



United Nations Road Safety Trust Fund
Steering Committee
Sixth session
Geneva, 9 July 2020

List of decisions of the Steering Committee at its sixth session.

1. Adoption of the Agenda

The Steering Committee adopted the agenda of its sixth session (UNRSTF/SC/11).

The following Steering Committee members participated: UNECE, UNESCAP, UNESCWA, UNECLAC, UNICEF, WHO, Russian Federation, FIA, Michelin and Global Alliance of NGOs for Road Safety.

The number of Steering Committee members participating, as per Rule 33 of the Rules of Procedure, constituted a quorum.

2. Report on progress under the UNRSF

The UNRSF secretariat reported on the work progress under the UN Road Safety Fund (UNRSF) since the third session of the Steering Committee on 4 October 2019. This update included, inter alia, information on the status of resource mobilization, progress in the implementation of the five pilot projects, the operationalization of the ten projects approved under the 2019 Call for Proposals and direct access to the Fund's resources by non-UN organizations. It also included the recommendations of the informal virtual workshop organized by the secretariat on 25 June 2020 at the request of the fifth session of the Steering Committee held on 21 May 2020 and the decisions of the Advisory Board at its fourth session, held on 8 July 2020.

The Steering Committee noted that the Advisory Board did not agree on a minimum amount of contributions for future donors. The Steering Committee endorsed the Advisory Board's in-principle agreement to define a minimum level in the future. Noting that the costs of managing donors extended well beyond the administrative fees paid for due diligence, the Steering Committee did not agree on the added value in setting different thresholds for private and public donors. Moreover, the Steering Committee expressed concern about the potential negative message that this differentiation would convey to potential donors.

The Steering Committee agreed to work towards a target of additional minimum cash deposits of US\$ 10 million from direct contributions by the end of 2021 and called upon its members to support the Fund through direct pledges or advocacy.

The Steering Committee also welcomed the innovative financing mechanism of "Movism", currently under development by FIA, expected to be launched in 2021. This initiative would allow a sustainable and long-term solution for resource-mobilization of the Fund.

Finally, the Steering Committee agreed to extend the Fund until 31 December 2030, in line with the decision of the Advisory Board. The MPTFO noted that this extension will need to be cleared by its Executive Coordinator.

3. Strategy and priorities for the 2020 Call for Proposals

At its fourth session on 8 July 2020, the Advisory Board decided to launch the 2020 Call for Proposals with the overall disbursement amount of US\$ 4 million. It also decided to launch the 2020 Call for Proposals as a thematic limited circulation Call, stressing that the Call must prioritize projects that have a real and significant impact on road safety in low- and middle-income countries. The Board agreed that the specific thematic areas for the 2020 Call for Proposals would be determined by the Steering Committee based on likelihood of impact through alignment with national priorities, opportunities for synergies and avoiding duplications with other road safety funds and programmes.

The Steering Committee discussed the outcome of the Advisory Board session, including the identification of national and thematic priorities. Members discussed the appraisal process and agreed

on the engagement of the Steering Committee to ensure that strategic parameters of projects were also considered, in addition to the technical reviews conducted by the road safety experts.

The Russian Federation also noted the importance of giving priority to compact projects prepared on the basis of the experience of countries with the best level of road safety. It also proposed to create an open-access online repository of implemented projects. The secretariat confirmed that the Global Framework Plan of Action for Road Safety and the Priorities and Criteria for Funding Projects were the main documents for the appraisal of project proposals.

The Global Alliance of NGOs for Road Safety recalled document '2019 Call for Proposals: lessons learned and good practices' (UNRSTF/SC/2020(2)/1) and emphasized its recommendation that each participating UN organization should clarify its plan and strategy for each Call so that civil society stakeholders have a clear pathway for engagement.

