



Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
13 December 2016

Original: English

Economic Commission for Europe

Inland Transport Committee

Seventy-ninth session

Geneva, 21-24 February 2017

Item 5 (c) of the provisional agenda

Strategic questions of a modal and thematic nature:

Road safety

Activities of the United Nations Secretary-General's Special Envoy for Road Safety

Note by the secretariat

Summary

The severe impact of road traffic crashes on wellbeing and health of all people and huge economic consequences for societies, particularly in low- and middle-income countries prompted United Nations Secretary-General to appoint on 29 April 2015 Mr. Jean Todt as his Special Envoy for Road Safety.

This document contains a report of the Special Envoy to the Secretary-General containing activities as they contribute to the four key priorities of his mandate implemented between 1 May 2015 and November 2016.

The Committee is invited **to take note** of this report and, in light of the Special Envoy's current appointment ending on 31 March 2017, is invited **to support** the extension of his mandate to ensure the continuation of the important work and momentum built so far by the Special Envoy to improve road safety.

I. Background

1. The severe impact of road traffic crashes on wellbeing and health of all people and huge economic consequences for societies, particularly in low- and middle-income countries prompted United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon to appoint on 29 April 2015 Mr. Jean Todt as his Special Envoy for Road Safety.

2. In appreciation of the impact of road safety on the development agenda, specific goals on road safety were included in the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in September 2015. Target 3.6 calls for halving of the number of global deaths and injuries from road traffic crashes by 2020 and SDG 11.2 aims to provide access to safe, affordable, accessible and sustainable transport systems for all, improving road safety, notably by expanding public transport, with special attention to the needs of those in vulnerable situations, women, children, persons with disabilities and older persons.

3. United Nations resolution (A/70/L.44), “Improving Global Road Safety,” adopted on 15 April 2016, further highlights the need to address road safety globally and the important role of the Special Envoy — as well as of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) and other United Nations regional commissions, and the United Nations road safety legal instruments — in achieving the road safety targets set by the Sustainable Development Goals. This includes a provision to explore the establishment of a Road Safety Trust Fund, which the Secretary-General mandated UNECE to undertake in close collaboration with the Special Envoy and other stakeholders.

4. This document contains a report of the Special Envoy to the Secretary-General containing activities as they contribute to the four key priorities of his mandate implemented between 1 May 2015 and November 2016.

II. Summary and highlights of activities implemented by the Special Envoy

5. Below is a summary and highlights of activities implemented by the Special Envoy between 1 May 2015 and November 2016 as they contribute to the four key priorities of his mandate.

A. Promoting global partnerships to support the design and implementation of strategies and activities to improve road safety

6. This goal has been high on the agenda of the Special Envoy and in concrete terms addressed by the Special Envoy through more than 100 meetings, consultations, and participation in various awareness raising initiatives, such as the following.

1. Multi-Stakeholders Consultation

7. The Special Envoy and representatives of civil society met during a Multi-Stakeholders Consultation, organized by the UNECE secretariat in October 2015, to exchange views and ideas regarding the Action Plan of the Special Envoy. The meeting was an opportunity to clarify objectives, develop working methods and provide an open and transparent forum for multi-stakeholder engagement. A summary outcome document of key conclusions is available on the Special Envoy’s webpage. One of the requests by civil society representatives was that during his country visits the Special Envoy meets not only government officials, but also local road safety NGOs. This has been and is implemented in all missions of the Special Envoy following the request.

2. United Nations Coordination Meeting on Road Safety

8. To raise awareness, also within the United Nations, the Special Envoy has been meeting with the heads of United Nations agencies and departments. Additionally, the United Nations Secretary-General’s Special Envoy for Road Safety convened a meeting with representatives from 14 United Nations agencies and departments to highlight the

importance of road safety in the 2030 Sustainable Development agenda on 5 April 2016. The meeting was an opportunity to share current and future road safety efforts and priorities within each United Nations agency and to explore potential opportunities for collaboration, as well as discuss awareness raising initiatives, strengthening of internal United Nations road safety policies and engagement towards a United Nations Road Safety Fund.

3. United Nations Road Safety Trust Fund

9. To fulfil one of the most important tasks as Special Envoy, analysis and descriptions of options for a United Nations Road Safety Fund were provided as requested by Member States in February 2016. Following the resolution A/70/L.44 adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in April 2016, UNECE has been requested by the United Nations Secretary-General to lead the process on the exploration of the establishment of the United Nations Global Road Safety Fund. With the Special Envoy's support and guidance, two short-term consultants were hired to conduct research on the necessary amount of funding and financing framework for the United Nations Global Road Safety Fund. A draft proposal of the Road Safety Trust Fund has been developed and the consultation process for the proposal was launched during the Global Sustainable Transport Conference in Ashgabat in November 2016. The proposal will be updated in the coming months incorporating feedback from member states and relevant stakeholders.

