for Safety and Security, presented the Internal Road Safety Strategy “A Partnership for Safer Journeys” developed by the Inter-Agency Security Management Network (IASMN) Road Safety Strategy Working Group on road safety, with support from private sector representatives, international experts, and the commission reporting to the Chief Executive Board. The Strategy was developed in response to the number of road fatalities among UN personnel, accounting for 85% of all safety related incidents, resulting in killing 91 UN staff, primarily in the field, and 48 other road users. The Strategy cuts across five pillars of the Global Plan for the Decade of Action and is consistent with safe systems approach. The Action Plan is being developed, and the work on developing the implementation plan is ongoing. The Strategy is expected to be launched early next year during a global event. The USG requested support from across the UN system for the Strategy implementation.

Discussion:

The initiative was well received by Agencies in attendance, while the key roles of UN Resident Coordinators and UN Country Teams in Strategy implementation were emphasized. The need to improve safety culture among UN staff was highlighted. It was advised that an effective feedback mechanism is developed, establishing a network of focal points, and identifying the needs to operationalize the strategy. To that end, participating agencies were encouraged to send the names and contact details of other team members they wish to be engaged on this topic. The Special Envoy encouraged stronger collaboration towards achieving the common goal of halving road traffic fatalities within the UN system by 2020, to align with the SDG target 3.6. USG Drennan expressed his belief that halving road deaths and injuries by 2020 within UN operations was possible.

IV. Progress on the Establishment of a UN Global Road Safety Fund and Discussion

- **United Nations Economic Commission for Europe** presented a summary of a proposal for the establishment of a UN Road Safety Trust Fund, developed following the 70th Session of the UN General Assembly and pursuant to General Assembly resolution 70/260 in which the Secretary-General was requested to consider the possibility of establishing a Fund. Following the Secretary-General’s request, ECE led the process of developing a proposal in collaboration with the Special Envoy, UN Regional Commissions and the WHO. The Proposal outlines the purpose, governance structure, its role as a catalyst for leveraging resources, as well as highlights its focus on countries with highest needs and impact. Initial draft of the proposal was widely consulted by a range of road safety stakeholders, including Member States, UN Agencies, NGOs and Civil Society. A proposal along with recommended steps was shared with the Secretary-General for his consideration in September 2017. Main objectives of this Fund are to strengthen road safety management capacity, to unlock sustainable resource and to support Member States across five pillars of the Global Plan for the Decade of Action. As outlined in the proposal, it follows well-established UN Trust Fund procedures and suggests for UNDP and its Multi Partner Trust Fund office to act as an administrative agent. Contributions to the Fund would be voluntary and open to all stakeholders, including UN Agencies, national governments, and private initiatives. Thus, the proposed UN Road Safety Trust Fund will be complimentary to and not in competition with existing road safety funding mechanisms. Beneficiaries would cover a wide range of public and private stakeholders, including UN agencies. The Steering Committee and Advisory Board would advise on selection and implementation criteria of funded projects in consultation with UN Regional Commissions and UN Country Offices.

Discussion:

The proposal to establish an UN Road Safety Trust Fund was well received by the meeting participants, who applauded the effort and expressed support for its needs. The Special Envoy stated potential appetite from the private sector to contribute voluntarily to the potential Fund, highlighting the need to understand the status of its establishment before any concrete fundraising can be conducted. EOSG was pleased with the suggestion for an MPTF Office to act as the administrative agent rather than recreating another mechanism. The World Bank confirmed that the potential Fund would well complement GRSF activities and its limited scope. ECE Executive Secretary confirmed the commitment of ESs of UN Regional Commissions and the interest emerging from Member States. WHO expressed concerns on potential contributions from alcohol industry, which could be seen as a conflict of interest, considering their indirect contribution to road crashes; the WHO itself does not accept funds from the alcohol industry. It was further agreed that private sector should be engaged in a responsible manner and that it was in our interest to minimize conflict of interest scenarios. ECE shared about its work on guidelines to engage the private sector, which could be applied in the management of a potential Fund. Regarding details on Fund recipients, ECE clarified that the Advisory Board and Steering Committee would determine criteria as the Fund becomes operational. EOSG expressed appreciation for the conversation and responses addressing concerns stated in the opening statement. The information gathered will be shared with the Secretary-General's office.