Based on the strategic decisions of the Advisory Board and document UNRSTF/SC/2019(1)/1, the Steering Committee approved the funding cycle parameters for the 2020 Call for Proposals, as follows:

- a) Length of funding cycle: the funding cycle starts in October 2020 with the launch of the Call and closes by August 2021 with the conclusion of project workshops as part of the two-stage process. The timeframe for submitting applications (i.e., the first stage) would be increased to a maximum of three months.
- b) Priorities and focus: the specific thematic areas for the 2020 Call for Proposals would be determined by the Steering Committee at its seventh session based on a financing coordination meeting convened by the UNRSF secretariat with other road safety funds and programmes to assess their programmes for 2020 and beyond.
- c) Total funding to be awarded: the 2020 Call for Proposals will disburse a total of US\$ 4 million.
- d) Eligibility criteria: Participating UN organizations will be eligible to apply for funding under the 2020 Call for Proposals. Only projects targeting low- and middle-income countries will be eligible. Incomplete applications, or late submissions will also be ineligible.
- e) Budgetary limits to each project: Projects will have a lower limit of US\$ 100,000 and the upper limit will be determined at the seventh session of the Steering Committee.

4. Earmarking

The Multi-Partner Trust Fund Office (MPTFO) introduced document UNRSTF/AB/2020(1)/2-UNRSTF/SC/2020(3)/2 on possible options and conditions to allow earmarking of future contributions by donors.

The secretariat informed the members about the outcome of the discussion at the fourth session of the Advisory Board on 8 July 2020 where the Advisory Board recommended to maintain flexibility with respect to earmarking.

With respect to the request of UNESCWA on the possibility to earmark a donor contribution to a participating UN organization (Regional Commissions or others) the representative of MPTFO clarified that the UN Development Group standards do not allow earmarking to UN organizations.

The Steering Committee endorsed the Advisory Board's guidance to allow earmarking in principle under the following conditions:

- a) only for contributions of a minimum amount of US\$ 2 million;
- b) a percentage of the total contribution could be earmarked; and
- c) earmarking should be done at the regional level, but not at the country or outcome levels.

The exact split of percentage and targeting of regions will be negotiated with donors on a case-by-case basis. This topic will be discussed again at the seventh Steering Committee session.

5. Secretariat budget 2021

The secretariat introduced document UNRSTF/SC/2020(3)/3 and invited the Steering Committee to consider and approve the UNRSF secretariat budget for 2021.

The Steering Committee approved the 2021 UNRSF secretariat budget of US\$ 1,091,600 prepared on the basis of the approved budget option, and on the Advisory Board decision #7 (reference UNRSTF/AB/2), Steering Committee decision #14 (reference UNRSTF/SC/2) in August 2018 and the Steering Committee decision #3 (reference UNRSTF/SC/6) in October 2019.

The Steering Committee noted that any unspent funds from 2018/2019 should be adjusted in the 2020 direct cost allocation.

The Steering Committee authorized the secretariat to carry over the US\$ 110,000 (if entirely or partially unspent) to 2021, which was made available for contractual services related to UNRSF website development in 2018.

With respect to the low expenditure levels of the secretariat, Steering Committee members expressed appreciation to UNECE for generously supporting the operations of the UNRSF secretariat with staff time and capacities.

6. Election of officers

The secretariat presented Information document No. 2, containing a summary of nominations received by the secretariat for the next two-year term of the Steering Committee (2020-2022).

The Committee welcomed the nominations of membership for Steering Committee seats for the next two-year term 2020-2022.

Appreciating the work of the Chair and welcoming continuity in the efforts of the Steering Committee, the members unanimously re-elected Mr. Mohamed el Moctar Mohamed el Hacene as Chair for the next two-year term of the Steering Committee.

7. Other business

The Steering Committee approved a second no-cost extension (until 29 December 2020) for the UNICEF-implemented pilot project “*Capacity development on child-responsive urban planning and sustainable urban transportation to enhance road safety*” to allow it to implement its final project activity in schools in the Philippines. The activity was hampered by the Covid-19 pandemic and the imposed lockdown.

The secretariat informed the Committee that all five pilot projects have already received no-cost extensions but that some may request second no-cost extensions due to the consequences of Covid-19. Second no-cost extensions ordinarily (according to the Fund’s Operations Manual) need to be approved by the Steering Committee. However, in view of the exceptional situation posed by the ongoing pandemic, the Steering Committee exceptionally empowered the secretariat to directly grant additional no-cost extensions (without consultation with the Committee) up to a duration of six months to UNRSF projects that face implementation challenges due to Covid-19.

8. Date and place of next meeting

The next session of the Steering Committee will take place in Geneva and via teleconference in early October 2021.

9. Adoption of the decisions

The Steering Committee adopted the list of decisions of its sixth session via a 72-hour silence procedure (UNRSTF/SC/12).