B. Advocating with governments, civil society and the private sector for the promotion of road safety, particularly in countries with a high level of road fatalities and injuries

1. Advocacy with governments and other stakeholders for increased attention on road safety

10. Among the meetings held by the Special Envoy includes a long list of his high-level government officials in mostly low- and middle-income countries with poor road safety records. In all, the Special Envoy has held meetings with government officials and relevant stakeholders in **38 countries** since the beginning of his term. The Special Envoy has visited 9 countries in Asia and Central Asia, 5 countries in Africa, 12 countries in Europe and North America as well as 12 countries in the Latin American and the Caribbean. These discussions focused on the status of the road safety situation in each country and encouraged accession to and implementation of the United Nations Road Safety Conventions. The Special Envoy continues to keep the United Nations Road Safety Conventions and the importance of strong governance on the agenda of his bilateral meetings and includes relevant messages in his speeches at conferences. These meetings have resulted in requests for technical assistance from countries such as Colombia, Uganda and Myanmar.

2. United Nations General Assembly Resolution

11. Following the high-level conference on road safety in November 2015, the Special Envoy with UNECE provided feedback during the consultation process of drafting a resolution, which aimed to propel road safety efforts towards the targets set by the Decade of Action for Road Safety and the Sustainable Development Goals. This included language on a potential road safety trust fund as well as the importance of member state accession to United Nations Road Safety Conventions. On 15 April 2016, the Special Envoy gave remarks in support of the United Nations resolution (A/70/L.44), "Improving Global Road Safety" which was adopted, during the General Assembly meeting.

3. Humanitarian of the Year Award from the United Nations Association of New York

12. The Special Envoy and Ms. Michelle Yeoh have jointly accepted the Humanitarian of the Year Award from the United Nations Association of New York in recognition of their work in promoting the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals and their commitment to stabilizing and reducing road traffic fatalities around the world.

C. Participating in global and regional conferences and meetings on road safety

1. Second High-Level Global Conference on Road Safety

13. The Special Envoy contributed at the Second High-Level Global Conference on Road Safety in Brasilia, Brazil on 18 and 19 November 2015. The Conference brought together approximately 70 ministerial-level government delegations. A declaration was adopted which aims to reaffirm the path set for the United Nations Decade of Action 2011-2020. UNECE and the Special Envoy jointly hosted a booth in the exhibition area, which promoted visibility, including of the United Nations Road Safety conventions. The Special Envoy was engaged in the ceremonial opening, was a speaker during the opening statements and in a number of panels of the conference and its side events, including the session on United Nations Road Safety Conventions jointly organised by UNECE and the French government. On the occasion of the Global Conference, the Special Envoy met the President of Brazil and the Minister of Cities. The government of Brazil confirmed its deliberation to join the 1958 Agreement on vehicle regulations.

2. Habitat III and the New Urban Agenda

14. The New Urban Agenda sets forth a great vision for sustainable mobility and transport. One that includes road safety as a key consideration in urban planning and infrastructure design. It highlights the importance of awareness raising campaigns. It addresses vulnerable road users such as children, cyclists and pedestrians. It paints a future where every child, regardless of where they live, can have a safe journey to school. The Special Envoy has followed up with Dr. Joan Clos to show his support for the New Urban Agenda. The Special Envoy secretariat has met with United Nations Habitat in Nairobi to explore synergies and joint projects to promote road safety in urban transport and mobility.

3. Global Sustainable Transport Conference in Ashgabat

15. This Global Sustainable Transport Conference provided an opportunity to ensure that road safety is not forgotten during discussions of broader developmental issues. Road Safety must be part and parcel of sustainable transport and a basic condition for a sustainable world. The Special Envoy highlighted road safety during the Opening Plenary on 26 November, the thematic session entitled “Global Vision Zero: Reaching a new era in road safety”, and the side event entitled, “UN Road Safety Conventions” and during the opening plenary of the Transport Business Summit. A small exhibition was also organised jointly by the Special Envoy and the UNECE secretariat where relevant publications were displayed and made available for delegates. In the closing statement of the conference paragraph 24 is dedicated to road safety. A direct link to the report can be found here: <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/11987Ashgabatstatement.pdf>

4. Additional Events

16. The Special Envoy has participated in a number of planned meetings and conferences in efforts to highlight road safety, including events where road safety may not have been previously covered:

- World Economic Forum: Participation in side event on Importance of Intelligent Transport Systems in road safety;
- UNECE Inland Transport Committee of 2016, where the policy segment was dedicated to “Innovations for Sustainable Inland Transport with Special Attention to Information and Communication Technologies”;
- Working Parties of the Inland Transport Committee: WP.29 — World Forum for the Harmonization of Vehicle Regulations, WP.15 — Working Party on the Transport of Dangerous Goods, and WP.1 — Road Safety Forum;
- World Health Organization: High-level stakeholders meeting to develop strategies to achieve the SDGs;
- ITU-UNECE: Fully Networked Car event on the occasion of the Geneva Motor Show;
- United Nations Road Safety Collaboration Meetings;
- Meeting with His Holiness, Pope Francis, to promote the global importance of road safety;
- Signing of Vision Zero Road Safety pledge with United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees;
- Contribution to the development of a Road Safety resolution adopted by Leaders and Ministers at 16th Francophone Summit held in Madagascar;
- Engagement with United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to advance road safety agenda within the human rights framework;
- Supported an event at Turin City Council recognising the World Day of Remembrance for Road Traffic Victims, together with the Mayor of Turin;
- Contribution to the United Nations Inter-Agency Management Network Working Group on Road Safety to promote stronger road safety practices within United Nations operations.

D. Advocating the accession to, and more effective implementation of United Nations road safety legal instruments

17. This objective has been addressed through Special Envoy meetings with Governments, representatives of international organizations and United Nations system organisations, as well as civil society representatives in countries he visited in his capacity as the Secretary-General Special Envoy for Road Safety, as highlighted above. For this purpose, for every mission, the UNECE secretariat prepares a briefing package containing the road safety profile of the country, the main road safety legal instruments, specially designed and customized policy messages and other details relevant for the Special Envoy meetings with the officials.

1. Promotion of United Nations Road Safety Conventions

18. The Special Envoy produced brochures providing a summary of six of 58 United Nations transport related legal instruments that are specifically focused on improving road safety. The brochures provide an overview of the six core United Nations Road Safety Conventions, the accession status of each member state and the steps needed for accession. The Special Envoy has also produced a short brochure highlighting the importance and intersection of road safety, as well as the United Nations legal instruments, to achieving the

key targets of the Sustainable Development Goals. The brochures have been distributed and used during meetings around the world.

2. Capacity-building initiatives

19. The Special Envoy has and will host a series of capacity-building workshops for government officials and performance reviews to further achieve this objective, including the below:

- Road Safety Workshop — Back-to-Back to the Inland Transport Committee Meeting of 2016: To contribute to these objectives, and on the occasion of the 78th session of the UNECE Inland Transport Committee, the United Nations Secretary-General's Special Envoy for Road Safety hosted at the Palais des Nations, Geneva, a Road Safety Workshop: Best Practices and Key Partnerships for Road Safety. The workshop was held in partnership with the UNECE Inland Transport Committee and the European Union funded EuroMed Road, Rail and Urban Transport (EuroMed RRU) project and hosted country representatives and government officials of six States: Tunisia, Kenya, Jordan, Uganda, European Union, and Greece.
- Preparations for the upcoming capacity building event — Regional Road Safety Workshop for Anglophone Africa in Nairobi — are ongoing in close collaboration with United Nations Economic Commission for Africa, the World Bank's Sub-Saharan Africa Transport Policy Programme (SSATP) and Kenyan National Transport Safety Authority.
- A Regional Road Safety Workshop for Latin America and the Caribbean is being planned in 2017 in partnership with United Nations Economic Commission for the Latin America and the Caribbean. These workshops series cover United Nations legal instruments, data management issues, as well as safe urban mobility and transport and serve as a shared platform for exchanging ideas between relevant stakeholders.
- With the support of the Special Envoy, two Road Safety Performance Reviews will be carried out in Africa in collaboration with UNECA and UNECE. These will be in synergic relationship with the UN Road Safety Performance Reviews currently under implementation and in the framework of the UNDA funded project led by UNECE in collaboration with ECLAC and ESCAP. The UN Road Safety Performance Reviews pay special attention to regulatory governance for road safety and they start with a needs assessment of the country.

III. Consideration by the Committee

20. The Special Envoy has successfully raised the visibility of road safety and the United Nations road safety legal instruments as well as inspired stronger interest from governments to address road safety as evidenced by technical assistance requests received from Member States. Additionally, the work of the Special Envoy has fostered closer collaboration with Regional Commissions on the topic and instilled urgency within United Nations agencies to internally address road safety in its operations. The Special Envoy is building stronger relationships with partners and Member States, and is moving forward with critical long-term initiatives such as the exploration of the establishment of a potential Road Safety Trust Fund, road safety performance reviews in developing countries, capacity building for Member States with great need and efforts to continue raising the profile of road safety on the global development agenda.

21. The Committee is invited **to take note** of this report and, in light of the Special Envoy's current appointment ending on 31 March 2017, is invited **to support** the extension of his mandate to ensure the continuation of the important work and momentum built so far by the Special Envoy to improve road safety.