V. Information Sharing on Current Road Safety Efforts by Agencies

- **Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA)**
Shared that the High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) on Sustainable Development will be dealing with road safety as part of the thematic review of SDG3 and SDG11. The next HLPF meeting would take place from 9 to 18 July 2018 at UN Headquarters in New York. A reference was made to the Secretary-General's first Global Sustainable Transport Conference organized by DESA in November 2016 in Turkmenistan, in which the Special Envoy participated. DESA also informed about a transport-related draft resolution introduced by Turkmenistan during the current UNGA session, which included the proposal for the Secretary-General to consider convening another Global Sustainable Transport Conference. DESA expressed support for on-going road safety efforts and readiness to collaborate.
- **Department of Peacekeeping Operations (DPKO)**
Shared about DPKO's recently developed manual on road safety management in the field, published in October 2016, and provided an overview of DPKO's activities, including road safety week, their current contract with vehicle manufacturers as well as electronic vehicle monitoring system. (*DPKO is represented in the IASMN Road Safety Strategy Working Group*).
- **Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC)**
Shared about the Commission's on-going work on infrastructure, governance, and transport, including road safety aspect. Among highlighted road safety activities, were a regional workshop, held in collaboration with the Special Envoy in Buenos Aires, Argentina in March 2017 and recent sub-regional technical workshop on harmonizing vehicle regulation in Montevideo, Uruguay in October 2017. ECLAC shared about plans to co-organize a sub-regional event in the Caribbean in 2018 and expressed appreciation of joint work with the Special Envoy, which has contributed to strengthening regional dialogue on road safety governance.
- **Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)**
Emphasized strong partnership with the Special Envoy, in which the High Commissioner has been a vocal supporter of linking road safety to the right to personal security, right to health, and right to life. OHCHR shared about plans to conduct joint activities with the Special Envoy, around the 70th anniversary of Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

- Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA)**
 Provided an overview of the road safety situation in the region as well as ESCWA's role in development of Integrated Transport System in the Arab Mashreq Information System (ITSAM GIS), where road safety is considered as one of the main attributes of road system. The role of ESCWA's in supporting a Master's Program on Road Safety Management (University of Saint-Joseph) was highlighted, in which ESCWA provides technical trainings to students and organizes joint activities with the university. Shared about upcoming 18th Inter-governmental Meeting on Road Transport on 20-21 December 2017, where road safety will have a special session and Mr. Todt will be invited to speak alongside high-level officials. Considering that lack of reliable data is a major issue, ESCWA is advocating for the creation of a regional observatory, and exploring the funding necessary for its establishment.
- International Labour Organization (ILO)**
 Within ILO's mandate to promote decent working conditions for all, a handbook related to professional truck drivers and road safety, which includes information on contractual relationships between truck drivers and hiring companies, as well as pay conditions, is being developed. This handbook will provide best practices in road transport safety. Initial draft has been completed, and expected to be published in the first half of 2018. Shared about initiative to adopt a code of practice in road transport safety, for which the meeting of experts is expected to take place in the second half of 2019.
- International Organization for Migration (IOM)**
 Highlighted the importance of road safety, especially for vulnerable migrants who may not necessarily be familiar with road conditions on their migratory path, and may not speak local language to be able to ask for guidance. IOM is conscious of importance of road safety, especially for displaced people. At country level, IOM is engaged in transportation of migrants, and will take into account the Internal Road Safety Strategy and DPKO's road safety management manual. Expressed readiness for collaboration in joint road safety efforts.
- United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)**
 Provided an overview of UNICEF's road safety efforts, including Child Road Traffic Injury Prevention Program launched in 2016, which is currently supporting nine countries and expected to further expand. Highlighted advocacy efforts, technical support, developing global public goods, analytical work on Child Road Traffic Injuries, which is used to conduct evidence-based activities. Commitment to Child Health Initiative was emphasized, as well as partnership with UN Habitat, WHO, and regional stakeholders. Reiterated UNICEF's commitment to the issue, especially as it relates to children. *(UNICEF is represented in the IASMN Road Safety Strategy Working Group).*
- International Telecommunication Union (ITU)**
 Shared about the role of ITU to allocate frequencies and develop standards, including securing over-the-air software updates for vehicles, improving quality of hands-free communication in vehicles, and making automatic emergency call systems (e-Call) intelligible. ITU's collaboration with ECE on The Future Networked Car event (FNC 2018) within Geneva International Motor Show was highlighted, including efforts on improving road safety.

