



Economic Commission
for Africa

Setting Road Safety Targets: A way Forward for Reducing Accident Fatalities by Half by 2015

United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA)

In Collaboration with

FIA Foundation

Kilimanjaro Hotel Kempinski, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania,

8 – 10 July 2009

Concept Note on the Preparation of African Road Safety Seminar

I. Background

Road traffic injuries kill and maim millions of people annually in Africa. They cause enormous suffering and hamper economic development. Unless measures are taken, and based on recent trends, the situation is expected to get worse. However, since 2004, the United Nations General Assembly has adopted three resolutions (58/289, 60/5 and 62/244) in which it called on member states, the World Health Organization (WHO), the five regional commissions and international organizations to address the global road safety crisis.

At national and sub-regional levels, many road safety initiatives are being undertaken by Member States and sub-regional organizations in order to improve the road safety situation in Africa.

At the continental level and in response to the United Nations General Assembly's appeal, the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) and the World Health Organization (WHO) jointly organized with the Government of Ghana, a Road Safety Conference from 5th to 7th February 2007 and a Ministerial Roundtable discussion on 8th February 2007 in Accra, Ghana. The Conference adopted the Accra Declaration in which the ministers committed to work together to stop the growing epidemic of deaths and injuries on African roads.

At the international level, a United Nations Road Safety Collaboration (UNRSC) has been established upon the United Nations General Assembly's resolution A/RES58/289 on "Improving global road safety" which invited WHO to work in close cooperation with the United Nations regional commissions, and to act as coordinator on road safety issues across the United Nations system. Also, the Global Road Safety Partnership (GRSP) brings together governments and governmental agencies, the private sector and civil society organizations to address road safety issues in low and middle-income countries.

In continuation of efforts to implement the recommendations made in General Assembly resolution A/RES/60/5 on improving global road safety, the five United Nations Regional Commissions are jointly implementing a project titled: "Improving Global Road Safety: setting regional and national road traffic casualty reduction targets.

The overall objective of the project is to assist low and middle income countries to develop regional and national road traffic casualty reduction targets and to provide them with examples of good road safety practice. For the African continent, ECA has undertake five case studies and is organizing a road safety seminar in collaboration with the FIA Foundation where the case studies will be presented.

2. Objectives of the seminar

The objective of the seminar is to assist African countries to develop national road traffic casualty reduction targets and to provide them with examples of good road safety practice that could help them to achieve the targets selected by 2015.

The process of setting road safety targets has been shown as an effective means to highlight the extent of road safety problem and to provide a goal that countries can work towards. In particular the seminar will inform African countries about interventions and road safety practices that have been shown to bring significant reductions in road traffic injuries and fatalities.

3. Format

The workshop will consist of plenary and parallel sessions. The parallel sessions will involve two working groups on the following topics:

1. Road Safety Management;
2. Data Management
3. Road Safety Strategy and targets
4. Road User Behaviour; addressing key risks
5. Use of WHO manuals
6. Road Safety Education
7. Fleet Safety and Fleet Management
8. Driver Training and Testing
9. Infrastructure
10. Vulnerable Road User Safety
11. Rural Road Safety
12. Vehicle Safety and
13. Emergency Care.

4. Expected Outcomes

The seminar is expected to enhance the capacity of participants to develop targets and indicators for reducing road accident fatalities and injuries.

5. Participation

This seminar will be attended primarily by officials of ministries responsible for road safety in African countries. It will also be attended by representatives of organizations, NGO's and the private sector directly or indirectly involved in road safety related activities.

6. Date and Venue

The seminar will be held from 9 to 10 of July, 2009, Kilimanjaro Hotel Kempinski, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania.

7. Contacts

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