



PLEASE CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

Statement

by

Ms. Olga Algayerova

United Nations Under-Secretary-General

Executive Secretary

of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe

at the

“Road Safety: post-Stockholm”

ITC Side-event

Geneva, 25 February 2020

16:30 to 18:00

[3 minutes]

Special Envoy for Road Safety,

Ambassador Stevens,

Ambassador Bard,

Distinguished colleagues,

Ladies and gentlemen,

It is my great pleasure to participate in the ITC side-event on “Road Safety post-Stockholm.”

As you know, last week was a defining milestone in renewing and upscaling our commitments at the highest and broadest levels in the fight to make road safety a reality for everyone, everywhere.

We came together at the Third Global Ministerial Conference for Road Safety in Stockholm with a sense of urgency and distress. With 1700 delegates from 140 countries, we agreed on the Stockholm Declaration, and called on Member States to help reduce road fatalities by at least 50 percent from 2020 to 2030.

The Decade of Action saw many countries making progress through road safety management and better legislation around risks – such as speeding, drinking and failing to use seatbelts, and infrastructure – including safer sidewalks and dedicated bicycle lanes.

However, this was not enough. The tragic reality is that deaths and injuries from road crashes have not fallen in 20 years. And hence, we did not meet the ambitious target, set by the world’s governments in the 2015 Sustainable Development Goals, to halve the number of deaths by 2020.

If we are to meet the new target of halving road deaths by 2030, it is imperative that we learn from the past. We cannot continue with business as usual and work in ways that have not shown results.

We must substantially decrease the number of lives lost or affected by road crashes. Let us never lose sight of that goal.

Let us embrace a new agenda to radically reduce the number of lives lost on our roads. Let us re-think how we can provide access to safe, affordable, accessible and sustainable transport systems for all.

The UN Road Safety Fund has defined a blueprint for this through the Global Framework Plan of Action for Road Safety. Application of

this Plan helps countries address critical gaps in their national road safety systems and make tangible impacts on the number of fatalities and injuries on the road.

This is why today's side-event is so important. I look forward to the discussion from our two panels and their perspectives on how we can advance the Stockholm Declaration together.

In closing, I would like to recall the powerful and impassioned messages we heard from youth and civil society in Stockholm, saying that "enough is enough", and demanding change from governments, international organizations and the private sector.

We must not let them down.

Thank you.