ITU Secretary-General Mr. Houlin Zhao expressed ITU's support of Special Envoy's efforts and highlighted excellent collaboration with ECE on automatic emergency call systems (subsequent note: ECE's new regulation published on 22 November 2017 refers to ITU standard), partnership on intelligent transport system, smart cities, automated vehicles, artificial intelligence etc. Assured ITU's support and commitment to promoting road safety, and offered to support relevant initiatives. *(ITU is represented in the IASMN Road Safety Strategy Working Group).*
- United Nations Development Program (UNDP)**
 Shared about UNDP's country-level initiatives, such as collaboration with WHO on conducting national investment cases for non-communicable diseases. Highlighted that because of the strong link

between alcohol policies and road traffic crashes, road safety is included as one of the components in the cost-benefit analysis addressed by investment cases. Shared that road safety is taken into account during environmental and social impact assessment and considered in the planning, development and operational phases for infrastructure projects. Expressed interest in integrating road safety into UNDP's country support programs. (*UNDP is represented in the IASMN Road Safety Strategy Working Group*).

- **United Nations Environment Program (UNEP)**

Provided an overview of UNEP's activities and shared that road transport accounts for 90% of CO2 emissions. Highlighted the long-standing partnership with FIA Foundation, including in the "Share the Road Program", which encourages inter-modal transport and promotes policies on improved non-motorized transport. Gave an overview of the "Breath life" campaign, which focuses on addressing air pollution at the city level and has engaged over 50 cities, representing 70 million people. UNEP contributed to UNECE's efforts with THE PEP (Transport, Health and Environment Pan-European Programme) to promote cycling and green jobs.

- **United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)**

Provided a brief overview of UNHCR operations, 70% of which are outside big cities or in remote areas with security concerns and poor road conditions. Acknowledged that road incidents are considered a serious threat and improving road safety is a priority for UNHCR. A three-year strategy has been developed and financed from UNHCR's core funding; as an integral part of daily operations around the globe, ensuring road safety is a priority at all levels. Assured of UNHCR's commitment to improving road safety and supporting on-going initiatives. (*UNHCR is represented in the IASMN Road Safety Strategy Working Group*).

- **United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS)**

Provided an overview of UNOPS activities, which are purely operational, as UNOPS is the only UN Agency without a policy mandate. Expressed strong support in road safety efforts, considering UNOPS' work in the field, where 3,000-5,000 km of roads were built with UNOPS' support last year, mostly in remote areas. Within its procurement mandate – UNOPS procures between 6,000-10,000 vehicles annually. Expressed the need to raise awareness within the UN system about the work of UNOPS and to prioritize prevention by including road safety as criteria in the infrastructure design.

