



PLEASE CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

Statement

by

Ms. Tatiana Molcean

Executive Secretary

of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe

at the

7th UN Partnership Meeting for Road Safety

Geneva, 13 December 2023

[5 minutes]

Excellencies,
distinguished colleagues,
Ladies and gentlemen,

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development includes Goal 3.6 on road safety, which calls for halving global deaths (more than 1.3 million per year) and injuries from road traffic accidents by 2030. I don't need to tell you that today we still are far from achieving that target. The General Assembly adopted in 2020, resolution 74/299 on Improving global road safety. The resolution inaugurated the second Decade of Action for Road Safety, reiterating the ambitious goals, supported by the launch in 2021 of a new Global Plan of Action.

The Economic Commission for Europe is one of the five Regional Commissions of the United Nations. We believe that harmonized regulations and strong legal frameworks are powerful tools in our efforts towards improving road safety.

The Inland Transport Committee (ITC) is the only body in the UN focused on inland transport. For more than 75 years, it has provided an intergovernmental forum where countries come together to forge tools for economic cooperation, and negotiate and adopt international legal instruments on inland transport. Currently 7 out of the 60 legal

instruments are legal frameworks to help that we build safer roads and use safer cars, and ensure that we have safer drivers. The carriage of dangerous goods by road, road traffic rules, road signs and signals, vehicle inspections and technical regulations for vehicles are among the topics addressed by these conventions. They are open to all UN Member States, the rate of accession by new countries recently increased. But most important is the proper implementation of these legal instruments into national or regional legislation.

UNECE encourages all governments in all regions to join and implement these instruments for the sake of improving global road safety – we stand ready to support the accession and implementation process.

UNECE assist interested countries with detailed information on road safety management with:

- Recommendations on enhancing national road safety systems,
 - Training material on agreements through e-learning platform,
 - Roadmaps for the accession to agreements with tasks and responsibilities,
 - Tools, e.g. SITCIN using indicators to evaluate the status in implementation of UN legal instruments and to identify possible gaps in national road safety systems.
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All of that requires financing. Since 2018, UNECE hosts the UN Road Safety Fund (UNRSF), which is a multi-stakeholder financing instrument bringing together UN organizations, governments, private sector, academia and civil society. The focus of the Fund is on low- and middle-income countries and on projects to address key gaps in national road safety systems, with concrete institutional impact.

Given that road safety remains a largely hidden agenda among major international development partners, I encourage UN agencies to adopt the all too familiar mantra of “doing more with less”. Although it may be more accurate to say “doing more with what we have”.

UNECE has taken this on board. Under the able coordination of the UN Road Safety Fund, UNECE is exploring how its ongoing PPPs for SDGs work can support road safety outcomes. ITC is leveraging its existing High Level Forum on Road Safety to share progress of the Fund; and we are also working with the Fund to have better access to officials from road administrations who participate in ITC subsidiary working parties as a way of supporting the Fund’s mandate on knowledge transfer and hands-on capacity building.

UNECE also has the pleasure of hosting the secretariat to the UN Secretary-General’s Special Envoy for Road Safety, Mr. Jean Todt.

We thank him for his tireless efforts in promoting the UN road safety legal instruments and the UN Road Safety Fund.

I look forward to:

joint missions with Mr. Todt in the ECE region,
supporting the global campaign on road safety also in the ECE
region.

Thank you.