- **World Bank Group (WBG)**

Provided an overview of World Bank portfolio, in which transport is the largest sector and where most of the lending is allocated. In addition to infrastructure projects, World Bank supports road safety technical assistance and policy dialogue in countries. The WBG Global Road Safety Facility implements key road safety initiatives, however its operations are of rather small scale, therefore the UN Road Safety Trust Fund would complement and scale up its efforts. Expressed willingness to explore synergies and potential areas of collaboration, including in the regulatory framework, environment, and infrastructure. Highlighted the World Bank's new environmental and social framework, and its safeguards policy, where road safety is now to be considered in every transport project. Stressed that coordination and partnership between other Multilateral Development Banks will contribute to lifting the profile of road safety within countries and in their work. Encouraged implementation of more South-South cooperation to foster peer learning, exchange of ideas, and expertise of practitioners in countries. Suggested that accuracy of reporting needs to be improved through the collective effort of Agencies, as well as measurement and statistics to cover road safety. (*WBG is represented in the IASMN Road Safety Strategy Working Group*).

- **World Food Program (WFP)**

Considering that within its mandate WFP delivers humanitarian aid to 80 million people, road safety is an important issue. WFP currently owns 4,700 vehicles and contracts 5,000 commercial trucks. Offered to contribute by sharing knowledge and best practices and expressed willingness to lead on pillar two of the strategy, safer roads and mobility, and participate in pillars one and three, road safety

management and safer vehicles. Provided an overview of the global car leasing program, which included drivers training for over 3,000 drivers; online fleet management system, providing sound data for decision-making; health risks cards program; workshops for fleet in countries; and online course on road safety, which included general rules, defensive driving, as well as health aspects (available in four languages). Further noted willingness to share the online road safety course. (*WFP is represented in the IASMN Road Safety Strategy Working Group*).

- **World Health Organization (WHO)**

Provided overview of WHO's mandate to coordinate road safety within the UN system and informed of upcoming initiatives. This includes the upcoming meeting with Member States to discuss the proposed voluntary global performance targets for road safety on 20-21 November 2017. WHO was mandated to lead this process in collaboration with UN Regional Commissions and stakeholders pursuant to GA resolution 70/260. During the November meeting, the draft document with 12 targets will be discussed. Informed on the 4th edition of Global Road Safety status report to be published in November 2018. The WHO recently released technical package focused on the safe systems approach, called "Save LIVES". (*WHO is represented in the IASMN Road Safety Strategy Working Group*).

- **World Meteorological Organization (WMO)**

WMO is very interested and willing to participate in road safety initiatives. Informed that 20-30% of road deaths are related to weather conditions and 6,000 fatalities per year are due to crashes related to weather. WMO is currently working on expanding its portfolio to include land transport, in addition to maritime and marine. Suggested that situational awareness and innovative technologies could be used to provide advanced information on adverse weather conditions. WMO sees its role in improving road safety and is willing to share experience. It would like to advocate for the weather factor to be explicitly included in the Internal Road Safety Strategy, as well as education materials and training for driving in adverse weather conditions.

- **United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO)**

First meeting for UNIDO. Although no specific activities on road safety currently, suggested to share updates during the next meeting.

VI. Partnership for Results

As a number of inter-agency partnerships already exist, it was concluded that many existing joint initiatives could be strengthened, and more innovative partnerships with the private sector could be explored. In summary, participants agreed that the UN Road Safety Trust Fund proposal, if realized, could address the gaps in road safety funding and capacity globally as well as provide the opportunity to deepen the partnership beyond the traditional funding and into innovating financing mechanisms. In addition, opportunities exist to improve road safety internally and to explore more ways to collaborate on the issue.

In terms of the next steps, it was agreed that participants will share relevant materials with the Secretariat of the Special Envoy, which will make shared materials available on the Special Envoy website. The list of participants will also be circulated along with a summary of the meeting. Any focal points for the UN Internal Road Safety Strategy should be directed to UNDSS.

VII. Closing

The Special Envoy expressed his appreciation for participation and engagement of more than twenty agencies, which represent strong commitment to the issue. He reiterated how encouraged he is to be a part of the UN family and to receive support on many levels: from the Secretary-General's office to the UN Country Teams. He continues to be inspired by the passion that everyone he meets has shown for the issue and assured participants of his unwavering commitment to improve road safety globally. The Special Envoy looks forward to hosting the next UN Coordination Meeting on Road Safety in 2018.